

for about five minutes. It was normal in all other aspects of topography and in behavior. It is interesting to note that this bird, like two of those described by Warburton, was asymmetrical in pattern with the left side having the greater amount of white markings.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

**Hidden note on the Passenger Pigeon.**—Had the work here cited come to my attention when I was preparing 'Birds of the vicinity of the University of Indiana' [Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci., 65-202, 1904 (1905)], it would have been treasure-trove. Even now, seeing that it is not mentioned in general accounts of the Passenger Pigeon nor in Butler's 'Birds of Indiana' [22nd Ann. Rep. Ind. Dept. of Geol., 1897 (1898)], it should be noted in an indexed ornithological journal for the benefit of future researchers. The book concerned is 'The New Purchase' by Baynard R. Hall (pseudonym, Charles Clarence), first published in New York, 1843, but most readily available in the Indiana Centennial Edition, Princeton University Press, 1916. The chapter devoted to a much frustrated pigeon hunt, running from pp. 466 to 474 in this book, was on pp. 253-264 of Vol. 2 of the first edition.

In the vicinity of Bloomington the autumn, apparently of the year 1828, "was remarkable for wild pigeons. The mast had failed elsewhere; while with us, the oak, the beech, and all other nut trees had never borne more abundant crops. . . As to pigeons, the first large flocks, attracted no unusual notice: and, yet, they were mere scouting parties from the grand army! For within a week. . . Had the leaves of our trees all been changed into birds, the number could have been no greater!" The author writes of the flight of the pigeons as "an endless hurricane on wings . . . with such an uproar as seemed to be prostrating the forests." He refers to a "Grand Roosting Encampment", noting that never, in the memory of our oldest inhabitants, had the pigeons roosted so near (some three miles from) the College town. The editor, J. A. Woodburn, born in 1856, records seeing in childhood similar flocks of wild pigeons and states that there was a roosting place ten miles south of Bloomington. Quoting Hall again, he refers to the birds flushed from the roost in the following language: "Hark! a storm rushes this way! How sudden the moon is hid! Is that a cloud? Yes, reader, it was a storm—but of pigeons rushing on countless wings! It was a cloud—but of careening and feathered squadrons! The moon was hid—and by a world of startled birds."

Those of us who never saw a Passenger Pigeon, and that includes 95 out of 100 living ornithologists, can only try to imagine the numbers of those birds and the grandeur of their flights. No other American bird, and perhaps no bird in all the world, is known to have assembled in such hordes, flown with such momentum, rivaling the very storm for turbulence and tumult, and obscuring the light of the sun or moon.—W. L. McATEE, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**American Egrets nesting on West Sister Island in Lake Erie.**—On June 16, 1946, a party of 15 members and guests of the Toledo Naturalists' Association discovered a small colony of six nests of the American Egret, *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin) on West Sister Island in Lake Erie. Laurel Van Camp of Genoa, Ohio, and I were acting as leaders of the group. Of the six nests one held four nestlings, one held three, two held two each, one contained one nestling, and the contents of one nest (either eggs or very small young) could not be determined. All the nestlings were completely feathered and a few climbed out on branches when disturbed. Ten of them were banded.

West Sister Island, the most westerly of the Lake Erie island group, belongs to Lucas County, Ohio. It lies about eight and three-quarter miles northeast of Jeru-