

The Great Egret (Egretta alba) resembles our Great White Heron (Ardea occidentalis) in size and action but has black instead of yellow feet and legs. It is a resident species all the year but is much more common during summer. The Plumed Egret (Egretta intermedia) is the American Egret of the Orient. In Japan, it is an abundant summer resident. The smallest of the egrets, the Little Egret (Egretta garzetta), would probably be indistinguishable in the field from the Snowy Egret (Leucophoyx thula). It is a common permanent resident. The Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), which has only in recent years become established in North America, is uncommon in the Tokyo area. It reaches its northernmost distribution in Honshu. The ubiquitous circumpolar Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax) is the same as in America. The Japanese Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) resembles the Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus) with which we are familiar except that during breeding season its head and neck are nearly white. Most beautiful to the American eye would be the Blue Magpie (Cyanopica cyanus) which is powder blue and gray with a shining black skull cap and which has no counterpart in the American fauna unless it would be the Magpie (Pica pica). --Dept. of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases, 406th Medical General Laboratory, APO 500, San Francisco, California

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COMMENTS ON THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY ISSUE

by Dr. Charles H. Blake

I can find points of interest in the January-February EBBA News. Mr. Bowdish and I seem to have had very similar experience with the jay. A few years ago there appeared to be one jay around which learned to extract nestlings from nest boxes, but it is the only bad actor I have encountered.

I have had the same feeling about juncos that Ray Middleton has. One of mine banded in late October was found dead in South Carolina about six weeks later.

I would certainly agree with Mr. Parks on band sizes for purple finches. In my report on the band sizes I found that the leg size is such that almost exactly half the birds would take 0 and half 1. Only about one bird in 400 would need a 1B band to have the clearances that I used in making the computations. Using size 1 bands for such birds would do no real harm in most cases. (See BIRD-BANDING, Vol. 25, pages 13 and 15.) --Dept. of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

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