

This fall the attention of the writer was called to a peculiar case of variation found in the vine *Ampelopsis veitchii* L., native of Japan, but which has been introduced into America for ornamental purposes. It clings to the walls by its very numerous disk-tipped tendrils. The leaves on the younger branches of the vine are small and entire with dentate margins, but those on the older branches are sharply three-lobed or sometimes three divided.

In this plant we find a second cleavage plane formed between the petiole and leaf blade so that instead of the leaves falling in the usual way the blade is shed and the petiole remains attached to the stem until late in the winter.

Due to the difference in density of structure in the stem and petiole, it is difficult to secure satisfactory results in the formation and structure of the cleavage plane of that region. But when, as in this plant, there is a second cleavage plane formed between the petiole and blade, it is comparatively easy to trace. There is a breaking down and spreading of the tracheary tissue and the formation of a layer of small cells, causing a complete disconnection between the tracheary tissue of the leaf and petiole, as is demonstrated by the illustration.

SOME RARE INDIANA BIRDS.

AMOS W. BUTLER.

The following notes are supplemental to those presented at the meeting of the Academy in 1899, which were printed in the proceedings for that year:

PHALACROCORAX DILOPHUS FLORIDANUS (Aud.).

Florida Cormorant.—A bird of this species was killed September 28, 1902, at Morris Street bridge over White River, in the city of Indianapolis. It was obtained by Fletcher M. Noe.

PELECANUS ERYTHRORHYNCHIOS Gmel.

White Pelican.—Two were killed on White River April 25, 1902, by Harry Sappenfield. The locality is given as between the farms of Frank C. Lory and A. H. Taylor, in Knox County. It is reported the birds will be mounted. (E. J. Chansler.)

Fletcher M. Noe informs me he saw a specimen which was killed October 12, 1902, near Martinsville, but was unable to obtain it.

C. K. Muchmore wrote me that a flock of thirty-seven White Pelicans "stopped over" at the pond of the Cincinnati Ice Company, two miles south of Laurel, September 29, 1902. Two of them were killed by a boy, Earl Masters, who brought them to my informant. The next morning he received a third specimen from Earl Bossert, of Brookville.

From another source I learn that the bird last mentioned was one of two, possibly from the same flock previously noted near Laurel.

TANTALUS LOCULATOR (Linn.).

Wood Ibis.—Though the Wood Ibises were formerly found irregularly in some numbers in southern Indiana, and doubtless were summer residents and bred, they have not been reported for several years. These peculiar birds, sometimes called "gourd heads" from their odd, naked heads and long heavy bills, were formerly found in the lower part of the White Water and Wabash valleys. To the latter they occasionally recur. With the increasing warfare upon our larger birds especially and the rapidly diminishing area of suitable range, they lessened in numbers for years, and more recently none have been observed by any one who noted them. Through the most of August and September last they were found in considerable numbers in suitable places in the lower Wabash Valley. The earliest date reported was August 10, near Montezuma, Indiana, when a single specimen was seen. The latest occurrence was from the same vicinity September 28.

The following data from Mr. D. W. Overman, of Montezuma, is interesting:

"On August 10 I saw a single specimen in a dead elm at the Goose Pond about two miles north of this place, in the Wabash bottoms. On 12th saw ten or twelve more. The 17th an old fisherman brought me a specimen, and another the 18th. From the 14th they were of daily occurrence and were seen passing north along the Wabash in flocks varying in number from four to 150 or 200. The one whose head I sent you was taken the 18th, by Mr. Chas. Doss, from a flock of twenty-five or thirty, and was 'using' along the Wabash just south of town. The specimen brought me by Mr. Tombs, of Arcadia, was taken the 18th near the town.

"I killed one August 24 at Goose Pond from a flock of thirty-five or forty. They were last reported as being seen September 28."

So we have it summed up: First seen August 10, became common about 14th, last seen September 28, stragglers from the 20th to 28th.

Wood Ibises were also reported as numerous along the Wabash River in Posey County. Paul J. Hartman, New Harmony, has very kindly reported to me such information as he has been able to collect in that county. He says: "In regard to the Wood Ibis, I will say that I have seen it. On August 12 about sundown, I saw ten. I was positive of their identity. They came down the river flying rather low, and alighting in a large willow thicket, went to roost. The next evening I saw another at the same place, but it flew on down the river. On the 15th I saw twenty. They went down the river. On the 16th, at the same place, I saw more than I could count, certainly more than a hundred. I saw all at the same point of observation, and at the same time of day, about sunset. With the exception of the first ones, they did not stop.

I find the Wood Ibises were quite common at Hodge's Landing, about six miles below New Harmony, during the middle of August. They were very tame and a number were killed. The skins were not preserved.

