

and white clover (*Trifolium repens*) for about 20 feet and took flight. Gradually gaining altitude, it flew between two houses, turned down the street, and at an altitude of about 40 feet disappeared among some trees approximately 500 feet from the starting point. Bent (1919. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 107:44) states that the Pied-billed Grebe "... seems to be incapable of rising from the ground [to fly]." In the exceptional case I observed, the short grass and clover, like water, gave proper resistance to the rapidly moving feet for impetus to aid the wings in successfully taking flight.—NICHOLAS L. CUTHBERT, *Biology Department, Central Michigan College of Education, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, June 30, 1954.*

Hudsonian Curlew and Knot in Colorado.—During the spring migration of 1953 I made almost daily observation trips around Union Reservoir, a natural lake covering approximately 600 acres in Weld County, Colorado, three miles east of Longmont. On May 15 I saw six small curlews feeding along the south shore of the lake. Careful scrutiny revealed the characteristic markings of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius phaeopus*), a species that, during more than twenty years of bird study, I had never before seen in either Colorado or Nebraska. One bird, a female, was collected and is in the skin collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History (No. 26738). Dr. A. M. Bailey, Director of the museum, confirmed my opinion as to the rarity of the species in Colorado, there being only one or two other records in the literature I have examined.

On May 18, 1953, a Knot (*Calidris canutus*) was collected at almost the same spot on the shore of Union Reservoir. Upon receipt of the specimen, a male, Dr. Bailey wrote, "So far as I can find, this is the first record of the Knot for Colorado." There is no record for Nebraska, but the species has been reported in Kansas. The skin (No. 26737) is now in the Denver Museum.—MRS. CARL N. COLLISTER, *Hover Road, Longmont, Colorado, April 14, 1954.*

Fish Crows "de-lousing" cattle.—Bent (1946. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 191:279) in his account of the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), citing N. B. Moore's notes, made many years ago, says that "these crows alight on the backs of cattle, to pick up the ticks that are burrowing into the skin and sucking the life blood from, as well as annoying, these animals; this may be an ancient habit, as it does not seem to have been recently observed."

Payne's Prairie, a 13,000 acre wet prairie south of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, supports many large herds of cattle. Fish Crows are common in this area. On the morning of 21 March 1954 we observed a Fish Crow perched on a cow's back; it was repeatedly pecking about the cow's pelvic region, near the base of the tail. Another crow, which was on the ground behind the cow, flew to the cow's back. After threats from both birds, the first bird left, and the second bird began pecking at the cow. It soon flew off, whereupon the first bird returned and continued pecking. The cow ignored the birds, except for once nuzzling its back, causing one of the crows to flutter up momentarily.

The crows were obviously picking ectoparasites from the cow; whether they were ticks, lice, or bots, we cannot say, since it was impracticable to examine the cow. A number of other species of birds, including the closely related Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), have been observed "de-lousing" hoofed mammals (Rothschild and Clay, 1952. "Fleas, Flukes and Cuckoos").—DALE W. RICE AND EDWARD L. MOCKFORD, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, March 25, 1954.*