

Cattle Egret, Marbled Godwit, Surfbird and Brown-chested Martin in Panama.—On annual visits to Panama in the past few years, I have been on the watch for Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), having in mind their astonishing spread over northern South America (Dugand, *Lozania*, 8: 1–7, 1954) and their recent appearance in eastern North America (Peterson, *Nat. Geog. Mag.*, 106 (2): 281–292, 1954). In the cattle country on the Pacific slope of Panama, one often sees egrets feeding near cattle, but they have always turned out to be *Casmerodius albus* or *Leucophoyx thula*. On August 14, 1954, Major Francis O. Chapelle and I visited Mindi Dairy in the Canal Zone, near the Caribbean. About two miles south of the dairy, we spotted an unmistakable Cattle Egret perched on the head of a cow wading in a pool near the Bolivar Highway between Fort Davis and Gatun. There were two of these herons, apparently immature: white, with bright orange-yellow bills and dusky-greenish legs—a plumage I had previously seen in Cattle Egrets at Cape May, New Jersey. This is the first record of *Bubulcus* for Panama, and, so far as I am aware, for Middle America. The following week, on August 21, Major Chapelle, accompanied by his wife and Private George Goldstein, found three Cattle Egrets at a dairy farm near Maria Chiquita, also on the Caribbean coast and perhaps ten miles northeast of the Canal Zone; two of these birds showed buff on their necks. On October 2 in the same year, Major Chapelle noted two immatures across the road from the place where we first observed the species, feeding in a wet pasture among some horses; on October 24, he counted four with the horses at the same locality and seven with cattle at Mindi Dairy (where there were also Snowy Egrets); and on October 30 at Mindi Dairy, he found ten with cattle in one flock and four others in a neighboring pasture. In all cases there was open water nearby. On my 1955 trip to Panama, I visited these localities on June 28 and July 9 without seeing any Cattle Egrets.

The Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) has occasionally been collected on the Pacific coast of South America, but there are very few published records for continental Middle America other than Mexico and none from south of Honduras. On the mud-flats of Panama Bay in front of the ruins of Old Panama, I observed three, possibly four, Marbled Godwits on August 11 and two on August 19, 1954. On September 4, 1954, from one spot, Major Chapelle and I counted twelve of the godwits, conspicuous among the numerous Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and Hudsonian Curlews (*Numenius phaeopus*), and he noted ten on September 11. Thomas Imhof tells me that on November 24, 1942, during his military service in the Canal Zone, he saw a bird he believed to be this species from a passing truck near Fort Clayton; but, because the circumstances were not fully satisfactory, he refrained from publishing the observation. During the spring migration in 1955, Major Chapelle writes me that at Old Panama he counted seven on April 2, at least 150 on April 6, sixty-four on April 9, fourteen on April 19, and twelve on May 20. I spent a month in Panama in 1955, and counted, five on June 15, four on June 17, twelve on June 27, and ten on June 29 all clustered on the rocky islets near the high tide mark. Although I did not note them during two July visits to the same locality, which occurred at low tide when the shorebirds are widely scattered over the extensive flats, I suspect that the Marbled Godwit summers in Panama, as do so many other northern members of the Charadriiformes (Eisenmann, *Wilson Bull.*, 63: 182, 1951).

In view of the extreme scarcity of records of the Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) from southern Middle America (Eisenmann, *Auk*, 65: 605, 1948; Imhof, *Auk*, 67: 256, 1950), it is well to mention that on projecting rocks at the same Old Panama flats, I saw one (possibly two) of this species on August 11 and 19, 1954. Major Chapelle

reports seeing ten on May 15, 1954, one on October 6 and 16, 1954, and two on January 22, 1955. On June 27, 1955, I found two. This species also probably summers in Panama, but as it usually feeds on the seaward side of the rocky islets, it is rarely visible to observers on the mainland.

