

While driving in from the "glades," I saw two birds perched on the telephone wires bordering the highway, and after passing them some hundred yards, I backed up and secured one, after both had descended into a newly burnt-over orchard. There were many migrant Robins feeding on the ground at the time, and the other Kingbird flew off with them when I shot.

The bird secured proved to be an adult female, in rather poor plumage, and is now number 3906 B. C. N. H.

The further report of a bird of this species having been seen on Sanibel Island, Florida, leads me to believe that the Arkansas Kingbird should now be classed as a rare winter migrant, instead of a straggler.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*

Scarcity of the House Wren at McMillan, Michigan.—The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) continues to be a very much discussed species, since in many parts of the country it has been found to destroy the nests and eggs of other species of birds. On this account, many persons are taking down the houses which they had erected purposely for the House Wren. In a past number of the WILSON BULLETIN I gave a report of the House Wren and others nesting in my bird houses here in Luce County, near McMillan.

From May 19, 1925, to August 1, 1927, no one was at this place, and the birds using the houses had to "protect themselves." No English Sparrows had nested in any bird house up to that date (May 19, 1925) as they were kept trapped and destroyed. At the time of leaving in 1925, I made no change in the houses, there being some for the Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and Bluebirds. The first thing that I undertook on my return, on August 1, 1927, was to see if any great changes had occurred.

The English Sparrow had increased, but the Purple Martins, Tree Swallows and Bluebirds met with a great decrease in the number of families, and there were no House Wrens at all. It is certainly a good thing that I had some bird houses made purposely for the House Wren, or the English Sparrows would have had these filled up with nests, and therefore they would have had a much bigger army and more, or all, of the other birds would have been forced out. Nearly every house for Bluebirds or Tree Swallows, and some of the Purple Martin houses, had an English Sparrow's nest in it. But all of the houses erected for the House Wrens were entirely empty, showing that none were present during these years. I made no effort to destroy the House Wrens, and it has been my experience that the species nesting at the houses which I have up for their use are safer when the House Wren is present than they are with the English Sparrow. It is now four years since the House Wren used any of my houses. And during the time that I was away, the English Sparrows came and were in larger numbers than all the other species combined.—O. M. BRYENS, *McMillan, Mich.*

A Curious Flight of Nighthawks.—On September 3, 1926, I witnessed a flight of Nighthawks which I regard as the most curious sight that I have seen in two score years of bird study.

I live on a farm in Greene County, Ohio, about midway between Columbus and Cincinnati. On that particular day I had spent much of the afternoon in the center of a strip of woods, watching the squirrels, but at about 3:30 p. m. I moved my position to the west margin of the woods, where I could rest on a large log and have a good view of the sky. South of my position there is another

strip of timber which meets the woods I was in, forming nearly a right angle, or a reversed L. I was looking across the open angle of the L and towards the south. I had no sooner taken this position than I saw four Nighthawks rising over the crest of the woods to the south and flying directly north. The four birds were in a line extending from east to west, with fifty or seventy-five yards separating one bird from the next. No sooner had these four birds disappeared, northward, than four more Nighthawks arose over the brow of the woods, in the same formation and following the first line. Then as these four disappeared in the north, a third line came on.

I now sat up and took notice. Something unusual was happening. I looked off to the west, beyond the woods, and I beheld Nighthawks at irregular intervals as far as my sight would carry. Briefly, I watched these lines coming for half an hour, like a great invading army. Tiring at length of the sight, I concluded to go to the house. How long the birds continued to come after I ceased to observe them, or how long they had been coming before I noticed them, I cannot say. In the half hour that I watched, some 300 Nighthawks, approximately, had passed nearly over my head.

Had these birds been going southward, I would have supposed I was witnessing a great Nighthawk migration. But why north? On September 14, 1926, I saw a group of about two dozen Nighthawks, also flying northward. On September 16 a smaller flock of about fifteen was seen flying south. On September 17 and 18 a few were observed feeding in the afternoons, but on the 19th the sky was entirely cleared of Nighthawks, and none were seen later.—THOMAS M. EARL, *Xenia, Ohio*.

The Abundance of Woodpeckers and Other Birds in Northeastern Louisiana.—Following the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Nashville, I spent five days in northeastern Louisiana, in a region that was overflowed last May. January 1 to 4 was the coldest period of that length that men who had lived there for many years could recall. Early morning temperatures were 14°, 14°, 13°, and 32° F. On January 5 the temperature rose from 18° to 45°. Every day was sunny. My host, Robert Oldham, thinks that land birds were more numerous than in any previous winter. Exceptions are Robins, Blackbirds and Mourning Doves. Large numbers of Mourning Doves were shot last winter for food. Some of the residents do not hesitate to shoot any kind of a bird. I saw one lad shoot at a Mockingbird, in spite of my protests. Forty Bob-whites were killed by two men in one day while I was there.

For miles in all directions from Mr. Oldham's home extends a hardwood forest in which lumbering on a large scale has been carried on for several years. Over much of this forest the fallen tree tops left by the timber cutters, together with the undergrowth, have been burned by forest fires, which killed a large part of the trees that had been left standing. There are likely more woodpeckers here than in any other equal area in the world. I do not know any other region in this country where so much hardwood was still standing until recent years. Here I used to see Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, but not for the past ten or twelve years, although a man told me that he saw one in the Bayou Mason swamp in 1926.

Of Pileated Woodpeckers Mr. Oldham and I think that a hundred are living within two miles of his house. The number of these great hewers of wood which I saw was about eight, with a possibility of some duplications, but I was outside only about twelve hours altogether. Of smaller woodpeckers we estimated one