

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by O. A. Stevens

The Starling in Moody County, South Dakota.—Moody County is in the extreme east-central part of South Dakota and is adjacent to the Minnesota state line. The writer saw several pairs of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) west of Colman, in that county. One pair of birds was seen a short distance from the Lake County line. The Starling has been reported from both the northeastern and southeastern corners of South Dakota and is now apparently starting its invasion into the central part of the state.—WM. YOUNGORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

Birds Apparently Electrocuted.—Near Youngstown, Ohio, an unusual "bird killer" was noted on August 29, 1936. Birds that alighted upon a certain electric light wire had been electrocuted. After death the bodies hung there until wasted away. At the time of our visit seven bodies were hanging on the wires, mostly Starlings but one was a Flicker. The wires are not close together so we were at a loss to explain the tragedy.—MERIT B. SKAGGS, *Cleveland, Ohio*.

Effect of the Drouth on Water-Fowl.—The past breeding season has been the most unfavorable for water-fowl that this area has ever known. About seventy-five per cent of my sloughs have dried up. Indications early this spring were for a favorable hatching, but a large number either moved out in July or succumbed to drouth. There were far less broods this August than last. This area has always been particularly favorable for Canvas-backs and now it is ruined unless we receive a tremendous fall of snow this winter. This species is one of the most threatened. I think it is high time that something more drastic should be done regarding hunting, and am very disappointed that the regulations passed this year are so lenient.—O. C. FURNISS, *Prince Albert, Sask*.

Incidents in Bird Behavior.—The severe wind and rain storm of June 26, 1936, was the cause of a considerable mortality of young birds at Sioux City, Iowa. At the home of Mrs. L. L. Kellogg, the gardener found a Robin's nest with young birds which had been blown from a tree. He put the nest together as best he could, using rubber bands, and placed it on a food-shelter in the tree from which it had blown. When the young birds were placed in the reconstructed nest, the old birds took up the task of feeding and rearing the young as if the nest had not been disturbed. On the same premises Mrs. Kellogg observed a mature Catbird feeding a half-grown Flicker. She thought the young Flicker had been dislodged from its nest or separated from its parents during the same storm.—W. J. HAYWARD, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

White Herons in Ohio.—On September 27, 1936, a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) was observed at Linesville Lake which is part of the Pymatuning Reservoir project, located just east of the Pennsylvania-Ohio state line. The bird was watched as it fed at a distance of about fifty feet and the yellow toes and black legs and bill carefully noted by Vera Carrouthers, Mrs. Skaggs, Ralph O'Reilley, and the writer. Nearby we saw an immature Little Blue Heron and an American Egret, thus giving us the unusual opportunity of seeing all three "white herons" that visit us in late summer. On October 4 we saw a Snowy Egret (probably the same bird) in exactly the same place and noted that in feeding it stood on one foot and stirred up the water with the other. There are very few records of the Snowy Egret in this region.—MERIT B. SKAGGS, *Cleveland, Ohio*.