

Through the kindness of Prof. Will Scott, I have a letter from D. O. Alter, Rushville, Indiana, saying a pair of starlings nested in East Hill Cemetery, that city, in 1922, 1923 and 1924, but none have been reported since. Mr. Alter says he did not verify the above reports.

The following two correspondents have reported records from other states, which I am including herein:

**JOLIET, ILLINOIS.** December 23, 1926, a starling was killed here. It is preserved in Joliet Township High School Museum.—G. N. Hufford.

**SANDUSKY, OHIO.** Two starlings were noted March 6, 1927. Next recorded March 15, 1927.—Miss Helen Barker.

The record concerning the starling in Indiana may be briefly summarized as follows:

It is rapidly increasing in numbers. It is occupying the nesting sites of other birds. It associates with English sparrows and grackles. It is willing to nest near habitations and along main highways.

Several of the birds recorded have been found dead. Does that mean they die from disease?

In our state it has been found only in the northeastern half of the state. A line drawn from Lake County to Jefferson County shows that practically all the localities are northeast of that line.

It has been reported from 16 counties and found nesting in four counties.

Specimens are preserved for verification from seven localities.

Lack of observers in the southwestern part of the state probably accounts for our not having it reported from that territory. In fact, with more observers throughout the entire state we should probably know much more of it than we now do.

Now we do not look upon the starling as much of a problem. Perhaps in 20 years we shall look upon it otherwise.

## SOME INTERESTING INDIANA BIRD RECORDS.

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AMOS W. BUTLER, Indianapolis.

I desire to bring to your attention some records of Indiana birds that are of special interest. Unless otherwise indicated they are notes taken in Indiana in 1927.

Snowy owl. *Nyctea nyctea* (Linn.). The extensive flight of snowy owls into Canada, New England and the lake region the past winter also reached Indiana. But the birds did not appear in such numbers as they did farther east.

A photograph in the Indianapolis News, Jan. 12, 1927, of one of these birds killed two miles northeast of Indianapolis first attracted

attention. The same paper, January 19, mentioned one from Frankfort.

Charles A. Stockbridge, Fort Wayne, says two were taken near Columbia City, in Nov., 1926, both of which were brought to him. He also reports one taken about six miles north of Fort Wayne, which is in his collection.

A. A. Ringwalt, Fort Wayne, reports that about a week before Christmas (Dec. 1926), Venus Yoder brought a snowy owl to him. It had been shot about one mile east of Topeka, Lagrange County.

H. A. Link, observed one of these birds at Waterloo Dec 3, 1926.

Professor G. Eifrig says several snowy owls were seen and shot near Gary in December, 1926.

George R. Fox, Three Oaks, Michigan, wrote me on Feb. 28, 1927: The snowy owl was common here this winter. I know of six of them having been killed and several more seen.

Hal H. Coffel, Pennville, reports the following seven snowy owls: Nov. 16, 1926, one taken by Arthur W. Haffner, six miles southeast of Pennville; shot while eating a chicken. One shot by Bert Judy three miles northwest of Bryant, Jay County, March 26. James D. Harrison found one crippled Nov. 22, 1926, on the Straley farm, Jackson Township, Jay County. He took it home, caged it and the wing healed. Later it escaped, was about the woods some three weeks, and then disappeared. One taken, Columbia City, Dec. 11, 1926. One taken 15 miles northeast of Ft. Wayne, Dec. 18, 1926. One taken near Odin, Mich. The three last above were mounted by John Miller of Ft. Wayne.

Nov. 25, 1926, one was reported to Mr. Coffel by C. L. Beasley between Pennville and Montpelier.

Mrs. L. G. Little, Lowell, reported two from that station Jan. 1, 1927, one of which was mounted.

Donald H. Boyd, Hobart, says snowy owls have been very abundant along the edge of Lake Michigan this winter. On December 8, 1926, one was shot from the roof of one of the buildings of the refinery of the Standard Oil Company at Whiting, where it was reported to have been seen for several days previously. The following day another snowy owl was seen perched upon the same roof. He also says a Hammond taxidermist reported he had received nine of these birds between Dec. 1 and 8, 1926.

