

places, and I actually believe there are more coming through here in the fall now than there were years ago.

There are not as many Wood Ducks hatching here as there used to be, but there are some remaining about the Pinoak Ponds whenever we have water to keep the ponds full. Last fall on the Conesville marsh the week before the twentieth of October, the open season, I estimated there were from 400 to 500 Wood Ducks on the upper part of the marsh, and I personally told all the club members there to be careful not to shoot any of them. Only a few of the old hunters know them by their flight any more.—E. L. BREITENBACH, *Washington, Iowa*.

The Swallow-tailed Kite in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.—It has now been about two decades since the Northern Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) has been reported from Iowa. Early in July of 1931 a farmer shot one of these birds along the West Nishnabotna River, a few miles southwest of Oakland, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and brought it to Mr. Leo Lockhart, of Hancock (a few miles north of Oakland), for mounting. The bird was, however, subsequently sent to the shop of Karl Schwarz, the taxidermist at 419 South 13th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, who mounted it. I first learned of its presence in his shop on July 8, and some time later secured the specimen from Mr. Lockhart, and it is now in my collection. It is a good specimen, and from its size I should judge was a male, the measurements of the mounted bird being in millimeters as follows: Length, 556; wing, 400; tail, 263 (unusually short); tarsus, 30; exposed culmen, 20.5 (from feathers, 27); depth of bill at base, 13.5.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

An Experiment with Nesting Purple Grackles.—A great many Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus q. quiscula*) nest in the neighborhood of my yard at Lexington, Virginia. While taking a set of eggs during the spring of 1928, it occurred to me to try the experiment of changing eggs from one nest to another to see if a Purple Grackle would hatch eggs that were not her own. I took six eggs from a nest and replaced them with five eggs from another nest. The bird to which I gave the five new eggs had begun, I think, to incubate her original eggs. One factor that made me more doubtful as to whether my experiment would succeed was that I had kept the five eggs overnight before I decided to try the exchange. I did not, however, remove the original six eggs until I was ready to replace them with the five new ones. The exchange was made early in the afternoon of April 26. Later in the afternoon the bird was on the new set of eggs. She did not lay another egg to bring the number up to that of her original set of six. On May 7 she was still incubating normally. When I returned home on May 12, after an absence of four days, I found that she had hatched out the foster set. The nestlings appeared to be about three days old. The younger birds all lived to leave the nest. The adults, both male and female, were much excited each time that I visited the nest and at times alighted near me in the small tree, with much scolding, but the fact that they reared their young in spite of this exchange of eggs and of my frequent visits seems to show that Purple Grackles are not very sensitive as to nesting conditions.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*