

species seems to be a permanent resident in this (Johnson) county. A number of persons living near the edge of town have reported its presence at feeding stations during the past winter.

DAYTON STONER.

State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

CITY NESTING OF NIGHTHAWK.

In the September Bulletin Mr. N. B. Townsend calls attention to a matter that may be worth discussion.

He theorizes that the adoption of flat roofs as a nesting ground by the nighthawk is a change that is favorable to the bird, and this attitude interests me considerably, because I had formed the contrary opinion from a consideration of the comparative abundance of nighthawks during the last thirty years.

At the beginning of that period the nighthawk was a common summer resident in this district, but since then it has decreased steadily as the bird took up its abode in the city; and it has always seemed to me that immigration was the only thing that kept up the city population, and now that the bird is very rare in the country, with the probability of no further movement citywards, the city residents are becoming much less numerous.

It may easily be, as Mr. Townsend says, that the nighthawk nesting on a roof is safe from all predatory creatures, but what of the young after the first flight? Repeatedly I have had young nighthawks brought to me, both living and dead, which had been picked up on the ground in the morning, doubtless after making their first flight during the previous night and coming down to spend the day on the ground in accordance with what might easily be supposed to be the hereditary custom. But what chance of survival is there for a young nighthawk on a city street or vacant lot? And it is because of the overwhelming dangers of the ground in the city that these birds have been so seriously depleted in numbers.

Yours truly,

W. E. SAUNDERS.

London, Ontario.

SPARROW HAWK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Ill.

On January 27, 1917, while taking an examination in the Stock Pavilion I was attracted by a shower of small feathers which were falling into the arena. I traced the stream of feathers to its source and there, on a steel girder, near the roof, sat a sparrow hawk steadily plucking an English sparrow.

The Stock Pavilion is a large building, with a tan-bark arena in