

that of the Alder Flycatcher rather better than with the Acadian.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

An Open Nest of the Prothonotary Warbler in Ohio.—Early in the spring of 1926, I had an argument with an ornithologist who claimed that the Prothonotary Warbler did not nest in Ottawa County, Ohio. I claimed that I had heard and seen the bird while on a fishing trip the year before, and promised to make it my business to find its nest. During the second half of June I observed a pair of Prothonotaries foraging along Sugar Creek, near Elmore, and carrying insects into a small thicket of shrubbery and weeds, as though feeding young. A group of Boy Scout bird students watched these birds on various days and tried hard to locate the nest without frightening the parent birds. I had become acquainted with this warbler and his nesting habits in Shelby County, Ohio, where the nest was made in a cleft in a decaying post, at the edge of Loramie Reservoir. Therefore we looked for a nest in a cavity, and were foiled, as we could find neither a cavity nor a tree or post big enough to contain a cavity, in the vicinity in which the birds appeared to be feeding their young.

The matter was reported to Prof. Mosely of Bowling Green, Ohio, who came to observe the birds on June 25th. He verified my identification, and together we watched the birds for some time. At length we found them feeding fledglings—not in a nest located in a cavity, but in an open nest placed in the crotch of a young ash tree.

Prof. Lynds Jones, to whom the observation was reported, and who is now in possession of the nest, observes: "Audubon stated that the Prothonotary Warbler built its nest in a bush, but it is now agreed that he was either mistaken or, not having seen a nest, assumed that it nested as the other warblers do." The undersigned is merely reporting an observation. Whether the pair of warblers under observation had built, found, or stolen this nest, we do not know, nor do we presume to offer a solution of the problem. But a pair of Prothonotary Warblers was observed feeding young birds in an open nest placed in the crotch of a sapling.—H. S. v. RAGUE, *Elmore, Ohio.*

An Unusual Flight of Cormorants.—On seeing in the Chicago Tribune for April 24, 1926, that a tremendous flight of loons had passed over La Crosse, Wisconsin, going up the Mississippi River during a gale and rain, I wrote to the postmaster at La Crosse, who turned my inquiry over to Mr. Mark Byers, Editor of the La Crosse Tribune, who writes me as follows:

"The flight first appeared over the river bottoms south of La Crosse about 3 p. m. It continued for two and one-half hours, more or less intermittently, although there were always from a dozen to hundreds of large flocks in the air. The birds were flying more or less directly north up the main channel of the Mississippi, and a great many of them circled and alighted in Target Lake, an arm of the river about three miles below the city. Others kept on going. They were evidently weary, frequently flying low to the water although no heavy north wind was blowing, such as usually forces wildfowl to fly low.

"The flight was so large that at times it was impossible to see the sunset sky through the mass. At other times they would be strung out in long irregular lines and groups—'like blackbirds'—says one witness. The number of birds is variously estimated, as from 100,000 to 1,000,000 birds. No sign of the birds was seen the next day."

The birds were identified as the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) by Prof. John P. Bird, of La Crosse, Wisconsin. I quote from his letter:

"The flight in question was moving northward and consisted of very many thousands, reaching for miles along the valley. I have never seen so large a flight of cormorants as this seems to have been."

At this date, September 7, I have seen no mention of this flight in our bird journals, therefore this account may be of interest.—FRANK GRASSET, *Glencoe, Ill.*

The Fishing Habit of the Bronzed Grackle.—The only reference that I remember having seen concerning the fact that grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula* subsp.) may be fishermen is the statement that fish were found in the stomachs of birds, made in the bulletin on food of the grackles. Yet my observations during the present season indicate that grackles living near the water may depend upon fish for their food to a considerable extent.

One morning while on a field trip in company with Dr. C. E. Ehinger, we were attracted to what we supposed to be a bathing party of Bronzed Grackles (*Q. q. aeneus*). On closer watch we found that they were fishing for minnows below the dam. The Mississippi River Power dam is approximately a mile in length, and at normal level the water is thirty-six feet higher above the dam than below. At points where the gates are open the pressure is sufficient to make a tremendous disturbance from the falling water, the spray rising as high as the dam itself and the water below being rough enough to capsize a good-sized boat. Where the gates are closed there is a constant dripping of water over the sloping aprons below the gates. Some gates which do not fit as tight as others permit a considerable amount of water to pass through. Where the birds were alighting on the cement the water was running in a stream about to their knees. Their long tails seemed to bother the birds by getting in the water and often throwing them off their balance.

We were able to approach within fifty to one hundred feet of the birds, and through our glasses to observe them closely. They would alight in the shallow water and watch until they were able to catch a passing minnow. Then they would fly to a nearby rock, or to the top of the dam, and hammer the little fish to death, after which they would fly away, probably to their nests. We did not see them feeding the fish to the young but from the fact that nearly all flew away with fish in their beaks we supposed that to be their object.

Having once noticed the fishing proclivities of these birds we went several different times to observe them, and took other persons to see them. Whenever we went we found the birds coming and going in considerable numbers, and seldom found any delay necessary in order to see them catching the minnows. It soon became evident that the Bronzed Grackle, in this neighborhood, at least, depends to a considerable extent upon fish for food. We are now wondering whether this trait has been generally overlooked, or whether we had not noticed the references to it in our literature.—FRANK C. PELLET, *Hamilton, Ill.*

The Mockingbird in Mahoning County, Ohio.—Very few definite records of the presence of the Mockingbird in Mahoning County, Ohio, have been made. Our home in Canfield Township has been favored twice. In the spring of 1923 a Mockingbird settled in our driveway, apparently looking for food. Again, a