

Pigeons over this City, that has been known for many Years past, so early in the Season."—CONSTANCE D. SHERMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Cattle Egrets on the Dry Tortugas.—The first known observation of Cattle Egrets (*Bulbulcus ibis*) on the Dry Tortugas, Florida was 1 January 1958. The Cattle Egret was again observed on 7 and 8 May 1960. On 7 May nine individuals were counted on Garden Key, and on 8 May 19 were seen. Since the island is only about one third by one sixth of a mile in size and sparsely vegetated, an exact count was easily possible. The Cattle Egret does not appear in Sprunt's (1951) "A List of the Birds of the Dry Tortugas Keys."

A cold front traveling east passed the Tortugas at about 1:00 A.M. on 8 May. The southerly winds favorable to northbound migrants that prevailed during the previous day were replaced by northwest winds. In addition, electrical storms and heavy precipitation appeared. A large number of migrants appeared on Garden Key, and the number of species seen rose from 33 on 7 May to 77 on 8 May. Perhaps it is also worthy of note that although no Green Herons were seen on 7 May, about 10 were present on 8 May. This information is mentioned to demonstrate that the birds appearing 8 May were evidently part of a migratory wave that had departed from Cuba, the Yucatan Peninsula, or some other southern point during a period of favorable weather. Since it seems unlikely that the additional 10 birds on 8 May would have come from the mainland to the north or from the Florida Keys (Key West is about 68 miles to the east), one is forced to conclude that they were northbound migrants forced down on the Dry Tortugas along with the other migrant species.

These observations suggest a hypothetical route by which the Cattle Egret may have invaded the United States and provide strongly suggestive information in regard to the migratory activity of the species. Although it is well established that the species withdraws in autumn from breeding areas in the northern states and that the majority appear to winter in Florida, it has not been determined whether the Florida breeding population is migratory or sedentary. The season of these observations is certainly not typical of the postbreeding wandering of the herons. Therefore, we must ask whether this represents merely haphazard wandering or part of an annual migratory pattern.—IRA JOEL ABRAMSON, *1070 South Shore Drive, Miami Beach, Florida*.

Clay-colored Robin in Texas.—In May 1959 a Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) was reported in Bentsen State Park three miles west and three miles south of Mission, Texas. The bird was first seen on 14 May by Mrs. L. H. McConnell, wife of the park manager. During the following week it was observed by a number of ornithologists both from the lower Rio Grande Delta and from out of state. Among the observers were Luther Goldman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., and Alexander Sprunt IV of Charleston, South Carolina.

Bentsen State Park is about 600 acres in extent and lies just west of a large bend of the Rio Grande. The vegetation is typical of the "river brush" of this area—the more heavily wooded sections being composed of large ebony (*Pithecolobium flexicaule*), mesquite (*Prosopis*), native ash (*Fraxinus berlandierana*), elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and anaqua (*Ehretia anacua*), mixed in with the usual catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*), granjeno (*Celtis pallida*), brasil (*Condalia obovata*), allthorn (*Koberlinia spinosa*), and other small shrubs.

Openings are normally covered with a luxuriant growth of weeds and various other annuals, many of which reach a height of seven to eight feet.

The Clay-colored Robin was most frequently seen in or near a section of ebony trees where there was dense undergrowth of small shrubs and large weeds. It was in a rather low-lying area near a shallow stream bed, in a habitat almost identical to ones in which I have frequently seen the bird in Mexico.

It apparently remained in the park for at least three weeks, being last reported by Mrs. McConnell about 8 June. During this time it was observed by a number of visiting ornithologists and was photographed by P. B. Myers of McAllen, Texas. A kodachrome slide of the bird provided by Mr. Myers has been sent to Dr. George H. Lowery and is now on file at the Louisiana State University Museum.

The only previous record of the Clay-colored Robin in Texas appears to be a sight record published by L. Irby Davis in "Bird Lore," vol. 42 (3), May-June Supplement, 1940, although there has been at least one unconfirmed and unpublished report of the bird in the same area within the last few years.—PAULINE JAMES, Associate Professor of Biology, Pan American College, Edinburg, Texas.

Canada Geese Nesting on a Beaver Lodge.—The benefit of a beaver (*Castor canadensis*) pond for nesting and migrating waterfowl has been reported in the literature and is generally accepted by most investigators. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) lodges have been reported by Williams and Nelson (Auk, 60: 341-345, 1943) as being influential ecological factors and add considerably to the nesting value for Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) of certain emergent environments, notably cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and alkali bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.). Beaver lodges may have a similar influence on the nesting value of certain areas for Canada geese.

On 23 April 1960 the author observed an unusual commensal interaction between a beaver colony and a pair of Canada Geese. A nest containing three eggs was observed on top of an active beaver lodge in the Conneaut marsh located in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

On 28 May 1960 it was observed that the clutch was successful, and that the beavers had not interfered with incubation. The beaver colony and the Canada Geese shared the same lodge with no serious consequences resulting to either.—FRED J. BRENNER, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Great Black-backed Gulls Killing Dovekies.—On 16 November 1959 there was a Dovekie "wreck" on Cape Cod, which centered at Bodfish Park, East Sandwich, at the head of Cape Cod Bay. During the second day of a northeast gale observers there watched for two and a half hours as an estimated thousand Dovekies (*Plautus alle alle*) were driven ashore by a 50-mile-an-hour wind, which was directly onshore. The dramatic scene was described to me by the marine biologist, Colonel E.S. Clark, with whose permission I am recording the following details.

Flocks averaging about 25 Dovekies each were blown in, one after another, and, attempting to land on the six-foot waves crashing on the shore, were hurled to the beach. Here, on the sand or in small pools, they were pounced upon by the Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) hovering over the area. Picked up in a gull's bill, the Dovekie was carried high over the parking area and dropped directly on the black-top surface. The gull followed it down, tore it apart, and swallowed the pieces. If the Dovekie was able to break its fall by spread wings, the gull picked