cessful breeding of an isolated pair of this species is more closely related to the availability of suitable habitat than to seeming gregariousness. However, the male that I observed was not heard to sing in 40 hours of field work between 2 May (prior to the discovery of the pair) and 8 May. This apparent lack of song may have been related to the absence of stimuli normally provided by the presence of other singing males on adjacent territorities.

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Cattle Egrets in Ventura County, California.—On 30 October 1966 four Cattle Egrets, *Bubulcus ibis*, were observed at the Point Mugu Game Preserve which adjoins the northeast side of Point Mugu Naval Air Base, Ventura County, California. Point Mugu Game Preserve includes 350 acres of waterfowl habitat, with 230 acres of freshwater ponds divided by dikes. Fifty to 150 cattle are grazed throughout the year on the property.

I am acquainted with the Cattle Egret, having seen it in East Africa. The birds were close to the cattle at all times and moved with them as they grazed. This movement was similar to their behavior pattern among the elephant, Cape buffalo, cattle, and other herd mammals in Africa.

The caretaker at the game preserve stated that he first noticed one Cattle Egret in September 1965, and it stayed with the cattle until March 1966. He did not see it again until September 1966, when four of the birds returned to the preserve.

I saw the birds again on 3 November 1966, and one specimen was collected (W. F. Nichols No. 624, adult ♀ with fully ossified skull), which has been deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, at Berkeley (No. 156676). On 6 November 1966 the Cattle Egrets were observed again, and another was collected (W. F. Nichols No. 625, adult ♀), which is now in the Los Angeles County Museum (No. 61060).

This record of the Cattle Egret in Ventura County, California, appears to document the northward spread of the Cattle Egret in California. This location is 150 miles north of Imperial Beach, San Diego, California, where it was first observed and collected in 1964 (McCaskie, Condor, 67:89, 1965) and 230 miles northwest of the Imperial Valley where it has been observed (Audubon Field Notes, 18:386, 1964 and 19:416, 1965).—WALTER F. NICHOLS, *65 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101, 7 November 1966.*

A Record of the Cattle Egret in Humboldt County, California.—Two Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were observed and photographed as they fed in a pasture on the Arcata Bottoms, approximately two miles northwest of Arcata, Humboldt County, California, on 15 December 1966. They were first reported by Ron Gerstenberg and were later observed by the authors, accompanied by Dave Marshall and Jack Waddell of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The egrets allowed us to approach within 20 feet of them, and we were able to ascertain that the feathers on the head of one bird were washed with a buffy coloration. A local ranch hand stated that he had first noted them in the same field on 13 December 1966.—STANLEY W. HARRIS and CHARLES F. YOCOM, *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California 95521, 11 January 1967.*

A Record of the Cattle Egret in Humboldt County, California.—On 6 July 1966 the senior author obtained an immature Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) at McKinleyville, Humboldt County, California. The bird was taken to a veterinarian for treatment of a gunshot wound in its leg and was subsequently placed in the care of the junior author and his wife, under the supervision of the veterinarian. The bird sickened and died about three months later from the effects of its original wounds. The specimen was inadvertently incinerated by the veterinarian

who made a last attempt to save the life of the bird.—TERRY GROSZ, *California Department of Fish and Game, 6140 Princeton Drive, Eureka, California* and MIKE DOLE, *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California 95521, 28 January 1967.*

Confused Behavior of Gulls in Relation to Weather Conditions.—Dean Amadon (Condor, 68:397–398, 1966) reported an interesting observation of gulls (probably *Larus californicus*) milling about at night in a snowstorm, near Reno, Nevada, 22 April 1964. He was unable to suggest a reason why the birds continued to mill about for two and a half hours, or why they started migrating "on a miserable night following an even more inclement day."

A study of the weather maps for the period in question provides a basis for explaining the reported situation which, in fact, may be considered an example of the way weather patterns disrupt the normal pattern of migration. The "Daily Weather Maps" series of the U.S. Weather Bureau for 0100 EST 22 and 23 April 1964 show that an intense cold front moved across the western states from the northwest, passing Reno in mid-afternoon on 22 April, with an average speed of over 500 miles in 24 hours. By 2200 PST a surface low-pressure area had developed, centered near Ely, Nevada. The combination of the cold front and the developing low-pressure center led to strong northeasterly winds over northern Nevada. To the west of Reno, the topography of the Truckee River canyon forms a "funnel," which tends to channel the winds along the river.

The probable movements of migrating California Gulls in the weather situation described can be reconstructed as follows. Birds traveling from their coastal wintering areas to the breeding grounds on inland lakes north and east of Reno were already past Reno (Amadon noted that there were no gulls on Lake Tahoe that morning), traveling in the fine weather that prevailed until the morning of 22 April. The rapidly moving cold front must have caught a number of flocks over the plains, and the accompanying snow squalls and wind shift would be expected to disorient some of the flocks of gulls which had not arrived at suitable resting places. If the disoriented birds then continued flying in a random pattern, the resultant travel would be downwind. Those birds which were upwind of Reno when they became disoriented would then be carried with the wind to the vicinity of Reno. The known attraction of bright lights for confused migrants would account for the concentration noted by Amadon. I suspect that similar concentrations may have occurred at other brightly lighted spots in Reno and its environs.

The reconstruction given above accounts for the presence of migrating birds at night in bad weather, and partially explains why they were observed milling about in the same area. It does not adequately explain why they remained there for a period of two and a half hours. I can offer two speculations: first, that there were a number of different flocks which, after a short period of circling, moved on in search of a resting place; second, that a single flock, unable to find either orientation clues or a safe landing spot, circled the lights, which were the only fixed point available, until the weather improved as the cold front moved on.—WILLIAM J. FRANCIS, *Illinois State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois 61801, 30 November 1966.*

A Record of Nest Parasitism of the Oregon Junco by the Brown-headed Cowbird in Southern California.—On 16 June 1966, while conducting research on the breeding biology of the birds of the San Bernardino Mountains near Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino County, I discovered a nest of the Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) that contained one egg of the junco and one egg of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This area is within the breeding ranges of *J. o. thurberi* and *M. a. obscurus*. The nest was built on the ground under a dead branch. It was located about 25 yards from a stream in a boggy meadow at about 6000-feet elevation. The two eggs were very heavily incubated, indicating a complete set.

Friedmann (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 233, 1963; and personal communication) indicates that records of cowbird parasitism of the Oregon Junco are rare and are confined to more northern latitudes. The southernmost record in the literature is apparently that of Johnston (Condor, 62: 137, 1960), for *J. o. pinosus* at Berkeley, California.—EDWARD B. DEGROOT, III, *2/Lt, USAF (MSC) Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 1100 Glenden Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024, 5 October 1966.*