

occurred in smaller numbers than in past years but persisted later than previously. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker worked on the trunk of a plane tree on a level with my eyes, not more than five feet away.

It is interesting to note that the Starlings were more numerous than ever and have stayed through the winter, coming in from the edge of the city every evening to roost on the cornices and string courses of buildings around the Square. Some observers have estimated that there are at least 15,000 Starlings roosting within a block of the Square, yet it is seldom that one is seen during the day.—WILLIAM H. WATTERSON, *Cleveland, Ohio*.

The Former Occurrence of the Mississippi Kite in Ohio.—In a considerable quantity of bones of birds from archeological excavations in Jackson County, Ohio, submitted to the National Museum for identification by the Ohio State Museum, I found two humeri of the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), a species that has not been reported from Ohio previously, so far as I am aware. The bones in question were secured in Canter's caves, located about five miles northwest of the town of Jackson, in Jackson County, Ohio.¹ The caves in question are two rock shelters called Echo and Indian caves, respectively, located on the east side of Little Salt Creek, in a conglomerate many feet above the present stream level. The kite bones were associated with numerous other bird remains and quantities of human artifacts accompanied by several human skeletons.

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The bird bones are in good condition and well preserved, all tendons and other tissues having disappeared. Their age is indefinite but probably dates back several hundred years. In the report cited in the accompanying footnote it is stated (p. 32) that "it seems indubitable that for the most part the occupants of the rock shelters of southern Ohio, in so far examined, were the Algonquian tribesmen of pre-Columbian and proto-historic times."

Nineteen species of birds were identified from the remains from Canter's Caves, including in addition to the Mississippi Kite bones of the Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Wood Duck, Swallow-tailed Kite, Duck Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Turkey, Passenger Pigeon, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Raven, Crow, and Grackle (*Quiscalus*).

One humerus of the Mississippi Kite has been presented to the U. S. National Museum, the other being retained by the Ohio State Museum.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

A Large Flock of Bank Swallows Near Toledo, Ohio.—Most of my readers are familiar with the great gatherings of swallows in late summer. Sometimes these conventions are of Bank Swallows, sometimes of Tree Swallows, or, too rarely in these days, of Barn Swallows.

Because of their proximity to the lake marshes, Toledo and its suburbs extending to the east play host to varying numbers of swallows each year. Up to 1931 the greatest flock I had ever witnessed was a flight of about 10,000 Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) seen on July 15, 1928. This year, probably as the result of the drying up of all inland ponds, Bank Swallows were unusually common. The greatest number appeared on August 8, 1931, when the Little Cedar Point marsh, about ten miles or so east of Toledo, was visited by a huge flock of Bank Swallows, the number of which I estimated to be more than 250,000.

¹For an account of these sites see Shetrone, H. C., *Ohio Arch. Hist. Quart.*,