

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Nesting of Bachman's Sparrow in Butler County, Ohio.—On a field trip taken on August 6, 1929, a small bird was flushed from a hillside covered with blackberry bushes and short grasses. On investigating, I found a nest of Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*). The nest was partially sunk in the hillside. The bottom of the nest was almost bare, but the sides and top were very compact and well built, with a slight arch over the entrance. The nesting material was composed of grass and small weed stems. The nest contained four eggs, pure white in color, with incubation well advanced. From all reports available, this is the only record of the nesting of this species in this county.—C. K. LLOYD, *Oxford, Ohio*.

Bald Eagle Captured in a Trap Set for a Hawk.—About the middle of December, 1930, a farmer living near Wheeling, West Virginia, set a steel trap by a partly-eaten chicken which he supposed had been killed by a hawk. On the following day he found a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) in the trap. Thinking the bird would make an interesting pet he confined it for a couple of weeks in a latticed-in enclosure under a porch. After the eagle had worn out the feathers of its wings and tail by beating against the walls of its prison, the farmer reported his catch to Oglebay Park. An effort was made to save the eagle's life, but it died soon after being released.—A. B. BROOKS, *Wheeling, W. Va.*

Aggressive Behavior of Screech Owls.—In July, 1927, my attention was called to the behavior of a Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*) that had nested in a bird box placed in the garden of a suburban home near by. The small daughter had gone into the garden on an errand about dark. The Screech Owl flew at her, flapping its wings and cracking its bill. Hearing the commotion an older child went to the rescue, when the attack was transferred to the newcomer. These attacks were kept up as long as any one entered the garden about dusk, but no one was molested during the day. I believe that these attacks were made in defense of the young.

A farmer reports that on going to and from his work, he had to pass through a strip of woods at dusk. A Screech Owl would fly at him, cracking its bill. This took place nearly every evening. It did not show its displeasure in any other way.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

Trematodes Infesting the Neck of a Great Blue Heron.—In September, 1930, a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*) that had been shot was brought to me for mounting. While skinning the bird I found six live parasites on the flesh of the neck under the skin, about three inches below the head. I removed the flukes and preserved them. They were later identified by Dr. Bennitt of the University of Missouri and Dr. H. W. Stunkard of the University of New York as *Clinostomum attenuatum*.—CORA E. SHOOP, *Mascoutah, Illinois*.

Little Blue Herons and Egrets Near Toledo, Ohio.—Prior to the year 1930, the only record of white herons in Lucas County was a group of eight immature Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) observed by Mr. Louis Klewer in September, 1925, in the Maumee River Rapids south of Waterville,

Ohio. On April 19, 1930, I found an adult Little Blue Heron in the marshes near Bono, Ohio. Then came the historic drought driving the wandering herons far from their usual haunts. The first Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was seen on July 20 near Bono accompanied by fifteen Little Blue Herons in the immature plumage. Day by day their numbers were increased, and on the week end of August 9 and 10 an attempt was made to count all of the white herons in Lucas County. On August 9, Professor E. L. Moseley and the writer visited the rapids of the Maumee River between Maumee and Grand Rapids, Ohio. The following morning, August 10, the writer alone covered the marshes around Bono, Ohio. The final count was: Little Blue Herons, August 9 (60); August 10 (25), all in white plumage; total 85. Egrets, August 9 (21); August 10 (25); total 46. From this date their numbers became smaller. My last record for the Little Blue Herons was four on August 24; for the Egrets, four on September 20.—LOUIS W. CAMPBELL, *Toledo, Ohio.*

May the Color Pattern of the Mockingbird's Wings Aid in Finding Insect Food?—I have often admired the pretty way in which the Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) raise and extend their wings at intervals while tripping along the grassy sward of lawns or pastures, but had always considered this as merely a display of vanity. However while watching a pair of Mockingbirds at Pensacola, Florida, in the spring of 1928, I was shown that this display may have a very practical use. These birds had a nest of young in a honeysuckle vine on a gate post and they frequently carried on the search for insects in a nearby field. As I watched I was impressed with the frequency with which the wings were opened and closed. Also, I noted that while the dull gray Mockingbird blended well with the background of earth and grass, yet when the wings were extended he became very conspicuous. The idea occurred to me that to an insect on the ground this sudden spreading of the contrastingly colored wings must be actually startling. With this in mind I watched with greater care and on several occasions noted that grasshoppers or similar insects flew from the grass as the bird made this display and that it quickly pursued them. After considerable observation I was convinced that in this instance, at least, the Mockingbird's striking wing pattern was of real assistance to it in finding insect food.—FRANK F. GANDER, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, Cal.*

Food Regurgitation by Young Kingbirds.—In the summer of 1928 I found a nest of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) on some timbers hanging from some roof-trusses on which the wood sheathing had not yet been placed. I could watch the nest from a point above and fifteen or twenty feet distant. I noted some very interesting things in regard to the family life of the Kingbird, but the most interesting was the fact that the young, after being fed, would often, but not always, regurgitate a pellet of undigested matter and that the parent bird would watch carefully for this pellet and when it appeared would take and swallow it.

An ornithologist to whom I mentioned this said that perhaps I had seen the adult bird take and swallow a parcel of excrement, as is often done. However, I am sure that this was not the case, as the pellet was always taken from the young bird's mouth. I saw it very distinctly a number of times and I was in an unusually advantageous position to make the observation.