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Symbiotic interaction between Starlings and deer.—The symbiotic relationship between oxpeckers (*Buphagus* spp.) and large African mammals is well documented (Rice, Auk 80:196–197, 1963). A few North American birds have been observed eating ectoparasites on large mammals. Most of these associations involve ungulates and corvids (Dixon, Condor 46:204, 1944; Rice and Mockford, Wilson Bull. 66:272–273, 1954). A recent note describes interactions between Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) (Baber and Morris, Auk 97:202, 1980). I observed two similar interactions between Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in central Wisconsin where Starlings commonly feed on insects flushed by grazing cattle. Observations were made with a 15 × 60 spotting scope.

On 8 July 1979, at 20:50 CST, I saw an adult female deer walking through a grass-shrub area; an adult Starling was perched on her nose. The bird moved up to the crown of the deer's head, down the neck and back and returned to the head, ostensibly probing for ectoparasites; the deer showed no reaction. The observation lasted 10 min while the deer moved over 200 m and then out of view.

On 16 July 1979, at 09:15 CST, I saw an adult Starling on the head of an adult deer of unknown sex. The deer was on a little-used road which bisected a pastured area interspersed with oak (*Quercus* spp.) woodlots. The deer was visible for only 15 sec before it disappeared into cover and was apparently oblivious to the presence of the Starling. Riney (Condor 53:178–185, 1957) noted similar complacency in Scrub Jay-mule deer (*O. hemionus*) interactions. That advanced feeding behavior is extensive in another sturnid, the oxpecker, suggests that family-related learning traits may be developing within local Starling social groups as Baber and Morris (1980) speculated for Florida Scrub Jays.

I wish to thank Raymond K. Anderson for helpful comments on this manuscript.—ROBERT K. MURPHY, *College of Natural Resources, Univ. Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.* *Accepted 10 Oct. 1980.*

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Cattle Egrets feeding in association with human workers.—The foraging strategy of Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) in attendance of grazing cattle is well-known. Their association of a commensalistic nature, with domestic and wild ungulates is well-documented (Heatwole, Anim. Behav. 13:79–83, 1965; Ali and Ripley, Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan, Vol. 1, 1968; Jenni, Ecol. Monogr. 39:245–270, 1969). Cattle Egrets also use human activity to their advantage in so far as following plows, tractors, vehicles, etc. for the purpose of feeding. However, to the best of my knowledge, there are no reports of Cattle Egrets associating with human beings on foot, for food procurement in the field. The present note is a report on such findings.

During the past few years of bird watching, I often visited a large farmland area, part of which is swampy, spanning about 300 ha along the Dabhoi Road, approximately 10 km from Baroda (73°13′E, 22°18′N), Gujrat State, India. This farmland, irrigated with sewage water from the sewage treatment plant of Baroda City Corporation, is the favorite haunt of a large number of migratory and resident birds, including a large population of Cattle Egrets. Much of the area is covered with native grasses harvested for use as cattle fodder. Many laborers make a living nearly year-round manually cutting grass with sickles. Small groups of egrets associate with the laborers, capturing insects flushed during harvesting operations.

On commencement of harvesting, the egrets walk right up to the laborers with apparent confidence. As the workers advance in the field, the egrets also keep pace, remaining within 0.5–1 m of the humans. However, the egrets have not been observed picking insects off the laborers' legs, as they commonly do with cattle. At times, Pond Herons (*Ardeola greyii*) also feed with the Cattle Egrets in a similar manner. It has yet to be ascertained whether the egrets are following humans preferentially. Many egrets are seen feeding by themselves in the field and along the flowing water channels. Small groups of egrets also follow the few water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) grazing at this locality.

The commensal feeding of *A. greyii* with the Cattle Egrets using human workers as 'beaters' is noteworthy. Instances of Squacco Herons (*A. ralloides*) feeding gregariously among cattle, as do Cattle Egrets, are known (Cramp and Simmons, The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Vol. 1, 1977). Furthermore, the behavior of *A. greyii* and *A. ralloides* is considered to be quite similar (Cramp and Simmons 1977). There is considerable discussion as to the taxonomic relationship of the Cattle Egret, and Payne and Risley (Misc. Bull. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, No. 150, 1976) concluded that *B. ibis* is not closely related to *A. greyii*. Thus, additional information on commensalistic feeding behavior of species of *Ardeola* could facilitate further understanding of the taxonomic relations of these herons.

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Scrub Jay captures Hermit Thrush in flight.—The opportunism demonstrated by many corvids in obtaining food has been well documented (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 191, 1946; Goodwin, Crows of the World, Comstock/Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York, 1976; Coombs, The Crows: a study of the corvids of Europe, B. T. Batsford Ltd., London, England, 1978). Predatory behavior by corvids is not unusual, but prey rarely includes birds in flight. Use of the feet to seize flying birds has been reported for several species of *Corvus* (see Coombs 1978 for review; Heathcote, Br. Birds 71:134–135, 1978) and at least once for jays (Carothers et al., Wilson Bull. 84:204, 1972). A Magpie (*Pica pica*) presumably used its wings to "beat" a Swift (*Apus apus*) to the ground (Pulman, Br. Birds 71:363, 1978). Our report concerns a Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) which used its bill to capture a Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*) in flight.

The incident occurred at 12:30 on 28 September 1979 on the campus of the University of California at Davis. A Hermit Thrush flew from beneath a hedge to a sunlit area where flying insects were visible. The bird hovered, apparently attempting to capture the insects. Seconds later, a Scrub Jay flew from the same hedge and attacked the hovering thrush. After a few seconds of struggling and a short pursuit, the jay managed to grasp the thrush by the neck. Still flying, the jay carried the thrush in its bill to a branch in a nearby tree. The jay placed its foot on the thrush, released the bird's neck and struck the thrush's head with two rapid strokes of its bill. The thrush, which had been screaming distress calls since its capture, fluttered briefly and became silent. The jay then began plucking feathers from the thrush's back.

In order to examine the dead thrush, we frightened the jay from its prey. The Hermit Thrush had a single hole in the right side of its head, just behind the eye. Hemorrhaging was evident on the right side of the neck. Remiges of the left wing and contour feathers of the back and neck had been removed, but no flesh had been torn. Internal examination