

7. January 10, 1927. One bird, a female, shot by a farmer two miles west of Champaign. Stomach contained remains of two *Peromyscus* sp., and one *Blarina brevicauda*.—A. R. CAHN, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

**The Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) at Washington, D. C.**—

On January 2, 1928, a Saw-whet Owl was discovered in Arlington Cemetery by the members of the Washington Audubon Society, on their annual New Year walk. The bird was perched in a tangled thicket of honeysuckle and grape, about eight feet above the ground, and attention was drawn to it by the scolding of Titmice and Kinglets. It was tame, and satisfactorily identified by the eighteen or twenty people in the party. The following day the Owl had disappeared.—H. G. DEIGNAN, *Princeton, N. J.*

**"An Ornithological Enigma" Explained.**—In 'The Auk,' January, 1925, Vol. XLII, page 132, Dr. Thomas Barbour had a little article about a Parrot taken in Florida, the capture of which needs further explanation.

The Doctor states, "I have no knowledge, whatsoever, which leads me to suppose that this bird is frequently brought into captivity, and still less reason, at present, to suppose that anyone in Florida may have had specimens which could have escaped and established themselves."

It was a strange coincident that I should have arrived at the home of the man in West Palm Beach, who skinned and sent that bird to the Doctor, the day after it was shipped, and here is the information as given to me by the skinner, as well as the man who shot it, whom I also know quite well. The bird killed was not in a flock, but was alone and was killed in the back yard of a farm house near the water works west of town. It was not "feeding on cypress cones," but on the seed of stalks of corn growing in the back yard and the woman at the house remonstrated with the gunner for killing the Parrot, which had been around for some time.

This bird was, however, one of several that had escaped from a man who had brought them up from Mexico for the Stotesbury Estate at Palm Beach, where he was a landscape gardener. He later moved out back of Boynton on the edge of a large "prairie," where he opened a nursery, and took a few birds with him. While there, he received another consignment of Parrots from Mexico, of several varieties. I saw the birds here and heard from his own lips, that some four or five had escaped from him. His nursery was about five miles south, and on the edge of the same prairie on which the Parrot was killed that the Doctor received.

Mr. Deering never maintained or liberated any Parrots from his estate at (Buena Vista) Miami. However, there are numerous species of Parrots and Paroquets flying around Miami, and it was only a few days ago, that I witnessed six large ones that I took to be large Mexican "Yellow-headed" flying over Brickell Hammock and within the city limits. Another flock of smaller ones is also seen quite often in the southeast part of Miami, but just what species they are, I do not know. No doubt, though, they are

some of a flock of fifty secured by Carl G. Fisher, and liberated at Miami Beach during my residence there, 1920-1925.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Florida.*

**Plumages of the Wattled Starling.**—*Creatophora carunculata* in the gymnocephalic plumage is a rara avis. I believe that in this country there are only five known specimens. Two are in the Field Museum, Chicago, taken on the Toyo Plain, Somaliland on June 14, 1896; one in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, taken at the Cape of Good Hope, no date; one in the American Museum, New York, secured by Dr. Chapin on June 6 in the Kidong Valley, Kenya Colony, and one specimen which I have, probably coming from Abyssinia. This Wattled Starling with the head feathered on the other hand is common in collections. A great deal of speculation as to the reason why this should be so has been indulged in, and the consensus of opinion seems to be that only the very old birds attain the rare bare-headed state.

This however, is not the case. The plumage is seasonal and not due to age. The specimen which I have was acquired, together with a female, and lived in my collection for a year and a half. I got the specimen in May, and at that time the head was completely bare, the ear holes showing plainly. The wattles on the head were well developed, those on the fore neck, not so well.

The bird remained in this plumage until the end of October when I noticed feathers appearing about the wattles of the neck. Then the lores and forehead began to produce feathers. At this point the wattles began to shrink and the feathers spread slowly backwards to the crown and occiput, and by the beginning of December the head was completely feathered.

The bird continued in this plumage until May. The feathers of the head then began to fall out and the wattles to swell and by the middle of June the head was exactly as it had been the summer before. I believe I am correct in saying that this is the first instance known of a bird which has a bare head at one season of the year, and is able to produce feathers upon it at another, and then shed them again.

Dr. van Someren states that he kept some of these birds alive for two years in an aviary but that they showed no signs of change. Dr. Chapin, with whom I have talked on the subject, suggests that this may be due to the irregularities of the molt among birds near the equator, well exemplified by the Viduinae group. Dr. van Someren's birds were I think from Tanganyka Territory.—RODOLPHE MEYER DE SCHAUSENSEE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Starlings at Quincy, Illinois.**—It has been about five years since Mr. Frank Smith reported the first appearance of the Starling in Illinois at Urbana. Last year, 1927, a single bird wintered about the feeding shelf of Mrs. Gustav Klarner at 30th and State Streets, Quincy. This