

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.

I have not been able to find any reference to this habit in bird literature, but Thomas Nuttall, on page 267 in Vol. 1 of his "Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and Canada" (1832) states that the adult Kingbird regurgitates the indigestible portions of the insects it has eaten. I would like to know if others have observed regurgitation by young Kingbirds and the swallowing of the pellets by the parents.—C. S. BAUMAN, *St. Louis, Mo.*

Erratic Movements of the Red-headed Woodpecker.—The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is a fairly common bird, in the summer time, in and about Sigourney and Keokuk County, Iowa, where it may usually be seen most anywhere—by the roadside, on telephone poles, on fences, or in the deep forests—but is rare in the winter time. It is as a rule most common and conspicuous during September, October, and November. However, in September of 1929 it completely disappeared from this vicinity. A trip of about sixty miles to Iowa City and back, during the latter part of the month, revealed only a single individual, which was clinging to a telephone pole as we passed.

Although I traveled considerably on the public roads and in the woods and fields, and was always on the alert looking for birds of any species, I did not see a Red-head until April 30, 1930, when I saw one. This was late for the spring arrival of the species, as the migrants usually begin to appear during the latter part of March or the first part of April. In a few days, however, they were here again in their normal numbers. Mr. J. B. Slate informed me that two of these birds had passed the winter in an oak grove near South English. These were the only ones I learned of as being in this county during a period of about eight months.

During the fall of 1930 they remained here, in their usual numbers, and during the winter of 1930-31 they are present in more than their normal numbers. Aside from the fact that this winter, up to the latter part of January, has not been so cold as winters here usually are, the weather and food supply, for the period of time covered by this report, have been, as far as I am aware, about normal.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa.*

Pugnacious Dispositions of Blue Jays in the Defense of Their Young.—As bird lovers know, the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) ordinarily is shy in the presence of man; but this summer (1930) I observed a very pugnacious disposition on their part when defending their young.

On July 20, while going through a pasture adjoining our farm, I noticed two objects clinging to the base of the trunk of a large beech, and, as I had not noticed such objects on this tree before, I investigated and found that they were young Blue Jays that had but recently left the nest, since they could not fly very well. They did not move until I picked them up, when they began to call for help as loudly as they could. Until then there had been no adult jays in sight, but the minute the young started calling, both parents were in the trees above my head, screaming with all their might and flying about from tree to tree. The young then stopped their calling and sat on my fingers, as tame as a couple of little chicks.

But the adult jays became furious, and came darting at my head from the nearby trees, finally actually striking me on the top of the head. They took turns flying at me and striking me, and continued this for some time, screaming all the while. Then one young bird jumped from my fingers to the ground, and