

Mockingbirds, 328; Meadowlarks, 328; Lark Sparrows, 268; Bluebirds, 216; Scissors-tailed Flycatchers, 179; and Kingbirds, 151.

Two thousand and fifty-five English Sparrows were seen on these censuses, an average of nearly two a mile; this is 26 per cent of all the birds seen and twice as many as the most abundant native bird—the Dickcissel.

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THE FISH CROW IN ARKANSAS

So far as the writer has been able to learn the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) has never been reported from Arkansas. It would seem, from rather patient inquiries and persistent observation, that it is nevertheless a common resident. My attention was first called to this fact in the summer 1921. A country lad who has shown remarkable aptitude in the study of our local bird life kept reporting to me the presence of a bird of somewhat smaller size than the crow and wanted to take me to sections of the Arkansas River flowing between Faulkner and Perry Counties where it was said to be common. During the same season a nest of this species was located in a thick woodland far from the river, and contained five eggs. In collecting them they were broken, and I did not have the opportunity of correcting my supposition that they were the eggs of the common crow.

Fishermen who live along the river had often spoken of the "jackdaws" and "maggies," but still I thought they were only confused in matter of names, and were but referring to the self-same common crow. During the present season (1922) every doubt as to the validity of this species has been set at rest. On May 13th I visited the haunts of the Fish Crow, and located a nest which had just been completed but which at this time contained no eggs. It was a rather compact structure made of sticks and twigs of the cottonwood tree, lined with leaves and rootlets of the kind preferred by our Mockingbird. This nest was well toward the top of a huge sycamore 110 feet from the ground, and the tree was growing on the bank of the Arkansas River. The prospect for my climber was none too good, but he proved his ability on this occasion, as he had done on so many others, and we were further rewarded by seeing a large number of Fish Crows searching the river sections for food.

It was the first week in June before I could revisit this nest. On June 5th both male and female were present. The female was on the nest and did not leave it until the hand of the collector was almost on her. It contained three birds, just hatched, one egg hatching, and another egg with fully developed embryo. This egg, when measured, was found to be 1.41 by 1.06 inches, and typically marked.

The nest now contained no rootlets, but was lined with a mass of sycamore balls and horse hair! It was 18 inches wide, the inside diameter being about eight inches, and was deeply cupped, a little more than four inches deep. Both birds were constantly at the tree while these investigations were going on.

Since this time the birds have been under constant observation. The

species has been located in many places along the Arkansas River, and cannot be said to be uncommon. The nests are placed high, generally in situations far more difficult than the crow, and not infrequently at a considerable distance from the water. It searches the fields for food as does the common crow, though its range generally parallels the river banks.

A singular thing occurred one day in a field some eight miles from the river. The same intrepid climber, who had become perfectly familiar with the habits of the species, was plowing in an open field and had turned up and accidentally destroyed a nest of Bob-white containing a number of eggs. Some of these he had put in his pocket, and soon after, observing a Fish Crow fly overhead, offered him an egg by tossing it in his direction. To his surprise the "crow" descended and took the egg, and several more which were offered in the same way. This lack of fearlessness, however, cannot be said to be a common trait.

Though a common species in Texas it cannot yet be reported from Oklahoma. Mr. Pemberton of Tulsa, has made most careful observations touching this point, and yet the species is persistently reported as occurring in the region about Fort Smith on the very border of the state. It can certainly be claimed for the following counties in Arkansas,—Faulkner, Perry, Pope, Yell, and Franklin, and its range will be doubtless extended to many more. It seems rather singular that neither McAtee nor Howell make any mention of it in their reports from Arkansas.

It is impossible to mistake the note of this bird. This has been given ample consideration by Captain Bendire in his great Monograph, and need here be only mentioned. The coarse "caa-ah" is altogether different from the "caw" of the crow, both in accent and tone, but there is a two-syllable "ah-uk," with a rising inflection, which is easy to imitate, and which will identify the bird at any time. The Fish Crow will respond to this call. It may be interesting to state that the young Fish Crows in the nest above referred to were all doing well in the latter part of August.

H. E. WHEELER,

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