FLORIDA CERULEA Linn.

Little Blue Heron.—A specimen of this southern species which has been known to breed in suitable restricted localities in southwestern Indiana, has been received by the State Museum. It is an immature bird in the white plumage, and was killed by John Michaels near Bainbridge, Putnam County, Indiana, August 10, 1902. A few other white herons have been reported from different localities, including Posey, Knox and Kosciusko counties. Possibly some of these were of this species, but the chances are they were American Egrets, *Herodias egretta* (Gmel.) or perhaps some of them Snowy Herons, *Egretta candidissima* (Gmel.).

PHALAROPUS LOBATUS (Linn.).

Northern Phalarope.—A specimen of this rare bird was taken at Millers, Indiana, September 1, 1900, by R. S. Turtle, according to information recently received from Mr. Frank M. Woodruff, of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. This is the fourth specimen reported as taken in the State.

The gathering of peculiarly maritime species of birds along our great lakes each fall is a very interesting fact. They begin to appear about the

commencement of the second quarter of August, are most numerous between the middle of that month and mid-September, and generally are scarce after October 1. Some, however, occasionally linger until cold weather. Reference has elsewhere been made to this but attention is called to it again because of information received of the occurrence of some rare species since the last report.

NUMENIUS HUDSONICUS Lath.

Hudsonian Curlew.—Mr. F. M. Woodruff states a fine Hudsonian Curlew was taken at Calumet Heights, Indiana, August 3, 1902, by R. S. Turtle. It is a very rare migrant in Indiana.

TRINGA CANUTUS Linn.

Knot.—Mr. F. M. Woodruff reports the capture of a specimen of this world-wide sea-side wanderer near Millers, Indiana, in 1901. He has kindly placed in my collection a specimen taken at the same place to verify the Indiana record.

ARENARIA INTERPRES (Linn.).

Turnstone.—Mr. Woodruff also obtained one of these birds near the same place August 9, 1902. This is early for these seashore species. They are said to be in exceptionally rich plumage.

MICROPALAMA HIMANTOPUS (Bp.).

Stilt Sandpiper.—A specimen of this rare Sandpiper was taken at Mill Pond, near Greencastle, April 19, 1899, by Alexander Black. This is the second record of which I know for Indiana. Mr. Black has kindly deposited the specimen in my collection to verify the record.

ECTOPISTES MIGRATORIUS (Linn.).

Passenger Pigeon.—The only record of the Wild Pigeon I have been able to obtain since that of June 10, 1899, was received last spring through the kindness of Mr. Fletcher M. Noe of this city. From him I learned that Mr. Chas. K. Muchmore, of Laurel, Indiana, had obtained a specimen of this very interesting bird which was taken near that place last spring, April 3, 1902. Of this Mr. Muchmore says:

"The bird, which is a beautiful male, was taken by a young man named Crowell, near his home, about two and one-half miles southwest of this place. He reported that there were two. He heard the bird cooing and shot it and brought it to me, having concluded that it was something new. You can imagine how we almost took it away from him when he unrolled it out of a bloody old newspaper and began to inquire if we knew what it was. I was convinced that I saw a flock of five Passenger Pigeons one day in the spring of 1901, but had never said much about it as I only saw them flying and at a distance and it seemed rather improbable. I used to see them occasionally in Iowa about 1882-3, and although I was then very small, the specimen was not new to me, and I, of course, at once recognized the same."

Mr. Muchmore in a recent letter says he heard of a small flock near Laurel last fall (1902).

THE CATALPA SPHINX (*CERATOMIA CATALPÆ*) DESTROYED BY THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*COCCYZUS AMERICANUS*) IN SOUTHERN INDIANA.

F. M. WEBSTER.

This paper was suggested by the receipt of a letter from Mr. A. W. Butler, calling attention to a statement made by Mr. John B. Elliott, a very observing farmer of New Harmony, Indiana, who stated that the catalpa trees in his neighborhood had, until recently, been defoliated by a large worm, but, recently, this worm had nearly disappeared, having been eaten by the Cuckoo or Rain Crow, as they are termed in the South.

There did not appear to be any doubt about the food habit of the bird, though there is but one other similar observation on record, the only question being as to the identity of the worms. Now, the catalpa, like the aïlanthus, and the China tree of the Gulf States, has very few enemies, and there is no chance of mistaking the larvæ of the catalpa sphinx for any other insect. On the other hand, there is no data whatever in possession of the division of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing that this bird ever attacks the catalpa sphinx, though the stomachs of ninety birds have been examined. Several other species of Sphingidæ do not fare so well. Two, *Deilephila lineata*