

yards of it, though it proved much more wary than the numerous Ward's Herons, and the forty odd Wood Ibises that were feeding nearby. The birds finally flushed when we attempted too close an approach, and the Flamingo followed the Ibises into the gathering darkness.

I returned the following afternoon with R. W. Williams, well-known ornithologist of Washington, D. C., who fortunately happened to be visiting at his old home in Tallahassee. We were unable to locate the bird in the bay but finally found it feeding and stalking about in a small, rush-bordered salt pond just back of Shell Point, where we approached as closely as desired and studied it at our leisure. The bird was in faded pink plumage and showed no evidence of molting. A hundred feet of motion pictures, taken under some difficulties at fifty to a hundred feet, show fairly well the characteristic poses and feeding habits, so similar to those of the Wood Ibis as far as above-water appearances go. The bird was not particularly shy here, in striking contrast to its behavior in the Bay, for when I showed myself it merely arose and flew leisurely across the pond. No sound was heard from the bird during the time it was under observation.

J. B. Royall, State Game Commissioner of Florida, who has included the Flamingo among the five species the collecting of which is prohibited in the state even under scientific certificate, sent a warden down to caution fishermen of the vicinity not to molest the rare visitor, and the bird remained there at least two weeks longer.

Old records show that Flamingos formerly frequented the shallow coastal waters of the western extension of the State, which seem an ideal feeding ground for them, and this bird was probably a wanderer from the Bahamas temporarily visiting ancestral haunts. Its extreme wariness while in the open bay militates against the possibility of its having escaped from captivity, and I believe that this may be safely rejected. Judging from published records, from a region where ornithologists are apparently as scarce as Flamingos, the species has become an extremely rare visitor even in extreme southern Florida, which is scarcely to be wondered at, considering the reception usually given such bizarre creatures.—HERBERT L. STODDARD, *U. S. Biological Survey, Beachton, Ga.*

**Whooping Crane in Saskatchewan.**—On October 3, 1927, when I was about ten miles north of Dundern, Saskatchewan, southeast of Saskatoon, I saw a large white bird arise from the wheat stubble, which I am sure was a Whooping Crane (*Grus americanus*) I did not see it until it took wing but could watch it fly probably for a quarter of a mile, when I lost sight of it. It was a dark cloudy day and I was too far away to distinguish the black primaries but I am positive I was not mistaken. It had the flight of a Crane, it did not get more than ten or fifteen yards above the ground, was the size of the Whooping Crane and I could not see a dark spot on it. It, too, was in the same general territory where Mr. F. Bradshaw found a nest and eggs, some three years ago.

On November 29, 1927, Mr. Bradshaw wrote me as follows about a Whooping Crane that was shot not far from where I saw this bird: "On the evening of October 29, a farmer residing at Estevan, Sask., located a flock of Geese on his farm and under oath states that he took a pot shot at them and wounded what proved to be a Whooping Crane, but the bird being badly wounded he killed it and sent it to a taxidermist at Brandon for mounting. As soon as we heard of the matter we instructed the taxidermist to forward the bird to our Provincial Museum where it arrived in good shape and Mr. Mitchell, our taxidermist, has mounted it. There are one or two small buff colored feathers about two inches in diameter on the wings which might indicate that the bird is a two year old which had not yet reached mature plumage." This may have been the very bird I saw! I have two magnificent specimens in my collection, one from Dawson, Kidder Co., N. D., obtained in the early nineties, and the other from Buffalo Lake, eighteen or twenty miles northeast of Moose Jaw, Sask., killed about 1904 or 1905.—W. B. MENSCHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

**The Marthas Vineyard Crane.**—It may be of interest to know that the Crane discussed in 'The Auk' for 1926, p. 538 has been positively identified as the Sarus Crane of India. It does not seem to be generally known that this species can withstand the winters of Cape Cod without shelter, yet this specimen seems quite at home even when the ground is covered with snow. Occasionally in severe weather he will take refuge in the garage on the Whittemore estate where he lives, or in the hen house but does not remain under cover long and seems immune to cold even when the temperature falls to zero.

When his mate, a pinioned bird, died, she was mounted in a life like position and placed near a window opening on the piazza. As long as the specimen remained in sight the male bird would spend hours on the piazza looking into the window.

When excited as when feeding or in the presence of visitors, this Crane goes through the most extraordinary dance using both wings and legs and the effect of lightness and buoyancy, with excessive activity, cannot be described. He is attached to the chauffeur on the estate and will follow him about like a dog and often walks along, the chauffeur holding one of his wings.

In spite of his docility on the home grounds he must possess a rare sense of danger for he ranges far and wide and, with so many sportsmen at large, it is quite remarkable that he has not been shot.—LOMBARD CARTER JONES, M.D., *Falmouth, Mass.*

**The Courtship Display of the American Bittern.**—About 9:30 in the morning of June 15, 1927 I had the pleasure of witnessing a courtship scene and the display of the male American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) at rather close range.

I was walking northward along the electric railway tracks, some seven-