

to collect specimens of the skins of American birds to take out for the collection of our Training School—Will you kindly send me a licence.” Dr. Putnam sent a permit to collect birds over a period of four months.

William Brewster, noted ornithologist at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, sent a special request in February of 1888 writing, “I want a few crossbills and I am told that they are here in unusual numbers. You know how very erratic their movements are! All may be gone in the course of the next week or two. If you could give me a permit within a few days I should be very glad to have it.” A special permit for this was granted by the Commission, as was a similar one given to G. Brown Goode later that year. Goode, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, sent his appreciation to Putnam on 3 December 1888, “I am very much obliged to you for the permit which you have given, enabling us to obtain specimens of the Heath Hen on Martha’s Vineyard. Prof. Shaler and I have been in correspondence in regard to the matter, and I have written this day to Mr. G. W. Evans whom Prof. Shaler recommends as a good man to secure the specimens.”

C. F. Batchelder of Cambridge also applied for the privilege of collecting birds for scientific purposes. He explained to Dr. Putnam on 11 April 1889 that, “for the last 10 years I have been an officer and member of the Council of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, I was one of the founders of the American Ornithologists’ Union of which I am an active member, and I am the associate editor of the *Auk*.—The birds taken would be used for purposes of study. My age is 32.” Putnam was cautious about giving out collecting permits, but was ever anxious to encourage serious students of ornithology and to approve applications for collecting by those who were qualified to carry out professional studies and to collect for museums.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

CATTLE EGRETS COLOR BANDED

Due to the widespread interest and lack of knowledge surrounding the Cattle Egret, *Ardeola ibis*, the author and his co-workers have banded nearly 2,000 of this species. This season 1,000 were red color banded on the left leg and an aluminum government band was applied to the right tarsus.

It is hoped that all sightings of these color banded birds will be reported whenever they are seen. All of these nestlings were banded within a radius of 15 miles of Charleston, South Carolina. There can be little doubt that a definite age for breeding will be secured from these birds and that they will spread from Canada to South America, and from Mexico into California. Past recoveries have shown this species to be great wanderers and colonizers of new areas.

That they are very adaptable is being fast proved from almost all facets of the species’ life cycle. From timing of nesting, utilization of used nests of other species, feeding at garbage dumps, consumption of substitute foods when pastures are not available, and last but not least, that ability to fill vacuums left by other members of the long-legged waders.

Please report all sightings to T. A. Beckett, III, Magnolia Gardens, Johns Island, S. C.

HERON DISPERSAL STUDY

Dr. Andrew J. Meyerriecks, Department of Zoology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, is currently studying the movements of young herons in Florida. His work is being done in cooperation with the Encephalitis Research Center of Tampa, a division of the State Board of Health. All of the herons and egrets found in the United States breed in Florida and occur in goodly numbers. A fascinating aspect of the life history of herons is that the young ones, newly fledged, engage in dramatic dispersal movements. Strangely enough, detailed information is lacking on the movements of these young herons in Florida and nearby states.

Dr. Meyerriecks is banding each young heron with a standard government aluminum band placed on its right leg, and then the bird has some of its feathers dyed a bright color. Each heronry is assigned a special color code so that observers can tell where the young heron was born. If you see a strangely marked heron or egret of any kind, please send this information to the address below: DATE: PLACE: SPECIES OF HERON (if known): HOW BIRD WAS COL-