

men, 1.87; length of "nail" on bill, .51. This specimen, which was preserved by Mr. Schuenke, constitutes the second authentic existing Iowa specimen of this bird.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

**Second Record of the Starling in Douglas County, Kansas.**—On October 4, 1934, Mr. John McFarland brought to the Museum an adult male Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the flesh. Mr. McFarland says it was taken about two miles east of Lawrence, from a flock of Cowbirds and Bronzed Grackles, but he could not determine whether there were any more in the flock. This is the second record of the Starling in Douglas County. The first was of two birds taken seven and one-half miles southwest of Lawrence, by Ora Scott and the writer, on December 25, 1933 (*Auk*, Vol. LI, No. 4, p. 534). This bird seems to be increasing rapidly, and has become so common around Wichita that we may expect a nesting record from there soon.—W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kans.*

**Eastern Tree Sparrows Wintering in Christian County, Kentucky.**—Since Christian County, Kentucky, lies near the southern limit of the area from which wintering Eastern Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) are regularly recorded, the writer offers the following observations. Coming in at the end of an ice storm in late December, 1932, Tree Sparrows were seen periodically on the U. S. Government Hospital Reservation at Outwood, Christian County, Kentucky, for two months. The first record was made on December 25, 1932, eight birds. On January 5, 1933, the number had increased to twenty birds. Thereafter, until February 6, from five to fifteen Tree Sparrows were seen almost daily, consorting with numerous Field Sparrows of the sedge fields. From February 6 to February 22 the birds seemed to have dropped from sight, and none were recorded. However, on February 22, two birds were seen in the same area that the larger flock had occupied earlier. This was the last record of the season. Dr. Gordon Wilson has previously recorded this species a number of times in the WILSON BULLETIN from Bowling Green, Kentucky, which lies somewhat southeast of Outwood, but the writer knows of no time when the birds were seen over so long a period of time as that recorded above.—COMPTON CROOK, *Dept. Biology, Boone High School, Boone, N. C.*

**Notes on the American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa.**—These two southern-nesting herons are each year becoming more common in Iowa during the late summer and early fall. The birds are found in all parts of the state where the necessary water and food are available, as is evidenced by the following reports. During late August, 1934, American Egrets were seen at East Twin Lake in Hancock County and at Elk Lake in Clay County. The next week a flock of nine of the birds were seen at Storm Lake in Buena Vista County. On August 11, 1934, four American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were seen near Montrose in Lee County, and on the next day seven birds of this species were found feeding on the river at Fairport in Muscatine County. A few days later the first Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) was seen on the Iowa River west of Conesville, in Louisa County. During mid-September both species were found in greater numbers along the Mississippi River. On September 11, 1934, a lone American Egret was seen near Montrose in Lee County. A few miles up the river at Devils Lake, Lee County, a count revealed thirty American Egrets and twenty-one Little Blue Herons. The next day was spent in the Green Bay region, and here we saw more than 200 American Egrets

and about 125 Little Blue Herons. On the following day fifteen American Egrets were seen near the mouth of the Skunk River in Des Moines County. The last American Egret seen was on September 15, just above Muscatine. It should be added that all the Little Blue Herons were in the white plumage. This increase in numbers of these two species of southern herons in Iowa is probably due mainly to E. A. McIlhenny's work on Avery Island, and it is reasonable to expect even greater numbers of these birds, with a good sprinkling of Snowy Egrets and other herons, in the next few years.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

**Some Bird Notes from Belmont County, Ohio.**—The following birds were seen at the Belmont Hills County Club grounds, in Belmont County, Ohio, by Victor Kehrer and myself, on August 26 and September 2, 1934.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus* subsp.). Seen on September 2. Apparently a new record for Belmont County, although this species is a common migrant in other parts of the region.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus* subsp.). Observed on September 2, as it dove into the lake for a fish. Although this species is not known to nest in this region, a fisherman reported to us that this bird had been at the lake for at least six weeks previous to the time we saw it. This species is a rather rare migrant for this region.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* subsp.). Seen on August 26 at close range, as it flew over the lake which is on these grounds. I believe this to be the first record for this species in Belmont County, and for the region as well.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). This species is very common at Belmont Hills, nesting there each year. This seems surprising, since the same species rarely breeds in the West Virginia Panhandle, but thirteen miles away.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*). Seen on August 26. Probably a new record for Belmont County. Apparently an early migrant. Although I realize the difficulty in distinguishing between this species and the Acadian Flycatcher, I am positive this bird was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. At a distance of ten feet, we saw through 4x glasses the yellow throat, buffish-yellow breast and yellow belly. The bird was smaller than an Acadian Flycatcher.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon albifrons* subsp.). Two seen on August 26. This bird is considered a rare migrant in this region.—THOS. E. SHIELDS, *Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va.*

**Some Bird Tragedies.**—In the spring of 1924, while passing a nest of my favorite bird, the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*), I noticed a common Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon platyrhinus*) with a six-inch distention in the center of the body. Picking the reptile up and giving it a number of shakes caused it to regurgitate three young Meadowlarks. Last spring on one of my nature rambles at West Point, Illinois, my attention was drawn to the nest of a pair of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) by the alarm notes of the owners. Upon making an investigation I found it necessary to remove a Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) from the nest, while the process of digesting five young wrens continued uninterrupted.

The following casualties may also interest my readers. As a Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*) duckling floated near my place of concealment, it failed under the guidance of its mother to escape being captured by a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) that dropped from above and snatched it from the surface of the