

GENERAL NOTES.

A Record Colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons.—I had long thought that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is much less gregarious than the black-crowned species, and that its breeding colonies are limited to groups of but a few nests, sometimes placed alone, sometimes built within a rookery of other herons. The literature seems to bear out this impression. I was considerably surprised, therefore, to receive from Mr. J. J. Carroll, of Houston, Texas, a letter dated March 31, 1932, stating that he had found two colonies of 150 to 200 birds at Eagle Lake, Texas.

In the spring of 1932, while engaged in field work in Louisiana, I investigated a heronry which, in number of Yellow-crowns, so far transcends even Mr. Carroll's remarkable colonies that I believe the facts worth recording in some detail.

The rookery occupies an extensive shallow pond called Gros-bec Lake, in Pointe Coupee Parish, about four miles northwest of Lottie. The lake is about two miles long, east to west, and about one mile wide, and so overgrown with vegetation that practically no open water is in evidence. It has always been the site of a large rookery.

I visited the lake on May 20, under very unpropitious circumstances, but remained long enough to count 85 Yellow-crown nests in the southwest corner, and to wade through a near-by colony of mixed Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons whose nests, often several to a bush, were too numerous to count.

A more thorough investigation was made of the rookery on June 3 and 4. At this time 372 Yellow-crown nests were counted while cruising the southern side of the lake. Many others were seen along the northern side, as well as some in the colony of Snowies and Little Blues, that were not counted. Because merely a running count was made of the nests seen as we waded along the margins of the lake, and no attempt was made to get a complete census, it would seem reasonable to assume that not more than half of the nests present were included in the count. On such an assumption, an estimate of 1000 nests might be made.

The young were of various ages, most of them well developed, and many were able to fly from bush to bush. Some were already fishing for themselves, but in one nest there were eggs just hatched and another nest contained a single egg. Three nests were found to contain five young each, and two held six each, though four seemed to be the usual number.

The food of the young seemed to be wholly crawfish, and the nests could be distinguished at once from those of the American Egret and Water-Turkey, with which they were associated, by the pink color of the excrement which covered them.

Besides Yellow-crowns, Snowies, and Little Blues, Gros-bec Lake also harbored a splendid colony of American Egrets, scattered in small groups

along the north side of the lake. A running count of 153 nests was made while cruising that section. Young were of different ages, some almost ready to quit the nest.

Alternating with the groups of American Egret nests, were 102 nests (also in small groups) containing downy young Water-Turkeys. An additional 49 nests were counted on the southern side of the lake. Usually there were three young to the nest, but nests were seen with two, four, and even five young.

Green Heron nests, as usual, were found here and there about the lake, and a single fledgling White Ibis was seen; while a few nests of Ward's Herons occupied the tops of tall trees well out in the lake.

Because of the importance of the Gros-bec Lake rookery and the perennial appeal of fat gros-bees (as the young night herons are called) to the Creole palate, steps were immediately taken to make Gros-bec Lake an Audubon sanctuary. A special warden now guards the colony.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City.*

Definite Breeding of the Glossy Ibis in Louisiana.—In the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (1931, p. 33) it is stated that the Eastern Glossy Ibis breeds "rarely and locally in central Florida and probably in Louisiana." Stanley C. Arthur's 'Birds of Louisiana,' published anonymously later in the same year by the Louisiana Department of Conservation (Bulletin No. 20, p. 101), lists the bird as resident, "but decidedly uncommon," though no breeding data are given, nor do I find positive breeding records elsewhere. I am glad, therefore, to be able to supply one.

On May 25, 1932, in southwestern Louisiana I came, under the guidance of two Creoles, upon a remarkable assemblage of birds nesting in the open coastal marsh of Cameron Parish. This rookery, said to be at least ten years old and to cover perhaps ten acres of bull-rush and cut-grass marsh, contained hundreds of Glossy Ibises, Snowy Egrets, and Louisiana Herons, together with a few American Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons.

The nests of all were constructed usually of the materials at hand—stalks of bull-rush and cut-grass—though some contained twigs, necessarily brought from a long distance. These structures were woven about the stems of the living grass and rushes, and varied in elevation from near water level to three or four feet above it. The bottoms of several Black-crown nests actually touched the water. The nests of this species were consistently low, but there were also some low nests of the Snowy Egret and Louisiana Heron. The depth of the water was about half-way to the knee.

Snowy Egret young ranged in development from hatching eggs to fledglings out of the nest, and the Louisiana young also were of various ages; Black-crowns had eggs, as well as young able to scramble about; while the single nest seen that could be certainly ascribed to the American Egret contained seemingly fresh eggs.

The Glossy Ibises were all hatched except for an occasional egg that may