

Some Notes on Birds for 1930.—The first migrant Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor minor*) was seen August 25. From this date until the latter part of September several were seen every evening and from then on until October 13, flocks of hundreds were seen at dusk. Of late years the main fall migration route has been a little to the east. The spring route is unknown.

The fall migration was very marked in the entire absence of the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*) and a few only of the Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*) on September 1 to 3. Both generally are common migrants and stay several weeks.

On September 18 there was a migration of female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) that continued for a couple of days.

On September 23, there was a migration of Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) that continued for two weeks. This was the first time that I have ever noticed an increase in the species during migration.

Instead of the usual increase in Cardinals (*Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis*) during the winter season, there was a marked decrease, very few remaining here this winter.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

Influence of an Osprey on Bronzed Grackles and Pied-billed Grebes.—

On September 26, 1931, while the writer was watching three Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*) on the artificial lake in Glen Helen, Antioch College campus, Yellow Springs, Ohio, an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*) flew over the water. At the time there were six to eight hundred Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) in the oaks along the east side of the four-acre lake. About one-third of these pursued the Osprey which circled the lake twice before "climbing" higher into the air where the wind was much stronger. I believe that the grackles became discouraged and quit the pursuit because of the stronger velocity of the chill wind at the higher altitude. Before the grackles saw the Osprey they were comparatively quiet. For a half hour after the pursuit of the Osprey began and ended they kept up a veritable din by their noisy "squeaking". As soon as the Osprey was gone I looked for the grebes. They had swum inshore and were taking cover in a small patch of half-submerged rushes, where they remained for twenty minutes or more. Previous to the Osprey's appearance they had been feeding, probably on fresh-water snails, in the clearer water near the entrance of the stream which fills the lake.—LOUIS B. KALTER, *Dayton, Ohio*.

Notes on the Feeding of the Least Bittern.—On September 5, 1931, a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) stood on the edge of the mud at the margin of the shallow water of an upper pool of a water supply reservoir in Butler County, Pennsylvania, where water plants and cat-tails grow in islands and clumps. When first seen, it was standing very still with the head drawn in toward the body somewhat, and the long bill parallel to the water surface. As I watched, it slowly raised one foot and put it down in the water with extreme care. There was almost no ripple on the water as the bird advanced for about eighteen inches, making no movement except that of the feet. Then the head and neck shot forward, the bill pierced the surface of the water and a four-inch fish was captured by the bill grabbing it in the center of the body. The bittern turned toward the shore and walked rapidly out of the water holding the bill with the fish pointing skyward. On shore, the fish was eaten while the tail feathers of the bird wiggled very much like the wagging of the tail of a contented dog.—SIDNEY K. EASTWOOD, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*