

A comparison of my findings with the book descriptions left no doubt that I had seen the Bewick Wren and heard its song. So far as I can learn this is also a new record for Geauga County.

ORANGE COOK.

Chardon, Ohio.

A BIRD STORY FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

(Substantially as related to me by Nathaniel Heyward of Oakley.)

Scene: A rice plantation. Cast: Pickaninny, his mammy, crane (*Florida caerulea*), moonshine (*Ionornis martinica*). Business: An ancient muzzle-loading musket of erratic tendencies, the ammunition more dubious still.

A small negro boy climbed one day to the top of the levee in front of his cabin home. From this point he spied at the edge of the locker bay a crane and a moonshine side by side. Pickaninny at once crouched and skedaddled back down the slope to get the always-loaded family musket. Now he returned to the point of vantage, Mammy lending moral support from the cabin door. Pointing the musket over the levee, Pickaninny took long and careful aim, then pulled the trigger. Eventually the hammer snapped. Mammy now encouraged him by shouting, "Hol er stedly, son, til she go off." During this interval the crane became vexed at moonshine and struck viciously at it with his beak. At last the musket discharged with a resounding "pow" and the moonshine fell over dead. "Dar," said the crane, "I done kill dat moonshine."

W. L. M.

BIRDS OF 1915: TOO FEW AND TOO MANY.

So newhere in the Mississippi Valley some one must have found the spring migration interesting. That it was not so in northeastern Iowa seems to have been due to the weather coming in wholesale sized installments. March, with continuously too low temperature, followed by a dry April, with high south winds and summer heat on several days, tended to hurry northward without loiterings the birds due the last of March and during April. The unseasonable warmth of April was followed by a wintry May. Seemingly as a result of these combinations very few of the birds that pass to more northerly breeding ranges were seen.

A comparison of the median dates for ten years of the first arrivals of twenty-four of our commonest birds with their dates for 1915 shows a retardation in the first half of the season, and an acceleration in the second half, except that the Killdeer and the