

Approximately 300 Myrtle Warblers were feeding on the ground among the Cattle Egrets.

The only other instance of avian predation by the Cattle Egret of which I am aware was that observed by Alexander Sprunt IV (R. S. Palmer [ed.], *Handbook of North American birds*, vol. 1, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press, 1962; see p. 448), who saw a Myrtle Warbler swallowed by a Cattle Egret at Clewiston, Florida, 3 February 1958. Palmer (*op. cit.*) gives no records of predation by Cattle Egrets on birds in the old world. Apparently this seldom or never occurs, as investigation of such appropriate general and regional sources as Baker, Bannerman, Mackworth-Praed and Grant on Africa, and Witherby *et al.* (*Handbook of British birds*, London, Witherby, 1938-1941), fail to reveal any records of predation on birds by the Cattle Egret. McLachlan and Liversidge (*in* A. Roberts, *The birds of South Africa*, Cape Town, Cape Times Ltd., 1957; see p. 61) list "young birds" as food items for the Cattle Egret, but do not indicate species or frequency of consumption.

Predation by the Cattle Egret on birds may occur elsewhere, perhaps more frequently than presently known, but it seems highly possible to me that Cattle Egrets may have been conditioned to this habit in the Dry Tortugas due to the scarcity of insect food there. At these remote islands I have found four dead and three dying Cattle Egrets, plus dead passerine birds of several species, presumably the results of exhaustion or starvation or both. The Tortugas are much used as a resting area for migrant birds, including Cattle Egrets. The small numbers of insects present are gleaned by the many passing migrants. Many small passerine birds are found on the ground, exhausted, and afford easy prey. Killing of healthy birds could even result from experience gained by feeding upon dead or dying birds lying on the ground. Other ornithologists who visited the Dry Tortugas in May and June, 1962, also observed small birds being eaten by Cattle Egrets. Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr. (pers. comm.), observed Cattle Egrets soaking warblers in fresh water before swallowing them.—RICHARD L. CUNNINGHAM, *Everglades National Park, Flamingo, Florida.*

Wing-stretching of Red-bellied Woodpeckers.—Kilham (*Auk*, 76: 527-528, 1959) first called attention to the probability that the typical synchronized leg-wing stretch movement of many members of the class Aves (Eibl-Eibesfeldt and Kramer, *Quart. Rev. Biol.*, 33: 181-211, 1958) was not found in woodpeckers. Members of the family Picidae stretch one wing down while keeping both feet firmly planted. I have found in my studies of the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) a somewhat different behavior pattern than that reported by Kilham.

In approximately 900 hours of observations of this woodpecker in 1962 near Carbon-dale, Illinois, I observed wing-stretching on many occasions. Typically, it was divided into two phases. First, a bird would extend both wings backward and downward, below the longitudinal axis of the body; the primaries at the culmination of the phase would be spread and would extend beyond the tip of the tail. The bird would then return its wings to a normal position along the back. The second phase, which would follow without any appreciable break, involved raising the wings so that they were perpendicular to the back, although the plane of the manus was still parallel to the longitudinal plane of the body (the "double wing-neck stretch" movement of Eibl-Eibesfeldt and Kramer, *op. cit.*: 183). On only one occasion did I see a bird omit phase two when stretching its wings.—DAVID W. STICKEL, *Department of Zoology, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.*