

Several differences in the very similar nestlings of the Common and Snowy egrets were observed. The top of the toes and the tarsus of the Snowies usually contrasted in color whereas no similar contrast was seen in the Common Egrets; the beak of all the Snowies had some black while no Common Egrets observed had any. The location of nests was a great aid in separating the species because the Snowies almost invariably placed their nests at heights from ground level to eight or ten feet, whereas the Common Egrets' nests were usually from eight to twenty-five feet up in the trees.

In spite of the very heavy growth of poison oak on the island, nineteen Snowy Egrets, five Common Egrets, and nine Black-crowned Night Herons were banded.—C. JOHN RALPH and CLEMENT L. RALPH, *Berkeley, California, July 25, 1957.*

Nesting of a Jacamar in a Termite Nest.—Apart from the fine life history of the jacamar *Galbula ruficauda melanogenia* (Skutch, Auk, 54, 1937:135-146) there is little published information available on the nesting of the jacamars (Galbulidae). Most handbooks contain the general statement that these birds nest in holes in banks.

In Surinam I often met jacamars (*Galbula dea*, *Galbula galbula* and *Galbula leucogastra*) in flat forest land and I sometimes wondered where they would be able to dig their nest holes.



Fig. 1. Inside of termite nest showing an almost fully fledged nestling of the jacamar *Galbula leucogastra*; July 21, 1957.

On July 21, 1957, I noticed a termite nest at the height of about 6 meters in a tree at the edge of the forest near Zanderij, Surinam. There was a hole in it that looked like a woodpecker hole and the unmistakable notes of a jacamar were heard nearby. In order to examine the hole I cut the tree with my machete and opened the termite nest. In the middle of it was a circular chamber in which an almost fully fledged nestling of the jacamar *Galbula leucogastra* was sitting (fig. 1). The nest chamber measured 8×8 cms. and the entryway had a length of 6 cms. The termite nest was inhabited by termites but they were not in the nest chamber of the jacamar. The nest chamber and the entryway had a black color that contrasted with the brown color of the termitarium. It would have been interesting to watch the reactions of the termites when the birds were digging their nest chamber.

The nestling *Galbula leucogastra* is now in the Leiden Museum under my field number 2954.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, August 25, 1957.*