

it is notable that they differ in at least degree in more characters (6) than they agree in (2, and possibly 4). In view of the fact that hybrids between the two widgeons are both readily produced in captivity and are fertile (Gray, *Bird hybrids*, Edinburgh, Commonwealth Agr. Bureaux, 1958), it would be of interest to study the morphological characteristics of hybrids of known ancestry. Perhaps such studies might yield some clues as to the ancestry of these two hybrids.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Rockbridge Alum Springs and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Route 2, Goshen, Virginia 24439. Present address: Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware 19807. Accepted 24 Aug. 70.*

**Great White Heron captures and eats Black-necked Stilt.**—An Coot Bay Pond, Everglades National Park, Florida, about midday on 7 December 1969, we watched two Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) feeding along the edge of the pond next to the road with herons of several species. One of the stilts passed under overhanging foliage of red mangrove close to a Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*). The heron, with a quick stab, seized the stilt by the upper part of one leg. We tried to frighten the heron, only a short distance away, into releasing the stilt, but it took wing and, with the struggling and fluttering stilt dangling from its bill, flew easily to the far side of the pond. The stilt, apparently not yet badly hurt, continued to struggle and to call loudly.

The heron maintained its hold upon the stilt's leg for about 10 minutes, repositioning its grasp several times. For a brief moment it appeared to lose its grip entirely, but the stilt, evidently now much weakened, did not escape. The heron then extended its grip to a portion of the rump, achieving a more secure grasp. During the next 10 minutes, the heron shifted the stilt about, grasping it by the main body. The stilt soon stopped struggling and seemed dead. In the next few minutes the heron swallowed the head, neck, and anterior portion of the body while the wings, tail and legs still dangled from its mandibles. The heron lowered its head and appeared to wet the stilt in the water. At this point, unfortunately, we had to leave and we did not see the heron swallow the rest of the stilt.

Hérons apparently capture and eat birds not uncommonly. Audubon (Ornithol. Biogr., 3, 1835) described such activities by captive Great White Herons and also (op. cit.) noted that the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) feeds upon marsh-hens, rails, and other birds.—CLARK S. OLSON, *Biology Department, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124* and H. MCCLURE JOHNSON, *National Hurricane Center, U.S. Weather Bureau, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124. Accepted 31 Aug. 70.*

***Collyriclum faba*: a new host and distributional record from California.**—Four individuals of colonies of Cliff Swallows, *Petrochelidon p. pyrrhonota*, banded in California were found to harbor the trematode *Collyriclum faba*. This constitutes both a new host and a new distributional record, and is only the third report of this parasite from birds from the western United States.

In the present study 823 individual Cliff Swallows were banded (February–June 1967) at seven colonies near Folsom, El Dorado County, California. Of these, 377 individuals were banded in one colony, of which 210 individuals were carefully checked for fat, molt, brood patch, and cloacal conditions. Four adult females in breeding condition were found to harbor *C. faba*. The first of these infected birds was taken on 18 June 1967. It had one nodule near its cloaca containing two flukes enclosed in a subcutaneous cyst. A second bird captured 24 June 1967 had four similar

nodules near the cloaca. These were opened, the cysts removed, and the bird released. Each of two additional birds captured 28 June 1967 had three nodules near the cloaca. Two flukes were removed from each of the contained cysts, after which the hosts were released. One of the two birds taken 28 June 1967 was recaptured on 30 June 1968 and found to be uninfected.

Farner and Morgan (Auk, 61: 421, 1944) reported *C. faba* to have parasitized 26 species of birds in the Holarctic, and 11 species in the Nearctic as follows: Domestic Fowl, *Gallus gallus*; Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*; Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*; Common Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*; White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*; Robin, *Turdus migratorius*; House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*; Redwinged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*; Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*; Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*; Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*. Bychovskaya-Pavlovskaya and Khotenovsky (Parazit. Sb., 22: 207, 1964) reported 29 species of known hosts, none of them new to the Nearctic list. Farner and Morgan's (loc. cit.) list showed *C. faba* restricted in the Nearctic to the eastern and north central United States. From the eastern United States Kibler (Bull. Wildl. Dis. Assoc., 4: 100, 1968) reported the Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, as a new host. McNeil (Auk, 77: 355, 1960) reported from Washington the first occurrence of *C. faba* west of the Great Plains in a new host, Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*. This was followed by a report by Canaris (Auk, 83: 139, 1966) of the parasite in the Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, in Oregon. These reports expand the Holarctic host list of *C. faba* to 33 species, and the Nearctic list to 15 species of birds. The distributional centers in the Nearctic appear to be three, namely: the eastern United States (Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York), the north central states (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and the west coast states (California, Oregon, and Washington).

As the distributional ranges of the known hosts of *C. faba* cover nearly the entire Nearctic, the distribution of *C. faba* must be limited only by its intermediate host(s). The recent records of *C. faba* in the West may reflect an increase in activity of field ornithologists in that region, rather than an expansion of the range of *C. faba*. Hopefully further occurrences of this parasite will be reported so that its distribution, life cycle, and relationship to its hosts can be determined.

I am indebted to O. Burnetti of the California Department of Fish and Game and to J. S. Mackiewicz of the State University of New York at Albany for identification of *C. faba*.—STEVEN SPEICH, *Department of Biological Sciences, Sacramento State College, Sacramento, California 95819. Present address: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.* Accepted 28 Sep. 70.

**Red-tailed Hawk preys on Cattle Egret.**—While watching a pair of Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*) 25 May 1970 in an open pasture 2 miles west of Trenton, Gilchrist County, Florida, at 13:25 we saw the owls turn and look toward a group of 30 to 40 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) foraging some 100 m away. Suddenly the egrets flew as an adult-plumaged Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) approached in close pursuit behind a flock of 6 or 7 egrets. The hawk struck the last bird in the flock about 2 m off the ground and its momentum carried them both to the ground. After standing on the egret for about a minute, the hawk carried the dead egret to a fence post about 100 m away, sat there for several minutes, and then flew with the egret into some trees where we lost sight of it.

Records of predation on the abundant, conspicuously-colored, open-field foraging Cattle Egret are rare. Carr (Ulendo, New York, A. A. Knopf, 1964, pp. 212–217) writes of a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), trained to kill cotton rats (*Sigmodon*