According to Chreswell J. Hunt of Chicago, two were shot near Gary the first part of December, 1926, (W. Pierce Brodkorb).

I have enumerated 34 definite records, 27 of them from Indiana.

Goshawk. *Astur atricapillus* (Wils.). Another northern bird that appeared in unusual numbers farther east and north was the goshawk. Only a few of them evidently were seen by Indiana observers.

W. Pierce Brodkorb, Chicago, Ill., reports one seen by him Dec. 21, 1926, at Dune Park. He adds: "It was too quick to shoot."

H. A. Link, Waterloo, noted it Dec. 6 and 16, 1926. Quite common all the month of December. Several were seen in January, 1927. The last one on Jan. 26. He also reports one Feb. 19, 1926.

Arctic three-toed woodpecker. *Picoides arcticus* (Sw.). This is another northern bird that has been recorded from this state only

within the past few years. Through the kindness of S. C. Sims, curator of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension Collection of the Field Museum of Chicago, I have been supplied with a number of interesting Indiana records. Among them are three from specimens in that collection as follows: No. 1421 male, Dune Park, Ind., Oct. 3, 1920; No. 1431 male, Dune Park, Ind., Oct. 24, 1920; No. 1121 male, Miller's, Ind., Mar. 11, 1917. All were collected by H. L. Stoddard. The last mentioned is labeled, by mistake, black-backed three-toed woodpecker, but I am informed they are all the same species.

Mr. Brodkorb has a more recent record of three of these birds: one from Oak Hill, Porter County by Mrs. Lillian Cramp, Oct. 24, 1924; and from Miller's, Lake County, Dec. 28, 1924, by Clarence Jung. Feb. 20, 1927, Mrs. W. D. Richardson saw a male arctic three-toed woodpecker at work on a tree in the sand dunes.

Long-tailed jaeger. *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot. A male of this species was taken by H. L. Stoddard at Dune Park, Sept. 21, 1915. It is now No. 205 in the Harris Collection of the Field Museum, Chicago.

A jaeger (species not determined) was seen between Dune Park and Mineral Springs, Porter County, by B. T. Gault, Prof. G. Eifrig and C. J. Hunt, Mar. 17, 1923, according to Mr. Brodkorb.

Yellow-crowned night heron. *Nyctanassa violacea* (Linn.). A female was taken April 3, 1921, at Sneider, by E. J. Scupham. It is now No. 1436 in the Harris Collection in the Field Museum.

Prof. G. Eifrig reports a bird of this species which he verified in the Field Museum taken Apr. 21, 1921, in Indiana a little east of the Illinois line near Illinois, Ill., on the Kankakee River.

Alden H. Hadley found one of these night herons dead in the road near Monrovia, in May, 1924. S. E. Perkins III has a photograph of it.

Black-crowned night heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius* (Boddaert). On July 7, 1927, Harold A. Zimmerman and Prof. O. B. Christy of Muncie, located the nesting place of these birds. For weeks small groups had been seen by interested persons. Their "heronry" was found in a grove of boxelder trees along Buck Creek, near Yorktown, about seven miles southwest from Muncie. Seventy-five nests were counted and the number of old birds estimated as 150.

Snowy plover. *Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia* (Ord). Charles Brandler took a female snowy plover at Miller's, on the lake shore, Sept. 4, 1887. It is in the Harris Collection in the Field Museum, No. 1295. Mr. Sims states: Dr. Helmayr, of that Museum, says this is the third record for the Great Lakes region.

Roseate tern. *Sterna dougalli* Montague. A male of this species was collected by H. L. Stoddard at Miller's, Aug. 14, 1916. It is in the Harris Collection, Field Museum, and is numbered 289. This is the first verified record of this bird for the state.

Caspian tern. *Sterna caspia* Pallas. Formerly considered rare in Indiana. Now not so regarded along Lake Michigan. Dr. Alfred Lewy, according to Mr. Brodkorb, saw a Caspian tern Sept. 25, 1926, in the Dunes.

Mr. Sims, curator of the Harris Collection, Field Museum, has supplied me with the following records from their collection. All were taken by H. L. Stoddard as follows: 102, male, Miller's, Ind., Aug. 30, 1914; 253, female, Miller's, Ind., Aug. 30, 1914; 254, female, Mineral Springs, Ind., Sept. 4, 1915.

