

tree-tops. They were of three species, the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), the Black Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax navius*), comprising the majority, but the beautiful white plumage of the American Egret (*Ardea egretta*) was conspicuous through the feathered cloud, and these birds were quite numerous. Nearly all the trees throughout the belt were loaded with nests, those of the first two species named being found upon the same tree, but the latter birds appeared to build in little groups by themselves. We did not climb to examine the nests, but most of them appeared to contain young birds. Many of the trees were dead, apparently from the effects of the birds building and roosting upon them."

It is probable that some of these heronries along the Kankakee are referred to twice in the references I have made. At present I am unable to decide this matter. It is likewise very probable that there exists heronries on the Kankakee within our limits of which we know nothing. In this paper I have desired to bring to your attention, so far as I know it, the location of the former or existing heronries in Indiana in the hope that we may be able to locate all such sites as exist or have existed within the State.

This little article has served to acquaint you with the extension of the known breeding range of the American Egret northward for a distance equal to the whole length of the State of Indiana, and we find at the northern part of this breeding range that they have been found nesting in considerable numbers. Since this fact has been ascertained and we have been able to note the arrival of these birds at their breeding ground in the spring, we found their absence during the period of the spring migrations was only apparent, and that evidently their vernal pilgrimages are made at night, and consequently, although they may be found in numbers at their nesting sites, it is very rarely, indeed, that they are to be seen at this season of the year en route to their summer homes.

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#### THE RECENT OCCURRENCE OF THE RAVEN IN INDIANA. BY A. W. BUTLER.

Of recent years the Raven has been supposed to be extinct in this State. The last Ravens of which I can learn in Franklin county were noted in 1868, and I know of none later than that from any point in south-eastern Indiana.

Mr. C. E. Aiken informs me that a Raven was observed by him in Lake county in 1871.

Dr. A. W. Brayton, writing in 1879, informs us, "It frequents the sand hills along the shores of Lake Michigan from October until spring, eating the dead fish thrown up by the lake." (Transactions Indiana Horticultural Society, 1879, p. 129).

The winter of 1890-91 a number were taken in the eastern part of Allen county and adjacent parts of Ohio, and were brought to Mr. C. A. Stockbridge at Fort Wayne.

Mr. J. E. Beasley, in 1894, reported it as a rare winter visitor in Boone county, but he advises me that none have been seen there since that time.

In April, 1897, I was pleased to be informed by Mr. E. J. Chansler, of Bicknell, Knox County, that two persons had spoken to him of the recent nesting of the Raven in the cliffs of Martin county, and that one person claimed to have taken a nest and two eggs in 1894. He says that Mr. Cass Stroud, of Wheatland, informs him that Ravens are moderately common in the locality known as "Raven's Hollow," five miles south of Shoals. Mr. Chansler also ascertained that it was the belief that Ravens still nested at "Raven's Rock," in Dubois county. At my request, Mr. J. R. Wilson, County Superintendent of Schools at Jasper, Indiana, very kindly undertook to make inquiries regarding this matter. He personally knew that Ravens were found in that county up to five years ago—1892—and interested two teachers in the schools of that county in the question of its breeding at Raven's Rock, which was not far from their schools. Raven's Rock is a sandstone cliff seventy-five or eighty feet high, the top of which projects about thirty-three feet beyond its sides. It is situated between Dubois and Ellsworth. In the sides of the cliff are shelves which are almost inaccessible, and on these and in the crevices in the rock the ravens built their nests. These nests were roughly made of large weeds and even sticks, lined or felted with hair or wool. The ravens have not been observed there the past year, but were a year or two ago and regularly previous to that time.

The Raven, when flying, resembles a crow, but is much larger. They usually fly high and utter a harsh croak. It is claimed they were often seen as far as five miles from the rock. It is to be hoped that further investigations may be made showing the present status of the Raven as a bird of Indiana, and that specimens from this State may be secured for some of our collections before the birds shall have entirely disappeared.