

## GENERAL NOTES

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### STARLING IN MICHIGAN

On September 14, 1924, the writer found a flock of ten Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) near Ann Arbor. An adult female was collected from this flock by J. Van Tyne on September 17.

CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE II.

### ENGLISH SPARROW EATEN BY SHRIKE

While going over some of my field notes I noticed a record of my having observed a Shrike eating an English Sparrow, and since in this connection I recalled Mr. B. F. Mounts' article in *The Bulletin*, December, 1923, p. 221, I am submitting my notes, which were taken at Norman, Oklahoma, March 23, 1915.

I saw a Shrike (presumably the White-rumped, *L. l. excubitorides*) eating the rear half of a small bird and since I had never witnessed this supposedly frequent performance I was very much interested. Presently the Shrike hung the remains of its victim on a thorn of the hedge tree in which it was perched and flew to another bough about a foot away. As I drew nearer the scene the Shrike evidenced a desire to regain its prey, and before I could interfere it seized the remains of the bird in its claws and was about to fly away with it. By this time I had picked up some small stones which I threw at the Shrike and caused it to drop its prey. I lost no time in picking up the mutilated carcass and to my surprise I found that it was the remains of an English Sparrow which had been so recently killed that its flesh was still warm. While I was thus engaged, the Shrike sat nearby and watched me very closely. When I tossed the remains of the Sparrow on the ground by the bush in which the Shrike sat, it immediately regained its prey and mumbling a few discordant notes bore the mutilated body away in its claws.

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### LITTLE BLUE HERONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

The presence of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) in Montgomery County, Ohio, throughout the month of August, was the most interesting local ornithological event of the summer of 1924. I first saw this species, eight birds in the white plumage, at a small artificial lake about eight miles north of the city of Dayton, on the 2nd of August. Ten visits to this lake were made during the month, and on each occasion from three to twelve of these herons were seen; the last were observed on the 31st of August.

Never as wary as the Great Blue Herons, these birds became tamer at each visit, and toward the end of their stay often would allow me to approach within a hundred feet without showing signs of fear; the con-

stant presence of many fishermen about the lake was probably the cause of the increasing confidence of these naturally shy birds, and during their whole stay they were not fired upon, as far as I knew. The greenish-yellow color of the legs was the chief mark of identification, although the dusky tips of the primaries were observable on a few occasions as a bird sailed on set wings preparatory to alighting; otherwise, in every individual, the plumage appeared entirely white. They fed boldly in the open, walking at a fairly even gait through the shallow water, frequently striking at fish, and, as attested by a silvery flash, were often successful in their hunting.

It seems strange, indeed, that these beautiful creatures, accustomed to the quiet swamps and lagoons of the south, should desire to take a summer trip northward; and stranger still that they should elect to spend a month at a rather public artificial lake; in a thickly settled locality, where noisy electric cars, humming automobiles, and buzzing airplanes are in nowise suggestive of the wilds of their southern habitat. The fact that no birds in adult plumage accompanied their white kin is cause for even greater wonderment.

BEN J. BLINCOE.

October 30, 1924.