

arrived in its northern location on the bird to which it belonged. It is now in the American Museum. When one considers that the strong odor is the only reason this feather was originally collected and identified, one is moved to speculate that similarly interesting plumage may occur along the beaches more frequently than is supposed. Drifted feathers might be worth some attention.—DAVID G. NICHOLS, 181 Liberty Avenue, Westbury, New York.

Occurrence of the Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus i. ibis*, in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.—The first record of the Cattle Egret in Surinam on March 10, 1946 (Auk, 64: 143, 1947) proved of more importance than the mere observation of a straggler. In the same district I observed on December 12, 1946, two individuals on the bank of the Nickerie River.

On the afternoon of December 26, 1946, while driving to Meerzorg, on the right bank of the Surinam River, opposite Paramaribo, I observed flocks of Cattle Egrets in the fields on both sides of the road, in close association with feeding cattle. Returning to the same spot on December 28, there were three flocks of Cattle Egrets consisting of about 50, 30 and 25 birds, respectively. I succeeded in collecting a specimen. On January 11, 1947, I went again to the same locality and collected six more.

Now that I knew that this egret was numerous in the cultivated area on the right bank of the Surinam River I went searching for them in other places. It was found that the birds were equally common in the open fields on the left bank of the Surinam River, wherever there were cattle.

In the vast area along the Gemeene Landsweg (the road leading from Paramaribo westwards to the Saramacca River) and the Kwattaweg and all their byways, I observed at least 100 birds on January 15, 1947, and on February 12, 1947, about 200 birds. I collected two specimens here on February 21, 1947. In all, I collected ten specimens.

A further search revealed that the birds were also present at Domburg (about 20 kilometers up the Surinam River from Paramaribo, on its left bank) on February 8, 1947. So it became clear that *Bulbulcus ibis* was in fact the most numerous heron in all cultivated areas between the Surinam and Saramacca rivers. It also occurs in other districts of the coastal region; on March 14, 1947, I observed five birds near grazing cattle on a meadow at Coronie, about 45 kilometers due west of the mouth of the Coppename River. On May 5, 1947, there were at least 100 birds in the rice-fields on the right bank of the Corantijn River at Nieuw Nickerie. Until then I had never observed them, however, at Moengo on the Cottica River, the center of the bauxite mines, where a number of cattle are kept on a large meadow but which is perhaps too much an isolated place.

It further became clear that the egrets roosted in the low bushes along the Surinam River just opposite Paramaribo where the river makes a sharp hairpin curve to the south. This was, in fact, the main roost of all Cattle Egrets in the neighborhood of this town. The largest number (about 600) of egrets assembled in this roost was counted on February 10, 1947.

This roost was also used by the birds feeding on the left bank of the Surinam River. In the afternoon they could be seen crossing the river, flying low over the water to alight in the bushes. On January 7, 1948, I observed a flock of about 100 birds flying on a broad front, low over the houses of the town in the direction of the river. It reminded me very much of the flocks of Black-headed Gulls, *Larus ridibundus*, on their evening flight in Europe. It further became clear that the birds were present in these places during only a part of the year and that they were gone from all places

around Paramaribo by the end of April and the beginning of May. They returned in November after the harvest of the rice. On April 24, 1947, they had gone from all their favorite feeding grounds west of Paramaribo, and on May 10, 1947, they were not present anymore at Meerzorg. They were back at Meerzorg on November 4, 1947. In 1948, they had left Meerzorg by March 27; a single bird was seen on April 3. They came back into this area on November 14.

The question arises—where do these birds go in the meantime and where do they breed? I suspect that they all go to the coast, which is densely wooded with *Avicennia nitida*, to breed in some inaccessible place. There were no Cattle Egrets present, however, in a mixed colony of *Guara rubra*, *Leucophoyx thula*, *Hydranassa tricolor* and *Nyctanassa violacea* near the mouth of the Saramacca and Coppename rivers which I visited on June 5, 1948. That the birds do breed in this country is, however, certain. One of the birds collected at Meerzorg on January 11, 1947, had enlarged testes, and its plumage showed the beginning of its breeding dress. A male collected west of Paramaribo on February 21, 1947, also had enlarged testes. In February and March, all birds were in full breeding plumage.

As to the occurrence of the Cattle Egret in neighboring countries, I will draw attention to the fact that a second specimen, shot from a flock of eight birds, was obtained in Venezuela (Walter Dupouy, Primer Congreso de Ciencias Naturales, Caracas, pp. 1-5, 1948). As to British Guiana, Phelps (Bol. Soc. Venezolana de Ciencia Naturales, 10: 230-231, 1946) quotes an interesting letter from Mr. Hunter, owner of the sugar plantation 'Versailles' on the right bank of the Demarara River, who has observed flocks of Cattle Egrets in this area since 1930. How did this Old World species turn up in tropical South America? Several solutions are at hand. The first being that the bird was always indigenous but that it has been overlooked. This seems, however, extremely unlikely. In British Guiana, it certainly could not have escaped the attention of such a keen field ornithologist as the late J. J. Quelch. As for Surinam, I think it is out of question that it should not have been obtained by one of the numerous assistants of the three Penard brothers at the time their collections were brought together in the last part of the 19th and the beginning of the present century. Their principal collectors lived in the very area where the bird is at present numerous.

The second solution is that the flocks are descendants of escaped birds. This seems unlikely too, as I do not know of any zoological garden or aviculturist either in Surinam or in British Guiana in the last years. It is true, however, that *Bubulcus* breeds freely in captivity. According to the 'Handbook of British Birds' Vol. III, p. 144, a considerable number of Cattle Egrets have been released by the Zoological Society at the Whipsnade Zoo since 1931 and a few in 1930 in Surrey. Some have also been released (1929 and 1938) at the Dublin Zoo. These birds have wandered in all directions, even as far as Iceland, and have caused great confusion. I must stress, however, the fact that all these birds belonged to the Indian race, *B. i. coromandus*, which was imported. The specimens from Surinam (males, January 4, and February 21, 1947) which I sent to the American Museum of Natural History at New York, belong to the typical race *ibis*, according to Zimmer.

The last solution, which I believe the most likely one, is that some birds or a flock found its own way to the coastal region of tropical South America and settled in an area which proved favorable for the birds.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana.*

Concentration of Trumpeter Swans, *Cygnus buccinator*, in British Columbia in Winter.—In 'The Auk' (59: 100, 1942) there were published some notes on Trumpeter Swans in British Columbia, Canada, which were sent to me by Mr. Ralph