

the lining had been placed. It is interesting to note that no other light in the immediate vicinity presented just the same conditions that made the building of this nest possible.

With the exception of some small Norway Poplars and low bushes there are no trees in this section of the country which probably accounts for the choice of such an unusual nesting site.—A. C. GARDNER, *Wilmington, Del.*

**Arkansas Kingbird in Virginia.**—On September 19, 1919, while in company with Dr. B. H. Warren at Wallop's Island, Virginia, we noticed a pair of Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) associating with a small flock of the common Kingbirds, and Dr. Warren secured one of them. Their actions, while similar to those of the common species, were sufficiently different to attract our attention. So far as I am aware this is the first record for the State.—THOMAS H. JACKSON, *West Chester, Pa.*

**Note on the Name *Gazzola Bonaparte*.**—Walden (Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., 8, 1872, p74) has clearly shown that *Gazzola Bonaparte* is a synonym or *Graucalus* authors. Unfortunately Walden did not rename Bonaparte's genus and no subsequent author appears to have proposed a substitute, therefore I propose, *Nesocorax* with *Gazzola typica Bonaparte* as the type. The two species will then stand as: *Nesocorax typica* (Bonaparte) and *Nesocorax unicolor* (Rothschild and Hartert).—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Magpies and Live Stock.**—The writer was interested in the note in the April number of 'The Auk' (XXXVIII, 1921, p 276) concerning attacks on sheep by Magpies. Some notes on this subject in the writer's possession may be of interest also.

Mr. A. H. Schatz, a former resident in the Black Hills, of South Dakota, related to me some years ago the following facts. John White, a farmer living in the foot hills of the Black Hills, had a cow which was old and weak. In the severe winter of 1914-15 Magpies alighted upon her back and pecked at the rectum until it was deeply gouged out, and it became necessary to shoot the animal. This was the only instance of the kind to occur that winter in that locality, so far as Mr. Schatz knew. In the winter of 1915-16 the Magpies continued this habit on other animals, and it became so widespread that there was general talk of organizing a crusade against these birds. Mr. Schatz was explicit in his statement that most of these attacks were made upon healthy animals.

I have no later reports concerning the habit in these birds of the Black Hills region, but I have on file a newspaper clipping dated from Ainsworth, Nebraska, December 23, 1919, from which the following extracts are taken: "Over on Plum Creek near the Charlie Edwards place, a large number of cattle and horses have been kept every winter because the country is quite well sheltered with trees, and the surface is hilly, thus

affording shelter from the north winds, and as a rule the snow has not been so deep as to entirely cover the grass. This year, however, it has all been covered and there has been little picking for any kind of animals or birds.

"And now the story comes from the section that the Magpies, which are unusually thick this year, are alighting on the backs of the horses and cattle and simply picking away the flesh until a good sized hole has been made, when they tackle the animal in earnest and make a fill of his flesh. The story is that Alva Stine has lost two or three horses, and that George Sindlinger has lost a valuable bull from the Magpie attacks."

Each of the accounts here given contains the evidence that this habit of Magpies to attack healthy cattle (free from sores or wounds) was a novelty in the respective localities.—T. C. STEPHENS, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

**Notes of the Starling.**—The U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletin (No. 868) on the Starling, commented upon in the April 'Auk' alludes to the ability of this bird as a mimic and lists ten native species, the notes of which it has been heard to imitate. The writer, located close to the center of Starling population, can add the names of the following ten native species which he has heard the Starling creditably and in several instances very exactly imitate: Tufted Titmouse, Red Cross-bill, Kingfisher, Crow, Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red Headed Woodpecker, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and in addition the harsh notes of the Guinea Fowl. On one occasion a single Starling, in a short time was heard to imitate the calls of six different species. The ability to mimic does not appear to be shared equally by all individuals, at least is not equally exercised, and good mimics are rarely met here. During the twenty-one years that this bird has been a local resident I have heard it imitate the calls of other birds on less than fifty occasions, the majority of these falling within the past five years. I do not include the so-called "Wood Peewee" note of the Starling as mimicry. It is so frequently uttered as to suggest that the similarity is a coincidence, though proof of this is only possible by comparison with the notes of the bird in Europe.

The abilities of this bird emphasize the necessity of using the eye as a supplement to the ear in making identifications in the Starling belt.—CHARLES A. UENER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

**A Question Concerning the Cowbird.**—Does the female Cowbird take any interest in the fate of the eggs she lays in the nests of other birds?

This question has often occurred to me since an incident I observed in 1915. On June 29 of that year, at Albion, Iowa, I discovered a two-story Red-eyed Vireo nest (*Vireosylva olivacea*). The nest had originally contained one Cowbird egg, but the Vireo had at this time added to the