

Refugio, Texas, both competent ornithologists, I observed Cattle Egrets at two different localities. On 13 April 1961 we saw 11 about 75 km (45 miles) south-east of Villa Hermosa, Tabasco. The birds were about 15 meters from the road in a swampy pasture with a herd of cattle. Some were perched on the back of a cow, and others were on the ground scattered among the herd. Later the same day we observed 11 more about eight km (five miles) farther east, but these were possibly the same birds. On 14 April 1961 two Cattle Egrets were seen on the backs of cattle about 10 km (six miles) east of Villa Hermosa. Again, on 17 April 1961, five Cattle Egrets were seen about 12 km (seven miles) north of Tampico, Tamaulipas. These were also in an open pasture scattered among a herd of cattle. No specimens were taken, as the yellow bill, buffy crown, and buff along the back precludes confusion with any other species. Cattle Egrets have been reported in Guatemala by Smith and Land (*Auk*, 77: 218, 1960) and in Quintana Roo by Denham (*Auk*, 76: 359, 1959), but these are believed to be the first records for Tabasco and Tamaulipas.—COL. L. R. WOLFE, *Kerrville, Texas*.

**Recovery of Bird Band from an Owl Pellet.**—On 18 January 1961, while repairing goose nesting islands in Pool 1 at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, Michigan, a large, freshly regurgitated owl pellet—presumably a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)—was found on one of the islands. Upon examining the pellet, a Fish and Wildlife Service bird band, No. 546-35934, was found. No mechanical distortion of the band had occurred, and apparently it had been unaffected by the digestive processes. The band was attached to the leg of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The leg, from the toes to the tibia, had been regurgitated intact. Freshly plucked feathers from a Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) were found on the ground near the pellet.

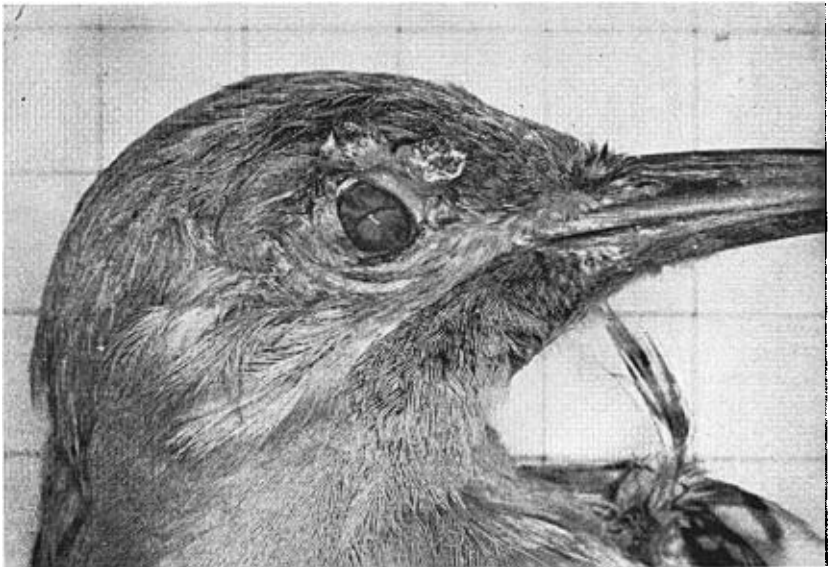
It was found that the coot had been banded at the refuge 13 September 1960. Presumably the coot was one of a small number that remained on the refuge in a small, open-water area after freeze-up in December.—RALPH H. TOWN, *Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, Michigan*.

**Loss of 1,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes.**—On 10 November 1960 Don Price, Wildlife Conservation Officer from Clovis, and I observed a number of dead Lesser Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) along State Highway 330 north of Elida, New Mexico. These birds were in a badly decomposed condition, and the cause of death could not be determined. At first we believed the birds had been killed either by poachers from the nearby highway or by coyotes, which are numerous in this area. Additional investigations into these losses revealed 15 more dead birds around a windmill stock tank on the Jake McCabe ranch. Mr. McCabe was contacted, and he stated that a hailstorm on 15 October had killed these birds. While talking he pointed out numerous House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in his yard that had also been killed. He said the storm began about 0330 and lasted for approximately 30 minutes. He also mentioned that additional dead cranes could be found around Lewiston Lake also located on his property. We made a trip to this lake, but did not arrive until after sundown, and no count of dead birds could be made.

On 15 November Charles Q. Heumier, U.S. Game Management Agent of Roswell, New Mexico, and I returned to Lewiston Lake and walked around part of the shoreline where the largest concentration of dead birds appeared. We counted 720 dead cranes. Many of the birds had been dragged from the shoreline

into the brush surrounding the lake. This appeared to be the work of coyotes, which were frequently seen during the investigation. On 23 November a survey was made in the Game Department aircraft. Many dead cranes were observed on the prairies up to a mile away from the lake. Additional dead cranes, not previously counted, were observed on the shoreline of Lewiston Lake. From this flight and from previous counts we estimated that the actual loss exceeded 1,000 cranes.—GEORGE W. MERRILL, *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

**Observation of Avian Pox in a Yellow-shafted Flicker.**—Avian pox, a viral infection manifested in both cutaneous and diphtheritic forms, is a common disease among domestic and wild birds (Cunningham, C. H., 1952. *In* H. E., Biester and L. H. Schwarte, Ed., *Diseases of Poultry*, Chap. 25. Iowa State Coll. Press, Ames. 1,245 pp.). The writers collected a live, female Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) near Donovan, Illinois, on 29 April 1960, which showed cutaneous, wartlike lesions on the right eyelid (Figure 1). This infection was histopathologically diagnosed as avian pox by the diagnostic laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois. The bird was capable of manipulating its eyelid despite the large lesions, and seemed to exhibit normal vision. Lesions, other than those on the eyelid, were not found on this bird. No attempt was made to isolate the strain of virus causing this pox infection. To the best of our knowledge, the infection of Yellow-shafted Flickers by avian pox has not been previously reported *in litt.*—RONALD F. LABISKY and STUART H. MANN, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*



**Figure 1.** Avian pox, manifested in cutaneous, wartlike lesions, on the eyelid of a female Yellow-shafted Flicker. Photograph by William E. Clark, Illinois Natural History Survey Photographer.