Aug. 30, 1919, Prof. G. Eifrig reported it from Miller's. He said he saw several.

Harris' sparrow. *Zonotrichia querula* (Nutt.). These sparrows are apparently extending their range eastward. Some years ago they were regarded as ranging more to the westward. The first Indiana specimen was taken by Ernest P. Walker at Sheridan, May 4, 1907. May 12, 1924, one was recorded from McMillan, Luce County, Michigan (O. M. Bryans) (*The Auk*, Vol. XLII, January, 1925, page 145.).

May 12, 1924, Ben J. Blincoe reported one from Dayton, Ohio. Oct. 12, 1924, another specimen was secured in the same locality. That appears to be the third Ohio record.

H. L. Stoddard secured an immature female at Miller's, Oct. 3, 1920, No. 1420 Harris Collection, Field Museum.

Mrs. Percival B. Coffin identified one May 12, 1925, at The Brooks, Williamsburg, Wayne County. Other records were made May 14, 15 and 16, 1925, at the same place. Mr. and Mrs. Coffin had twice seen this species in the Indiana Dunes.

Clarence Bretsch, Gary, reports having banded several Harris sparrows in 1926 and 1927. One of these birds, a female, taken May 20, 1927, he presented to Prof. Eifrig, Oak Park, Ill.

Clay-colored sparrow. *Spizella pallida* (Sw.). One of these sparrows was taken at Dune Park, by Chreswell J. Hunt, May 11, 1924. H. L. Stoddard took a female at Dune Park, May 25, 1919. It is No. 1332 Harris Collection, Field Museum. Clarence Bretsch, Gary, reports them abundant in Lake County, the fall of 1926.

Nelson's sparrow. *Passerherbulus caudacutus nelsoni* (Allen). This sparrow was named for E. W. Nelson, who discovered it near Chicago in 1874. It has only been recognized in Indiana a few times. The Harris Collection has two females taken by E. J. Scupham at Long Lake in the Dunes: one, No. 1578, Sept. 12, 1922; and No. 1583, Sept. 21, 1922.

Northern pileated woodpecker. *Phloeotomus pileatus albeticola* (Bangs). This large woodpecker was once well known throughout all the wooded area of Indiana. A few years ago it was regarded as almost extinct with us. However several reports of its occurrence having recently been received it has been thought wise to inquire in some detail into its present distribution.

It is given by Philip Baker, Helmsburg, as a regular, though rare, resident of Brown County. He writes, "I heard one yesterday (Aug. 22, 1927), in the wood just south of mine, and have heard the call or seen the bird many times this year. It must nest in this county as I have often seen them in pairs."

J. Fred Masters of Indianapolis, according to S. E. Perkins III, reported Apr. 3, 1927, four of them on his farm in the northeastern part of the same county.

W. S. Chansler of Mitchell, reported one about Oct. 20, 1926. In 1927 he notes: First seen Feb. 7, one; next, Feb. 8; next, May 20. Rare, breeds. Three pairs "use" in this vicinity.

A. F. Bently, Paoli, writes: The pileated woodpecker seems to be becoming more common. Reported from three localities this year (1927). It has been here in summer for a number of years. This year three were seen at one time. It was here in 1921 and 1922, also May 12, 1923, and April 20, 1926.

Dr. Will Scott, of Indiana University, reports one there January 28, 1926. The same observer saw one, a male, three miles east of Shoals, May 12, 1927, also a pair seven miles east of Bloomington.

Roy Chansler, Bicknell, says he saw two there in 1924, and one in 1925. These reports with the exception of Knox County, are from a group of neighboring counties—Brown, Monroe, Lawrence, Orange and Martin. Probably other counties with similar topography and forests may also shelter some of them. Mr. Brodkorb records one in the collection of J. Grafton Parker, Jr., now in the Field Museum. An adult taken at Kouts, Porter County, December 5, 1894. (The Auk, April, 1927, page 260.)

S. E. Perkins III reports one in the Shortridge High School collection, Indianapolis, taken at Morgantown, Nov. 29, 1925.

