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## SOUTHWARD MIGRATION OF HERONS

By BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

This is the second article dealing with the recoveries of American Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and Snowy Egrets, as well as Water Turkeys or Anhingas, banded as nestlings, 1935 to 1942, in the Greenville, Mississippi area and at Moon Lake, Mississippi. In the first article (Coffey, "Post-Juvenal Migration of Herons" *Bird-Banding*, 14 (1&2): 34-39; 1943) the numbers banded, by species, date, and location were given. Tables and maps showed all recoveries for the first southward migration period which was considered, arbitrarily, to end on the first January 1 after banding. Many of these recoveries will be included on the current map in order to indicate some of the post-juvenal dispersion which might be loosely considered part of the migration. Some will appear again in the tables (marked with an \*) since the tables include all recoveries south of the United States.

From the map and tables it will be seen that a few of the birds go as far south as Colombia and that most of the recoveries are along the Gulf Coast of México, British Honduras, and Cuba. Mention of the last country might project a mental picture of the herons moving equally southwest and southeast (not ruling out the trans-Gulf flight) but a study of the map favors another hypothesis. The unusual point about the twelve Cuban recoveries is that they were all bunched on the western third of the island. While we hesitate to discuss the migration route problem at this time, we believe that they reached that area by way of the Yucatán Peninsula, following the circuitous land route from the Mississippi Valley southwest through Louisiana, Texas, and México. Some remained along that route while others reached the Gulf of Honduras area and still others eventually arrived in Cuba. A route through Florida to Cuba

TABLE I. POST-JUVENAL RECOVERIES

## ARRANGED GEOGRAPHICALLY, NORTH TO SOUTH

Band No.	Banded	Recovered
A. American Egret		
*34-658472	June 1, 1935	Nov. 17, 1935, Santana Rodriguez, Veraeruz
37-711435	May 23, 1937	Nov. 28, 1937, Ciudad Chetumal, Quintana Roo
37-719687	May 25, 1941	Nov. 24, 1941, San Juan y Martinez, Pinar del Río, Cuba
37-719488	May 25, 1941	Dec. 18, 1941, Guines, Habana, Cuba
*37-711651	May 22, 1938	Nov. 18, 1938, Belize, British Honduras
37-711719	June 6, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938, Belize, British Honduras
*34-661891	June 16, 1935	Dec. 1, 1935, Sibun River, 25 mi. from Belize, B.H.
*36-720451	May 23, 1937	Oct. 18, 1937, Tamash River, Barranco, British Honduras
34-658471	June 1, 1935	Jan. 3, 1936, Puerto Castilla, Honduras
*37-719331	June 6, 1937	Sept. 21, 1937, Cartagena, Colombia
*36-720293	May 23, 1937	Nov. 26, 1937, Monteria, Bolívar, Colombia
B. Little Blue Heron		
*36-656093	May 24, 1936	Sept. 28, 1936, Laguna de Chapulco, Puebla
*37-645094	June 3, 1940	Dec. 13, 1940, Maxcanu, Yucatán
*37-630956	May 23, 1937	Sept. 30, 1937, Ciudad Carrillo, Quintana Roo
*37-644651	June 3, 1940	Dec. 6, 1940, Sittee River, British Honduras
*37-630729	May 23, 1937	Sept. 10, 1937, Bonacca, Bay Islands, Honduras
*37-630862	June 6, 1937	Oct. 8, 1937, 17 mi. from Irióna, Honduras
*37-644201	June 6, 1937	Oct. 17, 1937, David, Chiriquí, Panamá
*36-656105	May 24, 1936	Sept. 10, 1936, St. François, Guadeloupe, French West Indies
C. Anhinga		
*37-711582	June 6, 1937	Dec. 22, 1937, Villa Azueta, Veraeruz
*34-661814	June 15, 1935	Dec. 8, 1935, Palizada, Campeche

would be shorter but there were no recoveries of our birds in Florida and, even considering the erratic post-juvenal dispersion of these species, there were only four records in Alabama and Georgia. An apparent exception is that of Little Blue Heron 36-656105, banded May 24, 1936, and killed 2,000 miles away at Guadeloupe, September 10, 1936. The relative speed with which two American Egrets reached Colombia, South America, — on the first subsequent September 21 and November 26, respectively—might also favor a more direct route.

We might mention that data, not included herein, show a small number of wintering or early arriving birds in the lower south and that recoveries in subsequent years are slightly more for our valley than tabulated herein for south of the United States. So, our records shown herein may be for: (1) birds remaining indefinitely to the south; (2) birds migrating back and forth.

