

GENERAL NOTES.

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

The Black Tern Nesting in Calhoun County, Michigan.—A nest of the Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) was discovered on a small inland pond ten miles east of Battle Creek on June 10, 1928. There was only one egg at the time of discovery, and when I returned the following week this and the nest had been destroyed. The nest, built of small twigs and weed stalks neatly piled, was located on a floating bog among the lily pads in the middle of the lake.—LAWRENCE WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

Henslow's Sparrow in a City Yard.—On May 17, 1928, I caught and banded a bird of this species, which made my third record for the species in this county. I recognized the bird by the yellow on the bend of the wing and the heavy bill, and then took note of its other characteristics—the graduated pointed tail feathers, olive head, head markings and streaked sides. My trap was under cherry trees and quite surrounded by lower shrubbery—an unusual locality in which to find this dry field bird.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

A Freak Junco.—A Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) observed in shoulder-high bushes alongside an open field, near Harmarville, Pennsylvania, on May 1, 1926, was of interest because of a distinct grayish white ring, about one-eighth of an inch wide, about its neck. The bird, studied at close range with 12x glasses, had the usual plumage except for the neck ring, the pink bill and the characteristic white outer tail feathers showing plainly as it moved about.—SIDNEY EASTWOOD, *Pittsburg, Pa.*

Unusual Nesting of the Barn Swallow.—A Phoebe built its nest on an iron girder under a low bridge, over a swamp and only five feet above the water, and reared its young. On June 24, 1928, I was surprised to find that a Barn Swallow had built a low rampart of mud pellets on the rim of the Phoebe's nest, lined it with feathers, and was sitting on four very heavily incubated eggs. And to make it still more interesting, the eggs were unusually long and so heavily blotched that had it not been for the birds I would not have recognized them as belonging to the Barn Swallow.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

The Snowy Owl in Northwestern Iowa.—In November, 1928, Mr. John Hommes wounded and captured a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) about three and one-half miles southeast of Rock Rapids, Iowa. The bird is a beautiful specimen, being snowy white, with a small amount of brown mottling on the back of the head and neck and some brown on the back and upper side of the wings. The bird was sold to F. J. Vickerman, of Rock Rapids, who will keep it alive for a while before having it mounted.—O. S. THOMAS, *Rock Rapids, Iowa.*

Another Snowy Owl Record from Iowa.—On January 3, 1929, Mr. E. W. Sells of Paton, Greene County, in west-central Iowa, sent me a fine specimen of Snowy Owl which had been shot near there a day or two before. It was a female, measuring 25 inches in length and about 56 inches in wing spread and weighing just 4 pounds and 6 ounces. I mailed it to Prof. Kubichek at the Coe College museum, who has mounted it, and it will be preserved in that museum. Prof. Kubichek reported that there was not a particle of food to be found in the stomach. Mr. Sells reported that there had been two of these birds seen there, but only one had been shot. In eleven years' observation of birds in this locality this is my first record of the Snowy Owl, and I was very glad to secure this record