

have visited my place but both times in July or August and this spring occurrence seems very unusual.—LOMBARD CARTER JONES, *Falmouth, Mass.*

On an Unusual Feeding Habit of the Snowy Egret.—In the April, 1936, issue of 'The Auk' (p. 203), Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., records an unusual feeding habit of the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) in a pool along the Tamiami Trail in the Everglades. The birds he observed fed like Petrels, hovering over the water and making quick darts downward with the bill.

I had never seen a Heron feed in that manner until June 7, 1936, when at Orange Lake, Alachua County, Florida, with Messrs. Roy C. Hallman and Alden H. Hadley. We had scarcely gotten out of the car at the boat landing when Hallman called our attention to a number of Snowy Egrets a hundred yards or more offshore feeding in the fashion described by Sprunt. I failed to notice that the birds patted the water with their feet, though they may have. They appeared to me to be feeding a good deal as our Gulls do on the St. Johns River, by hovering and snatching up morsels of food from the surface of the water.

It was on the deep, open water in the lake between Bird Island, where Snowy and other Herons nest in good numbers, and the mainland to the west that we saw the birds feeding in this Petrel or Gull fashion. Several Snowies continued this mode of feeding all during the time we rowed out to the island, and I noticed them at it time and again during a six-hour stay in my blind up in a willow tree in the rookery.

It is hard to believe that this is a recently acquired habit, but it is certain that Sprunt, Hallman, and I saw no birds so engaged while we were at Orange Lake for two or three hours on April 21, 1935.—S. A. GRIMES, 4661 *Attleboro St., Jacksonville, Fla.*

Unusual Feeding Habits of Some of the Ardeidae.—On the morning of December 21, 1935, wishing to take some photographs of Ducks, I went into a blind I recently had built on a small island in the rest pond of my shooting grounds, just north of Avery Island, Louisiana.

I had noted that a great number of Pintails (*Dafla acuta*) and other Ducks were spending the day on the low banks of this small island, which is separated from the mainland by about thirty feet of shallow water. While waiting for the light to become strong enough for photography, I was interested in watching the birds come in. Many varieties of Ducks were present; also Coots (*Fulica americana americana*), Boat-tail Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus major*), and Redwing Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus littoralis*) were around the blinds in numbers. American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), Snowy Herons (*Egretta thula thula*), Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*), and Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) came from "Bird City" to the shallow water shortly after daylight. There are usually a few hundred of these birds that do not go to Central America at the approach of cold weather, but remain in my Heron colony, "Bird City," at Avery Island, throughout the winter, obtaining their food from the surrounding shallow waters. This particular morning a number of the different varieties of Herons lit very near my blind, a good many of them in the shallow water between my blind and the shore, some of them within twenty feet of me. They began looking for food, and as the water was very cold, there being frost all over the grass, their usual food was apparently hard to find.

Hearing a splashing in the water where these Herons were, I looked more closely expecting to see Ducks, or other water birds feeding, and was surprised to see that the splashing came from the feet and legs of the Snowy Herons and Louisiana Herons,