

its nesting in South Carolina will be in order since this state marks the most northerly limit on the Atlantic seaboard.

The first instance of the breeding of the species was discovered on May 20, 1922, by the late Arthur T. Wayne and the writer. A colony of some seventy-five pairs was found in a cypress lagoon on Fairlawn Plantation, Christ Church Parish, about eighteen miles north of Charleston. Mr. Wayne recorded the discovery in the *Bulletin of The Charleston Museum*, 17: 27, 1922. This situation was used for the next four seasons but the colony diminished in numbers and finally died out after a very light nesting in 1926. Probably too many visitors to the lagoon were the cause of the birds' desertion.

A hiatus of several years ensued during which no birds were found in the South Carolina coastal region, though it is perfectly possible that some were there. At any rate, the next discovery was in 1937 on the same plantation but in another lagoon or, as they are called locally, a 'backwater.' The birds were again in cypress growth which appears to be essential to them here. From 1937 through the past season (1943), this colony has returned and has grown steadily. From barely a hundred pairs it has grown now to about 700 pairs. The birds usually arrive in mid-April and young are in the nests by the middle of May.

In the season of 1943, the writer was notified by Andrew H. DuPre, Manager of the Cape Romain Federal Refuge, with headquarters at McClellanville, that White Ibises were nesting in a large cypress backwater on the grounds of the Santee Gun Club with the usual American Egrets and smaller herons which have used this spot for over a hundred years. It is of interest to note here that this is the oldest continually occupied rookery of herons and egrets in the country (cf. 'A Magnificent Repository,' *Audubon Magazine*, 46: 77, 1943) with records of its existence going back to 1823.

This lagoon is on the South Santee River and approximately halfway up the South Carolina coast. While the air-line distance between it and the site of the Fairlawn nestings is not great it represents an advance of some twenty-odd miles and brings the ibis to the banks of the Santee. There were very few there this season (1943)—only some seven or eight pairs—but it means another step forward. Observers along the coastal areas where cypress occurs would do well to watch the lagoons from the area of Georgetown, S. C., up to the North Carolina line, and it is hoped that progress can be reported in future seasons.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

First record of Audubon's Caracara in South Carolina.—On the afternoon of May 1, 1943, while driving home from work at the Stark General Hospital where I am stationed, Mrs. Hoyt and I were startled by the sight of an Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway auduboni*). We were going toward Summerville, S. C., along the Old Dorchester Road about ten miles from Charleston when we simultaneously noted a large, vulture-like bird soaring and flapping over the road ahead. We stopped and watched it while it fluttered and sailed over the pine trees for about four minutes before gliding down wind and out of sight. It veered and turned many times, swooped, and then flew up and swooped again as it circled above the trees and the road. We had a very fine view of all sides of the bird as it displayed in this manner before us. The large white patches on the wings and the white of the tail were conspicuous in both dorsal and ventral views before the bird finally sailed off. Both of us have seen this bird in its native haunts in Florida

and are familiar with its behavior.—SALLY F. AND J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, *Stark General Hospital, Medical Detachment, U. S. Army, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Phainopepla in Texas.—In a recent article on the Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens lepida* Van Tyne) Crouch (Auk, 60: 324, 1943) states that "little can be said for the Phainopepla in Texas." His map (p. 320) indicates only two locality records—El Paso and Eagle Pass.

Seemingly the author overlooked Van Tyne and Sutton's record (The birds of Brewster County, Texas; Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., no. 37: 78-79, 1937) of three specimens of *lepida* from Brewster County. In the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections is a young female of *lepida*, taken August 18, 1940, seven miles north of Pine Springs, Culberson County, at 6,900 feet elevation. This locality is at the eastern base of the Guadalupe Mountains about six miles south of the Texas-New Mexico line. Subspecific determination of this specimen was checked by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. Measurements are: wing, 87 mm.; tail, 86.—W. B. DAVIS, *Department of Fish and Game, College Station, Texas.*

Some new records for the Virgin Islands, U. S. A.—LOUISIANA HERON, *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*.—An adult male was collected on September 21, 1941, on Krause Lagoon, St. Croix. On May 22, 1943, another adult bird was observed on its feeding grounds, among other species of herons, in Morning Star Swamp.

PUERTO RICO FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus stolidus antillarum*.—During the course of a recent wildlife reconnaissance on St. Thomas, a discovery was made of a small colony of tyrant flycatchers that had found a last retreat in an extensive ravine leading back about one mile from the seacoast to the southward. I was attempting to force a trail up Bivoni Valley by following the ravine and ran into the greatest difficulty when I reached the steep ascent where the thorn shrubbery of the plains merged with a heavy stand of tall second-growth trees, and an attempt to survey the steeper slopes was frustrated when it was proven impossible to negotiate the impenetrable undergrowth. However, I stumbled onto a small clearing and found my attention centered on a flycatcher perched high up. The unfamiliar call-note and the dark dorsal coloration of the bird caught my attention and I realized that I was scrutinizing this *Myiarchus* for the first time beyond the fringes of Puerto Rico. From my position I could hear about fifteen birds calling. I was not bearing a gun at the time but several days later, on June 10, 1943, I was fortunate in collecting a specimen at the same place. Subsequently I learned to distinguish the plaintive note of this flycatcher above the din of *Elaenia* songs and made an effort to detect the call of *Myiarchus* elsewhere on the island. Several weeks later two birds were heard calling from a wooded slope adjoining the old site of the C. C. C. Camp. The locality is on the north slope of the opposing ridge with a grassland valley intervening, some two miles in expanse. In the light of my findings it would appear that the breeding habits of this *Myiarchus* are not flexible enough to permit the bird to overcome difficulties in the changing environment, and the species is faced with extermination through the increasing difficulty of finding holes in trees sufficiently large for their nests as these small islands become more widely denuded of their older forest growth. The known range of this flycatcher includes Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, and St. Thomas.—HARRY A. BEATTY, *United States Department of Interior, Wildlife Restoration, Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I.*

Lesser Snow and Blue Geese on Southampton Island.—Eskimos report finding, in 1942, a considerable colony of Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*)