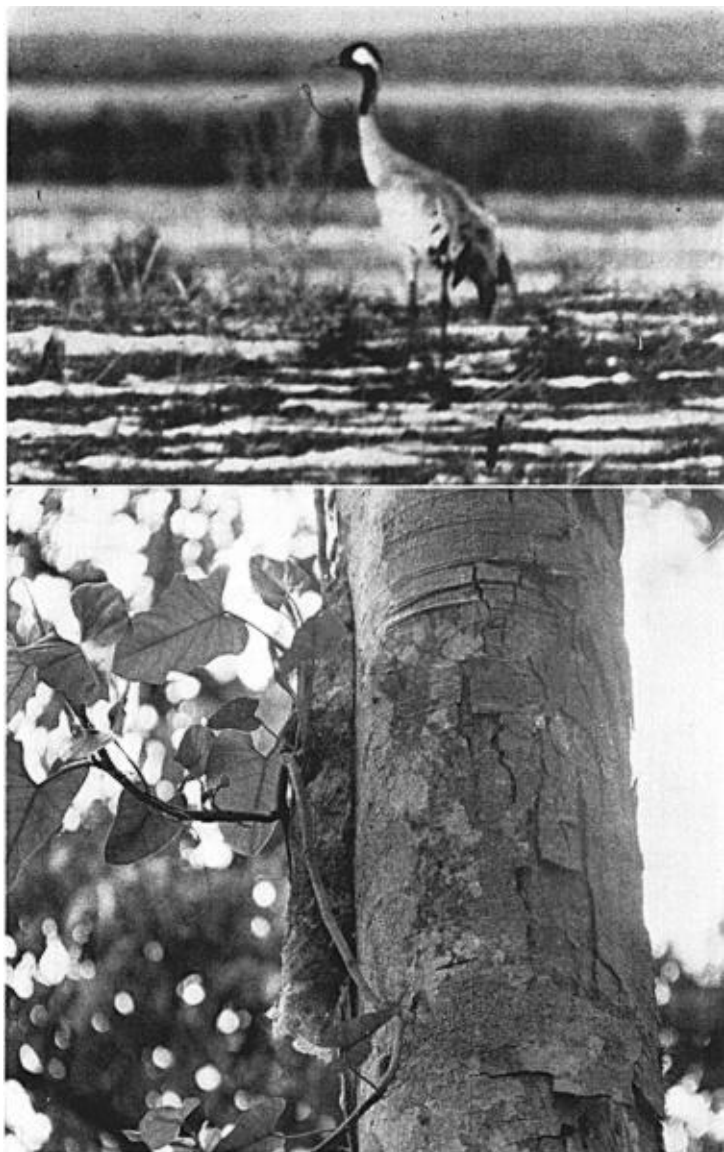


GENERAL NOTES

Earlier Photographic Records of the Common Crane (*Grus grus*) for North America—in Alberta, Canada.—The Common or Gray Crane (*Grus grus*) has been sighted and photographed in Alberta twice previous to, and once since, the Alaska observation, reported as the first for North America (Kessel and Kelley, Auk, 75: 465, 1958). On December 11, 1957 Fred Sharp observed a Common Crane frequenting a farm one mile northwest of Cavendish, Alberta. The crane fed in a wheat field each morning for about three weeks before departing on December 20. Sharp was able to take snapshots (Plate 13) and some fifty feet of 16 mm. movie film of the crane both in flight and on the ground. The literature locally available did not permit positive identification at that time. On March 20, 1958 the Common Crane was sighted again by Mr. E. Carr near the Stirling Lake area south of Lethbridge, Alberta, and the bird was photographed by the "Lethbridge Herald" photographer. Both photographic records were forwarded to Mr. K. C. Lint, Curator of Birds at the San Diego Zoological Gardens in California. He considered the bird probably *Grus grus lilfordi* and thought that it must have escaped from a private breeder or zoological garden. On April 24, 1958 the Alaska observation was made. On September 19, 1958 William Wishart observed and photographed a Common Crane with two Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*), feeding in a clover field five miles southeast of Athabasca, Alberta. (An identifiable print was sent to the editor of "The Auk".) The cranes rested in a slough for about an hour after feeding, took flight, and when last seen were headed southward.

It is interesting to note that the pattern of observations so far tend to follow the migration route of the Sandhill Crane. Some of the latter are known to inhabit northeastern Siberia, where an overlap of ranges with the eastern race of the Common Crane (*G. g. lilfordi*) might occur. The possibility exists that at least one Common Crane has been taking the North American route. WILLIAM WISHART, *Fish and Wildlife Division, Department of Lands and Forests, Edmonton, Alberta*, FRED SHARP, *Provincial Naturalist, Ducks Unlimited, Tilley, Alberta*.

