

strip of timber which meets the woods I was in, forming nearly a right angle, or a reversed L. I was looking across the open angle of the L and towards the south. I had no sooner taken this position than I saw four Nighthawks rising over the crest of the woods to the south and flying directly north. The four birds were in a line extending from east to west, with fifty or seventy-five yards separating one bird from the next. No sooner had these four birds disappeared, northward, than four more Nighthawks arose over the brow of the woods, in the same formation and following the first line. Then as these four disappeared in the north, a third line came on.

I now sat up and took notice. Something unusual was happening. I looked off to the west, beyond the woods, and I beheld Nighthawks at irregular intervals as far as my sight would carry. Briefly, I watched these lines coming for half an hour, like a great invading army. Tiring at length of the sight, I concluded to go to the house. How long the birds continued to come after I ceased to observe them, or how long they had been coming before I noticed them, I cannot say. In the half hour that I watched, some 300 Nighthawks, approximately, had passed nearly over my head.

Had these birds been going southward, I would have supposed I was witnessing a great Nighthawk migration. But why north? On September 14, 1926, I saw a group of about two dozen Nighthawks, also flying northward. On September 16 a smaller flock of about fifteen was seen flying south. On September 17 and 18 a few were observed feeding in the afternoons, but on the 19th the sky was entirely cleared of Nighthawks, and none were seen later.—THOMAS M. EARL, *Xenia, Ohio*.

The Abundance of Woodpeckers and Other Birds in Northeastern Louisiana.—Following the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Nashville, I spent five days in northeastern Louisiana, in a region that was overflowed last May. January 1 to 4 was the coldest period of that length that men who had lived there for many years could recall. Early morning temperatures were 14°, 14°, 13°, and 32° F. On January 5 the temperature rose from 18° to 45°. Every day was sunny. My host, Robert Oldham, thinks that land birds were more numerous than in any previous winter. Exceptions are Robins, Blackbirds and Mourning Doves. Large numbers of Mourning Doves were shot last winter for food. Some of the residents do not hesitate to shoot any kind of a bird. I saw one lad shoot at a Mockingbird, in spite of my protests. Forty Bob-whites were killed by two men in one day while I was there.

For miles in all directions from Mr. Oldham's home extends a hardwood forest in which lumbering on a large scale has been carried on for several years. Over much of this forest the fallen tree tops left by the timber cutters, together with the undergrowth, have been burned by forest fires, which killed a large part of the trees that had been left standing. There are likely more woodpeckers here than in any other equal area in the world. I do not know any other region in this country where so much hardwood was still standing until recent years. Here I used to see Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, but not for the past ten or twelve years, although a man told me that he saw one in the Bayou Mason swamp in 1926.

Of Pileated Woodpeckers Mr. Oldham and I think that a hundred are living within two miles of his house. The number of these great hewers of wood which I saw was about eight, with a possibility of some duplications, but I was outside only about twelve hours altogether. Of smaller woodpeckers we estimated one

to the acre, although this estimate may be quite too small or too large. In West Carroll Parish, where I was staying, there may be more than one hundred thousand of these birds. Of these, the Red-headed Woodpecker was apparently the most common; but, if it were not so conspicuous, it might be noticed not much oftener than the Red-bellied Woodpecker, which could be heard much of the time. Flickers, although less numerous, are as common as I have seen them anywhere. I noticed about nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are less numerous. Mr. Oldham complained about the woodpeckers picking into the ends of the unripe ears of corn.

Blue Jays were rather common, and a few Crows were heard. Of Meadow-larks I saw nearly a hundred in one field; of blackbirds about a thousand in one flock flying to roost, and on other days smaller flocks, perhaps made up of part of the one large flock. In these flocks all that I could see plainly were Bronzed Grackles. I saw only one Red-winged Blackbird this winter, but about forty were seen when I visited the same district three years ago. I did not notice any Rusty Grackles on my recent visit.

If I had had field glasses, I could have identified more sparrows. Large flocks of White-throated Sparrows were seen, altogether probably five hundred; of Slate-colored Juncos, three or four hundred; Cardinals, about 30; Towhees, about 12; Vesper Sparrows, 3; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; and Field Sparrow, 1. I saw a dozen or more Field Sparrows on January 2, 1925.

Other birds, with approximate numbers seen and heard, were: Mallard, one flock of about 23, January 5; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Barred Owl, 2; Turkey Buzzard, a few; Black Vulture (a flock of 15 before I arrived); Killdeer, 12; Phoebe, 1, (three years ago, 11); Migrant Shrike, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 1, (three years ago I saw in the same district about 30 Myrtle Warblers); Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 8; Carolina Wren, 5; Bewick's Wren, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Carolina Chickadee, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Hermit Thrush, 16; Robin, 4; Bluebird, 14.—E. L. MOSELEY, *Bowling Green, Ohio*.

Ground-nesting of the White Ibis.—In Mr. Arthur C. Bent's splendid book on the Marsh Birds, he mentions nothing about White Ibis nesting on the ground. It seems strange that with all his extensive excursions and numerous notes on this species that this habit was not noted by someone. However, if it has not been noted, such is what keeps ornithologists constantly seeking for further knowledge, and indicates that the ground-nesting habit must be rare among this species.

On April 27, 1922, Fred Walker and the author visited a small colony of White Ibis, which were nesting in a small clump of bay trees, covering perhaps a quarter of an acre, situated in a small grass pond, surrounded by pine and oak timber, on what could be described as flat-woods land, in the western part of Orange County, Florida. There was an occupied farm house 400 yards from the colony, and a sandy road fairly well traveled between the house and the pond, and brooding birds could plainly be seen against the green bay leaves. There were three small islands, and the birds used two of them. Green, Louisiana, Little Blue and several Ward's Herons, also the Snowy Egret and Water Turkey, were nesting in considerable numbers, with nests containing eggs in all stages of incubation, and many young.