

GENERAL NOTES

The Cattle Egret on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas, México.—On 29 March 1965, I secured a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) from a group of five, approximately 32 miles southeast of Mapastepec, Chiapas, along the Pan-American Highway. The specimen, an adult male, had somewhat enlarged testes (3×8 mm) and weighed 314.5 grams. Although the species has previously been reported in the Atlantic lowlands of Chiapas (Dickerman, 1964, *Wilson Bull.*, 76:290), this apparently constitutes the first published record of its occurrence in the Pacific lowlands of that state.

In addition, I saw other Cattle Egrets in the Pacific lowlands of Chiapas (Soconusco District) in 1965 as follows: five near Mapastepec on 20–21 March and four there on 14 April; four near Pijijiápan on 30 March; and 16 between Tapachula and the Pijijiápan area on 20 April. With the exception of four birds seen in a tree near a pasture on 20 March, all of the egrets were closely associated with cattle.

As Cattle Egrets were apparently absent from this area as recently as early 1964 (Senor Miguel Álvarez del Toro, personal communication), it would appear that the species has just begun to colonize the Soconusco District of Chiapas. It will probably become an increasingly common bird in this area as the humid climate, extensive pasturelands, and abundant cattle provide seemingly optimal habitat.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 26 May 1965.*

Behavior of Barrow's Goldeneye in Wyoming.—In July 1946 I led a pack-horse trip to Crater Lake in the Absaroka Mountains, southeast of Yellowstone National Park Wyoming. On our arrival there in the late afternoon, I observed a female Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) with 10 young swimming on a 50-yard-wide drainage pool in which the water was about 2 feet deep. As I ran in the direction of these birds, hoping to get a motion picture, the female became frantic, fluttering and quacking along the ground toward the edge of the deep water of the lake. I managed to capture two of the not more than one-week-old young while the female with the other eight escaped to the larger body of water. I wrapped the two young in a woolen shirt and placed them in my pack for the night in order that I might photograph them the next day.

The next morning I released these birds on the shallow pool where they began diving and catching various water insects and eating sprigs of succulent water vegetation. This behavior indicated that they were completely capable of obtaining their own food without the presence of the adult female.

When my photography was finished I attempted to wade out to catch them, but they were extremely elusive, swimming to the bottom in the clear water and along the bottom to the opposite bank. In order to catch them it was necessary to obtain the help of about a dozen boys who were part of the pack trip. When I approached the shore of the larger body of water I noted that the female and the other eight young were about 50 yards offshore. I released both of the young. They swam side by side toward the female and their siblings until they were within about 2 feet of the female. At this juncture the female stretched her neck in their direction, opened her beak, and made hissing noises. The two young evidently understood this behavior, because immediately they turned and, side by side, swam off by themselves. Both the female and her accompanying young and the two which had been rejected were observed at least 20 or 30 times during the ensuing days and they were always apart. They were still thriving

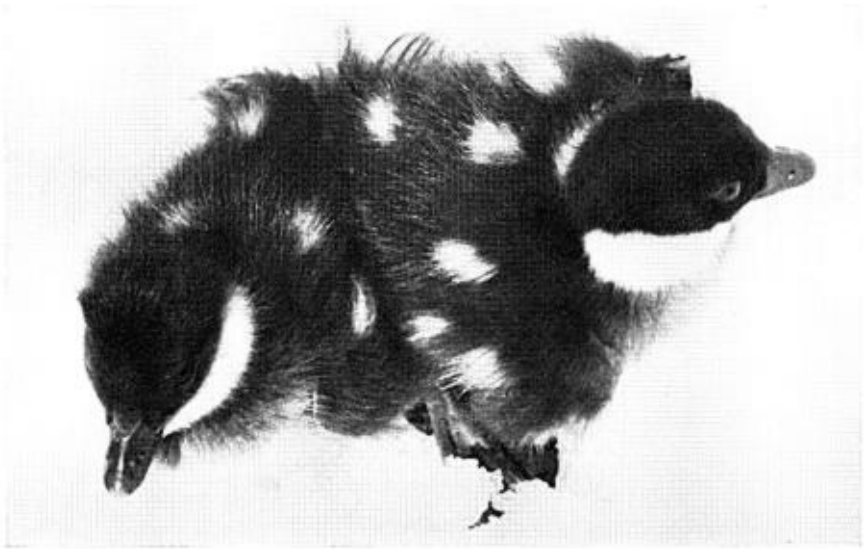


FIG. 1. Young Barrow's Goldeneyes, Crater Lake, Wyoming, 8 July 1946.

and apparently doing as well in their growth as the young under the care of the female when we left the area 10 days later.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 12 February 1965.*

Migration of Rough-legged Hawks over Lake Erie.—It is generally thought that hawks of the genus *Buteo* will avoid crossing large bodies of water during migration. For instance, there is the well-documented migration route of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) in southwestern Ontario, where the hawks travel near the north shore of Lake Erie until they reach the Detroit River and then cross into Michigan (A. H. Kelley, D. S. Middleton, and W. P. Nickell, 1963. *Birds of the Detroit-Windsor Area*. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, pp. 34-35).

However, an observation made by me at Point Pelee, Ontario, on 6 December 1964 suggests that this behavior may not necessarily be typical of all buteos. On that date, Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) were observed flying south off the point across Lake Erie. Between 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM, Rough-legged Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were seen soaring in circles out over the water near the point. Then, at least four of the Rough-legged Hawks, flying with a few flaps and a sail, flew south from the point and continued to fly south until they were out of sight. There apparently had been a large influx of hawks into the Point Pelee area on that date since over 50 large buteos were observed. The weather data for this date were: cloud cover varying between 0.1 and clear; temperature varying between 10 and 15 F; and wind from the west-northwest or west at 6 to 8 mph. (Data from the Windsor Airport approximately 30 miles northwest of Point Pelee.)

Red-tailed Hawks also may have migrated off the point, although this actually has not been observed. It is hoped to get information about this in the future.—JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN, 3271 Albert Ave., Royal Oak, Michigan 48072, 20 March 1965.