

only it was tan in color and had no bare skin on its face." He again studied the birds with field glasses as they waded about in the open part of the slough.

No birds returned to this area the following year or thereafter. Mr. Vejtasa reports that the last whoopers he saw were three birds seen in company with a flock of several hundred Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) on May 2, 1912, about eight miles east of Edmore, Ramsey County. The birds were feeding in a stubble field and in a nearby slough.—EDMUND A. HIBBARD, *Windsor, North Dakota, July 18, 1955.*

**Behavior of Purple Martins with displaced nests.**—Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) have nested in community bird houses maintained on the campus of Kent State University for many years. In June of 1955, while nesting was in progress, a violent type of behavior was observed as the result of one of the martin houses being shifted in position. This one, having 16 compartments, is located on a pole set between two college buildings. On June 4 Mr. William Kline, one of the maintenance men on the campus, observed that the martin house had been turned during the previous night through an angle of 180°. The pole on which the house rests is a hollow pipe which can be revolved on its standard. That morning two male Purple Martins which had been pecked to death were found lying on the ground along with five or six smashed eggs. The birds, bleeding from being pecked in the head, and the eggs were still warm when found. The house was then returned to its original position. On June 15 it was discovered that the house had been turned again during the previous night, this time through an angle of about 90°. Two newly-hatched nestlings, blind and naked, and six smashed eggs were found on the ground. The person or persons responsible for turning the house and the reasons for doing so were not known, but probably it was done as a campus prank. Apparently the Purple Martins became confused when the nests were displaced so that they entered the wrong compartments which led to the killing of two adult males on one occasion, the destruction of two nestlings in the other, and the destruction of half a dozen eggs each time.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, July 29, 1955.*

**American Egret feeding with cattle.**—Rice (1954. *Auk*, 71:472-3) discussed the phenomenon of symbiotic feeding of Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) with cattle and mentioned that he had no knowledge of a similar association by American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*).

On May 22, 1955, Thomas R. Hellier, Jr., and I were observing a flock of at least 100 Snowy Egrets feeding with cattle in a pasture 12½ miles west of Vero Beach, Indian River Co., Florida. No Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were observed, although the locality is only about 35 miles from Okeechobee, where they are numerous. I identified (verified by Hellier) a single American Egret standing in front of, and facing, the head of a cow. No other egrets were associated with this cow. The bird appeared more skittish than the Snowy Egrets, and, unlike them, seemed quite wary of the cow. However, I definitely observed it to capture at least one insect which had been flushed by the cow. Shortly afterward the bird flew to another cow (also unaccompanied by other egrets) where it again assumed a similar waiting stance at the animal's head, although it was not seen to feed again. It is likely that the American Egret had been attracted to the pasture by the large numbers of Snowy Egrets, and that it would not have directly associated with the cattle in the absence of the other birds.—DAVID K. CALDWELL, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, September 5, 1955.*