

Ten minutes later, the entire flock left the corn field for the edge of a dense stand of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). After alighting in the pines, some of the birds began preening; others extracted seeds from cones; still others searched for insects in the terminal buds of branches or beneath bark. The Red-wings did most of their searching beneath the bark along limbs, not up and down the trunk like a woodpecker or nuthatch. The flock gradually worked from the edge to the interior of the dense stand of loblolly pines where they continued this type of feeding until 1515 hours.

I also observed Red-wings feeding in this manner in a stand of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) in the Tuskegee National Forest, Macon County, Alabama, 17 January 1965. While walking through the stand I heard what I thought was the typical sound of a woodpecker or nuthatch removing bark from a pine tree, and saw pieces of bark dropping from the tree. I expected to see a Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*) or Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), but saw instead a group of 14 adult male Red-wings searching for insects beneath the bark of the pine tree.

I have observed Red-wings feeding in dense pine stands on several occasions over a period of five years, each time in the winter months. In no instance did this pattern of feeding seem to be associated with any unusual environmental condition.—BROOKE MEANLEY, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland.

Abnormal tongue in a Reef Heron.—An adult Reef Heron (*Demigretta gularis*) was taken three miles south of Hurgatta, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt. The heron was taken on the coast of the Red Sea by the author and Ibrahim Helmy (Medical Zoologist with the U. S. Naval Medical Research Unit-3, Cairo) on 1 January 1964.

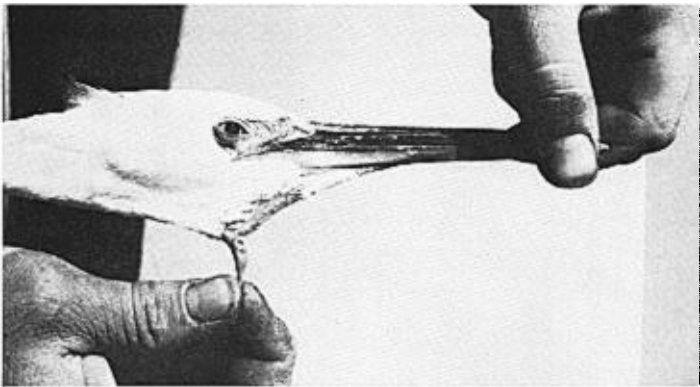


Figure 1. Reef Heron with abnormal tongue. Photograph taken in the field by Ibrahim Helmy.

On examining the specimen, we noted that the tongue was evident on the external ventral aspect of the throat (Figure 1). From the condition of the inside of the mouth it appeared that the heron had received some injury, perhaps from swallowing a spiny animal. The tongue must have protruded through the hole and the wound then healed, leaving the tongue permanently outside the body. The bird appeared to be in normal health when shot. The specimen is preserved in alcohol at the Oregon State University Museum of Natural History (no. 5581).—CHRIS MASER, Museum of Natural History, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.