

THE EUROPEAN STARLING IN INDIANA.

AMOS W. BUTLER, Indianapolis.

In addition to the records of the European starling submitted to this academy at its meeting in 1924 (Vol. 35, p. 325) I herewith present other Indiana records that have been reported to me since that time:

LOWELL. September 13, 1926, seven seen; September 30, five seen; October 10, two; April 17, 1927, one; April 28, two.—Mrs. L. G. Little.

ST. JOE. Several days ago at a "pest" hunt, over 50 strange birds were found at night roosting in the barn of Sam High, four miles west of St. Joe. From the description given I feel that these were starlings.—Sidney R. Esten, December 31, 1926.

LAFAYETTE. January 2, 1927, two were seen one mile south of Lafayette, near the Opp farm. January 4, two starlings were picked up dead in the barn of Mr. Scipio, about six miles south of Lafayette. Mr. Scipio said he had seen as many as 24 at one time. (They probably wintered.) March 9, 1927, two starlings lit in a tree in my back yard in West Lafayette. They were found nesting six miles south of Lafayette, May, 1927. At least one nest with eggs was found.—Prof. L. A. Test.

Dean M. L. Fisher reports starlings nesting at Lafayette in 1927. Possibly the same as last noted.

PENDLETON. One seen with English sparrows, two miles northwest of Pendleton, February 20, 1927. Three building, carrying in shreds of corn fodder, in two flickers' holes, April 5, 1927. May 18, 1927, I went with Mr. Sidney R. Esten to the nest last above mentioned, which was about 25 feet up in a beech snag. It contained six young ready to fly. It is about one and a half miles from Pendleton. I had been keeping watch of the parents since they began building. Mr. Esten preserved the skins of the adult male and one of the young. There were two more adults about the same place but it is not known that they nested. Mr. Esten kindly presented me with two of the young from that brood.—Mrs. W. M. Swain. Mrs. Swain reported, December 6, 1927, about 150 starlings about two miles south of Pendleton, which had been there for the previous two weeks.

ANDERSON. June 8, 1927, I went with Mr. Sidney R. Esten in response to a call from Anderson to see starlings which were reported found there. Went out East Twelfth Street road toward State Road 67. We found six nests occupied by starlings in two hours' observation. All these nests were in holes in telephone poles along the road. The average distance from the ground was 13 feet. We saw eight adult and

one immature starling. Parents were carrying food into three of these nests; the remaining three each had an adult head thrust from it.—Mrs. W. M. Swain.

ANDERSON. June 5, 1927. Today we discovered three nests of starlings in telephone poles between here and Chesterfield, about four miles east. Two nests were near the Poor Asylum, and one near the Tuberculosis Hospital. In two nests the young were just ready to leave. I saw six grown birds and two or three young.—Mrs. H. P. Cook.

HUNTINGTON. In a letter dated May 31, 1927, Mrs. H. P. Cook tells of just having returned from a trip on which she saw, near Huntington, a starling.

MUNCIE. February 12, 1927, saw eight starlings near Muncie. Their peculiar whistling songs and short tails identified them. I was fortunate enough to hear at least one of their number imitate a wood pewee, which imitation Doctor Chapman refers to in his "Handbook." May 29, 1927, Mr. W. W. Tuttle and I found starlings in the same place, probably the same flock, apparently nesting in the top of the dead trunk of a sycamore. The holes were 75 or 100 feet above the ground, so a close inspection was impossible. I am satisfied they were nesting.—Harold A. Zimmerman.

SPICELAND. One was found near here by one of the school girls. It was identified as a starling.—Mrs. Amanda C. Smith.

FORT WAYNE. February 27, 1927, a male starling was brought to me which was taken a short distance from Fort Wayne.—C. A. Stockbridge.

One caught in a barn on a farm March 4, 1927. It was alive and in good condition and will be mounted for Concordia College Museum.—A. A. Ringwalt.

NOTRE DAME. Two observed May 30, 1927. Seven other records in June as follows: One, 7; one, 11; one, 19; one, 23; one, young, 26. First nesting record June 7; one nest in a woodpecker's hole in a telephone pole. August records as follows: three, 10; six, 17; one, 19; one, 24; two, 27; one, 28; one, 29. September, one, 11.—Brother Alphonsus.

MAYWOOD. Miss Rousseau McClellan reported a starling seen at Maywood, March 4, 1927.—S. E. Perkins III.

FOUNTAIN CITY. Elmer Barnes, a former student of Earlham College, found one dead near the above town in April, 1927. The skin is preserved in the Earlham College collection.—Prof. Millard S. Markle.

BROOKVILLE. May 15, 1927, a starling was found dead in the barn by Mrs. May Rodgers on the farm of her brother, Harry M. Stoops, and herself. The only one observed there.—Dr. C. E. Case. The bird is now in my collection.

HANOVER. Mr. S. E. Perkins III has a report from Mrs. Ida Smith, Hanover, of one killed there, November 21, 1926. Only one seen. She sent the mounted specimen to Mr. Perkins for verification.

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.

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