

GENERAL NOTES

A feeding habit of the Snowy Egret.—On April 25, 1947, I watched a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) feeding at the edge of a small pool along the road at Republiek, Surinam. The bird was in shallow water, standing on one foot, and with the other making rapid trembling movements in the water—the leg stretched forward, the toes and lower part of the tarsus submerged. It would stop suddenly, dabble rapidly in the water it had set in motion, and swallow something which I could not see. Then once more it would stretch one of its legs forward under the water and resume the vibrating movements. I could not make out whether the foot that was stretched forward rested on the mud or whether it was held in the water above it.

Portielje (1928. *Ardea*, 17:115) described foot trembling in captive Snowy Egrets in the Amsterdam Zoo, but from his account it appears that his birds trampled with both feet, as gulls do when feeding. The vibrating movement with one leg stretched forward is a regular feeding custom in small plovers and other waders, but I have not seen it recorded in herons.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana*.

Swainson's Hawk nesting in north-central Oklahoma.—On June 29, 1948, I found a nest of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) two miles west of Stillwater in Payne County, Oklahoma. The nest, located about 25 feet above the ground in a hackberry tree, contained two eggs, one of which was pipped. The chick was alive and struggling to emerge. The following morning the parent birds did not put in an appearance when I revisited the area; the chick in the process of hatching was dead, and the other egg cold. Later, both adults appeared but did not fly near the nest nor dive down at me as they had on the previous afternoon. The pipped egg was crawling with ants, which may have caused the parents to desert. This is the first record of Swainson's Hawk nesting in Payne County and appears to extend the nesting range approximately 100 miles north and east of the known breeding range in Oklahoma.—F. M. BAUMGARTNER, *Department of Zoology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater*.

Sandhill Crane observed in southwestern Ohio.—On the afternoon of May 9, 1948, as Karl Maslowski, Gordon Acomb, and I were driving across the bottomlands of the Ohio River, 18 miles east of Cincinnati, Clermont County, Ohio, we observed a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). The bird walked slowly across a dirt road about a hundred yards in front of us, giving ample time to observe its great size, dusty gray plumage, and (with 10-power binoculars) the bill and bald red forehead.

The Crane was foraging through corn and alfalfa fields bordering a slough formed by a recent flood of the Ohio River. We observed the Crane for over an hour, hearing its low rumbling croaks and seeing it make several short flights, its neck outstretched and legs trailing. During one of these flights Maslowski was able to take a recognizable photograph from a distance of 80 yards. As we followed the great bird across the fields, we discovered many of its tracks in the soft mud, some of which plainly indicated that the Crane had been in the area for several days.

Sandhill Cranes are rare migrants in Ohio; the last previous record, as far as I can determine, was made by Milton B. Trautman in Fairfield County on October 9, 1926 (1940. "The Birds of Buckeye Lake," p. 228). Louis W. Campbell (1940. "Birds of Lucas County," p. 66) listed the last known Ohio breeding record, for Huron County, Ohio, 1926. Frank Langdon (1879. *Jour.Cinn.Soc.Nat.Hist.*, 1:184) listed two Sandhill Crane specimens "reported to have been taken" in the vicinity of Cincinnati.—HAVEN H. SPENCER, *Turpin Lane, Newtown, Ohio*.