The Cuban data pose questions regarding two other points: the lateness of the recoveries and the concentration on the western third of the island. The Snowy Egret and the two Little Blue Herons

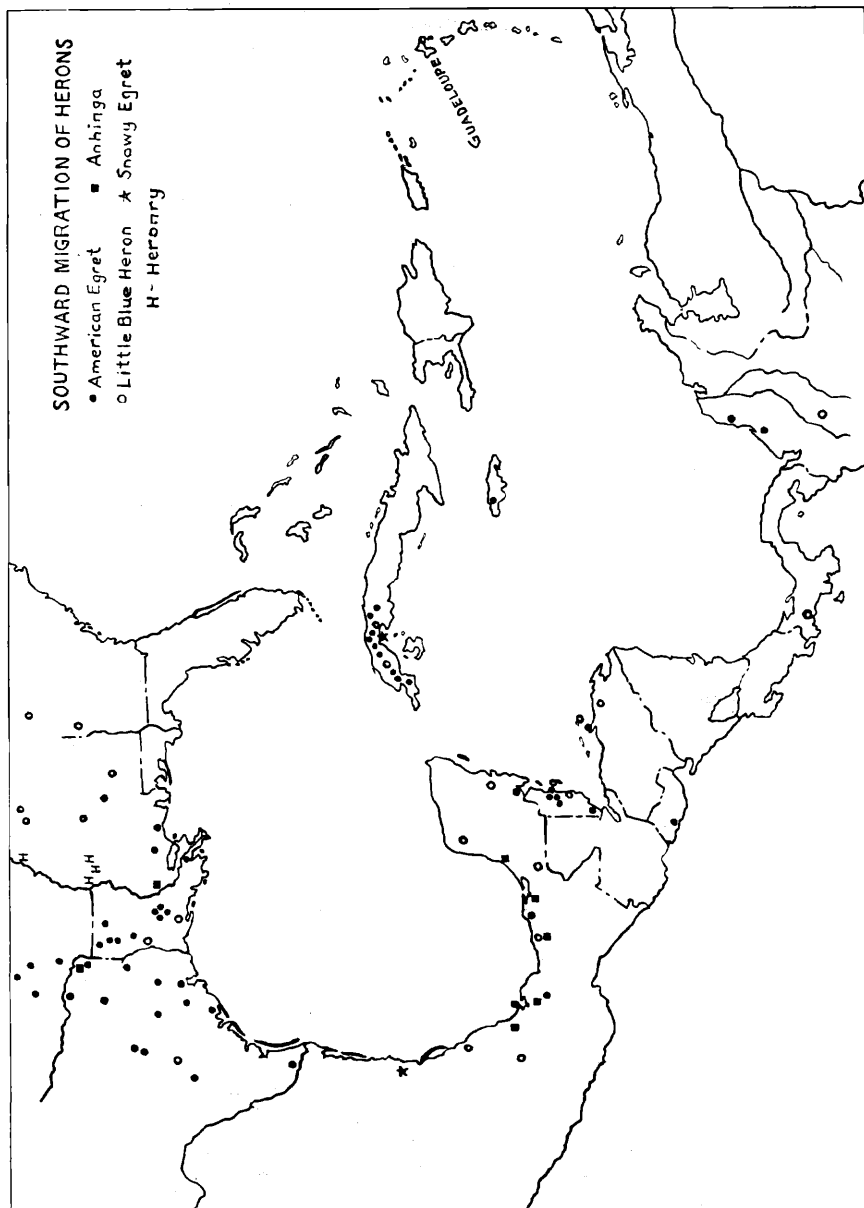
TABLE II. SUBSEQUENT RECOVERIES

ARRANGED IN ORDER OF ELAPSED TIME

A. American Egret		
37-719376	June 6, 1937	Jan. 20, 1938, Guanabana, Matanzas, Cuba
37-720675	June 8, 1941	Mar. 6, 1942, Belize, British Honduras
36-720022	June 8, 1936	Apr. 6, 1937, San Cristobal, Cuba
37-719028	June 6, 1937	May, 1938, Remates, Pinar del Río, Cuba
36-720499	May 23, 1937	Sept. 1, 1938, San Salvador, El Salvador
37-719069	June 6, 1937	Nov. 8, 1939, Montego Bay, Jamaica, B.W.I.
36-719116	May 24, 1936	Feb. 16, 1939, Guane, Pinar del Río, Cuba
37-711026	May 23, 1937	March, 1940, Alvaro Obregon, Tabasco
34-658585	June 2, 1935	Feb. 14, 1939, Central Espana, Matanzas, Cuba
37-711106	May 23, 1937	Apr. 5, 1941, near Habana, Cuba
34-658511	June 1, 1935	Feb., 1940, Artemisa, Pinar del Río, Cuba
36-720320	May 23, 1937	Oct. 18, 1946, Spanish Creek, British Honduras
B. Little Blue Heron		
35-540124	June 16, 1935	July 20, 1936, Belize, British Honduras
36-657011	May 31, 1936	Jan. 23, 1938, Papantla, Veracruz
36-640810	May 25, 1936	(R.L. Caylor) Oct. 13, 1938, Los Mangos, Habana
35-540117	June 16, 1935	Oct., 1937, Comalcalco, Tabasco
38-675244	June 7, 1942	Apr. 2, 1946, Candelaria River, Campeche
37-630310	May 23, 1937	July 16, 1941, Consolacion del Sur, Pinar del Río, Cuba
36-640882	May 25, 1936	(R.L. Caylor) Fall, 1943, Río Nechi, Dept. of Antioquia, Colombia
C. Anhinga		
36-719273	May 24, 1936	Aug. 7, 1937, Cosamaloapan, Veracruz
37-719482	May 25, 1941	Nov. 23, 1943, Champoton, Campeche
37-711581	June 6, 1937	Jan. 11, 1940, Cardenas, Tabasco
34-658599	June 15, 1935	Feb. 15, 1945, Alvarado, Veracruz
D. Snowy Egret		
36-656509	June 7, 1936	June, 1938, Manuel, Tamaulipas
37-644130	June 6, 1937	Jan. 5, 1940, Batabano, Habana, Cuba

reported there were banded at least two years previously. Before our 1941 banding the earliest an American Egret had been reported from the island was January 20 with other reports extending into the following spring and subsequent years. Two 1941 birds were reported for November 24 and December 18, respectively, after banding. There is a slight chance of error on these two due to the similarity of band numbers used in 1936 and 1937, only the serial number differing. Verification was carried as far as possible.

Dr. Charles T. Ramsden of Santiago, Cuba, writes that these species are distributed throughout the island. James Bond in "Birds of the West Indies" (1936) places them in Cuba without comment on their distribution and abundance. We are led to assume that the herons nesting in our South Atlantic states migrate down to the central and eastern portions of Cuba and we hope that banding results will be available to bear out this theory.