Wood ibis. *Mycteria americana* Linn. Mr. Hal H. Coffel reports wood ibises in the vicinity of Pennville, in the fall of 1925. On Aug. 15, 1925, and for two or three weeks thereafter, almost daily; nine of these ibises were seen by C. V. Edmundson in a pond on his farm four miles northeast of Pennville. The owner thought they were feeding upon the fish in the pond. Sept. 1, 1925, five were seen.

On the Gladys Hamlin farm, somewhat more than a mile northeast of Pennville, two of these birds were found hanging on a wire fence. Mr. Coffel went to see them and identify them. They had been hanging there for some time and were not in condition for preservation. Sept. 6, 1925, he saw two wood ibises one mile northwest of Pennville along the Salamonie River. They were soaring high above the river. One came down to the water at some distance from him and when it flew away it had something in its bill, presumably a fish.

Black vulture. *Catharista urubu* (Vieill.). Mr. McKim Copeland informs me that the black vulture wintered in considerable numbers in southern Indiana last winter. Some 150 made their winter quarters among the rocks of Clifty Ravine in the State Park. It is locally found in some numbers and breeding as far north as the B. & O. Railroad.

W. S. Chansler reports them as common and breeding in Lawrence County.

Prothonotary warbler. *Protonotaria citrea* (Bodd.). When this Academy was organized the prothonotary warbler was practically unknown in Indiana. The lower Wabash and the Kankakee held what little we knew about it. Its verified range now extends over much of the state in suitable localities. It prefers water with willows, cottonwood and other soft woods where there are dead trees and stubs, in the cavities of which it can nest. The following will give some of the records:

Notre Dame. Brother Alphonsus, May 15, 1919, May 27 and 29, also Aug. 25, 1927.

West Lafayette. F. H. and L. A. Test, Apr. 30, 1927, "not common." Lafayette. Mrs. C. F. Weigle, Apr. 30, 1927.

Dune Park. W. Pierce Brodkorb, May 6, 1923, two seen by Lewy, Swift and Gault.

Bluffton. E. B. Williamson. At least two pairs were found in Vaneman Swamp near Bluffton, June 9, 1927, nesting in abandoned nest of downy woodpecker.

Crawfordsville. Mr. Frank C. Evans and Mrs. B. F. Sarver, May 19, 1927, one seen. Noted two or three times before.

Indianapolis. S. E. Perkins III, two at Bacon's Swamp, Apr. 24, 1927.

Middletown. Reported by Mrs. Rose Pickering. It was previously reported from Newcastle by Clarence H. Smith.

Bloomington. Dr. Will Scott, May 2, 1925; May 7, 1927.

The nesting reports of the prothonotary warbler are of much interest. According to the books, it nests in a natural cavity or excavation, in a tree or stump, often a willow standing in or near water. The experience of S. E. Perkins III, July 14, 1926, in finding a nest with young, on a stringer of an occupied building at the Boy Scouts Camp, some eight miles northeast of Indianapolis, was unique. Along with it came a report of a nest with young discovered by Miss Luci Pitzschler at McCormick's Creek State Park, Owen County, in July, 1926. (The Auk, Oct., 1926, p. 551.) These records recalled to Edw. R. Ford, Grand Rapids, Michigan, an experience he had in company with Frank Morley Woodruff, in June, 1910, near Kouts, Indiana, where "the prothonotary was a common breeding species." One of these birds was found nesting in an empty lard pail hanging beneath the porch of a fisherman's shack along the Kankakee River. (The Auk, Apr., 1927, p. 255.)

Worthington. J. M. Tilley, Superintendent of Schools, in reporting its breeding at that station, says "In 1926 a pair of them built in an empty can in a garbage can on a house boat." Reported also May 10, 1927.

Mrs. C. B. Bowman, Portland, writes, "a friend tells me a prothonotary warbler built its nest in the mail box on the side of the main door to Stony Ridge Hotel at Tippecanoe Lake, and hatched its young."

Dr. L. A. Test says, in 1925 a pair of these birds built their nest in a cavity in one of the piles at the boat house at Winona Lake. It was about 18 inches above the water. In 1927 they nested at the boat house in a pile near the one in which they nested before. The cavity was similar to the one formerly used. They were quite common at Winona Lake during the summer of 1926 but no nest was reported.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Marmon who has records of this warbler at Lake Maxinkuckee, reports it nested near Mr. Coffin's place in 1911. Mr. Perkins noted one at that lake June 28, 1925.

