

they would fly, thus with the aid of 10× binoculars we noted the greenish colored legs and the bluish tips to the primaries when they flew. One individual showed much more blue here than any of the others but it was visible on all to some extent.

The lake is surrounded with a shallow marsh and this was the place where the Herons were feeding with as many as twelve boat loads of people fishing only a short distance away. When they were frightened they would fly down the lake to another marshy place only to return in a few minutes.

The Olsen brothers had previously located several of this species in Jackson County and knew the bird well.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek Michigan*.

American Egret at Bellevue, Michigan.—On August 24, 1930, Mrs. E. Peterson, H. A. Olsen and I found a fine specimen of the American Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*), two miles south of Bellevue, Michigan. It was feeding about a large muddy lake just over the county line in Calhoun County. The bird was nearly as tall as a Great Blue Heron, was pure white in color, had a yellow bill and black legs and feet. At one time it was within fifty yards of us.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan*.

Snowy Egret at Cape May, N. J.—On August 30, 1930, I located a flock of American Egrets and Little Blue Herons on a pond near the lighthouse, at Cape May Point, N. J., a favorite resort of these birds all through the summer. Desiring to obtain a closer view of them I worked my way through the dense growth of cat-tails which surrounded the pond and emerged on the edge of the open water. There were two of the large Egrets and twenty of the Little Blues while in front of me not over twenty feet away stood a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) probably an immature bird, at any rate without plumes. It stood on a mud lump with its bright yellow toes spread out conspicuously and in strong contrast to the black tarsi. When the bird turned sideways or walked away the back of the tarsi were seen to be yellow a fact that I have noticed in these birds in the South but which does not seem to be sufficiently emphasized in our books. While the bill is black and more slender than in the Little Blue Heron, the bird slightly more slender and the neck more prone to be curved, the differences are not so readily made out when the birds are at a greater distance with the feet covered by the water. The bill of the Little Blue frequently looks black when in shadow and also the tarsi, while the tarsi of the Snowy Egret often look yellow or greenish when seen from the side or rear, or in flight.

Careful study of the white Heron flocks at Cape May for over ten years with the Snowy Egret always in mind has failed to reveal its presence until now and I am inclined to think that it did not occur. There was a single bird recorded from a few miles farther up the coast a few years ago and

several records for the middle or northern States during the past season are pleasing evidence of the return and increase of this beautiful species.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*.

The Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) near Washington, D. C.—Two individuals of the Snowy Egret were seen by the writer at Four Mile Run, Virginia, August 23–25, 1930, and in addition two others were seen at Alexander Island, Virginia, August 24, 1930. One immature specimen was collected August 25 at Four Mile Run and was placed in the U. S. National Museum. It might be mentioned that the anterior portion of the tarsus was black and the posterior pale greenish-yellow, this being clearly discernible in the field. The toes were yellow, which is characteristic of this species. Previously, this species had been known in the Washington region from a single specimen, taken about 1841.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

Snowy Egret and Other Birds near Media, Pa.—It may be of interest to report that on August 16 at Springfield Reservoir, near Media, Delaware Co., Pa., the writer observed a Snowy Egret. The very clear morning sunshine made it possible to distinguish nearly every detail, especially of color.

It was studied at a range of twenty-five to thirty feet as it stood on a gravel bar. I later observed it in flight and while feeding. Attention was at once attracted by the contrast between its yellow feet and blue-black tarsi, making it easily distinguishable, even at a distance, from the young of the Little Blue Herons with which it was associating. I also noted the yellow area at the base of its blue-black bill, the surface of which appeared to have more luster than that of the Little Blues.

I could not be sure of any contrast in size as compared with Little Blues, but its actions were more sprightly and alert. It stood more erect with gracefully curving neck, seldom straightening it out as the Little Blues so often do.

It was again observed on August 23 by Mr. John Gillespie and the writer and again on August 27 by Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Julian K. Potter.

On account of the drought the reservoir has apparently attracted an unusual number of Herons and Sandpipers. Although the larger Egrets were the first to arrive on July 7, they disappeared before the end of the month, while the Little Blues increased in number during August, sixty being the highest number observed on one trip.

The Least Sandpipers appeared July 6 but soon left. Pectoral Sandpipers and Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs appeared July 17, while on July 31 Mr. John Gillespie and the writer observed Stilt, Pectoral, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, also about six hundred Semi-palmated Sandpipers together with a number of Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs.

On August 5 Mr. Gillespie and the writer noted two White-rumped Sandpipers, while on August 16, the writer noted one Red-backed Sand-