

specimens. He found the body "swarming externally with lice and internally with the parasites, which had eaten through the flesh until in some cases they were puncturing the skin." Although freshly dead when Mottram received it, "the internal parts had largely liquified." Apparently the heron had wallowed in mud just before death and was heavily besmeared. Mr. Mottram cleaned and mounted the heron and constructed the case in which he presented it to the Society. He also sent me the samples of parasites, which were, in turn, submitted to the pathologist for identification.

In the first week of August, 1947, Mr. Charles T. Ragot of Rutherford, N. J., telephoned me one evening asking advice as to the case of a Black-crowned Night Heron he had captured. From his description of conditions, I suspected an infestation of *Eustrongylides ignotus* and urged Mr. Ragot, in case the heron died, to get it into the hands of the pathologist as quickly as possible. The report from the pathologists' office to Mr. Ragot, under date of August 8, 1947 reads:

"The bird which you sent to our laboratory died of a verminous peritonitis. The intestines were pierced in many places by a worm which resembles *Eustrongylides ignotus*. As a result of this it was impossible for any food to pass through the intestinal canal and adhesions bound the intestines together to an extent that it was impossible to dissect them free without cutting the worms. In addition, an unidentified fluke was found in the esophagus."

Apparently herons become infested with this parasite through eating infested fish, the natural host of *Eustrongylides ignotus*.—B. S. BOWDISH, *Demarest, New Jersey*.

White-throated or Bat Falcon in Nuevo León, México (Plate 18).—My friend Dr. Edward Fleisher, of the faculty of Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York, visited various localities in the State of Nuevo León, México, from February 16 to 28, 1945. From the 19th to the 28th his base was Linares, a locality about 200 kilometers south of the Río Grande (80 kilometers south of Monterrey) along the main México City highway. I had visited this place briefly myself in 1938 and 1939 and had investigated its bird life somewhat more than casually in 1941 (*see* Sutton and Pettingill, 'Birds of Linares and Galeana, Nuevo León, México,' *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ.*, No. 16, November 22, 1943). To me the most interesting species Dr. Fleisher discovered in this district was the Bat Falcon or White-throated Falcon, *Falco albigularis* Daudin, a small, handsome bird of prey which I have never seen north of the general vicinity of Victoria, Tamaulipas (*see* Sutton and Burleigh, 'A List of Birds Observed by the 1938 Semple Expedition to Northeastern Mexico,' *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ.*, No. 3: 27, April 5, 1939). Dr. Fleisher was fortunate enough to come upon an exceedingly unsuspecting pair of the birds which may have had an eyrie on the railroad bridge which spans the Río Camacho just north of Linares. Here he saw a single bird on February 20 and two birds (more than likely a pair, to judge from the discrepancy in size) on February 23. On the latter date, approaching by way of the bridge itself, he was able to walk within about 30 feet of the birds, which were perched on the cross-bar of a telephone pole. They did not take alarm even when he stopped to look at them directly. The photo was taken with a Contax camera with 135 mm. lens attached. The print here reproduced was made from a Kodachrome transparency.—GEORGE MIKSH SUTTON, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Egrets nest along Colorado River (Plate 18).—On the Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge there are considerable areas between Topock, Mohave County, Arizona, and Needles, San Bernardino County, California, consisting of flooded dead screw bean (*Prosopis pubescens*) and mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) brush. The brush

was drowned by rising Colorado River levels, and has been dead for several years. In such brushy areas, during the spring and summer of 1947, not only Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) have nested, but American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) as well. The four species nested in scattered colonies in the low, dead brush. The egrets' nesting is of especial interest, since they have not previously been known to breed in Arizona. (All nests were in Arizona, or so close to the ill-defined state line that they could well be in either state. The Colorado River forms the boundary between Arizona and California.)

American Egret nests were first found April 24, when four were discovered, all containing eggs. The same colony was revisited June 7, at which time five nests, containing young about one-half grown, were found (four of these were those discovered April 24). Four nests contained two young (one nest and young photographed; see Plate 18), while the fifth held but one. In the same colony, three Snowy Egret nests were found June 7, one containing four eggs, one two eggs, and the third three downy young perhaps ten days old.

A second American Egret colony was found June 8, well over on the Arizona side of the refuge. This colony consisted of four nests, two of them holding two young about one-third grown, and the remaining two holding three downy young each.

Since not many Great Blue Heron nests have been found in Arizona, a colony of at least fifty nests in this same area is perhaps worthy of note.

A recent report (Sprunt, Auk, 59: 586, 1942) of American Egrets allegedly nesting at Mormon Lake in northern Arizona, should be dismissed for lack of suitable evidence.—GALF MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona.*

Another Common Tern nest with seven eggs (Plate 18).—In the July, 1947, issue of *The Auk* was published a note and photograph by Frederick E. Warburton of Owen Sound, Ontario, concerning a nest of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) containing seven eggs. Mr. Warburton's photograph actually showed only six eggs, but in his note he explained that one had disappeared before the photograph was taken. The phenomenon of seven eggs in a single Common Tern's nest may be less rare than Mr. Warburton thinks. On July 5 of this year (1947) I came on a similar nest on the sandbar south of Holgate, New Jersey, where there is a large colony of Common and Least Terns, and some Black Skimmers. As I had my camera with me at the time I was able to photograph it immediately.

Like Mr. Warburton, I cannot say for certain whether all seven eggs were laid and were being incubated by one bird or not, for my presence created the usual commotion and excitement among the terns and skimmers and I was not able to wait until all the inhabitants of the colony had again settled down on their nests. But the eggs in the unusual nest were all warm, despite the fact that it was late in the day and the sun was already low in the sky. Furthermore, in view of the remoteness of the colony, I doubt whether some jokester had combined the eggs of two nests in one, although the possibility of course exists. Unfortunately, as I live far from Holgate, I was unable to visit the nest again.

In view of the reported discovery of two nests of the Common Tern, in widely separated breeding areas, and in different years, each containing seven eggs, I should think it worth while for field ornithologists to keep an eye out for the phenomenon whenever they visit a tern colony, and, if they come on such a nest again, make a point of keeping it under observation until they have been able to establish definitely whether or not it is being incubated. It might even be interesting to continue the