

It may be well to mention here that it is usual for birds' natal down to be pushed out by the first generation of feathers on the tips of which it may be borne for some time and that, as an abnormality, individual feathers have been reported borne on the tips of those of the next generation in the Magpie Pigeon (Jackson, Brit. Birds, 6: 339, 1913), the Knot, *Calidris canutus* (Bonhote, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1906: 901), a Chinese Magpie (Kleinschmidt, Journ. für Orn., 1903: 142) and a chick (Kleinschmidt, Journ. für Orn., 1899: 115).—A. L. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.*

**Sun-grebe, *Heliornis fulica*, in Veracruz, Mexico.**—Ridgway and Friedmann (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50 (9): 230, 1941) reported the occurrence of the Sun-grebe, *Heliornis fulica* (Boddaert), in Mexico only from the Río Coatzacoalcos in the extreme southern part of Veracruz. That this species ranges at least 125 miles north of the Río Coatzacoalcos is evidenced by a specimen in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, taken by David Donaldson at Boca del Río, a short distance south of the city of Vera Cruz. This bird, an adult male weighing 141.6 grams, was encountered July 23, 1941, in the tidal waters of the Río Moreno. The testes were small (non-breeding) in size. Seemingly, this specimen constitutes the second record for Mexico.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.*

**Albatross Feather from Jones Beach, Long Island, New York.**—On November 7, 1948, walking along the high water line at Jones Beach, a rather large (14.75 inches) primary feather was noticed. Picked up and passed close to the nostrils it appeared to have the characteristic odor of the Tubinares. It showed no sign of having been in the water. Normally, a "gull" feather with slightly odd odor would be noted with but passing interest. In this instance, however, the odor was so strong and so firmly reminiscent of *Diomedea* that it was forwarded to the American Museum of Natural History for identification.

Dr. R. C. Murphy wrote on November 26, 1948, as follows: "The wing quill from the Long Island shore is beyond any shadow of doubt that of an albatross. While it is very worn, it appears to have been not long moulted. It is definitely not *Phoebastria*, in which the outer vein of the primary feathers is always much narrower. This leaves only the genus *Diomedea* and the section sometimes called *Thalassogeron*. I doubt whether the quill is positively identifiable as to species. It is, however, relatively small, both in breadth of the whole quill and in the length and diameter of the shaft. In these respects it most closely resembles *Diomedea chlororhynchus* which is the smallest species of this group of albatrosses ever to be recorded from the Atlantic Ocean. Incidentally, this species has yielded more North American records than any of the other possibilities."

A short time later it was learned that a shipment of albatross feathers had recently found their way into the millinery markets of New York. Samples of these feathers were placed at the disposal of the American Museum by the National Association of Audubon Societies and comparison was made with the specimen from Jones Beach. Dr. Murphy wrote as follows on December 2, 1948. "Your beach quill, although very worn, is longer than the longest of the North Pacific primaries. It also lacks the striations on the shaft which all the others show. It agrees in its relative narrowness and emarginate tip with the southern hemisphere 'Thalassogeron' mollymauks. It certainly is not the species of these millinery quills and was, in all probability, a naturally moulted feather."

It is of course possible that this feather found its way to Jones Beach via some vessel from the South Atlantic. The evidence seems to suggest, however, that it

arrived in its northern location on the bird to which it belonged. It is now in the American Museum. When one considers that the strong odor is the only reason this feather was originally collected and identified, one is moved to speculate that similarly interesting plumage may occur along the beaches more frequently than is supposed. Drifted feathers might be worth some attention.—DAVID G. NICHOLS, 181 Liberty Avenue, Westbury, New York.

**Occurrence of the Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus i. ibis*, in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.**—The first record of the Cattle Egret in Surinam on March 10, 1946 (Auk, 64: 143, 1947) proved of more importance than the mere observation of a straggler. In the same district I observed on December 12, 1946, two individuals on the bank of the Nickerie River.

On the afternoon of December 26, 1946, while driving to Meerzorg, on the right bank of the Surinam River, opposite Paramaribo, I observed flocks of Cattle Egrets in the fields on both sides of the road, in close association with feeding cattle. Returning to the same spot on December 28, there were three flocks of Cattle Egrets consisting of about 50, 30 and 25 birds, respectively. I succeeded in collecting a specimen. On January 11, 1947, I went again to the same locality and collected six more.

Now that I knew that this egret was numerous in the cultivated area on the right bank of the Surinam River I went searching for them in other places. It was found that the birds were equally common in the open fields on the left bank of the Surinam River, wherever there were cattle.

In the vast area along the Gemeene Landsweg (the road leading from Paramaribo westwards to the Saramacca River) and the Kwattaweg and all their byways, I observed at least 100 birds on January 15, 1947, and on February 12, 1947, about 200 birds. I collected two specimens here on February 21, 1947. In all, I collected ten specimens.

A further search revealed that the birds were also present at Domburg (about 20 kilometers up the Surinam River from Paramaribo, on its left bank) on February 8, 1947. So it became clear that *Bulbulcus ibis* was in fact the most numerous heron in all cultivated areas between the Surinam and Saramacca rivers. It also occurs in other districts of the coastal region; on March 14, 1947, I observed five birds near grazing cattle on a meadow at Coronie, about 45 kilometers due west of the mouth of the Coppename River. On May 5, 1947, there were at least 100 birds in the rice-fields on the right bank of the Corantijn River at Nieuw Nickerie. Until then I had never observed them, however, at Moengo on the Cottica River, the center of the bauxite mines, where a number of cattle are kept on a large meadow but which is perhaps too much an isolated place.

It further became clear that the egrets roosted in the low bushes along the Surinam River just opposite Paramaribo where the river makes a sharp hairpin curve to the south. This was, in fact, the main roost of all Cattle Egrets in the neighborhood of this town. The largest number (about 600) of egrets assembled in this roost was counted on February 10, 1947.

This roost was also used by the birds feeding on the left bank of the Surinam River. In the afternoon they could be seen crossing the river, flying low over the water to alight in the bushes. On January 7, 1948, I observed a flock of about 100 birds flying on a broad front, low over the houses of the town in the direction of the river. It reminded me very much of the flocks of Black-headed Gulls, *Larus ridibundus*, on their evening flight in Europe. It further became clear that the birds were present in these places during only a part of the year and that they were gone from all places