

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