

Late Nesting of the Black Phoebe.—On September 28, 1930, while enjoying a delightful outing on Eel River, near Benbow, Humboldt County, California, I found a pair of Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) feeding young. The nest was located about eight feet up, on a rafter in a tumbled down shack. It was the usual nest of mud, reinforced with hair and dry grass, lined with fine dry grass, coarse hair and feathers.

Incidentally, I might mention that I saw two American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) flying up the same river. Identification was possible by reason of the large size of the birds. They resembled the Great Blue Heron in size, though they were slightly smaller. Inhabitants informed me that they saw as many as five and six of the birds in the same locality, while local newspapers reported "large white cranes" in several places in Humboldt County.—J. THOMAS FRASER, JR., *Eureka, California, October 11, 1930.*

The American Egret in the Lower Sacramento Valley, California.—Since moving to Davis, in July, 1923, I have been especially interested in the numbers of the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) to be seen in this region. My notes are admittedly fragmentary, since observations are not made with any degree of regularity, yet they seem to indicate that the species is "coming back".

The principal opportunities for observation have been in going from Davis to Sacramento by automobile or train across the Yolo Basin, by train across the Suisun marshes toward Carquinez Strait, and on occasional automobile trips through irrigated areas in the neighborhood of the Marysville Buttes. Altogether there are 25 entries in my notes for Egrets, since July 1, 1923. Six of these are by other persons; all of my own records have been checked whenever possible by size comparison with the ever-present Great Blue Heron, and at least some of the observations by others have similarly been checked. The smaller Snowy Egret does occur, as a recent record by Mr. J. A. Neff indicates, but the records given here are all believed to pertain to the American Egret. The notes, in summary, are as follows.

October 13 and 25, 1924: One bird on marsh near Teal Station southwest of Suisun.

April 6, 7, 10, and June 10, 1925: One to seven under Yolo Causeway, east of Davis.

March 5, 6, 7, 17, and April 9, 1926: One to 28 (March 6) under Yolo Causeway.

April 12, 1927: Two under Yolo Causeway.

May 13, 19, and July 11, 1928: One on each date under Yolo Causeway.

March 2, 1929: Four, in Sutter By-Pass, southwest of Marysville.

March 3, 1929: About 15 on marshes west of Marysville Buttes.

March 9, 1929: One on marsh southwest of Suisun.

January 20, 1930: Not less than 30 on marshes southwest of Suisun.

January 30, 1930: At least 15 on marshes southwest of Suisun.

March 7, 1930: At least 15 on marshes southwest of Suisun.

March 28, 1930: Five on marshes southwest of Suisun.

September 20-21, 1930: A total of 26, in rice fields east and west of Marysville Buttes.

October 12, 1930: "Nearly a hundred", in rice fields near Maxwell (J. H. Woodward).

October 15, 1930: "Close to 100", northeast of Marysville (J. A. Neff).

Mr. J. W. Marshall, long a resident of Yolo County, has told me that during his boyhood days in the late '70's or early '80's, white herons nested "by the hundreds" in groves of trees then standing along the banks of Putah Creek, between the present site of the University Farm and the present Dixon-Woodland highway. At that time the area bordering the creek was subject to periodic overflow and hence supported more riparian growth than at present. Mr. Thomas F. Tavernetti reports that a few white herons used to frequent trees along Putah Creek, immediately southeast of Davis, as late as about 1912. I have no means of knowing whether these records pertain to the larger or smaller species.

The changes in water relations in the Sacramento Valley in past years, putting winter flood waters under control and limiting the amount of water which spreads out to form "swamp and overflow lands", has affected aquatic and palustrine species