

Food of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron.—On May 6, 1943, I collected a set of six eggs of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*). The nest was on a horizontal branch of an oak tree in a small wood along Flatrock Creek southwest of Payne in Paulding County, Ohio. Five days later the birds were standing on another nest in the same wood. This nest appeared to be nearly completed. An unknown number of young were later reared in it. After the young had departed, I searched through the debris under the nest and secured a large number of otoliths of crayfish and a considerable number of elytra of the large scavenger water beetle (*Hydrophilus triangularis*) as well as one bone of a frog. These were sent to Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the Cleveland Museum, who identified the frog bone and verified my determinations of the elytra.

Late in May, 1944, I saw a Yellow-crown sitting on another nest in the same wood. Like the two previous nests it was about 45 feet above ground and well out on a horizontal branch of an oak. This nest was not approached until July 12 when five large young were observed standing on it. On that date three decomposed crayfish lay on the ground under the nest. The young were not disturbed. The leaves had fallen when I returned to search through the debris under the nest. A careful search produced 484 otoliths of crayfish and only one elytron of *Hydrophilus*. This represents at least 242 crayfish consumed by the five young and perhaps also by the adults. Since no remains of fish were observed during either year it seems unlikely that the herons consumed many of them.

Perhaps a careful study of the debris under Black-crowned Night Herons' nests would show that they, too, subsist largely on crayfish. I have heard fishermen at Indian Lake in Logan County, Ohio, refer to the Black-crowns as "Fish Hawks"—a name which I believe is neither appropriate nor deserved.—HOMER F. PRICE, *Payne, Ohio*.

Mallard nesting in tree cavity.—On May 10, 1944, at a large woodland pond south of Lake Loramie in Shelby County, Ohio, Ferd and Robert Brown secured the remains of a Mallard and a large fragment of an egg from a cavity of a willow stub standing in about two feet of water. The nesting cavity was about eight feet above ground. Many feathers were strewn about the entrance. I could not wade out to the nest because of knee-length boots and could not see the nest because of the dense growth of willows and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus*).

The Brown brothers stated that wild ducks had used this nesting site in previous years. They were of the opinion that the sitting bird had been killed on the nest by a mink. They insisted that a raccoon would not have done so. Mr. B. A. Magill, the experienced taxidermist of the fish hatchery at St. Marys, proved conclusively that the well-preserved wings were those of a common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The egg fragment is so large that the short diameter can be measured. It measures 1.68 inches.—HOMER F. PRICE, *Payne, Ohio*.

Under-wing fishing of the Black Heron, *Melanophoyx ardesiaca* (Plate 11).—This small heron, common in many parts of Africa and Madagascar, has a very peculiar way of catching fish, which I think is unique in the family. It has long been recorded in Africa, particularly by T. Ayres, and more recently in Madagascar by A. L. Rand who writes as follows [The Distribution and Habits of Madagascar Birds, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 77 (Art. 5): 331, 1936]:

"Near Marovoay, April 4, 1931, I had an opportunity to watch one of these birds feeding in the shallow water of a flooded rice field. It was shortly before dark and the bird was feeding actively. It would take a few rapid steps, apparently to over-