

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. McATEER, *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-

saalem Township, Lucas County. West Sister rises abruptly from the water for most of its shore line from ten to twenty feet. It is formed of limestone with a rather thin layer of soil on top. About 20 per cent of its 90 acres is in blue grass, nettles, shrubs, etc. The remainder is primarily hackberry forest. For several years the island has been a Federal game refuge.

The outstanding bird feature of the island is a large roost of Black-crowned Night Herons numbering 500 to 1500 nests. About 100 pairs of Great Blue Herons also nest there. Local ornithologists were of the opinion that Egrets nested on West Sister in 1945 as several of these birds were noted flying back and forth regularly between the island and the mainland, but all proposed trips had to be cancelled because of stormy weather or government wartime regulations. The Egrets nested together within the heronry.

American Egrets were first seen in numbers in Lucas County in 1930. Since that time they have been found regularly each fall and occasionally in spring with an outstanding visitation in the fall of 1933 and of 1939. On May 18, 1940, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks found a nest of this species containing four eggs on Eagle Island, Sandusky Bay, Sandusky County, Ohio [Wilson Bull., 56 (3): 169, Sept., 1944].—LOUIS W. CAMPBELL, Toledo, Ohio.

**The Mountain Vireo nesting for the first time in the Lower Piedmont Plateau of Georgia.**—According to the A. O. U. Check-List (4th ed.), the breeding range of *Vireo solitarius alticola* is "the Canadian and Transition zones of the Alleghanies from western Maryland to eastern Tennessee, and northern Georgia." In the 'Birds of Georgia' (Greene, *et al*, 1945) the Mountain Vireo is listed as a common summer resident in the mountains, a transient in the rest of the state.

There are records in 'Birds of North Carolina' (Pearson, *et al*, 1943) of this species breeding in the Piedmont Plateau (Upper Austral) of North Carolina as far east as Raleigh. Eugene P. Odum considered the Solitary Vireo a local summer resident at Chapel Hill, N. C., finding it nesting in upland pine woods (Jour. Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, 51: 312, 1935). In the northern part of Georgia, Odum has breeding evidence for this race at the following southernmost points: Tallulah Gorge, extreme southern end of Rabun County; six miles north of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County; and base of Mt. Oglethorpe and Burnt Mountains, Pickens County (Oriole, 10: 48, 1945, and personal communication). All these localities are on the extreme upper edge of the Piedmont at low elevations, 1600 feet or so, but near the high Blue Ridge.

Odum and Burleigh in their recent article, 'Southward Invasion in Georgia' (Auk, 63: 388-401, 1946) listed the Solitary Vireo as one of the species showing recent invasion tendencies and stated that it "may be a good species to watch in the future even though very rapid changes probably are not to be expected." In view of the above knowledge it seems worthy to report the discovery of a nest containing three eggs, June 16, 1946, on the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, three and a half miles west of Round Oak, Jones County, Georgia, a location considerably to the south of the known range as indicated above. The Piedmont Refuge is on the extreme lower edge of the Piedmont about 18 miles from the 'Fall Line' at Macon, and has an elevation of 250-650 feet.

The lichen, paper-covered, pensile nest was on a lower limb of a small persimmon tree growing in open pine woods on a dry, eroded southerly slope; it was eight feet and nine inches from the ground. The closest tree to the persimmon was a four-inch loblolly pine tree at a distance of four feet. There were other small pine trees near the nest ranging from four to nine inches in diameter and 18 to 30 feet high. The nesting site was 93 feet from a shelter made out of galvanized tin for storage purposes,