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Wildlife Conservation Building, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, June 8, 1950.

GENERAL NOTES

Raccoon Predation on the Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*.—On June 22, 1950, while I made observations on a heron rookery located in the Crab Orchard Lake Wildlife Refuge in southern Illinois, a raccoon, *Procyon lotor hirtus*, was observed to climb a tree containing heron nests. The raccoon entered a nest which was located 50 feet from the ground; it was seen feeding on remains of Great Blue Herons. It remained in the nest for 30 minutes, after which time it left the tree. About five minutes later the raccoon again climbed the tree, entered the nest, and continued its eating activities. Supporting evidence of predation by raccoons, was several scats containing heron feathers, that were found on logs in the vicinity of the rookery. The total effect of this predation on the heron colony is not known, but it is conceivable that young herons might be eaten by raccoons, both in the nest as well as during their early flight period.—ALVIN C. LOPINOT, *Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.*

Nest of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, in Kansas City, Mo.—The Yellow-crowned Night Heron has been a summer visitor in the Kansas City region with increasing frequency during the past decade. Most of these birds have been in the immature plumage and, with only two exceptions, were reported in late summer.

A nest was discovered in its earliest stages of construction on May 13, 1950, and a number of local bird students made observations until August 10. Three young were reared successfully. This seems to be the northernmost nesting positively known in western Missouri or eastern Kansas.

The nest was on the fork of a horizontal limb up about 70 feet in a walnut tree in a river bottom tract of virgin timber in Swope Park which is within the city limits. On May 13, the pair was discovered courting in the "stick ceremony." The stick was placed across the fork which already supported a half-dozen sticks. Then the herons stood side by side but facing opposite directions and exchanged stroking gestures in which each passed the side of the beak downward against the primaries of the other's folded wing. The nest grew slowly. May 16, one heron was sitting on the nest