

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

**The Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Sioux City, Iowa.**—On May 1, 1925, I observed the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea caerulea*) in what is known as the Waters Tract adjoining Stone Park on the Big Sioux River. The bird kept pretty well up in the trees, never still more than a second at a time, and continually uttering its faint but varied song. Although it is a rare bird in this region, I have been more or less familiar with the species elsewhere, having found it along the Mississippi River at McGregor, Iowa, while in the summer of 1924 I observed a nesting pair at the Ledges State Park in Boone County.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

**Occurrence of the Wood Ibis Near Omaha, Nebraska.**—On June 29, 1925, I saw a Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) on the Missouri River bottom about one-fourth of a mile south of the Boy Scout Camp in the Fontenelle Forest Wild Life Reserve south of Omaha and about two miles north of Bellevue. It was about forty feet up in a large, partly dead cottonwood tree and the identification was unmistakable. I was so near that I could see every distinguishing mark of the bird—the white plumage, the black primaries and tail feathers, the brownish or bluish black head and upper part of the neck, the long bill curved downward at the end and the bluish gray legs. It was about the size of a Great Blue Heron, but had the habit of settling its neck back into its shoulders much more than the heron is apt to do when standing. With me when I saw it was Mr. H. P. Larson, a farmer living just east of the Boy Scout Camp, who had seen it the night before flying over his house. Mr. Larson has lived on the bottoms for many years but has never seen this kind of bird previously. A few days before I saw the bird it was noted by Mr. G. H. Glendall, chief of the Boy Scouts, but he did not know what it was. This bird was also seen by Dr. Keegan, Dean of the Nebraska School of Medicine, and probably by other observers, during the week it was making the Boy Scout Camp its headquarters. So far as I know it has not been seen since the day I saw it. The bird was not in the least shy. In fact, after Dr. Keegan and I decided that it would be safer at a somewhat greater distance from the road, we tried to make it fly by shouting and waving our hats from the ground, thirty or forty feet from the base of the tree, but it paid no attention to us and went on preening its feathers. The locality in which it was seen was in the center of a wild life reservation of about twenty-five hundred acres, seven miles southeast of the center of Omaha.—H. GIFFORD, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**White Herons on the Upper Mississippi River.**—On August 11, 1925, from the top of "Pike's Hill", just south of McGregor, Iowa, I saw, through my binoculars, in a lagoon in the Mississippi River, two white birds, which, after long and careful studying, I took to be Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*).\* Two days later, from McGregor Heights, just to the north of McGregor, I saw, through my binoculars, a white bird which I took to be an Egret. All three of these birds

\*Dr. Keyes, who also observed these birds, as is above stated by Dr. Weeks, has written the Editor that apparently they had dark colored wing coverts, which indicates the probability that they were immature Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), rather than Egrets. Dr. Keyes says that they were standing and wading in a slough on the Wisconsin side of the river, to which state the record, therefore, belongs. This and the following note indicate that the unusual north-