

**Three Southern Herons in California.**—It appears as if there is a regular dispersal of "southern" herons, namely the Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*), the Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*), and possibly the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), northward to coastal southern California, and along the Colorado River, from their breeding grounds in Mexico.

Huey (Condor, 46, 1944:201) states that the Louisiana Heron was a regular winter visitor in the San Diego area between 1932 and 1940, with as many as five birds present in 1935. Since that time Mission Bay at San Diego has been "improved," and almost all the suitable habitat for herons has been destroyed. San Diego Bay still has a small area along the southern shore that is suitable for herons. The marsh at the mouth of the Tia Juana River, Imperial Beach, San Diego County, is still mostly undisturbed and has excellent habitat for herons. Since 1940 there appears to have been a decline in the numbers of Louisiana Herons visiting coastal southern California, though the species continues to occur. Small (Audubon Field Notes, 3, 1949: 185) saw one in the San Diego area on February 2, 1949; Carl Trowbridge noted one in the same area on November 29, 1956 (*ibid.*, 11, 1957:59); Arthur G. Morley observed one on San Diego Bay on April 13, 1958 (*ibid.*, 12, 1958:385); and on May 7, 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Robinson observed an individual near Carlsbad, San Diego County (*ibid.*, 12, 1958:385).

I had an immature Louisiana Heron under observation in the marshes at Imperial Beach between December 9, 1962, and February 9, 1963. During the fall of 1963 there appeared to be a major influx of these birds into California. On October 12, Dr. Gerald Collier saw an individual in the marshes at Imperial Beach, and on October 25 I found two immatures in the same marsh; these birds remained in this area until October 29. I saw an immature bird on San Diego Bay on October 26 and another immature bird at the mouth of the San Diego River on October 27. At Solana Beach, San Diego County, I saw up to six birds, five immatures and an adult, between November 1 and the time of writing. In addition a single individual was seen at Goleta, Santa Barbara County, on November 9 and 10 by at least three observers including Mr. and Mrs. Russ Willson of Los Angeles.

Along the Colorado River Gale Monson has noted the Louisiana Heron on at least two occasions: an adult on the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge near Yuma on October 13, 1954 (Audubon Field Notes, 9, 1955:46), and an immature in the same area between September 8 and 30, 1955 (*ibid.*, 10, 1956:45).

These records indicate that this species occurs most often during the fall, with some individuals remaining through the winter and on into the spring, most of the records being of immature birds. From my experience these birds seem to prefer the narrow tidal channels in the pickle-weed (*Salicornia*) where they quietly hunt for food.

Huey (*loc.cit.*) states that the Reddish Egret had been observed twice in the San Diego area in the fall and winter period. In addition to this a single bird was seen near Coronado, San Diego County, on September 25, 1937 (Delareuelle, Condor, 40, 1938:183), and an immature was collected at Havasu Lake, San Bernardino County, on September 9, 1954 (Monson, Condor, 60, 1958:191).

In the last six years there have been additional records of the Reddish Egret along the coast of southern California. Mr. Arthur G. Moreley saw one in the San Diego area on April 19, 1958 (Audubon Field Notes, 12, 1958:385); Mr. C. F. Tolman reported that an individual was at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, on July 9, 1962 (*ibid.*, 16, 1962:507); Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Robinson had an individual under observation near Leucadia, San Diego County, between September 11 and 18, 1962 (*ibid.*, 17, 1963:67); and Mr. Ted Chandik and others had an immature under observation at Bolsa Chica, Orange County, between October 6 and 13, 1963.

I have seen a total of five Reddish Egrets along the coast in the past three years. An immature was first noted at Newport, Orange County, on November 16, 1961, and, according to Miss Fern Zimmerman, the bird remained until May, 1962, during which time it was seen by numerous people; I saw the bird once on December 11, and again on January 28. On May 5, 1962, I found an adult and an immature together on the mud-flats at the south end of San Diego Bay; these two birds normally stayed together and were last seen by Mr. R. O. Paxton on June 27, 1962. On October 12, 1963, Gerald Collier noted two immatures together at Imperial Beach; I first saw these birds on October 23 when I was able to collect one; the specimen is now deposited in the San Diego Natural History Museum. According to Richard C. Banks, who prepared the specimen, the bird was an immature male of the race *dickeyi*, the second specimen from California. The other individual remained in the area until November 6, 1963.

