

November, 1907, it required several years to become thoroughly established before it penetrated inland. On January 5, 1911, a flock was reported in the Chester valley, between Berwyn and Valley Forge, feeding in the meadows with the Crows; by February 2 large scattered flocks of from 50 to 150 birds appeared and a male was secured for identification and I value it highly as probably the first capture in Chester county. During the following spring the birds dispersed through the valley, nesting as far west as Bacton to my knowledge. Chester valley, for its entire length of thirty miles, is enclosed by wooded hills of no considerable height; nevertheless, since this bird appears to be more of a lover of the open country, it presented a sufficient barrier to prevent an immediate invasion; and the Wayne, Devon, Berwyn and Paoli contingent arrived with the Grackles via the Darby creek route in 1912, and a year later had become perfect pests to some of the suburban residents.

The few Starlings that eventually penetrated the valley hills north of Berwyn, came up the branches of Trout run and established themselves at the heads of the ravines in 1913 and 1914; and when I first heard the throaty, chattering song attempts of a male in the shrubbery of my home, I knew that our local subjugation had been accomplished, since the advance from different quarters were about to be reunited.

Since the Starling appears to travel during the colder months, following the lines of least resistance, it is likely to penetrate far into the South under the guidance of allied species long before it invades the West. Its advance westward will doubtless be slow until the tributaries of the Mississippi are reached, when it is apt to be rapid, especially in the more open country.

Berwyn, Pa.

FRANK L. BURNS.

WHITE PELICANS KILLED AT SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

A flock of White Pelicans of considerable numbers was observed in the vicinity of McCook lake, in South Dakota, near Sioux City, and of Crystal lake, in Nebraska, during the latter part of September, 1914. The flock was first reported on September 18 by Mr. F. T. Crum, an employe of the Sioux City Journal, who, while fishing at the mouth of the Big Sioux river on that date, observed the birds in flight. They had been on a sandbar in the Missouri river near the mouth of the Big Sioux. He estimated their number at about 200. A flock of about this size was observed by several persons in the same general locality over a period of a week or more.

The Emerson (Nebraska) Enterprise of September 24, 1914, published the following:

"While going to Sioux City Sunday morning with his family, the editor saw several hundred Pelicans soaring over South Sioux City. We returned home by the way of Jackson. Between Jackson and South Sioux City the highway was strewn with dead Pelicans. They had evidently soared low and killed themselves by flying into the telephone wires."

Mr. Ira Waddell, a farmer living near the northwestern end of Crystal lake, in Nebraska, across the Missouri river from Sioux City, Ia., informed Mr. George Ludcke, of Sioux City, a hunter who has a hunting lodge at McCook lake, that during the week beginning September 20 he saw a number of dead White Pelicans along the road between South Sioux City and his home. He estimated that he probably saw seventeen or eighteen of the birds. He assumed that the birds had been shot and thrown aside, although he made no examination to ascertain the manner of their death. The country in the vicinity is wooded. There are no telephone or other wires along the road which could have caused the death of the Pelicans by accident, Mr. Waddell stated. If there had been such wires, Mr. Waddell added, the trees would have prevented the birds from flying low enough to have been harmed by them.

Mr. Emmet C. Higgins, of Omaha, an inspector for the United States Biological Survey, under date of October 9, wrote to Dr. T. S. Palmer, of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, that he had investigated the death of these Pelicans and found death due to striking telephone wires in the vicinity of Dakota City, Nebraska. Mr. Higgins stated that about fifty birds in all had been killed, and that he found seventeen dead birds in a radius of two miles. The birds, Mr. Higgins said, seemed to have been killed on or about Sunday, October 4.

Mr. Higgins, in a letter to Prof. T. C. Stephens, of Morningside College, Sioux City, under date of October 16, stated that he had examined seventeen of the Pelicans found dead near Dakota City and had discovered no indications of gunshot wounds upon them. Mr. Higgins' conclusion was that the deaths were due to striking the telephone wires.

It is impossible for me, with the facts in hand, to reconcile the conflicting testimony as to how the Pelicans were killed. It is a common practice for a certain type of hunters in this vicinity, however, and has been for many years, to shoot these birds. These hunters make no concealment of this practice. The birds offer a good target, and that is sufficient for them. Generally the birds are left where shot, although an occasional specimen is brought to the city and mounted.

Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 18, 1914.

A. F. ALLEN.