A comparison with results from banded Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*) can be made as May Thacher Cooke has published recoveries of this race from Middle America (Auk, 1946: 254). Of the fifteen listed, all banded as juvenals, six were from Cuba. Three, banded in Wisconsin and Michigan, were recovered in the western-most province of Cuba. Two, banded in Maine, were reported from east central and east Cuba. One, banded in Maryland, was recovered in west central Cuba (El Stabo, Matanzas) but apparently east of our plotted recoveries. A Michigan bird was reported from Jamaica and the other eight, all banded in the upper Mid-West, follow the pattern of our birds south to Gatun, Panamá. From time to time in *Bird-Banding* Miss Cooke has published recovery records of herons. Eight other records of this species from México are of birds banded at localities from Nebraska to California. Three Little Blue Herons banded at Charleston, S. C., were reported from the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Venezuela, respectively, while one from Cape May wandered to Tobago, British West Indies. A Louisiana Heron from Charleston was shot at Caibarien, central Cuba. A Snowy Egret from Texas moved to Costa Rica while one from Utah migrated to Sinaloa. On the other hand, the numerous recovery records of the Black-crowned Night Heron are scattered indiscriminately.

We are indebted to Professor R. L. Caylor of Cleveland, Mississippi, for the use of his unpublished Cuban and Colombian recovery records of two Little Blue Herons banded at Glen Allan, Mississippi.

Acknowledgements have been previously made but it is our desire to dedicate this brief exposition to four of our many willing assistants on the heron banding trips. Coincidentally these were the four who accompanied Mrs. Coffey and the writer on our last trip (1941) to Glen Allan. To the memory of these four leading Eagle Scouts and members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society who have given their lives for their country,—Austin W. Burdick, Jr., Fred W. Fiedler, Jr., Joe T. Mason, Jr., and Ben C. Welch, Jr.

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## LONGEVITY OF THE OVEN-BIRD\*

BY HARRY W. HANN

While studying the Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus* Linnaeus) on a forty-acre tract near Ann Arbor, Michigan, during the years 1933-1942, the author accumulated data on the length of life of thirty-eight individuals of that species (Hann, 1937, 1940, 1941).

\*Contribution from the Department of Zoology, University of Michigan.