

afternoon, but failed to find it. The next day I easily "rediscovered" it, and found it to be as he said,—a male bird in high plumage of yellow, black and white. It was also present on the 20th. The locality was a dense growth of haw-thorns on a river flat, the same constituting one local Robin and Grackle nest. The Grackle was apparently feeding on the seeds of the dropped haw apples, being flushed each time from the ground beneath the canopy of boughs. Was very unafraid and would return after a short flight to its original feeding place.

E. A. DOOLITTLE.

Painesville, Ohio.

SOME OF OUR GREAT WADING BIRDS

Our big wading birds of the marshes—the Cranes, Storks and Herons—are the majestic birds that artists of the Orient have for ages made so much of; the birds that American artists simulate far more than any others for decorative effects.

Some of these stand four or five feet high, wade in water two feet deep, and measure seven to eight feet from tip to tip of wings. The average person here sees one only occasionally, and then is delightfully enthused at having had such an opportunity. They are the æsthetic bird of the world.

The Big Blue Heron (there is a little Blue Heron) feed on frogs, fish, crustaceans, lizards, salamanders, mice, etc. They have a long, strong, sharp bill, and woe to anything in their line of food that gets within their reach.

This heron has been blacklisted by the Pennsylvania law—is not protected at any season. I consider this an error in judgment, and hope those of our people who go out with a gun will regard this bird in the same light I do. We can well afford to spare a few fish and frogs for the privilege of occasionally seeing one of these stately, magnificent fellows. They are unfit for food, and why snuff out their lives? Why ignominiously make of them meat for the maggots?

Scientific investigation is constantly bringing to light new facts regarding the food and habits of birds. As a consequence, some that a few years ago were protected are now outcasts, and vice versa.

Injustice is often worked by organizations of sportsmen, who insist on such laws as will bring most to their bag or creel, with no consideration for the ideally beautiful in nature. This insistence is too often allowed to outweigh the views or wishes of the masses, because but one side of the measure is pushed. The sport these advocates crave for is all right, and to be encouraged, but not

to the exclusion of other features just as desirable, and of more interest to the people at large.

The Egret of the southern states, the big wader that produces the plumes of commerce, called aigrettes, is fully protected by our state law, though to little or no purpose, for we seldom or never see one so far north. However, the principle involved is the same. It is a heron, and feeds on practically the same as our Great Blue Heron. The latter is much larger, stands more erect, and easily outclasses the Egret in general make-up and stylish appearance.

I ask for our Great Blue Heron as good treatment as is accorded to the white one. His habits are fully as exemplary as those of his paler relative, and Pennsylvanians are more interested in him. Unless better protected he will soon be too rare to be of much value as a show bird.

The protection of this heron involves, in a way, the same principle as that of maintaining a zoo, and at the same time saving a valuable bird from extermination at the hands of those who should be its protectors.

L. B. CUSHMAN.

North East, Pa.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Wilson Ornithological Club will remember that at the last annual meeting held in St. Louis, it was voted to hold the 1920 annual meeting in Chicago, in connection with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The time at which these meetings have been held has been between Christmas and New Years Day. It is not yet possible to state the exact dates at which our meeting will be held, but members should hold themselves in readiness to attend the meeting during the week following Christmas day. The exact dates will be announced in ample time. Important questions of policy for the future of our organization are to be presented for discussion, questions of vital interest to every member. Therefore we ought to have a large attendance of members from widely different parts of our particular field. An interesting program is assured, but there is ample room for more titles of papers which may be presented at this meeting. Come prepared to take an active part.