

The earliest reference that I have found to the actual discovery of a nest is in the Stevens Point 'Journal' for April 15, 1876: "W. G. Hinman showed us a fresh bird's egg the other day, which he found in a nest on Spirit River, where the snow was yet four feet deep. The nest was built in a tree and belonged to the species commonly known as 'meat birds'". Spirit River rises in the southeastern corner of Price County, flows eastward, and enters the Wisconsin River below Tomahawk in Lincoln County.

There is a brief reference by A. J. Schoenebeck ('Birds of Oconto County,' p. 32, [1902]; privately printed) to the species' nesting in Oconto County: "This is a regular breeder in the northwestern part of this county, but not common. On March 28, 1898, I found a nest of this species in a cedar tree about fifteen feet high near Maiden Lake." In June, 1918, H. H. T. Jackson (Auk, 40: 484, 1923) found adults accompanied by young at Mamie Lake, Vilas County, on the state line.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Albert Van S. Pulling of the U. S. Biological Survey, it is possible to add appreciably to our information. In late February, 1935, Mr. John Cole, while attached to the CCC camp at Loretta, Sawyer County, discovered a nest in process of construction. It was built about seven feet from the ground in a balsam fir in a cedar swamp near the village. Mr. Pulling and Mr. Cole took pictures of one of the parents sitting on the nest, with its four eggs, on March 20. Three birds hatched in late March, apparently only two of which reached maturity. They left the nest late in April and by May had disappeared from the locality. In zero weather the parents would not remain away from the nest more than a minute or two. The young birds grew rapidly and apparently were well fed. The male must have either fed the female or taken a turn on the nest. It is possible that there was sufficient food cached in the vicinity to last through the brooding period. Mr. Pulling states that there is little to substantiate this hypothesis but since the species is omnivorous and exceedingly industrious in carrying away and hiding food, it is well within the realm of possibility.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 North Prospect Ave., Madison, Wisconsin.

**American Magpie in Missouri and Illinois.**—On November 3, 1936, a farmer reported seeing an American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) at Lima, Illinois. However, I took no cognizance of the record until I received a letter from Robert H. Painter, publisher of the 'La Grange Indicator,' La Grange, Missouri, on January 9, 1937, telling me that an American Magpie in good condition was recently brought to his office for identification. The bird was caught in a steel trap set for mink and baited with a muskrat carcass. A second magpie was shot by Mr. J. B. Dyer, and a skin made from the bird, at La Belle, Missouri, which is a few miles from the locality in which the La Grange magpie was killed. Both birds were captured within two days of each other. Thus we have two new dead records of the magpie for Missouri, and the sight record of questionable value from Adams County, Illinois, about twenty miles east of La Grange.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois.

**Eastern Crows nesting on or near the ground.**—During the summer of 1935, while the writer and Lawrence J. Merovka, U. S. Game Management Agent, were investigating conditions of the migratory-waterfowl breeding grounds in Manitoba, Canada, for the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, we observed four nests of Eastern Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) located either on the ground or in reeds directly over water.

On June 13, 1935, along the south shore of Lake Manitoba, we discovered two Crows' nests that had been built on the ground. The first was in the vicinity of