

state. These are:—Pindar, Hickman County, Ky., (1888); Garman, East Cairo, Ky.; Beckham, Nelson Co., Ky.; J. W. Fowler, Fairfield, Ky. (1888).

The Wood Ibis is recorded by Garman as an irregular summer resident but such is not the case in our immediate section of the state. Dr. L. Otley Pindar records it as common when present at all, and this exactly applies to my observations in Hopkins County.—JAMES SUTHARD, 5515 Kimbark Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**The Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) Near Berwyn, Penna. During the Season of 1925.**—Heretofore the status of this species in southeastern Pennsylvania has been that of a summer straggler, a shy, solitary and conspicuous creature, harried from place to place until destroyed. It is therefore a pleasure to record, supplementary to Sutton's report of its abundance on July 25 on the streams near Coatesville (Auk, xlii, 584), the presence of a colony unpersecuted throughout the past summer, near the headwaters of the Darby creek; an event for which we are doubtless indebted to the prolonged and unprecedented drought in some parts of the South. The site is ideal, a reflooded brickyard swamp several acres in extent, in the midst of a neglected farm; the pond with semi-submerged swamp willow snags, impassable borders and a timber screen in the rear, forming a most prolific frog, snake and fish nursery. Though I had been fully informed of the persistence of this flock through June and July, it was not until August 8, that I, in company with Guy L. Eadie, a fellow ornithologist, had leisure to enjoy at length the view of these graceful birds in action and at rest against a background of green-grey foliage, the whole reflected in the water below, with most artistic effect. Some of the birds, among which were two in the dark or adult plumage, were flying about in the grove while many in the white or immature phase were perched upon dead trees over the water, mostly in groups and upon one occasion the dead branches of one small tree bore eight pure white birds. Others were wading the shallows, while a few sat motionless and solitary in partly submerged willows in the foreground and were approached within thirty feet, thanks to a screen of bushes along the dam breast. The birds appeared unmindful of our presence.

This species was not the only fish-eater present, for I noticed the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*), Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*), Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon alcyon*), and a single Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*). The last perched on a log with several Little Blue Herons, showed clearly the relative size of the two species, especially when it flew to the shore to wade about the shallows; it was seen as late as August 23 and constitutes my only local record since August 7, 1918.

This colony was frequently revisited by myself and friends up to and including August 29 and the Little Blue Heron was found present in numbers estimated at from 25 to 30 individuals; a conservative approxima-

tion, since a son of the caretaker of the estate, a high school student, informed me that he had counted 34 birds in flight from one pond to another led by the two dark birds, and I also learned from him that a pair had been present the year previous.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

**The Egret at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin County, Penna.**—I have just learned that the Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) which was liberated at Wildwood Lake, near Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, on July 17, 1925, was last seen in this region by Mr. Merrill Wood of Harrisburg, on September 12 and 13, 1925. He watched for the bird on subsequent dates, but it was seen no more.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Penna.*

**Little Black Rail in Illinois.**—I am led, through Mr. Frank M. Woodruff's note published in 'The Auk,' for January, 1926, as well as through recent correspondence with Mr. Henry K. Coale of Highland Park, Illinois, to believe that my only record for the Little Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*, presumably) for Illinois may be of considerable interest.

On May 30, 1910, while a number of us were walking along a stream which flows almost through the town of Eureka, Woodford County, Illinois, a Little Black Rail jumped up from the short marsh grass at our feet and fluttered away. Thinking that it was a young Redwing I pursued, and after a long chase, during which the Rail alighted and flushed about a half dozen times, succeeded in frightening it from the vicinity of the grass where it was most difficult to follow.

Finally I captured it, and was amazed to find a red-eyed, beautifully spotted Rail in my hands. I took it home, where I kept it for two weeks. It died, probably of starvation. Unfortunately the poor skin, which I preserved at the time, was lost upon our moving to Texas.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Penna.*

**Little Black Rail in Illinois.**—In the January 1926 issue of 'The Auk,' Vol. XLIII, p. 90, Mr. Frank M. Woodruff reports the capture of a Black Rail in Chicago, and remarks, "Since Nelson's record of June 19, 1875, . . . I can find no authentic record of the taking of the bird" (in Illinois). Mr. Woodruff has evidently overlooked the fact that in 'The Auk,' Vol. XL, 1923, pp. 88-90, Mr. Henry K. Coale records a specimen of this bird, now in the Field Museum, taken at South Chicago, Illinois, May 30, 1916, by H. L. Stoddard. This specimen is the type of the new subspecies described and illustrated in the article by Mr. Coale as *Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*, and is supposed to differ from the Jamaican bird and also from the Californian form.

There is another record for Illinois, though the bird was not taken. Isaac E. Hess ('Auk,' Vol. XXVII, 1910, p. 31) found a nest of two eggs of this species in the Embarras Swamp, Champaign Co., on May 30, 1901. The eggs were left undisturbed in order that a full set might be