

Gathering cages may become infested with parasites, and fungi may thrive on the droppings therein. Foot pox can be fatal to birds which have become infested. Cages should have removable papers on the bottom and should be cleaned often and exposed to the sun. An ordinary plastic mesh onion bag, or a bag made of mosquito netting is ideal for carrying one or two birds per bag. A nylon laundry bag, with three divisions stitched vertically, can accommodate several birds; droppings fall through the mesh, bags are washed daily, and birds can cling to the inside with no danger of injuring themselves.

P. O. Box 311, St. Albans, West Virginia



CATTLE EGRET DISPERSAL STUDY

By T. A. Beckett, III

Due to the widespread interest and lack of knowledge surrounding the Cattle Egret, Ardeola ibis, the author and his co-workers have banded nearly 2,000 of this species. This season 1,000 were red color banded on the left leg and an aluminum government band was applied to the right tarsus.

It is hoped that all sightings of these color banded birds will be reported whenever they are seen. All of these nestlings were banded within a radius of 15 miles of Charleston, South Carolina. There can be little doubt that a definite age for breeding will be secured from these birds and that they will spread from Canada to South America, and from Mexico into California. Past recoveries have shown this species to be great wanderers and colonizers of new areas.

That they are very adaptable is being fast proved from almost all facets of the species life cycle. From timing of nesting, utilization of used nests of other species, feeding at garbage dumps, consumption of substitute foods when pastures are not available, and last but not least, that ability to fill vacuums left by other members of the long-legged waders.

Please report all sightings to T.A.Beckett, III, Magnolia Gardens, Johns Island, South Carolina.