

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.

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.

On May 17 the northern group omitted Mt. Riga and began at the Pine Plains, spending part of the afternoon south of Poughkeepsie, while the southern group covered about the same territory as on May 10. The net result was one hundred and twenty-three species, the only new bird to add to the combined censuses being the Coot.—MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, *Rhinebeck, N. Y.*

The Bittern and the Snake.—As I sat under a tree on a bank above Crystal Lake, Nebraska, I was, perhaps, eight feet above the water, which came nearly to the foot of the bank, leaving shallow pools and a few rushes between the bank and the edge of the water. Soon after seating myself, I heard a cry of distress from some animal only a few feet away, but out of sight. I was puzzled at first to tell what it was, but in a minute identified it as the cry I had heard once before when I had watched a snake swallow a frog. As the snake would swallow the hind parts of the frog, the frog would struggle desperately to escape, and would utter this cry of distress.

No sooner had I identified the cry than I discovered an American Bittern coming toward me, and I knew that it, too, had heard the cry. It dropped down behind a small bush growing on the side of the bank, about ten feet from me, and in a minute reappeared, and with it a snake which had swallowed the hind parts of a frog. The bittern held the frog by the neck and well back in its bill, and then the battle began.

The snake, I judged, was a garter snake about two and a half feet long, and, as it had already made good headway with its meal, it apparently had no intention of releasing the frog if it could help it. The bittern braced itself on its feet and pulled, and the snake writhed and coiled and twisted but could not gain an inch. The bittern did not move its feet more than an inch or so in all the struggle, but as the snake coiled in front of it, or straightened or threw itself into a coil at the side of the bittern, the latter only turned its head and kept its hold, pulling by throwing its head back and keeping the snake well in front of it.

I cannot be sure of the length of time that this battle lasted, but think it must have been more than five minutes, when, at last, a jerk of the bittern's head backwards and upwards released the snake's hold upon the frog. Without any further attempt to seize the frog, the snake slid quietly down into the shallow water.

Then came the preparation of the meal. The frog was, I think, a fully grown one, or at least it was not a small one. As the bittern pulled the frog from the snake's mouth it still held it by the neck, never changing its hold at any time during the battle by even a fraction of an inch. Without releasing the frog, although it must have been pretty well strangled, the bittern "soused" it up and down in a shallow pool of water, doing this at least twenty times, and then stepped back to another pool somewhat hidden from my sight by low rushes. I could see the bittern was still dipping the frog up and down, and when it returned to the first pool, the frog's head and also the upper part of the body with the front legs, had disappeared down the throat of the bittern, but the rest did not go down easily so it began the "sousing" process again, only this time more vigorously than before. I could see that the frog was getting longer and slimmer in the process, and, when it had been stretched out much longer than it was at first, it was finally swallowed.

It seemed rather a large meal for so slender a throat, and the bittern seemed to think so too, for, stretching its neck and head out as far as possible it held