

In the work the southwestern portion of Johnson Township was pretty well covered, and cypress noted in the parts indicated on the map. Decker Township was traversed the entire length four times over three slightly different routes. Cypress was found sparsely distributed throughout the heavily timbered country in the vicinity of "Cypress Pond." At one time it was abundant there, but it has been nearly all cut out.

Lumbermen reported cypress in the following localities: "Wabash Pond," "Claypole Hills" and in low ground near White River east of "Red Cloud." "Wabash Pond" was not visited, and none was found in the vicinity of the Claypole Hills, although it is probably to be found there, as it is found in some other localities, represented by a few scattering trees, which have been left in the general destruction of this timber, occasioned by the demands for mill material. Oak is the most valuable and abundant timber now left in this region. A temporary railroad track runs from Decker (Deckertown) west and north about ten miles, and is used exclusively, or nearly so, in transporting logs and lumber from the mills and forests of that region to the mill at Decker and to the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad at that point.

From an examination of the woodlands of Decker and Johnson Townships, it is evident that within recent years cypress was an abundant or predominant tree over territory aggregating 18 or 20 square miles. At present it is fast disappearing, and in all of the localities mentioned it is of minor importance in estimating the lumber resources.

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#### SOME INDIANA CROW ROOSTS. BY A. W. BUTLER.

When winter approaches, crows are observed to become much scarcer in many localities and very much more numerous in others. In October and November they begin to collect in places in companies of greater or less size and form "crow roosts." These are to be found in the woods in different parts of the country. Some are small, containing but a few hundred individuals. It is estimated that others contain as many as a quarter of a million, or more, crows. The Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the United States Department of Agriculture issued Bulletin No. 6, which contains the most complete account of the crow and its habits that has been published. It mentions a number of

crow roosts in the United States. Only one, however, is noted from Indiana. This one was located near Irvington and was reported by Mr. W. P. Hay. In the course of other investigations I have gathered some information concerning crow roosts in and near this State. Those to be mentioned are very probably not all that will be found, but the list which I shall give will serve as a basis for an investigation of this interesting and important subject.

I mention the following which have been reported:

1. A roost near Richmond, Ind., where, prior to the winter of 1896-7, they roosted in large numbers about a mile and a half northwest of that city. Mr. W. S. Ratliff informs me that they remained all winter, but towards spring became restive and frequently changed their roosting place.

October 10th, 1896, a small company began to collect about two and one-half miles west of Richmond. On the 14th they changed to another locality, and then suddenly disappeared.

2. Mr. Ratliff informs me of a roost near Boston, ten miles south of Richmond. It may possibly be that this is the same company which formerly occupied the first mentioned roost.

3. Prof. W. P. Shannon informed me of a roost near Milroy, in Rush county, of which Mr. Lou Innis gave him the following information: He said the roost was in a soft maple swamp and that the crows sometimes came there by thousands. They were most abundant in roosting-ear time. In late years this roost has been almost broken up by the cutting of the trees and the persecution of the neighborhood boys. At times the farmers were obliged to make vigorous warfare against the birds to save their corn. According to the older residents, the roost has been located at the same place since their earliest recollection.

4. Prof. W. S. Blatchley informs me of a roost in a pine grove west of Bloomington, Ind.

5. The same gentleman also reports one near Terre Haute.

6. With the assistance of Prof. W. P. Shannon I have been able to obtain some facts concerning a roost in Shelby county. The members of this roost have been for a number of years past familiar objects to passengers through that county on the Big Four Railroad in daytime, when, in the morning, they might be seen wandering abroad in search of food and in the evening, returning to their roosts. Mr. Willard

Fields, of Fairland, says that for about six or seven years prior to 1891 or 1892 they occupied a grove of about fifteen acres adjoining the town of Fairland, but the boys disturbed them so that they sought another locality, and they have since established several different roosts. He says that their present roost is four or five miles southwest of Fairland. Mr. J. G. Perry, of London, Ind., says this roost is located between London and Brookfield, on the north side of the railroad, where they have roosted every winter for the past four years at least.

7. The roost near Irvington, as has been mentioned, was described by Mr. W. P. Hay February 24, 1890, in Bulletin No. 6, Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, United States Department of Agriculture, pp. 18 and 19. In 1893 or 1894 Mr. George S. Cottman visited this roost and published an account of it in the Indianapolis News.

8. Mr. John S. Wright informs me there is a roost, which is not a large one, near Brown's Valley, Montgomery county.

9. Mr. Wright also tells me of a well-known roost near Camargo, Ill. There the crows gather by tens of thousands to roost in a scrub oak grove. It is said members of this company range nearly or quite across the first two tiers of counties in Western Indiana, more or less, nearly east of Camargo. Twenty or thirty years ago they are reported to have wandered by day as far as Terre Haute, Vigo county; Armiesburg and Montezuma, in Parke county, and Clinton, Vermillion county. There they obtained their food from the refuse of slaughter houses, which were prominent industries in those places.

10. Mr. J. A. Balmer, in 1889, wrote me of a roost numbering probably five hundred birds, to be found in the two cemeteries at Vincennes through the winter.

11. Mr. R. R. Moffett reports a crow roost at Slim Timber, White county, about twelve miles west of Brookston and twenty-one miles northwest of Lafayette. He estimates that one hundred thousand crows winter there.

12. Dr. J. T. Scovell informs me there is a roost between Lake Maxinkuckee and Logansport.

13. Mr. E. A. Schulze, of Ft. Wayne, reports a roost in School District No. 7, Bath Township, Franklin county, Indiana, in 1891, and says it existed for at least ten years previous to that date. He estimates that 1,000 crows were members of it.

In addition to those mentioned it is probable there is a roost to the northward of the Panhandle Railroad, not far from Knightstown, as great numbers of crows may be seen passing in that direction late in the afternoon at this season.

There is also probably a roost just over the line in Ohio, southeast of Franklin county, and east of Dearborn county. Mr. H. F. Bain one winter observed their coming in the morning and departing in the evening in southern Franklin county, and the direction from which they came, and in which they went indicated they belonged to a roost.

It is to be desired that all information possible be obtained concerning this, and any other roosts which are found within the State or the members of which range into Indiana, including the localities, dates of assembly and dissolution, foods, number of individuals composing the roost, according to the best estimates obtainable, and general habits of the birds and also the disposition of the people toward them.

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NOTES ON CROW ROOSTS OF WESTERN INDIANA AND EASTERN ILLINOIS. BY  
JOHN S. WRIGHT.

Through the central part of Vermillion county, Indiana, during the late fall, winter and early spring, the crows may be observed during the afternoon in large flocks feeding over fields and working their way westward. During the shorter days this is noticed early in the afternoon. Through the part (central) of Vermillion county, Indiana, in which I have observed these movements, I know that it is thought that, during times other than the breeding season, these birds live in large numbers in well established roosts located in the small groves which are found in the prairies of Eastern Illinois.

In order to secure some definite information on this question last May I wrote Dr. Thomas Hood, of Dana, Vermillion county, Indiana, whose practice has familiarized him with the locality. In response he wrote me about as follows: "I have inquired concerning the roost in question (one reported at Camargo, Douglass county, Illinois,) of our older citizens. They have each heard of it, and some say there are more places than one where the crows are in the habit of congregating for the night in the little strips of scrubby oaks which grow along the small drains of the prairie to the west of here.