Mitchell, 1927, Apr. 20, one; Apr. 26; Apr. 30; Tolerably common; breeds.—Walter S. Chansler. Bicknell, Nests along streams.—Roy Chansler. English Lake, The Field Museum has a set of eggs taken at English Lake, June 30, 1907 (Chas. B. Cory).

Cliff swallow; eave swallow. *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say). In recent years we have had to change our books regarding this swallow. Formerly it was an abundant migrant and summer resident. Now in many localities it is unknown. Few breed with us. What is their future?

The following records are here made: Roy Chansler, Bicknell, Apr. 10, 1927. Nests locally.

Walter S. Chansler, Mitchell, 1927. May 8, one; May 12; May 17. Common, breeds. Mr. Chansler writes "about four years ago (1923) while cruising the lower Wabash River I observed these birds in colonies along the rock bluffs at various points on both sides of the river."

H. A. Link, Waterloo. Last nested here in 1915, when two pairs built nests. He also adds, "Aug. 20, 1925, saw ten at Wall Lake, La-grange County."

Brother Alphonsus says they are regularly found and fairly abundant at Notre Dame.

One noted at Anderson, June 1, 1926. Mrs. H. P. Cook, Lafontaine. Tolerably common. Three May 11, 1927. A pair nested in a barn near Rochester, the summer of 1924.

Dr. Will Scott records them twice at Bloomington in 1925, May 2 and 9.

O. A. Renahan, Wawaka, writes: I saw some eave swallows last year (1926) but have no record of their nesting. Some 12 or 15 years ago an old barn about a mile from home held some 50 nests of eave swallows. Between nearly every two rafters there were three nests. It certainly was great to go there about the time the birds were hatching and feeding. It was like a hive of bees. One could drive right up to them in a buggy. They were too busy to notice the visitor. The colony of birds had been there for years. The roof on this old barn was getting very leaky. Then came a very rainy season at the time the young were hatching. The rain leaked through the roof, wetting the nests which loosened and fell to the ground. The owner, who was fond of the birds, gathered a grape basket full of young swallows, all sizes. It was a sad sight. We selected a few of the older ones and succeeded in raising two of them. The next year there was one nest under our home barn-roof and two others started but not completed. The swallows never returned to nest at the old barn. Some years later a small colony of these swallows nested at our tenant's barn but do not think they nested there last year.

Eave swallows were seen in the Dunes at Fremont, May 30, 1924, by G. P. Lewes, who adds: "getting rare here."—Brodkorb.

A colony of these birds was found by Dr. L. A. Test, at West Lafayette, in May, 1927, nesting under the eaves of a barn on the farm of Mr. Scipio, six miles south of West Lafayette. There were about 30 nests in the colony, some still in the process of construction, and all under the eaves on the north side of the barn. This is the first time, at least for some years, that these birds have nested there. This is the largest colony of these swallows known to me in the state. It is of interest to note that barn swallows were nesting inside the barn.

Mocking bird. *Mimus polyglottos* (Linn.). In contrast with the history of the cliff or eave swallow, the mockingbird appears to be increasing its numbers and extending its range in Indiana. Forty years ago one could expect to find it in suitable localities in the southern third of the state, say to the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and nesting practically throughout that area. More recently we have learned of their nesting as far north as the latitude of Indianapolis. Now we may expect to find them irregularly throughout the state.

Dr. C. W. Hargitt reported them as common residents in Dearborn County on July 2, 1906.

Philip Baker reported several birds and one nest just southwest of Indianapolis, June 24, 1907.

Robert A. Wilkes, Nineveh, reports them six miles west of Edinburg, in 1911. They bred there for the preceding three years. They came with the robins in 1911.

Mrs. Emma L. Dennis informs me that one wintered at Richmond, 1921-22. Have been seen quite a number of times in recent years. Both Mrs. Dennis and Prof. Millard S. Markle informed me of their nesting in the hedge between Earlham College and the cemetery this year. There were three eggs. One was broken and the birds abandoned the nest. June 1, 1927.

