

the neck to the crown, but generally absent from the abdomen and face. It is rather puzzling to understand how this stain is deposited on the upper instead of the under surfaces that would seem to be most exposed to contact with ground water. In the Ducks and Geese the stain usually gathers on the head, face and under parts of the body while the back remains almost free from it. The explanation of the difference probably lies in the habits of the two groups of birds.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

**Cranes Crossing Bering Strait.**—As a member of the Stoll-McCracken Expedition to the Arctic I had the interesting experience of seeing Little Brown Cranes (*Grus canadensis*), crossing Bering Strait on the southward migration. One flock of about twenty birds was observed on August 27, 1928, a bright day, though with a cold northwest wind, following a storm during which much new snow fell on the Siberian side. Two more flocks of twelve and twenty birds, were seen on August 30; wind south. The intervening days had been stormy and East Cape was again covered with new snow. All of the birds were flying southeast in the direction of the Diomedes and Cape Prince of Wales, crossing the strait at its narrowest portion.

Cranes were also seen at the delta of the Agiapuk river, near Teller, July 21 of the same year, and a flying flock was observed from the vessel at the anchorage, near Teller, on September 10. They were reported numerous near the Bluestone river, by prospectors, about the same time.

An Eskimo from the Little Diomedede said that they pass in the direction of East Cape, Siberia, at "the beginning of summer," returning in the fall. They do not stop, according to him, at the Diomedes.

This corresponds with the migration dates as given by Bent (*Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*—U. S. National Museum Bulletin 135).—F. L. JACQUES, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**The Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) at Avalon, N. J.**—An unusual bird rewarded an automobile trip to New Jersey coastal points on September 23, 1928. While driving over the salt marshes back of Avalon, Cape May County, a large number of white Herons was observed. There were a few Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*) and a large number of immature Little Blues (*Florida caerulea caerulea*). Close inspection of a nearby flock of six of the latter showed that one individual was more agile and had a thinner, entirely black, bill. Finally, when it took wing, it showed clearly its black legs and yellow feet in contrast to the dark olive legs and feet of its companions. At the close range afforded it was easily identified as a Snowy Egret, the first, I believe, to be recorded from New Jersey for many years.

Edward S. Weyl and William H. Yoder accompanied the writer and the bird was studied by all of us with binoculars.—PHILIP A. LIVINGSTON, *Narberth, Pa.*