Nesting of the Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*, in Guatemala.—Although the Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift has been taken in most of the Central American republics, the small population which has been reported in the lowlands of southeastern Mexico (southern Veracruz) was thought to be separated from the more southern populations by a great expanse of territory in southeastern Mexico, all of Guatemala and western Honduras. That *P. cayennensis* does occur within this assumed gap was demonstrated when the writer, accompanied by his wife and Miss Katrina Thompson of Houston, found an occupied nest of this swift on the side of a tree which grew on the steep bank sloping upward at the south edge of the Great Plaza in Tikal (altitude about 500 ft.), in the Peten region of Guatemala. This was on the morning of June 9, 1958, when I saw a single individual enter the nest. Within the next five minutes two individuals emerged from the nest, at an interval of a minute or two, and flew rapidly away. The nest, attached along its entire length to the tree-trunk, seemed to be similar to several which have been previously described for this species, being a long vertical tube constructed of the down associated with the seeds of some tropical plant. The tube was judged to be less than four inches in diameter at its thickest point, was about 20 inches long, and was placed approximately 20 feet above the base of the tree. (Plate 13, below.)



(Above) COMMON CRANE (*Grus grus*) near Cavendish, Alberta, December, 1957. (Photo. by Fred Sharp.)

(Below) NEST OF LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*). Tikal, Guatemala. June 9, 1958. (Photo. by Ernest P. Edwards.)

On the following day we saw two individuals flying high above the archaeological site in company with *Chaetura vauxi*. A little later one of the *P. cayennensis* broke away from the small group and dived swiftly toward the nest, but was lost to view when it reached tree-top level. A few moments later, with the nest again in sight, I saw what was doubtless the same bird drop head first out of the nest and fly rapidly away. Four times I saw a bird leave the nest and each time it followed the same general path, climbing gradually as it flew swiftly through the partially open cut where the road led into the forest toward the east. Twice when I saw an individual entering the nest it swept up from below with great speed, and went in with scarcely a pause, once affording a fleeting glimpse of the wings still outstretched when the bird was within a few inches of the nest. At that moment the wingspread was seen to be considerably less than the 12-inch diameter of the nest tree.

It is of interest to note that one week after finding the nest of *P. cayennensis* at Tikal we saw three individuals of the very similar, but much larger, Great Swallow-tailed Swift, *P. sancti-hieronymi*, in the vicinity of a canyon northeast of Guatemala City, at about 4,500 ft. elevation, at the 15 kilometer mark on the highway to Puerto Barrios.—ERNEST P. EDWARDS, *Museum of Natural History of Houston, Box 8175, Houston 4, Texas.*

Cattle Egret in Haiti.—On June 21, 1956, while driving north along the length of Highway #112 in the Department de L'Artibonite, Haiti, the writer, accompanied by his wife, estimated that more than 100 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were observed. Similar numbers were seen the following day during the trip south along the same route. The egrets were scattered among herds of grazing cattle. Individuals with the lores, proximal two-thirds or so of the mandibles, and the legs red, apparently breeding birds, were distinguished clearly. At that time Highway #112 extended for 20 kilometers, originating and terminating at Highway #100. The route passed through low, partly irrigated country, a considerable portion of which was then given over to cattle grazing. On June 24, 1956, small numbers of Cattle Egrets were found along the north shore of Etang Trou Caiman in the Department de L'Ouest. Several were observed standing on the backs of goats. A non-breeding male bird was collected in this area. The skin is now in the University of Miami Reference Collection.

Bond, in the First Supplement (1956: 2) to the "Check-List of Birds of West Indies" (1956), recorded a flock of Cattle Egrets seen in the Dominican Republic in January 1956, but does not mention any record from Haiti. The specimen is apparently the first to be collected on Hispaniola.

Several Haitian residents, familiar with the local birds, expressed surprise at learning that the Cattle Egret was resident in Haiti. It is of interest to document the spread of this recent invader from the Old World.—OSCAR T. OWRE, *University of Miami, Coral Gables 46, Florida.*

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) on Cozumel Island, Quintana Roo, Mexico.—On January 8, 1959, while visiting Cozumel Island, off the northeast coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, I saw, about 15 miles south of San Miguel, a Cattle Egret feeding on the ground a few inches ahead of a grazing horse. The bird seemed unusually fearless and permitted an approach to within about three yards, so that I was able to see a faint trace of buff on the top of the head. A local treasure hunter, who had previously told me about the bird, said that he had