

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

**A Third Three-Egg-Set of the Eastern Mourning Dove.**—Of the dozens of nests of the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) that I have observed, the only nest with three eggs was found April 16, 1934. The frail nest was placed in the fork of a limb, overhanging a small pond.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

**The European Starling in Osceola County, Iowa.**—On April 22, 1936, the writer saw two European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) in Osceola County, about a mile north of the O'Brien County line on Highway No. 59. This is the highway that extends north from Highway No. 18 a mile east of Sanborn. This record, I believe, fills up the state, the Starling having not previously been reported from Osceola County.—O. S. THOMAS, *Rock Rapids, Iowa*.

**The American Woodcock in Mahaska County, Iowa.**—On the afternoon of April 19, 1936, I observed an American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) four miles southwest of Pella, in Mahaska County. I approached within twenty feet of the bird and observed it for some time. When flushed, the bird circled around and came back near the same place. The area was a marshy meadow near a small creek and was very close to the highway.—W. W. AITKEN, *Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa*.

**Black Vultures Kill and Eat New-born Lambs.**—For over twenty years Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) have been residents of my cousin's farm. The numbers have varied from eighteen to forty, the drove now (1936) numbering eighteen. They were always associated with the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). In the summer the Turkey Vultures outnumber the Black Vultures, but only three or four of the Turkey Vultures remain in the winter. In one flock of sheep the Black Vultures killed and ate every new-born lamb. They picked out their eyes, killed, and then ate them. Not only were they observed to do this, but it was noted that the Turkey Vulture had no part in these attacks. The same observations were made in the case of pigs; their eyes were picked out, they were killed, and then eaten. A few years ago on another farm Black Vultures killed and ate a few new-born pigs, but not all.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

**Another Record of the American Egret in Polk County, Iowa.**—The writer wishes to add another record of the American Egret (*Herodias albus egretta*) to the ones that have been published by observers in the state. Three birds were seen in Polk County, Iowa, approximately three miles below Des Moines, on the Des Moines River on August 11, 1935. At the time the observation was made they were perched in the tops of a group of elm trees forty-five feet from the ground. These trees were near the water's edge. The birds were studied from a distance of sixty-five feet, so identification was positive.—WALTER ROSENE, JR., *Ogden, Iowa*.

**The Red-shafted Flicker in Boone County, Iowa.**—During a severe snow storm on January 30, 1936, I observed a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) at my home in Ogden, Iowa. A strong wind was blowing from the north and it flew directly over me toward the southwest, and the red under parts were plainly visible without the use of glasses. It alighted on the sheltered side of a

tree across the street and remained there for some time, allowing me to examine it carefully through 8x binoculars at a distance of about sixty feet. I noted the red-shafted feathers and also the V-shaped red patch on the back of his head, thus indicating that it must have been a hybrid. As it flew away, I again noted the red-shafted feathers in flight. A few days later I again observed another bird about a block away and it disappeared in a hollow tree. This probably was the same bird. Temperature on the date of the first observation was eight degrees below zero. I have searched for the bird since, but failed to find it. This is my first record of this species in central Iowa in nineteen years of careful observation.—WALTER M. ROSENE, *Ogden, Iowa.*

**Bird Notes from Morris County, New Jersey.**—On March 14, 1936, while driving slowly along the cement road running between Florham Park and Morristown, New Jersey, I observed a female Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in full winter plumage, swimming and diving in the flood water that covered the marshes directly next to Ely's Aquatic Farm. The bird was within 100 feet of the road and appeared to be absolutely unsuspecting. It showed no fear when I left the car, and I was able to study it carefully at this range with 8x glasses. So close was I to the bird that I could follow with the naked eye its course under the water by the small trail of bubbles that came to the surface when it submerged. It was diving continually, the dives following each other at approximately twenty seconds. The duration of submergence averaged twelve seconds. The bird was still present the next day at the same spot and was as easily observed. This is an unusual record for this vicinity.

On March 22, 1936, I had under observation a pair of Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), male and female, on the Passaic River within a quarter mile of the Chatham Bridge on the Morris Turnpike, Chatham, New Jersey. I first noticed the male resting quietly on the water. The bird became alarmed when I started inching forward on my stomach and flew fifty yards or so upstream. It rapidly drifted back down again to its former position, and I noted for the first time a darker bird—its mate—which it joined. They evidently lost their suspicions and both of them commenced diving, the two of them submerging together. During the period of submergence I was able to creep much closer, concealing myself as well as possible, and was rewarded with a fine, clear view of the birds. I had Peterson's *Field Guide* with me, and a comparison of the plate with the living bird made exact identification possible. After observing them for ten minutes I continued to creep forward with a view toward getting a glimpse of four American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser americanus*), which were farther upstream. My movements frightened the two birds and they flew quickly up the river out of my sight. The Hooded Mergansers are rare transients in this vicinity.—PAUL MURPHY, *Summit, N. J.*

**A Herring Gull Attacked by a Bald Eagle.**—On January 31, 1936, Mr. O. K. Scott and the writer saw an immature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* subsp.) kill and devour a first-year Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) on the ice of the Merrimac River at Newburyport, Massachusetts. When first seen, the eagle was standing on the ice about twenty feet from the gull, which was sitting quietly. As we watched, the eagle flew up into the air and over the gull, looking down at it. The gull remained sitting on the ice but threw back its head and raised its beak upward toward the eagle, at the same time spreading its