

These birds were captured with a cannon protected 3" mesh net 75' \times 40' (see Dill and Thornesberry, 1950, Journ. Wildl. Mgh., 14 (2): 132-137), baited with shelled corn in an alfalfa field, at approximately 9 A.M. The cannons used were designed by Mr. Harvey W. Miller, Waterfowl Investigator for the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission. The cannons were fired remotely with radio transmitter and receiver (Griebe and Sheldon, 1956, Journ. Wildl. Mgt., 20 (2): 203-205). Leg bands were applied and the birds were released at the trap site.

The extreme weight of 14 lbs. 4 oz. is greater than the maximum (13 lbs.) mentioned by Walkinshaw ("The Sandhill Cranes," Cranbrook Inst. Bull. No. 9: 9, 1949), and the smallest of the eight was heavier than the average weight given for females (9 lbs. 8 oz.) of the largest subspecies, *G. c. tabida*. The five specimens of *Grus canadensis* in the U. S. National Museum collection from the Bosque del Apache Refuge belong to the subspecies *tabida*, according to Dr. John W. Aldrich. None of the eight birds was sexed in the field and no other taxonomic characteristics were recorded. It seems probable, however, in view of the above information, that all eight of these individuals were of the subspecies *tabida*.—WILLIAM S. HUEY, P. O. Box 4201, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Cattle Egrets Provoke Cattle to Move and Pick Flies off Bulls.—Between July 5 and August 5, 1958, my wife and I photographed the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) at Annandale Plantation in Georgetown County, South Carolina. We encountered numbers of these birds on repeated visits. On August 2, we counted as many as 125 Cattle Egrets associating with the cattle. Together with them, feeding in the grassy fields, were Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). The cattle on the plantation were fenced in groups and we concentrated on a group of about fifty with which some forty-odd Cattle Egrets were associated. The browsing animals followed a definite daily schedule with alternating periods of feeding and resting. While the animals fed, the egrets fed along with them. With straight short flights and running, the birds managed to keep at the head of the herd most of the time, picking up the insects stirred by the moving cattle. Only once was a Cattle Egret seen on the back of an animal of this herd. As the grass was particularly high, the bird presumably used the cow merely as a perch.

When the cattle rested on the ground, a different technique was at times employed by some of the egrets. Involved were ten to twenty birds. These birds exhibited a kind of restlessness not observed before. Short, circular flights were taken repeatedly over the herd and a definite animation of wings was manifest as the egrets literally bounced on and off the ground among the resting cattle. Seemingly, the birds were trying to stir up the cattle through wing movement. The increased movement on the part of the birds was striking. In the bright sunlight, the brilliant white of the flashing wings apparently stimulated a response in the cattle, for in a relatively short time they were on their feet and moving about again, stirring the insects for the now calmer birds.

This motion by the egrets, triggering an impulse in the cattle to move, was of irregular occurrence, for normally, when the animals rested, the egrets soon lost interest and flew away. In fourteen visits, on as many days spent with the herd, lasting from a few hours to the entire day, we saw this specific behavior four times. It occurred twice in mid-morning and twice in the late afternoon. Each time before its commencement, an increased activity was shown by the birds while

feeding, suggesting hunger. Perhaps, the inactivity of the cattle at this critical point set in motion the behavior of the egrets.

Enclosed in a field near the maintenance buildings of the plantation was a group of bulls accompanied by about six Cattle Egrets which fed along with them. When, in the late afternoon, the bulls sought a shady area to rest in some thirty feet from a house, the Cattle Egrets joined the bulls and walked all over the supine animals, picking flies off their bodies, the bulls appearing contented with the egrets' ministrations.—WALTER DAWN, 176 Wentworth St., Charleston, S. C.

The Status of the Semipalmated Plover.—The relationship between the small ringed plovers—*Charadrius hiaticula* and *semipalmatus*—has long been in dispute. These forms were described as full species under the old nondimensional species concept and so maintained until 1930. At this time Salomonsen (1930, Journ. f. Orn., 78: 65-72) pointed out the great similarity between these forms, that their ranges are allopatric and the lack of evidence of reproductive isolation between them, and therefore concluded that they were conspecific. Salomonsen's conclusion was accepted until Wynne-Edwards (1952, Auk, 69: 367-369) reported both *hiaticula* and *semipalmatus* from one locality in Baffin Island during the breeding season without showing any signs of interbreeding. Because of Wynne-Edwards'

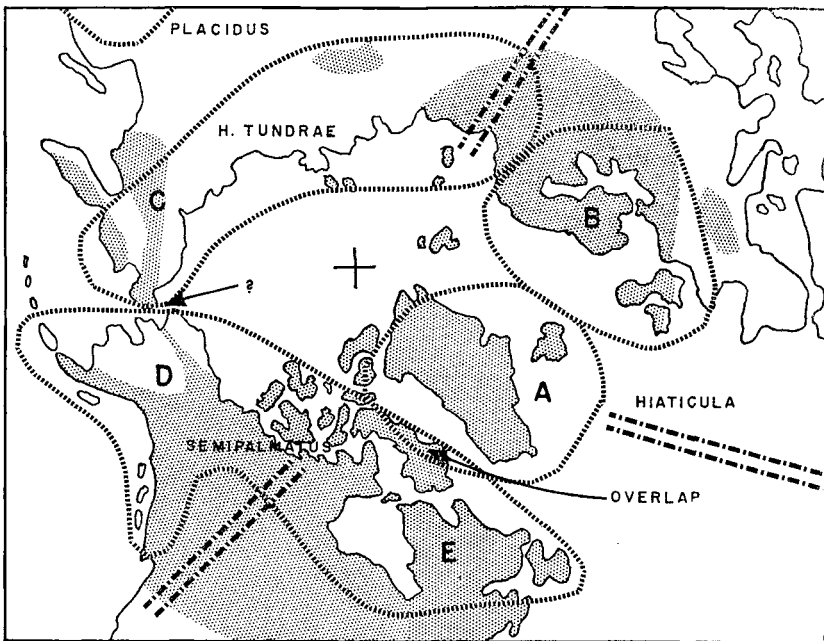


FIGURE 1. Distribution of the *Charadrius hiaticula-semipalmatus* complex during the breeding season. The letters A to E represent the five populations compared in this study; their limits coincide with the dotted lines except for the separation of the western and eastern *semipalmatus* populations which is not shown and which is approximately at Northwest Territories, Canada. The glaciated areas during the last ice advance are stippled. The heavy double lines separate the three major refuges for shorebirds during the last glacial advance.