

GENERAL NOTES

American Egret in the Hudson River Valley.—Dr. Stoner (Auk, 55: 119–121, 1938) has made detailed report upon the status of the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) along the upper Hudson River during the summer of 1937. For comparative purposes, it is now interesting to record some observations, previously unpublished, made during 1934 by Dr. W. C. Muenscher and the writer, while investigating, for the Biological Survey of the New York State Department of Conservation, the aquatic vegetation in the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys. American Egrets were observed during that season on August 27, five on tidal mud flat and sand bar in Hudson River between Hudson and Athens; August 28, twelve along Hudson River just north of Newton Hook; August 29, one on mud flat at Hudson; and August 30, one at mouth of Stockport Creek. During the period in the field, we visited many lakes and ponds on both sides of the river, and worked up and down the Mohawk Valley, concentrating particularly on the section of river between Schenectady and Troy, but saw no egrets except as indicated along the Hudson River, although Great Blue and Green Herons were common and generally distributed throughout the area surveyed.—ROBERT T. CLAUSEN, *Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

American Egret in Saskatchewan.—On August 7, 1937, a banded American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was collected by Mr. R. Lloyd, of Davidson, Saskatchewan, in a colony of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons near Davidson. The specimen is now in the Provincial Museum, Normal School, at Regina, and, according to Mr. F. A. Dunk, Director of the Museum, it is the first record of the American Egret for that province. This bird, 36-719303, was banded when a nestling, by a party of Rover Scouts from Memphis, on May 24, 1936, in a heronry near Glen Allan, Mississippi.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., *672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, Tennessee.*

Melanism in the Black-crowned Night Heron.—During a field trip to the McGuiness Slough at Orland, Illinois, on August 7, 1937, Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Mr. C. T. Clark, both of Chicago, and the writer had opportunity to observe an abnormally dark heron of the species *Nycticorax n. hoactli*. So pronounced was the melanism that upon first seeing this bird from the rear while it stood on a post and preened its under-wing feathers, one of the party felt it was a cormorant; but that it was a heron became perfectly evident when the bird assumed its natural standing position. This together with the shape of bill and the size reduced the problem of identification to either the Yellow-crowned or the Black-crowned Night Heron. The entire body was a lusterless, somewhat slaty blue-black color with no apparent streaking on either breast or back. Mr. Clark mentioned that the back feathers appeared to be edged slightly, though this might have been the effect of strong light on the ruffled and slightly wet feathers. The head and neck were brown, almost a reddish brown, and were lightly, but noticeably streaked. Though superficially this plumage recalls that of the adult Little Blue Heron, other details of description mentioned here will obviate any doubts. The bill was black and the feet appeared dark, not yellow as in typical Black-crowns. Upon observing this bird in flight with several Black-crowned Night Herons, the size and manner of flight of the former proved to be identical with those of the latter, thus eliminating all doubt that it was anything but a melanistic Black-crown. Though to my knowledge Night Herons