

Among the birds of apparently limited migration that spent the cold months here are many of our own kinds; they join their southern relatives for varying periods of time, mostly in immense flocks, like the five or six representatives of the blackbird family; or the droves of English sparrows that arrive in flocks early in September; and seek out the rice fields and wild grass stretches of the open prairies.

Catbirds, shrikes, mockingbirds, and their immediate kin, appear and disappear with the shifts in the weather; usually in twos or threes of their own kind, although the three named seem fond of traveling in each other's company.

I have in my miniature aviary a female mockingbird which flew against the screened porch where I had a crippled male until I was afraid a cat would certainly get her; so finally opened the door and let her in with my other birds, where she is perfectly satisfied.

She is a little smaller and darker than our large boldly marked East Texas-West Louisiana mockingbirds, and instead of their sophisticated cold grey eyes hers are of a warm amber. Presumably she is from one of the states north of Texas and Louisiana; but in size and the dullness of her markings she reminds me of the mockingbirds found in the extreme west and northwest of this state, also in upper Mexico and New Mexico.

And since a Groove-billed Ani, whose range is so very far west and south of this section, was shot within a few miles of town last year I have wondered if she might not also have been forced beyond the borders of her natural limits by some such untoward circumstance as brought the ani here.

Also, in other years, several other wanderers from the habitual migratory trails of their kind.

Mrs. BRUCE REID.

Gulf Refinery, Port Arthur, Texas.

A CROW SUICIDE

A friend has told me the following interesting story of a crow committing suicide:

On the afternoon of May 29, 1921, while returning from a swim in Buffalo Creek with several other boys, my friend says they found a crow that was apparently sick or crippled in some way, for it was able to walk but could not fly. Thinking to have some fun, they caught the unfortunate bird and tossed him into a nearby pond (certainly a very disrespectful way to treat a fellow citizen). The pond was very shallow, according to his account, and the crow could have easily waded out had he been so inclined, but instead, thinking perhaps that death awaited him at the shore, he deliberately put his head under water and soon drowned. Whether the pond *was* shallow may be open to question, but if all details are correct it was surely a pure case of suicide.

In *Bird-Lore* for Nov.-Dec. 1915 (page 479) Mr. Forbush tells (quoted by Pearson) of wounded Surf Scoters diving and holding to water plants until they drown in order to escape hunters, but other than this and the instance cited above, as far as my recollection goes, I know of no cases where birds have actually taken their own lives. Perhaps some of our readers can furnish additional information on this subject.

FRED J. PIERCE.

Winthrop, Iowa.

WOODCOCK AND OTHER NOTES FROM ARKANSAS

In March, 1920, the writer saw an American Woodcock in a thickly wooded pasture near Fayetteville, Arkansas. This species formerly nested in this region but has not been observed for many years in any of its former summer haunts. While recently in Dardanelle, and the guest of my keen-eyed and accurate sportsman friend, Mr. G. E. Pilquist, I got the following facts about the nesting of a pair of Woodcock this season in that vicinity.

Dardanelle is on the right branch of the Arkansas River near the famous Dardanelle Rock, around which cluster many Indian legends. Nearby is Mount Nebo, a beautiful isolated peak of the Ozarkian uplift, rivalling Mount Magazine in beauty but not quite attaining its elevation of more than 2800 feet. The swamps and woodlands in this region are particularly inviting to the birds and the streams abound in fish. Considerable game still exists and pearl-ers and trappers find it still more or less profitable to explore the rivers for their treasures.

About the sixteenth of March a report was brought to Mr. Pilquist of the nesting of a pair of Woodcock about six miles southwest of Dardanelle and some three and one-half miles south of Mt. Nebo. The locality was fully five miles from the Arkansas River. He immediately made an effort to visit the nest. Competent eyewitnesses identified the species, and on the thirtieth of March Mr. Pilquist himself visited the nest, which was placed in a stubble of burned sedge grass, the clump being surrounded with water at the time the bird was seen. The nest was typical in every respect and not more than one hundred yards from a small creek. On the 31st of March the four eggs hatched.

It may be well for the writer to submit here without comment, a list of birds already observed as nesting in this region, specifying those of which eggs have been actually collected with a star. It is possible, of course, to greatly extend this list, and we fully hope to do this as opportunity will permit:

Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, King Rail?, American Woodcock, *Bob-white, Wild Turkey (nest in adjoining county visited in 1920), *Mourning Dove, *Turkey Vulture (1921), *Cooper's Hawk, *Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American