

the genus *Phalacrocorax* as in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The Status of the Great Blue Heron in the West Indies.—The West Indian Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias adoxa* Oberholser) is usually considered to be resident throughout this region as well as on islands in the southern Caribbean, including Trinidad and Curaçao, from which latter island the type was described. After many years study of birds on these islands, I have come to believe that the Great Blue Heron breeds in the West Indies only in Cuba, the Isle of Pines and Jamaica, where it is resident. It may occasionally wander to other islands, but I believe that the great majority, if not all of these Herons that are found elsewhere in the West Indies, are migrants from North America (*A. h. herodias*). Among these I would place Oberholser's type of *A. h. adoxa*. All Great Blue Herons that have been recorded in the West Indies have been hitherto regarded as *adoxo*, with one exception, that being a bird that had been banded at Hat Island, Green Bay, Wis.¹ The presence of these Herons on Hispaniola and other islands during the spring and summer months is no sure criterion for considering them as residents, a Black-crowned Night Heron banded at Barnstable, Mass., having been recovered in Haiti on May 21, 1928! Furthermore, according to Gundlach, this species breeds during the winter months from November to January. West Indian specimens of the Great Blue Heron that I have examined, including two that I secured on the Isle of Pines, can be matched perfectly with specimens of *A. h. herodias*. Although they appear to average paler above, some specimens of the northern bird are as pale on the upper parts as any that I have examined from the West Indies. Oberholser states that *A. h. adoxa* is "of somewhat smaller size," a statement scarcely borne out by his measurements (in millimeters), which are as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Height of bill at base	Tarsus	Middle Toe
<i>A. h. herodias</i>	433-480	159-187	123-151.5	23.5-31.3	157-205	93-115
<i>A. h. adoxa</i>	430-468	168-185	121-150	24-30	162-180	92-113

It will be observed from these measurements that any difference in size is insignificant and, as I have already mentioned, the paler coloring of the upper parts is not a constant character. West Indian Great Blue Herons should therefore be regarded as *A. h. herodias*, since at present there is no sure way of distinguishing two forms. This is not infrequently the case when subspecies are described merely on average characters.

Perhaps the taking of breeding examples in the West Indies may show that a race distinct from *herodias* inhabits this region, but at present there is no reason to believe that this is the case, although the form occurring on the islands is certainly distinct from *A. h. wardi* of the southeastern United States.

The only definite records of breeding colonies of the Great Blue Heron in the West Indies are from Cuba and Jamaica, and it is interesting and rather significant that these islands are in the restricted West Indian range of *Ardea occidentalis repens* Bangs and Zappey. These two birds are frequently seen in pairs on these islands and behave precisely alike. In spite of Mr. Holt's admirable report on the specific distinctness of *A. occidentalis*,² it is my opinion that this is merely a local color phase of *A. herodias*, comparable with the melanistic phase of the Sparrow Hawk, and the

¹ See Auk, Vol. XLIX, Oct. 1932, pages 457-458.

² Sci. Pub. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. I, No. 1, 1928, pages 1-35.

rufescent phase of the Little Green Heron in Cuba. It may also be mentioned that the Great White Heron of the West Indies differs from the northern form in being smaller, just as does the West Indian Great Blue Heron from *A. h. wardi*.—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

American Egret and Mississippi Kite in Douglas County, Kansas.—On August 8, 1934, the writer saw an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) on the Kansas river three miles north of Lawrence. Although the bird was across the river, its large size, almost as large as the Great Blue Heron, was diagnostic. As long as I was moving the bird paid little attention to me, but when I sat down in some bushes to watch it, it immediately took wing and flew with slow wing strokes for about half a mile. When I followed, it flew again, and disappeared up the river. As far as I know, there is only one other record for the American Egret at Lawrence—one taken on August 15, 1872, and now in the museum collection.

An immature female Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was shot by Fred Hastie at his home seven miles southwest of Lawrence, on August 22, 1934. It was sitting quietly in the dead branches of a tall cottonwood tree. This is the fourth record for Douglas County. There are several previous records: three taken on September 15 and 16, 1907 (Wetmore, *Condor*, Vol. 11, 1909. p. 157), one, on July 26, 1909 (Bunker and Rocklund) and a pair in the collection of Baker University, with a nest and eggs, taken near Baldwin, June 11, 1906. This is believed to be the northernmost breeding record for the species.—W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kansas*.

First Occurrence of the Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa r. rufesens*) in South Carolina.—On January 15, 1934, on his plantation "Mulberry," Cooper River, S. C., Mr. Clarence E. Chapman, of New York, saw two specimens of this species and watched them for forty minutes. Seated in a duck blind in one of his rice fields, Mr. Chapman studied every detail of the strangers, sometimes at a range of from fifteen to twenty feet. He knew what they were at once, and his vivid description of them leaves nothing to be desired. One was in the dark, and the other the light phase of plumage.

They were fishing, preening and resting, and finally disappeared into the saw-grass. Though realizing their rarity and with a gun in his hands at the time, Mr. Chapman did not attempt to take either. He was perfectly convinced of their identity and so is the writer. This is an addition to the avifauna of South Carolina.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*) in Oklahoma.—On August 22, 1934, I saw a single Wood Ibis near Spiro, Oklahoma, headed for the Arkansas River. Next day James Priest and I found seven of the birds sitting on driftwood left on a sand bar. We observed them at rest and in flight through a small telescope. All appeared to be in immature plumage. Their white plumage, grayish fuscous head, large decurved bill, flight with extended neck, black primaries and secondaries and tail were all clearly seen.

The birds remained in the vicinity for at least five days and one was secured and photographs submitted to the editor of 'The Auk.'—DAN A. REDURNE, *Norman, Oklahoma*.

Notes on the Roseate Spoonbill on the Gulf Coast.—During his field work of last spring for the National Association of Audubon Societies the writer made a particular point of keeping an accurate count of Roseate Spoonbills observed. On