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Green Heron Nest site tenacity. — On 22 May 1977, in Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida, we found three newly hatched Green Heron chicks (*Butorides striatus*) in a nest about 3 m high in a 6 m laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*). The immediate area had been overgrown with live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and laurel oaks 1.75-8 m tall and so dense that it was impossible to walk through, but clearing began during incubation and eventually the nest tree was completely exposed, with only scattered small trees left in the immediate area. When we discovered the nest, workmen were continually cutting trees using chain saws and passing by the nest dragging brush. Human activity was confined to a few hours in the late afternoon during 23-27 May, but increased on 28 and 29 May when the parents were seen in the vicinity but not at the nest. Despite a large brush fire started about 9 m from the nest on 28 and 30 May, nestlings remained in the nest. Human activity diminished after that time and three young Green Herons were observed away from the nest on 17 June, having fledged successfully.

Feeding habits of the Green Heron and their young as described in Bent (1963, *Life histories of North American marsh birds*, New York, Dover, p. 188), indicate that they are fed only in early morning and late afternoon. Kushlan (1976, *Wilson Bull.* 88: 656-658), has found that in another ciconiiform, the White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), nestlings exhibit an internal hunger rhythm coinciding with the peak of parental feeding activities at 0900 and 2100. At our Green Heron nest disturbance occurred between 0800 and 2000, and weekdays between 1700 and 2000. These periods of human disturbance apparently did not coincide with peak feeding periods of the nestlings, thus allowing the parents to approach the nest undisturbed. — ROBERT A. DUNCAN AND LUCY R. DUNCAN, 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561.

Sandhill Cranes in Florida flying with their legs drawn up. — During cold weather, Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) have been observed in Saskatchewan and Indiana flying with their legs folded up under their bellies (Walkinshaw 1953, *Auk* 70: 204-205; Bard and Lohrman 1965, *Blue Jay* 23: 121; Skinner 1966, *Blue Jay* 24: 47). The same posture has been reported for Whooping Cranes (*G. americana*) (Epp 1970, *Canad. Field Nat.* 84: 307-308), Common Cranes (*G. grus*) and Japanese Cranes (*G. japonensis*) (Walkinshaw 1973, *Cranes of the World*, New York, Winchester Press, p. 6).

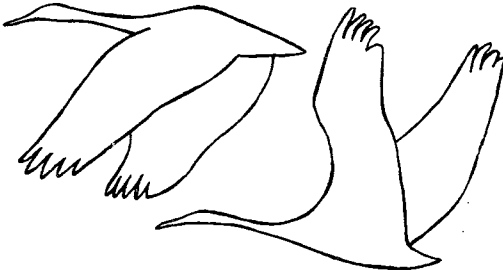


Fig. 1. Sandhill Cranes flying with their legs drawn up.

At sunrise on 22 December 1976, I saw two Sandhill Cranes (probably *G. c. tabida*), flying from roost to a bait site on Paynes Prairie, Alachua County, Florida, with their legs drawn up into their belly feathers (Figure 1). The temperature was near -6°C . On 17 January 1977, another bitterly cold morning, most individuals in a flock of about 40 cranes were observed flying from roost on the prairie with their legs drawn up. These observations are my first encounter with this behavior in seven winters of observing cranes in Florida. While this may contribute little to our understanding of the ecology of the Sandhill Crane in Florida, it does suggest that cranes wintering in Florida can find weather conditions as uncomfortable as any they are likely to encounter in the northern parts of their range. — STEPHEN A. NESBITT, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Laboratory, 4005 S Main Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

Dust-bathing by Common Flickers. — The note on dusting activity by a Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*, (Woolfenden 1975, Fla. Field Nat. 3: 51) and the rarity of records of dust-bathing by woodpeckers in general (Kilham 1975, Bird-Banding 46: 251-252) prompts me to report my observations of dusting by Common Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) in my back yard in suburban Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida.

During early May 1976 I observed two short bouts of dusting by a female flicker that had been occupying a nearby nestbox. Both bouts lasted about 30 seconds and occurred at a shallow depression of sandy soil about one foot in diameter; the first occurred when the soil was dry and the second occurred a few days after a rain when the soil was still slightly moist. The third instance of dusting occurred on 18 May 1977 when I saw a female flicker on the ground moving some pine needles to get to the thin dusty top layer of the dry hard ground. She then dusted for about 12-18 seconds. This female had a partially feathered young in a nearby nest box that was heavily infested with mites (H. W. Kale, pers. comm.).

In these three instances I observed the dusting birds at 6-15 m from a gazebo in my yard and the dusting area was free of unusual material and insects. The dusting behavior of the flickers was similar to that of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) I have observed. In the 1977 observation of flicker dusting, the bird hunched forward with wings slightly spread and with breast to the ground. It then rubbed its body against the ground and later shook its body with feathers ruffled. After several such sequences the bird flew to a bird bath where it drank water and regurgitated food. — O. V. OLSEN, 5302 Ft. Pierce Blvd., Ft. Pierce, Florida 33450.

Fall foraging of Pileated Woodpeckers on Magnolia grandiflora seeds. — Accounts on the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) by Bent (1939, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174), Hoyt (1957, Ecology, 38: 246-256), and Kilham (1959, Condor, 61: 377-387; 1976, Auk, 93: 15-24) report the Pileated's main reliance upon large ants and wood-boring beetles for food and some list wild fruits and berries as a minor dietary component. Howell (1932, Florida bird life, Tallahassee, Fla. Dept. Game Fresh Water Fish), reported that the fruits eaten in Florida include sour gum, tupelo gum, dogwood, persimmon, wild grape, holly, poison ivy, sumac, and hackberry.

For more than two weeks in September and October 1977, an adult pair of Pileated Woodpeckers foraged near the University of South Florida campus, Hillsborough County, Florida and returned repeatedly to feed on the ripening seed cones of a yard planted southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). Initially, I believed the large woodpeckers were after insect larvae or ants as they pecked the seed cones, but closer observation revealed they were consuming the numerous red, bean-like seeds from the opening cones. The pair usually spent 15 to 30 minutes in mid-morning and late afternoon visits to the magnolia tree. They continued this behavior for several consecutive days until the seed supply of the tree was virtually depleted. In addition, they foraged extensively for insects along the trunks and limbs of live (*Quercus*