

GENERAL NOTES

Deformation in Nestling Cormorants.—While assisting Dr. Harrison F. Lewis band the young in a large colony of mixed cormorants on Lake Island near Cape Whittle on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, July 13, 1939 I encountered two unusual conditions in the nestlings.

One of the young Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*), having a wing measurement of 92 millimeters, was found totally blind. There was a fleshy growth over both eyes. It had caused a slight swelling of the eye lids but had not affected the eye balls.

A young European Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*), with a wing measurement of 220 millimeters, was discovered with one wing twisted backward in such a way that it could not be outstretched or used in any way. The bones were growing around each other in a curved fashion indicating that the accident must have occurred when the bird was quite young. It no doubt resulted from the vigorous shuffling and fighting for position that takes place during feeding.

Since both birds were doomed to an early death when they would be deserted by their parents at the end of the nesting season, they were retained as specimens for the Dartmouth College Museum.—RICHARD LEE WEAVER, *Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire*.

American Egrets Breed in Wisconsin.—Three American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) came to my attention on June 6, 1939, while I was visiting the Trempealeau bottoms in Wisconsin, in company with Ray C. Steele, Superintendent of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Steele said that these birds had been noted flying about a nesting colony of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants and gave every indication that they might also be breeding.

We looked the colony over but did not see the egrets go to any nest. Steele reported, however, that three nests had been definitely located and later reported that all three pairs of birds were successful in rearing young. The files of the Biological Survey indicate that this is the first known nesting of this species in Wisconsin since those reported near Jefferson in July 1863 and Two Rivers in June 1880 (Kumlien and Hollister, "Birds of Wisconsin," *Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 3, 1903).

The American Egrets, which have been gradually recovering in numbers in recent years and slowly extending their range, now are familiar sights in localities from which they had long been absent. Steele has reported stragglers in increasing numbers in recent years, and in view of my interest in the birds at the time of my visit, suggested that I publish the record. I cannot do better than to quote from his summarized record of their appearances in this general vicinity prior to this successful breeding attempt:

"On May 20, 1936, near Marshland, Buffalo County, Wisconsin, a pair of adult egrets were observed, this being the first sight record in this locality. The writer did not again observe the birds during the season of 1936, nor were they sighted by other personnel employed on the Upper Mississippi Refuge. No observation of them was recorded during 1937.

On July 20, 1938, five adult American Egrets were observed near Brownsville, Houston County, Minnesota, and a report was recorded of 'white geese' having been observed in this locality on July 9. Undoubtedly the birds observed were egrets. On July 25, 1938, near the village of Potosi, Grant County, Wisconsin, eight American Egrets were observed, and as the season advanced it was not uncommon to see flocks of as many as 25 birds throughout the 284-mile length