

On the following day we saw two individuals flying high above the archaeological site in company with *Chaetura vauxi*. A little later one of the *P. cayennensis* broke away from the small group and dived swiftly toward the nest, but was lost to view when it reached tree-top level. A few moments later, with the nest again in sight, I saw what was doubtless the same bird drop head first out of the nest and fly rapidly away. Four times I saw a bird leave the nest and each time it followed the same general path, climbing gradually as it flew swiftly through the partially open cut where the road led into the forest toward the east. Twice when I saw an individual entering the nest it swept up from below with great speed, and went in with scarcely a pause, once affording a fleeting glimpse of the wings still outstretched when the bird was within a few inches of the nest. At that moment the wingspread was seen to be considerably less than the 12-inch diameter of the nest tree.

It is of interest to note that one week after finding the nest of *P. cayennensis* at Tikal we saw three individuals of the very similar, but much larger, Great Swallow-tailed Swift, *P. sancti-hieronymi*, in the vicinity of a canyon northeast of Guatemala City, at about 4,500 ft. elevation, at the 15 kilometer mark on the highway to Puerto Barrios.—ERNEST P. EDWARDS, *Museum of Natural History of Houston, Box 8175, Houston 4, Texas.*

Cattle Egret in Haiti.—On June 21, 1956, while driving north along the length of Highway #112 in the Department de L'Artibonite, Haiti, the writer, accompanied by his wife, estimated that more than 100 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were observed. Similar numbers were seen the following day during the trip south along the same route. The egrets were scattered among herds of grazing cattle. Individuals with the lores, proximal two-thirds or so of the mandibles, and the legs red, apparently breeding birds, were distinguished clearly. At that time Highway #112 extended for 20 kilometers, originating and terminating at Highway #100. The route passed through low, partly irrigated country, a considerable portion of which was then given over to cattle grazing. On June 24, 1956, small numbers of Cattle Egrets were found along the north shore of Etang Trou Caiman in the Department de L'Ouest. Several were observed standing on the backs of goats. A non-breeding male bird was collected in this area. The skin is now in the University of Miami Reference Collection.

Bond, in the First Supplement (1956: 2) to the "Check-List of Birds of West Indies" (1956), recorded a flock of Cattle Egrets seen in the Dominican Republic in January 1956, but does not mention any record from Haiti. The specimen is apparently the first to be collected on Hispaniola.

Several Haitian residents, familiar with the local birds, expressed surprise at learning that the Cattle Egret was resident in Haiti. It is of interest to document the spread of this recent invader from the Old World.—OSCAR T. OWRE, *University of Miami, Coral Gables 46, Florida.*

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) on Cozumel Island, Quintana Roo, Mexico.—On January 8, 1959, while visiting Cozumel Island, off the northeast coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, I saw, about 15 miles south of San Miguel, a Cattle Egret feeding on the ground a few inches ahead of a grazing horse. The bird seemed unusually fearless and permitted an approach to within about three yards, so that I was able to see a faint trace of buff on the top of the head. A local treasure hunter, who had previously told me about the bird, said that he had

frequently seen it perched on the horse's back. I am familiar with this species, having observed great numbers in Spain, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

The only previous Mexican report of the Cattle Egret appears to be the recovery on the mainland of the Yucatan Peninsula at Laguna Om, near Chetumal, Quintana Roo, on December 16, 1956, of a bird banded as a nestling at Lake Okeechobee, Florida, on June 10, 1956 (F. J. Ligas, Fla. Nat., 31: 25, 1958).

Paynter's invaluable "Ornithogeography of the Yucatán Peninsula" (Peabody Mus. Bull. 9: 36, 1955) includes no records for this heron, and states that on the Yucatan Peninsula the Common (American) Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) is less common than the Snowy Egret (*Leucophox thula*). During my three weeks stay on this peninsula, December 23, 1958 to January 10, 1959, I observed many egrets in parties of from three to eight, around the mangroves between Progreso and Sisal, up the Champoton River, in a marsh between Campeche and Champoton, on the ocean front at the town of Campeche, and along the west coast of Cozumel Island. With the exception of two Snowy Egrets and the Cattle Egret mentioned, all the remainder appeared to be Common Egrets.—REGINALD DENHAM, 100 Central Park South, New York 19, N. Y.

The Wing Molt and Systematic Position of the Genus *Gampsonyx*.—In a recent paper (J. f. Orn., 99: 81–88, 1958) I reported on my studies of primary molt of Falconidae. They yielded the result that all birds of prey which Sushkin (1905), for osteological reasons, had included in his family Falconidae (as opposed to his Accipitridae), had in common a peculiar mode of molting the primaries. In opposition to all the rest of his order Accipitriformes (Falconiformes), the Falconidae (in the sense of Sushkin) start by dropping the fourth primary (from within). Groups studied showing the *Falco* type molt were *Herpetotheres*, *Micrastur*, *Microhierax*, *Polihierax* (including *Neohierax*), and all the "caracara" genera: *Polyborus* (*Caracara*), *Milvago*, *Daptrius*, *Ibycter*, *Phalcobaenus*.

Inadvertently I also mentioned the neotropical *Gampsonyx* (Pearl Kite) among the genera belonging to Sushkin's Falconidae. I had been misled by consulting Peters' "Check List of Birds," vol. I, p. 281, 1931. Not Sushkin, but Peters had removed *Gampsonyx* from the kites (*Elanus*, etc.) and had placed it among the Falconidae near *Polihierax* and *Spizapteryx*—a treatment adopted also by Hellmayr and Conover (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser., 13, pt. 1, no. 4: 288–289, 1949).

Having at that time at my disposal only five skins of *Gampsonyx swainsoni* in primary molt, of which only three were in a significant molting stage, I fell a victim to the impossibility of telling positively the age of the three innermost primaries. I ventured to rank them among the "old" feathers in specimens 1, 2, 3 of my list (*op. cit.*: 86). They belong, however, in the category of recently molted primaries. This became apparent when I examined 29 molting *Gampsonyx* in the British Museum (July 1958) and in the American Museum of Natural History (October 1958). There can no longer be doubt that in this genus the wing molt always starts with the first (innermost) primary and proceeds to the tenth (outermost) in a quite regular ("descendant") way—the usual order in the Accipitridae. This sequence proves conclusively that *Gampsonyx* does not belong to the Falconidae. Its nearest relatives are obviously *Elanus*, *Elanoides* and other genera of the "kite" assemblage, as had been accepted by all authors previous to Peters (1931).

I had already reached this conclusion, when my attention was drawn by Dr.