

GENERAL NOTES

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Nesting in Cuba.—On April 24, 1957, Eric L. Mills, Barry M. Millman, and I were directed to a small bay on the property of the Cuban naturalist, Sr. Maderera Babun, by Sr. Babun and Sr. Mario Santamaria. The bay is approximately one mile west of the port of Santiago de Cuba in the province of Oriente. As we approached it we saw several Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage flying from it to a nearby pasture and bringing back sticks. They were landing in the trees of a small island. We estimated that 50 or more pairs were present, and watched for twenty minutes while many of the birds continued to make forays for sticks. Several were seen displaying.

Also present in the trees, but apparently not nesting at this time, was a smaller number of Little Blue Herons *Florida caerulea*, and Snowy Egrets *Leucophoyx thula*. Unfortunately, we had not the facilities to reach the island, nor the time to return.

Mr. James Bond (*in litt.*) informs me that this is the first recorded nesting colony of the Cattle Egret in Cuba, and the third in the West Indies.—W JOHN SMITH, 40 Roslyn Ave., Ottawa 1, Ontario, Canada.

Ross' Geese Nesting at Southampton Island, N.W.T., Canada.—Two Ross' Goose (*Chen rossi*) nests and several of the birds were sighted among the Blue and Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) in the colony at the Boas River Delta, Southampton Island, during the summer of 1956. (We use *caerulescens*, because we regard these latter forms to be color phases.) This area is approximately 540 miles east southeast of the Perry River area where Ross' Geese are known to nest.

The possibility of finding Ross' Goose nesting in the area was first suggested by Graham Cooch of the Canadian Wildlife Service. The senior author accompanied Mr. Cooch during the 1953 nesting season study of Blue and Snow Geese. In the course of that study two flightless female Ross' Geese were caught and banded in banding drives of flightless Blue and Snow Geese on July 31 and Aug. 1. Both of these Ross' Geese had signs of what might have been brood patches. Both banding drives covered an area 5-7 miles inland from the high tide line. This was much further inland than the area covered in the daily study routes through the goose nests; hence the Ross' Goose nests, if present somewhat inland, were missed.

Eskimo Toma who participated in the banding drives that year said he had shot a Ross' Goose the previous year (1952) at Prairie Point on the east side of South Bay approximately 92 miles east of the Boas River Delta.

In 1956 the authors were in the Boas River studying Brant (*Branta bernicla*), this time alert to the possibility of sighting Ross' Goose nests. On June 25 a single Ross' Goose flew inland to the North, low over our camp on one of the River delta islands, 2½ miles from shore. This bird was noticeably smaller than the Snow Geese nesting all about us, and its stubby bill and warty upper mandible were obvious. The grinning patch characteristic of Snow Geese, and the orange iron stain present to some degree in the Southampton Snows were absent in this goose. Most distinctive feature of the Ross' was its high-pitched squeaky call. We watched the bird until it circled and landed among the islands and waterways toward the north horizon.

Another Ross' Goose was seen on July 10 while we were hiking North along the water courses toward the inland edge of the Blue-Snow Goose colony. This bird circled among the river islands about 7 miles inland. About 3 miles further inland, Eisenhart discovered a Ross' Goose nest on a large, low island about 100 yards from water. The nest was built up of willow and moss, and was lined with white down similar to that of a Snow Goose. There were two eggs in the nest. One egg was