

The European Starling at Des Moines, Iowa.—On March 21, 1929, a pair of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were observed by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lee of 4323 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, feeding in their backyard and around the Purple Martin house. Although neither observer was familiar with the Starling they were able to furnish such an accurate description of the pair to Mr. A. J. Palas that he felt there could be no doubt as to their identity.

The Starlings remained only during the one day and were described by Mr. Lee as "larger than Purple Martins, purple in color with their backs shaded brownish and had very prominent bills, large at base, yellow in color. The notes were different than I had ever heard, being loud, harsh whistles."—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Wilton, Conn.*

The Starling at Hillsboro, Ohio.—On November 15, 1928, the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appeared at Hillsboro. In a few days the number increased to seven, and on December 31 to thirty. This number remained until March 1. The regularity of their movements was very marked. At 8:30 A. M. they appeared in an oak tree and after chattering a few minutes, they flew to a clump of locust trees and then off to their feeding ground, returning by the same route about 4 P. M. and then to their roosting place. After March 1 the group varied in numbers and in their movements.

On May 1 I noticed a pair in a maple tree. They were trying to gain possession of an abandoned Downy Woodpecker's nest occupied by a Red-headed Woodpecker. The male sat on a limb near by while the female explored the cavity, passing in and out frequently. The Redhead sat in a nearby tree just looking on. During the investigation a Flicker leaned into the opening and gave the Starling two hard thrusts with his stout bill. The Starling slid out and the Flicker left as suddenly as he had come. The Starlings gained possession more by a continued persistence than by physical force. They spent several days in carrying out the old material. They would go to a limb near by and drop it very leisurely. On May 15, the nest was abandoned. Probably the eggs were destroyed by squirrels. Several days afterward the female visited the nest. I have found three nests in the cavities of trees about twelve feet from the ground, and have seen several carrying food to their young. They stay in pairs or groups of four to eight. They are general this summer but not common. They do not seem to affect the bird life and the other birds do not bother them. The first one observed here was a stray one in early January of 1928. It stayed in a neighbor's garden and our yard for several days.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*

Additional Records of the Starling in Michigan.—As to records of extensions of the range of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) asked for in the March, 1929, number of the WILSON BULLETIN, I have the following to give: At Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, I first saw a Starling on August 22, 1925. From what I have seen at this locality, it appears that they are a resident and very likely nest there, as I found them during the months of March to October, inclusive. The largest number seen at one time at this locality was seventeen on September 20, 1925. At Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, I first saw Starlings on October 13, 1925, three being seen. It is perhaps a resident and breeding bird at that locality. I found them there during the months of July, October, and December on my few visits at that locality. The largest number seen at one time was a

flock of twenty-five on July 29, 1927. Although this species was reported from Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, before I first saw them there on my visits, I found Starlings there in February and saw some feeding young in May. The first that I happened to see at that locality were three on February 2, 1926.

Here in Luce County, near McMillan, I first saw Starlings on April 22, 1928, two being seen. A pair nested in an old Flicker cavity. They may not be a resident yet, as I have only seen them during the months of March to July, inclusive, and September and October. Very likely some were near this locality in August, but I failed to find any. This year (1929) three pairs started nesting in bird houses. Two were blown down by a strong west wind this month (May) and of course left, and the other pair seems to have gone with them. The two nests that were blown down contained eggs. My largest number seen in a day at this locality is fourteen on March 27, 1929.—O. M. BRYENS, *McMillan, Mich.*

The Snowy Egret in Stark County, Ohio.—On the afternoon of June 16, 1929, three observers noted a Snowy Egret (*Egretta candidissima candidissima*) in a small cat-tail pond near Wilmot, Ohio. As we stood near the edge of the pond the beautiful white bird was clearly identified, both with and without our 6x binoculars. While we watched the bird it was constantly harried by two Red-winged Blackbirds that followed as it circled above the pond, nipping it many times. After its third flight the Egret flew away and did not return, as we learned later. We inquired from the owner of the pond when the Egret had arrived there and he told us it was the morning of our observation, June 16.—MAY S. DANNER, *Canton, Ohio.*

The Turkey Vulture in Iowa.—The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) is a rather rare species in the Sioux City, Iowa, region. On a tour of the Iowa State Parks made during the latter part of August, 1928, we usually found these birds in the vicinity of the heavy timber of the parks. The largest number seen at one time was twelve, near Adel in the middle of the state. The first record was August 21 at Dolliver State Park in Webster County. Other records are: August 28 at Palisades State Park in Linn County; August 30 near Tracy in Marion County; August 31 near Winterset in Madison County; September 1 at Adel in Dallas County; and September 2 and 3 at Ledges State Park in Boone County.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

An Early Nesting of the Killdeer.—On April 4, 1917, a nest of the Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) with four eggs was found, placed in the charred remains of a burned brush-pile. So perfect was the blending of the color of the eggs with the debris that had I not seen the bird on the nest, I would not have found it. On March 29, 1921, a Killdeer was flushed on a small knoll in a rocky pasture traversed by small spring-fed streams. She feigned dying for a couple of minutes, and then suddenly flew to a near-by field. In searching for the nest where she had risen we found four eggs, all disarranged. On April 13 and 15 there were only three eggs.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*

The Pine Siskin in Nebraska in 1928-29.—Following the commonness of the Pine Siskins in southeastern Nebraska in the spring of 1928, when they nested at Omaha, Fairbury, and Hastings, and probably did so also at Lincoln (see WILSON BULLETIN, XLI, pp. 88-89), they disappeared from this region late in May or early in June. None were then seen until the following December. On