

incidence of open wounds, which is remarkably high in hippos because of a comparatively high level of intraspecific aggression.

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**First specimen of Reddish Egret from British Honduras.**—While driving on the highway between Belize and Cayo in British Honduras on 4 August 1969, we collected an immature Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) that was feeding at the edge of a shallow pond approximately 40 km southwest of Belize. The bird was a male with little subcutaneous fat; its left testis measured 5 × 3 mm. The bill was black on the distal half, shading to pale gray basally, the iris was pale yellow, and the legs and feet black. The specimen, the first from British Honduras and the southernmost from Caribbean Central America, is No. 19749 in the collection of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

Although the immature plumages of the Reddish Egret are poorly known, the present specimen appears to be in the Basic I plumage as described in Palmer (1962, Handbook of North American birds, vol. 1, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press). Head, neck, and breast are pale reddish-brown with traces of light gray and lack the plumes characteristic of adult plumages. Underparts and back are slaty gray with a rich suffusion of light brown; scapulars and wing coverts have prominent brown edgings. Measurements of the slightly worn specimen are: wing chord, 320 mm; tail, 106; exposed culmen, 98. Because it is an immature, our specimen cannot be allocated to subspecies.

Russell (1964, Ornithol. Monogr. No. 1: 39) mentions only one previous record of the Reddish Egret for British Honduras, a single individual E. Willis saw near the mouth of the Belize River on 7 August 1957. There are two sight records from Guatemala: three birds seen on 12 March 1958 at Tikal, el Petén (Smithe 1966, The birds of Tikal Garden City, New York, Natural History Press, p. 12) and "several seen" (no date given) by Anthony on the Rio Polochic near Lake Yzabal

(Griscom 1932, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull. 64: 140). We can find no other published records of the species for the Caribbean lowlands of Central America.

We wish to thank T. R. Howell for critically examining the specimen. This note is a byproduct of research in Central America sponsored by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.—LLOYD F. KIFF AND JULIA L. KIFF, *Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 1100 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024*. Accepted 19 Mar. 73.

**Robbing of breeding Lewis' Woodpecker food stores.**—Lewis' Woodpecker, *Asyndesmus lewis*, stockpiles food in desiccation cracks and holes near its nest cavity. Such stores are potential food sources for animals other than the parental woodpeckers. Bock (1970, Univ. California Publ. Zool. 92: 74) observed such storing behavior but did not mention associated robbing losses. I studied two adjacent nests near Wheatfields Lake, Apache County, Arizona, from 11 June to 11 July 1972. During 34½ hours of nest watching, crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were successful thieves (ingestion or flight with a food item) in 10 of 24 attempts while other Lewis' Woodpeckers were successful in 3 of 19 raids. Initial discovery of food stores by crows appeared to be accidental: one crow perched directly on a site and began exploratory pecking at some of the stored food. In contrast, raiding Lewis' Woodpeckers approached the nest tree cautiously, but directly, and began probing along dead limbs. Once raiding birds learned the exact sites of stored food, their raids were swifter and more direct. Several times crows completely depleted storage cracks about 8 cm long. Response of territorial woodpeckers to raiding crows was by voice only; defense against raiding Lewis' Woodpeckers was initially the "wing-out" display (Bock 1970: 65), and if necessary, vigorous pursuit and vocalization. Presumably the benefits accrued from foraging opportunism and food stockpiling exceed the costs of 1.2 raids per hour and loss of food stores. I thank John Alcock for criticizing this note.—GEORGE D. CONSTANTZ, *Department of Zoology, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85281*. Accepted 5 Mar. 73.

**Notes on copulation in the White-breasted Nuthatch.**—A male White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) was seen climbing the trunk of a mature hickory in a woodland near Macomb, Illinois, on 7 May 1972. Its movements seemed faster and jerkier than in the usual feeding behavior. Part way up the trunk another White-breasted Nuthatch was sitting quietly on a horizontal branch. When the first bird reached the side branch it began jumping from one side to the other over the back of the sitting bird (assumed to be the female). The female gave several calls that Kilham (1972, Auk 89: 115) described as "pheeoo"; the male gave the usual nasal call, began fluttering his wings, and paused on her back as he went over her. Finally the female squatted and the male jumped again onto her back, paused, then began fluttering his wings and bending his tail to the left and under the female's tail. This sequence lasted no more than a minute, the actual copulation only 4–5 seconds. The male then flew to another tree while the female sat quietly for a moment. Both resumed feeding and when the female flew to the male he presented her with a caterpillar that she ate.—DON MOLL, *Department of Biology, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455*. Accepted 12 Mar. 1973.