

## 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-

were seen by a large number of people attending at The American School of Wild Life, among them Dr. Charles R. Keyes, the adviser on birds for the Audubon Societies of Iowa.—LEROY TITUS WEEKS, *Tabor, Iowa*.

**The Egret in Emmett County, Iowa.**—At the present time—September 8, 1925—an Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) is staying at High Lake in Emmet County, Iowa. I have not seen it but I was told about it by a reliable person who stated that it looked like a white Great Blue Heron, and there could hardly be any mistake about that. I have not seen an Egret since 1911, when there was one at the same lake during the late summer.—B. O. WOLDEN, *Estherville, Iowa*.

**The Egret in the Great Miami Valley, Ohio.**—On July 26, 1925, I was agreeably surprised to see two Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*) winging their way over the artificial lake at the Miami Conservancy Dam at Englewood, Montgomery County, Ohio. They appeared over the south end of the lake, flying at a moderate height; they then circled about, finally approaching within two hundred and fifty yards when, under very favorable light conditions and with the aid of eight-power binoculars, it was possible to distinguish clearly their bright yellow bills, black legs and feet. As a further aid to identification it was possible to compare them with the Great Blue Heron, several of which were seen at the same visit to the lake; and from this comparison I was convinced that these birds were much larger than the Little Blue Heron, so common at this lake in August, 1924. This is my only record of the Egret for Montgomery County, and I am not aware of a state record during the past few years.—BEN J. BLINCOE, *Dayton, Ohio*.

**May Bird Censuses in Dutchess County, New York, During 1925.**—Supplementing my paper on all-day bird censuses, in the WILSON BULLETIN for September, 1925, I may state that only two May censuses were made in Dutchess County, New York, during 1925; one on May 10, the southern section being covered by Messrs. Allen Frost, Flewelling and Ray Guernsey, and the northern section by Messrs. Ludlow Griscom, John H. Baker and Maunsell S. Crosby, and the second on May 17, the two groups consisting of Messrs. Allen Frost and George W. Gray in the south and Messrs. Robert C. Murphy, Clifford H. Pangburn, Charles A. Urner and Maunsell S. Crosby in the north.

On May 10 the northern group reached Mt. Riga in the extreme northeastern part of the county before dawn and then worked west and south through Pine Plains, Cruger's Island, Rhinebeck and Hyde Park to Poughkeepsie. The southern group searched the environs of Poughkeepsie, then went south to Mt. Beacon, east through new census territory to the southeast corner of the county, and then north until opposite Poughkeepsie, when it came across to the point of beginning. Swamp River, where the Brown Creeper has bred, and Turkey Hollow, where several northern species remain all summer, were visited in this way. One hundred and seventeen species were recorded altogether, the following being new ones for our census list: Pintail, King Rail (first county record), Duck Hawk (nest found constituting the first county breeding record), Orange-crowned Warbler (first county record), Palm Warbler, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush.

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ward movement of Egrets and Little Blue Herons that took place between late June and early September of 1925, extending to the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, New Hampshire and Connecticut (see the *Auk* for October, 1925, pp. 583-585, and *Bird-Lore*, xxvii, pp. 328-329 and 333-340) extended west to southwestern Wisconsin and north-central Iowa.—Ed.