Prof. J. M. Tilley, April 23, 1927, notes they are common and breed at Worthington. It is reported from Washington, common, breeds. Some dates given in 1927, Jan. 6, Feb. 14, Mar. 13 and 23, Apr. 8.

At Bicknell, Roy Chansler says: Usually resident. Tolerably common; breeds.

Wintered at Mitchell in 1926-27. Some dates for 1927. Jan. 20; Feb. 15; Apr. 15. Common; breeds. Walter S. Chansler.

Mrs. C. B. Bowman, Portland, reports it there Oct. 21, 1925, and adds: It nested there in 1914 and 1915.

The following additional records are given as showing, with those above, a sketch of the recent distribution of mocking birds in Indiana:

Evansville, Feb. 25, 1926; Apr. 10 and 12, 1927. Dr. A. J. Bigney.

Bloomington, Feb. 15 and Mar. 19, 1921; Apr. 15, 1922; Feb. 13 and May 9, 1925; Feb. 5 and April 24, 1926; Feb. 5 and May 7, 1927—Dr. Will Scott.

Helmsburg, Brown County. March 27, 1922. Philip Baker.

Morgantown, May 30, and June 15, 1927. Seen by me in company with Mr. Perkins.

Hope, May 11 and 16, 1927. Common. J. K. Pittman.

Crawfordsville, Spring Ledge. Frank C. Evans reports Mrs. B. T. Sarver's note May 20, 1927. Reported each year but observers have not seen nest.

Fort Wayne, Prof. G. Eifrig wrote me of seeing one near there.

Glen Ellyn, Illinois. B. T. Gault writes, June 13, 1927, it was found at that place this spring.

Chicago, Illinois. One seen for some time, Nov. 28, 1926, at the Bird Sanctuary, Lincoln Park, by S. E. Perkins III, and several other persons attending the joint meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association and the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Notre Dame, Nov. 23, 1927. Brother Alphonsus.

From Evansville to Lake Michigan and from Aurora to Fort Wayne, we have recent records. These records, especially in its northern range, are variable. Sometimes for two or more years a site will be occupied for nesting, then the birds may not be seen for years, or may not be found again.

## NESTING OF THE SYCAMORE WARBLER.

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AMOS W. BUTLER, Indianapolis.

While the sycamore warbler (*Dendroica dominica albilora* Ridgway) is a common summer resident, few there are who know it and fewer still who have found and recognized its nest. Mrs. Harry Bucklin, of Brazil, is indeed fortunate in her knowledge of and acquaintance with this bird. In her collection I found last summer the first sycamore warbler's nest I ever saw. In conversation I learned she knew the haunts of these birds and for several years past had observed their nests. After the season was over, on two occasions she was able to secure the nest. One of these (A) she has; the other (B) she kindly presented to me. Both nests were taken at Pennyroyal, Clay County, Indiana, the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Bucklin. Both nests were built in the same sycamore tree but three years apart.

Nest "A" was built about 35 or 40 feet above the ground in a flat crotch, on an approximately horizontal limb of a large sycamore tree. The birds were seen building on April 26, 1924, but they are usually seen first about the middle of April. One date is April 16. The nest measures as follows: Outside diameter, 2.50 inches; inside diameter, 1.65; outside height, 2 inches; inside depth, 1.75 inches.

The heavier frame was composed of shreds of grapevine bark, bits of the covering and coarser fibre of weeds, mingled with which were many small pieces of cotton cord or ravelings. The nest was lined and its entire bottom was composed of the soft down obtained from dry sycamore balls. In fact, the nest really had no foundation for the bottom. The lining material reached through to the limb. The nest was taken after the young had left.

Nest "B" was built about May 14. The birds were first seen April 17, 1927. The nest was about 75 feet above the ground in a crotch of small branches toward the end of a sycamore limb which was not strong enough to bear one's weight. It was so hidden by the foliage that it could not be seen until some of the leaves fell this fall. Then it was secured but was mashed against another limb so that its measurements doubtless are only approximately correct.

The nest is composed of weed and other vegetable fibres, including the shredded bark of grape-vine and a few horse hairs. It was lined with down from plants, including that from the ripened sycamore balls.