The Brown-chested Martin (*Phaeoprogne tapera*) is one of the very few South American land birds known to migrate north of the Equator to avoid the Southern Hemisphere winter (Zimmer, Auk, 55: 405-410, 1938). In my list of Barro Colorado Island birds (Smith. Misc. Coll., 117, no. 5: 46, 1952) its occurrence in Panama was reported on the basis of sight observations first made in 1949. Though I promptly alerted other observers of Panama birds after recognizing the species in June, 1949, specimen confirmation was not secured until my nephew, I. Robert Eisenmann, Jr., collected one on June 15, 1952. As expected, it proved to be the southern race (*fusca*), breeding from southern Brazil to Argentina, which has long been known to migrate into northern South America (Chapman, Auk, 46: 348-357, 1929; Beebe, Zoologica, 32: 159-160, 1947). This form usually shows a conspicuous line of brown spots down the middle of the breast below the chest-band. Other Panama specimens were collected in June, 1953, by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and my nephew. I have found hundreds of these birds every year since 1949, during visits in June and July. Then, while locally numerous, they were noted chiefly in the cleared areas of the southern (Pacific) half of the Canal Zone and the savanna areas to the east, with very few near the Caribbean coast and none in the drier open country to the west. During August, 1954, *Phaeoprogne* was much more abundant, greatly outnumbering all other swallows together. Wherever I went, from Fort San Lorenzo and Gatun (on the Caribbean) to Chepo (in the eastern part of Panama Province) and Penonomé (in the western province of Coclé), they could always be seen in the air, or crowding together by the thousands on wires as evening approached or rainy weather threatened. By September 4, when I left, their numbers were greatly reduced (presumably by emigration), though they were still common about Panama City. On a drive through the grasslands of Coclé, where less than a month before (on August 9) thousands had been in evidence, I noted but three on September 1. The common Hirundinidae were then the northern migrants, chiefly Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), accompanied by some Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) and a few Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). Some indication of the length of the annual sojourn of *Phaeoprogne* in the Canal Zone is afforded by the following: Dr. Wetmore tells me that he saw a few individuals during the first week of April, 1954. Major Chapelle noted about twenty-five on May 4, 1954, and several hundred by the following week. Dr. Robert Scholes observed over two hundred as late as September 17, 1950. During September and October, 1954, Major Chapelle kindly made repeated checks for me, to determine their departure from the localities on the Pacific slope of the Canal Zone where during the summer they were so abundant. As late as September 18, he noted about eighty birds; after that only a few individuals, on October 2 and 3, six birds, on October 9, a total of seven, and on October 16, his last, a single individual on the wires near the Empire Rifle range. While not yet recorded from Middle America north of Panama, examples of *Phaeoprogne*—strikingly suggesting over-sized Bank Swallows in color and pattern—may have been passed over elsewhere on the assumption that they were brown immatures of the somewhat smaller, resident, Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*). Such oversight is understandable, because this South American bird is not described in Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" (though mentioned in the generic key). Dr. Wetmore informs me that he has recently received two Panama specimens collected by R. R. Benson at Tocumen on August 21, 1931. Certainly this now

common migrant was long overlooked in Panama.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *Linnaean Society of New York, 11 Broadway, New York 4, N. Y.*

Further Notes on Korean Birds.—Throughout November 1953, I was engaged in field work in the northernmost part of Kyonggi-do Province, Korea, as a member of the U. S. Army's Field Unit of the Commission on Hemorrhagic Fever. Since my primary tasks were those of a mammalogist, the avifauna of the area was not thoroughly investigated. Fifty-three birds were collected, the majority of which were sent to the 7277th Medical Research Laboratory near Seoul. Twenty-one study specimens were prepared and are in my collection. All specimens collected and additional observations are reported in this paper.

The entire month of November was spent in the wild, abandoned hills of the Hant'an-ch'an River Valley, eight miles east of Yonch'on and five miles north of the 38th Parallel. The level valley floor and the lower slopes of the steep hills bordering the valley were at one time heavily cultivated. However, since the beginning of the Korean War, the area has been abandoned by all but the fighting forces. As a result, the fields have grown dense with grasses, brier, and shrubs, which provide excellent cover for Ring-necked Pheasants and Migratory Quail. Prior to the war there were several villages in the valley, all of which have been completely destroyed. At the present time only a few chestnut trees remain standing to mark the sites of the former villages. Among the thick weeds, lie scattered bricks, smashed water urns, or an occasional farming tool. The many steep hills are covered with dense tangles of scrub oak, vines, various shrubs, and scattered pines. This comparatively heavy vegetation, even though the trees appear dwarfed and twisted, contrasts with the bare, eroded hills around Seoul.

Transportation was unavailable so that all my work was performed on foot and all my observations were limited to an area of approximately five square miles. The observations reported here supplement those of Wolfe (Auk, 67: 433-455, 1950), Fennell (Condor, 54: 101-110, 1952), and Straw (Condor, 55: 153-154, 1953), all of which were made in areas to the south and east of mine.

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Accipiter gentilis. Goshawk. On November 24, while I was collecting small birds in a narrow ravine, a large, pale goshawk flushed from a pine in front of me, crossed the ravine, and dropped out of sight behind the ridge.

Accipiter nisus. Eurasian Sparrow Hawk. I observed this species four times. On November 4, a dark brown, heavily streaked immature bird flew low over my head as I worked my rodent trap-line. Early in the afternoon of November 5, one was seen soaring in tight circles high over the hill behind my tent. As I watched, a crow flew out of the pines on the hilltop toward the hawk, but quickly retreated as the *Accipiter* made a series of short dives at it. Single individuals were also observed on November 11 and 23.

Buteo buteo burmanicus. Eurasian Buzzard. During the latter half of the month this was the most common raptor in the area; however, none was observed during the first nine days afield. On November 11, I saw a lone individual soaring