

Because I have no notation of the skull condition of this Mockingbird at the time of banding in 1969, the age designation of HY at that time now appears questionable, *i.e.* it might have been an adult. That it had the pale white iris in at least its fourth year of life suggests that iris color alone may not be a reliable age indication for the Mockingbird.—Kenneth Wade Prescott, 15 Timberlane Drive, Pennington, New Jersey 08534. Received 30 May 1972, accepted 28 June 1972.

Cattle Egret recoveries from south Georgia nesting colonies.—During the spring and summer of 1967, C. William Dopson and I undertook to locate by aerial search and census on foot all heron rookeries within a fifty-mile radius of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia (*Oriole*, **32**: 39-45, 1967). Fitzgerald is located in the upper Coastal Plain of south Georgia, approximately 120 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 75 miles north of the Georgia-Florida state line. I have continued the aerial search for breeding colonies of the waders and Aningas (*Anhinga anhinga*) through the 1972 breeding season and have subsequently located eight occupied sites. These have varied in size from 40 nests in the smallest to over 3,000 nests in the largest.

In 1968, Sqdr. Leader Philip G. Murton, RAF, and I entered four of the colonies on 14 occasions, primarily to band nestlings (*Oriole*, **34**: 1-11, 1969). In 1968, we banded 1,441 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), 314 Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), 33 Aningas, 13 Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), and 9 Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*). Banding of nestlings of these species was carried out at Rebecca (Turner County), Abbeville (Dodge County), Bear Creek (Coffee County), and Spring Hill (Wheeler County), Georgia. Numbered aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service bands were used, and no color-banding was attempted.

Table 1 lists the numbers of Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons banded and Table 2 contains recovery data received to the present time (summer, 1972). No recoveries have been received for the other species banded.

TABLE 1. Nestlings banded in 1968.

Colony location	Date	Cattle Egret	Little Blue Heron
Abbeville	27 May	1	94
Spring Hill	8 June	40	63
Abbeville	15 June	37	48
Spring Hill	22 June	217	43
Rebecca	30 June	123	22
Abbeville	4 July	169	9
Spring Hill	5 July	216	15
Rebecca	6 July	176	13
Spring Hill	20 July	105	5
Rebecca	21 July	187	2
Rebecca	4 August	120	0
Bear Creek	11 August	50	0
Totals		1441	314

Numbers of each of the two species considered in the tables along with dates of banding are good indices of the progression of the breeding cycle. The peak of the nesting season in this area of south Georgia is mid-May for the Little Blue Heron, whereas for the Cattle Egret it is in mid-June and early July. We have noted many Cattle Egret nests with eggs in early August when Little Blue Herons have fledged their young.

TABLE 2. Band recoveries for Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron.

Banding date 1968	Banding location (Georgia)	Recovery date	Recovery location
8 June	Spring Hill	10 July 1971	Osierfield, Georgia
15 June	Abbeville	November 1968	Iona, Nova Scotia
22 June	Spring Hill	January 1971	Paso Largo, Mexico
22 June	Spring Hill	January 1969	Westwego, Louisiana
22 June	Spring Hill	14 September 1968	Blackshear, Georgia
30 June	Rebecca	23 July 1971	Moultrie, Georgia
5 July	Spring Hill	10 November 1968	Bethel, North Carolina
5 July	Spring Hill	22 February 1969	Ocala, Florida
6 July	Rebecca	12 May 1969	Jonesville, Honduras
6 July	Rebecca	5 October 1970	Ameca, Mexico
21 July	Rebecca	6 November 1968	Lagunas, Guatemala
21 July	Rebecca	31 March 1969	El Salvador, C. A.
21 July	Rebecca	2 February 1969	Alto Sango, Cuba
4 August	Rebecca	5 October 1968	Tifton, Georgia
4 August	Rebecca	1 July 1970	Eastman, Georgia
Little Blue Heron			
27 May	Abbeville	8 July 1970	Eastman, Georgia
6 July	Rebecca	8 March 1969	Chokoloskee, Florida

Fred Shanholtzer (pers. comm.) of the University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia has banded many Cattle Egrets on the Georgia coast in recent years. He reports three recoveries for Cattle Egrets banded near Sapelo Island in 1969. Of these, two were recovered in Mexico and one at Pinar del Rio in Cuba in 1970.

Our recovery data for the Fitzgerald region birds indicate a strong tendency for southward movement of young Cattle Egrets during post-breeding dispersal. Movements of two of the birds, the remarkable northward flight to Nova Scotia and the bird to Louisiana, are unexplainable in general migratory movements. Recovery of two Georgia birds in Cuba and the preponderance of Mexican and Central American recoveries suggest a trans-Gulf route as opposed to a land route around the Yucatan Peninsula.—Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Route 5, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750. Received 26 June 1972, accepted 10 July 1972.