

**Evening Grosbeak attacks House Sparrow.**—On 5 December 1965 I was watching 25 to 30 House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) feeding on the ground at my bird feeding station in Cattaraugus, New York. A female Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) landed in the midst of the sparrows without causing any commotion. However, with its beak the grosbeak immediately seized a female House Sparrow by the neck. The House Sparrow struggled and flapped its wings, whereupon the grosbeak momentarily released the bird and obtained a firmer grip. This was repeated a second time before the grosbeak took flight with the sparrow still held in its beak. Although the House Sparrow did not appear to be dead, it made no noticeable struggle. The two birds disappeared behind some trees approximately 100 feet from the feeding station. I am unaware of any report of a similar incident in the literature.—CHARLES D. BABCOCK, 127 Jefferson Street, Cattaraugus, New York.

**The Wattled Crane in Ethiopia.**—The distribution of the Wattled Crane (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) in Ethiopia is not well documented. Only a few definite records of this species exist. Cheeseman and Sclater (1935) found one pair, which had a nest containing two eggs, on 21 August 1928, at Dangila, Gojjam Province, at 7,000 feet above sea level. They mentioned that these cranes "build [their nest] every year in the same place and remain in the neighbourhood throughout the year." At Wuhasa Abo, Gojjam Province, elevation 8,340 feet, these authors saw 40 individuals assembled in the same flooded depression on both 19 May 1929 and 25 May 1930. Guichard (1950) saw Wattled Cranes feeding "sometimes in large scattered flocks" in Tefki marsh, Shoa Province, elevation 8,169 feet, from July to October. In March, 1921, Toschi (1959) observed about 30 individuals concentrated on a "table-land between Bocoggi and Bonga" (specific locality not stated, perhaps in Arussi, Shoa, or Kaffa Province). These birds were "attentive to nuptial dances." Moltoni and Ruscone (1944) list the Wattled Crane from "between Massawa and Asmara" (Eritrea Province), Wahasa Abo (= Wuhasa Abo) and Dangila (Gojjam Province), Lake Abiata (Shoa Province), and Lake Chamo (Gemu Gofa Province); they suggested that the species breeds between May and August. However, Smith (1957) does not include this crane in his check list of Eritrean birds.

Two specimens of *B. carunculatus* are in the Natural History Museum of Haile Sellassie I University. One (no. 131), a male, was taken at Tefki (Tessenei), Shoa Province, on 14 January 1940 (wing, 685 mm; tarsus, 330; bare tibia, 190; exposed culmen, 179; culmen from posterior border of the nasal opening, 76; length of wattle, 76). The other (no. 132), a male, was collected at Tiggio, Arussi Province, on 20 January 1940 (wing, 717 mm; tarsus, 327; bare tibia, 148; exposed culmen, 185; culmen from posterior border of nasal opening, 127; length of wattle, 76).

Several workers report no Wattled Cranes from the northern, eastern, or southern provinces. Benson (1945) saw none in Sidamo; Friedmann (1930) indicated that the Childs Frick Expedition did not see the crane in Harrar, Shoa, Arussi, Sidamo, and Gemu Gofa. As indicated above, Smith (1957) did not observe them in Eritrea. Thesiger and Meynell (1935) did not find this species off the plateau in the Danakil region of Shoa, Wollo, and Harrar.

Recently, several sight records have added to a better understanding of the distribution of this crane in Ethiopia. Between 26 November and 1 December 1963, Mr. L. Brown (pers. comm.) saw two adult Wattled Cranes with one half-grown

young bird in a grassy bog above Adoba, Bale Province, at 11,700 feet. The size of the young bird suggested that it had hatched in September. On 2 December 1963, he found one pair of non-breeding Wattled Cranes at about 9,500 to 10,000 feet in grassland between Wondo and Adola, Sidamo Province, and in early February, 1964, one pair in a marsh between Debra Marcos and Dangila, Gojjam Province. We observed the species at Tefki, Shoa Province, at 8,169 feet. In 1965 we saw the following: 23 August, 19 (one group of 5, two of 7); 24 August, 16; 25 August, 19; 29 August, 20; 29 September, 43 (one group each of 2, 3, 6, 9, and 23); and 10 October, 58 (one group each of 1, 2, 16, and 33, and two of 3). At the same locality Dr. E. Gilbert and Miss P. Allen (pers. comm.) saw 63 individuals on 30 October 1965 and 17 on 2 November 1965. When we saw the groups of 23 and 33, all individuals were feeding in what appeared to be a single line. As we approached within 100 to 200 yards, the cranes left the area in single file and ran about one mile to another section of the marsh. At no time did we see any indication of breeding. In Gojjam Province, between 8,500 and 9,000 feet, we noted Wattled Cranes one-half mile north of Cima (25 August 1965, two groups of 3; 28 August, one of 3) and 10 miles north of Dejem (25 August 1965, 2 birds). Again we observed no evidence of breeding. We travelled as far north as the marsh east of Lake Tana (Gondar Road, 30 to 40 miles northeast of Bahar Dar, Begemdir Province) where we saw 71 Crowned Cranes (*Balearica pavonina*) but no Wattled Cranes (Urban and Walkinshaw, MS). Travelling to this locality, we saw no Wattled Cranes north of Dejem and Cima. It is possible that somewhere between northern Gojjam (Dejem and Cima) and southern Begemdir (30 to 40 miles northeast of Bahar Dar) we reached the northern limit of the Wattled Crane's range in Ethiopia.

Based on the above records, it appears that the Wattled Crane in Ethiopia generally occupies wet marshes of the high plateau and rarely occurs below 7,000 feet. Furthermore, nesting of this species seems to be correlated with the long rains in Ethiopia, especially from late May to early September.

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