

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

winter a flock of thirty spent several days about my feeding shelf. One bird flew down a chimney and was killed at Rockport, Illinois, just thirty miles south and was sent to me for identification. At the Illinois State Normal School at Macomb, about sixty miles northeast a solitary live bird was captured. Evidently the Starling is now established in western Illinois.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

**European Starling in upper Peninsula of Michigan.**—On September 2, 3 and 7, 1927, a flock of 79 European Starlings was observed feeding in stubble fields with Crows near Sterlingville, which is in Chippewa County, about twenty-four miles south of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. When first seen on September 2 we passed within thirty feet of part of the flock as they sat on a fence, so that there was no uncertainty in identification. These Starlings were in the usual autumn plumage with dark bills, brownish backs and speckled breasts.

On the 7th the Starlings were among the hordes of migrating Savannah Sparrows. Several Sharp-shinned Hawks and one Cooper's Hawk were about, apparently preying upon the Sparrows and the bulk of the Starlings were seen to surround the Cooper's Hawk and chase it into a forest. While in the air the fifty or sixty Starlings surrounded the Hawk in a globular flock, perhaps fifteen feet in diameter, wheeling with the Hawk until the timber was reached.

A single Starling was seen by Mr. Walker at Mackinaw City, the northernmost point of the Lower Peninsula, on August 17.—WM. G. FARGO, *Jackson, Michigan* AND CHARLES F. WALKER, *Columbus, Ohio*.

**Starling Notes from Lower Michigan.**—It is surprising how rapidly the European Starling has increased over Lower Michigan during the past three years.

During the year 1925 we located one pair of these birds breeding in Oakland County. The following year, 1926, we located six nests of this species one in Genesee County, two in Livingston County and three in Oakland County. That same fall together with Mr. Josselyn VanTyne of Ann Arbor we observed great flocks using a wooded area near the Huron River just east and a little North of Ann Arbor for a roost, the birds were mixed with Cowbirds, Bronzed Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds.

During the year 1927 we found many nests in a great many different counties throughout the lower half of the Lower Peninsula. One of the pairs that we had under observation, raised three broods of young. Others raised two. The birds used bird boxes, hollow trees and Woodpecker holes and similar places, many nested in the crevices of out buildings and one pair used the sky-light of an office building.

On June 3 a small flock was seen in Lake County, near Baldwin; June 10 and 11, in Charlevoix county; July 10, in Cheboygan county; July 30, in Grand Traverse county. The birds were also observed in Roscommon,