

thing was to happen to the "Buzzards' Roost Cypress Brake" during the present summer, we got in touch with the Tulsa Audubon Society, with Dr. Paul Sears of the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Charles Gould of the National Park Service and Mr. A. R. Reaves of the State Park Board; through the efforts of these gentlemen, the owner agreed not to cut the cypress this year. Messrs. Hugh Davis and Orrin Letson of Mohawk Park, Tulsa, made several trips to the heronry; by means of 85-foot rope ladders they scaled the cypresses and took splendid pictures of the birds. They calculated the numbers of nesting birds as follows: Anhinga, 10 pairs; American Egrets, 15-20; Ward's Herons, 30-40; Green Herons (*Butorides v. virescens*), 4; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1 pair.

We certainly hope that Oklahoma will take steps to preserve the nesting place of these rare birds and also some tracts of the ancient and beautiful cypress which is fast disappearing before the lumberman's ax.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5708 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Snowy Egret in West Virginia.—During the month of September, 1936, a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) spent most of the time at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, West Virginia, a small artificial body of water, located on top of the Alleghany Plateau, at an elevation of about 2700 feet. Several parties of observers from West Virginia University visited the lake during the month to see this bird, which was, apparently, an adult. The black bill and legs, yellow feet, and entire absence of dark feathers in the wings were checked many times, as the egret had a favorite perching tree, to which it would almost invariably fly when alarmed, allowing a fairly close approach.

There is one previous West Virginia record for this species, a specimen taken by Bibbee along the New River, on the Virginia border. This is the first record for the species from northern West Virginia.—MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

Yellow-crowned Night Heron breeding in northern Illinois.—The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*) apparently has not been found nesting in Illinois since the 1870's when it was reported by Robert Ridgway to be nesting near Mt. Carmel (E. W. Nelson, Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 1: 43, 1876) and by Otto Widmann opposite St. Louis, Missouri (Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis, 17: 56, 1907). Thus it was with considerable surprise that on June 4, 1936, at DePue, Bureau County, accompanied by L. G. Brown of Griggsville, Illinois, I located two nests of this species in an Illinois River Great Blue Heron colony of some four hundred nests. At that time both nests contained four eggs, which were being incubated. During the ensuing month I photographed the young and adult birds, obtaining two good photographs of an adult bird at the nest. One fledgling, removed for purposes of study, finally died, and was deposited in the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The remaining seven young birds were banded by Karl E. Bartel of Blue Island, Illinois. C. T. Black, Assistant in Zoology, University of Illinois, aided in collecting the young bird studied.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, *Ottawa, Illinois.*

Scoters on Lake Lynn, West Virginia.—Since West Virginia has no natural lakes and very few extensive artificial bodies of water, the occurrence within the State of any of the more maritime ducks is something of an event. The following notes seem worth recording.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta deglandi.*—On the morning of October 24, 1936, northeastern West Virginia and western Maryland had a very heavy flight of wild-

fowl. On Lake Lynn, a sizeable artificial lake in Monongalia County, West Virginia, among other species of ducks and geese were at least fifty White-winged Scoters. Since they were mixed in a raft of some three thousand ducks, it was impossible to make a definite count of the number of individuals of this species. On November 5, 1936, however, in a smaller flock, thirteen males of this species were counted. They were under careful observation for some time, and were raising their wings rather frequently, so that identification was made certain. There are two previous West Virginia records for this species.

SURF SCOTER, *Melanitta perspicillata*.—With the White-winged Scoters noted on November 5, 1936, were nine individuals of this species. They gave the same favorable opportunities for observation as did the last. This constitutes the first West Virginia record for this species, so far as I am aware.

AMERICAN SCOTER, *Oidemia americana*.—Two individuals of this species were noted on Lake Lynn on October 18, 1936, and a pair was carefully identified by Boggs on November 5, 1936. For this species there is one previous West Virginia record.—**MAURICE BROOKS AND I. B. BOGGS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.***

Hooded Merganser nesting in Connecticut.—A Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) with six well-grown young was observed June 13, 1937, at Farmington, Connecticut. The brood was raised on a pond included in Shade Swamp Sanctuary, a wildlife area maintained by the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game. Apparently the only previously recorded nesting of this duck in Connecticut was a brood observed at Winchester about 1893 by C. H. Williams (Sage and Bishop, 'The Birds of Connecticut', p. 29, 1913, originally recorded by H. K. Job in 'The Sport of Bird Study', p. 290, 1908).—**DEAN AMADON, *State Board of Fisheries and Game, Hartford, Connecticut.***

Food and Measurements of Goshawks.—The stomachs of 294 Goshawks (*Astur atricapillus*) I found upon careful examination to contain the following: Ruffed Grouse, 40; Northern Flicker, 2; Eastern Crow, 1; Domestic Fowl, 45; Domestic Pigeon, 1; unidentified birds, 13; total birds, 102. Cottontail rabbit, 23; deer mouse, 1; chipmunk, 1; red squirrel, 4; gray squirrel, 19; shrew, 4; unidentified mammals, 8; total mammals, 60. Contained food, 156; empty, 138.

These hawks, received for bounty by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, were shot in Pennsylvania between November 1, 1936, and April 1, 1937, the majority in November and December. Little could be learned about the grouse, other than that in the fourteen specimens where their feet were present, four did not have the usual well-worn nails, but exceedingly long ones. As would be expected, the chickens most frequently eaten were those with white plumage; these were: white, twenty-four; Plymouth barred rock, thirteen; and brown or black, eight. Only six stomachs held remains of more than one animal. Nematodes were found in eleven stomachs. Almost all of the hawks were very fat, the females considerably fatter than the males.

Measurements.—The following data were taken on Goshawks from two to nine (average five) days after being shot. These specimens from various parts of Pennsylvania were received for bounty by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission between November 1, 1936, and April 1, 1937.

Weights in grams of Goshawks with stomachs empty or holding less than half a gram of food:—