

of seeing gulls alight on the heads of fishing pelicans in Panamanian waters and rob the latter of their catch of fish, reminded the writer of similar behavior observed at the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, South Carolina, in the summers of 1939 and 1940. A picture of the act was secured with an inexpensive telephoto lens from quite a distance and, although not particularly clear, the photograph is thought to be of sufficient interest to warrant publication.

This refuge has what is probably the northernmost Atlantic Coast nesting colony of the Eastern Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*), and during the breeding season the birds fly over extensive areas of salt creeks, bays, and ocean in search of food for their young. Approximately 95 per cent of the food they bring in is menhaden. Their method of diving from the air for fish is too well known to be described here. In the early summer it is not unusual to see Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), in both breeding and non-breeding plumage, following the pelicans, with as many as five gulls often harassing a single pelican. Just after the pelican has completed the plunge and before it can swallow the fish protruding from its bill, a gull may flutter in, alight on the water or even on the pelican's head and seize the fish. A pelican has never been observed to show anything but stoic calm during this procedure.—WILLIAM P. BALDWIN, *Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, South Carolina.*

Great Blue Heron swallows large snake.—On October 28, 1944, as Donald J. Nicholson, Wray Nicholson, Joseph C. Howell, Jr., B. F. McCamey and I were driving eastward along the road between Titusville and Titusville Beach, across the peninsula just north of Merritt Island in Brevard County, Florida, we chanced to see an adult Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), with head hanging awkwardly forward, standing several rods north of the highway at the edge of a salt-water marsh. When we stopped the car, the bird lifted its head and we saw that it had half swallowed a thick-bodied snake about three and a half feet long. With convulsive movements of its neck and body, the heron succeeded in swallowing several more inches of the snake, then flew laboriously to another arm of the marsh fifty yards away. I believe the heron had killed the snake; but it might have found the reptile dead along the highway and carried it to one side to finish swallowing it. The snake was dark above and white, or almost white, below. It almost certainly was a water snake (*Natrix*) rather than a moccasin (*Agkistrodon*), since the latter is more or less heavily mottled with gray below.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *ADT Branch, AAF Center, Orlando, Florida.*

Some Louisiana observations.—While stationed at the Army Air Field near Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, from January 1 to mid-June, 1943, the writer had several opportunities to observe the bird life of the vicinity, and through the courtesy of several members of the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel in that Gulf Coast area, notably Mr. John J. Lynch, was enabled to visit the Lacassine and Sabine refuges of the Service in Cameron Parish. After comparison of roll calls and journal entries for this period with H. C. Oberholser's 'The Bird Life of Louisiana' (1938), the following observations seem worthy of record:

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis mexicana*.—On April 27, scores of individuals among some four hundred ibises present on the Lacassine Refuge marshes were satisfactorily identified as of this species. I stalked the first group patiently, through mud and stubble, in order to check facial markings but subsequently had several small groups fly close enough to be readily identified. None of the ibises observed at sufficiently close range lacked this specific field characteristic.