In addition to the specimen collected along the Colorado River there are three other records from there. Monson noted an immature Reddish Egret on the Imperial Refuge between October 1, 1954, and March 3, 1955 (Audubon Field Notes, 9, 1955:275); on November 19, 1955, Mr. H. Irby reported seeing an immature on the Imperial Refuge (*ibid.*, 10, 1956:45); and on September 2, 1960, Monson saw another immature on the same refuge (*ibid.*, 15, 1961:63).

It appears as if the Reddish Egret is becoming more regular in southern California, and recently records of this species have almost equalled those of the Louisiana Heron. Most records are of immature birds during the fall, with some individuals remaining through the winter and on into the spring. There is also evidence of some northward movement in the spring. Every time that I have seen this species it has been in areas of open mud-flats and shallow water, and here the birds "stagger" around with open wings catching food.

On November 3, 1962, while looking at birds with John Bishop, we saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the marsh at Imperial Beach. The bird did not associate with the Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) that were also present; it was exceedingly wary and it was not seen after this date, although I searched the area thoroughly. On October 22, 1963, I again saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Imperial Beach, and with the help of Jay M. Sheppard I managed to collect the bird on October 25. The specimen is now in the San Diego Natural History Museum, and according to Dr. Banks, who prepared the specimen, the bird was an adult (unsexed) of the race *bancrofti*. This appears to be the first time that this race has been collected north of the Mexican border; the specimen is the first from California. A bird that was most probably an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron remained with Black-crowned Night Herons at Solana Beach, San Diego County, from November 1 to 11, 1963. The bird was independently identified by three separate observers including myself during this time; I based my identification on the fact that the legs extended well beyond the end of the tail when the bird was in flight.

In addition to these records an individual is reported to have been photographed near Venice, Los Angeles County, in late June of 1951 (Audubon Field Notes, 5, 1951:308). An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron remained in the Claremont District, Los Angeles County, between March 27 and April 6, 1963 (*ibid.*, 17, 1963:434); this bird was clearly photographed by Mr. L. A. Shelton on April 3, 1963, and a color slide is now in the San Diego Natural History Museum. What may have been the same bird was seen by many observers at Harbor Park, Los Angeles County, during late May of 1963 (*ibid.*, 17, 1963:434).

The Reddish Egret and the Louisiana Heron are easily identified in the adult and immature plumages, and these birds are not likely to be confused with any of the herons occurring commonly along the California coast. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is only readily identified in the adult plumage, the immature being almost identical to the immature Black-crowned Night Heron in appearance. Most of the records of the Louisiana Heron and the Reddish Egret are of immature birds, which indicates that it is the immature birds that are most prone to wandering; if this is also the case with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, the immature birds would be mostly overlooked, and it is therefore likely that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is also a regular vagrant to southern California, since four adult birds have so far been detected.—R. G. McCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, December 31, 1963.*

**Status of the Harris Hawk in Kansas.**—The Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) has long been considered a vagrant in the central United States. The finding of a nest in 1963 in southwestern Kansas, however, definitely establishes it as breeding there. A recent observation elsewhere in Kansas suggests that it may be more than a casual breeder.

The earliest known Kansas record of the species dates back to 1918 when Snyder (Auk, 36, 1919:567) found a male that had been "shot" near the Little Arkansas River in Wichita, Sedgwick County. The specimen was mounted and placed in the Snyder collection. On December 25 of that same year, a female was shot near Lawrence, Douglas County, and the specimen was placed in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History at Lawrence. Apparently there have been additional sight records but none of them has been published.

During the first week of January in 1962, an adult female Harris Hawk was caught in a pole trap near the state pheasant pens within Meade County State Park, about 14 miles southwest of