

VAGRANCY OF NEOTROPICAL CORMORANT, EGRETS, AND WHITE-FACED IBIS

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Recoveries of banded nestlings indicate that the vagrant movements of juveniles are much more extensive the first year than in later years. In regard to the Argentine populations mentioned in this paper the distances between the northernmost, southernmost, and easternmost recoveries are generally between 1,500 and 2,000 km for the first year; then there is a tendency to return to the vicinity of the hatching sites. Presumably the vagrancy of the first year is still more extensive, but because there are no recoveries from sparsely populated areas like the Paraguayan Chaco, eastern Bolivia, and Matto Grosso, this supposition has not yet been verified.

The banding reported here was carried out at two sites in central Argentina, one in Santiago del Estero by the team of the Miguel Lillo Institute, another in Santa Fe by Peter Miles and Maurice Rumboll.

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*), Fig. 1. In the Bañado de Figuero of the Salado River, Santiago del Estero, 384 nestlings were banded 25 May and 7 June 1963. Eleven birds were recovered the same year, and the distances between the outermost recoveries in the north, south, and east fit an equilateral triangle of 1,500 km on each side. The recoveries of the 2nd year showed far less distance between each other and those of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 8th years indicate a concentration along the Paraná River beds, some 400 km from the hatching site in the Salado River, an affluent to the Paraná. According to our data the cormorants use this river as a flyway to and from the nesting site.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Fig. 2. At Murphy, Venado Tuerto, Santa Fe, 711 nestlings were banded 31 December 1967 and 10 January 1968. First year vagrancy of the juveniles showed vast wanderings towards the north and south but none towards the east or west. The distance between the northernmost and southernmost recovery was 1,500 km. The 2nd and 3rd years yielded no recoveries, but some in the 4th and 6th years were obtained in the vicinity of the hatching site.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Fig. 3. Of 748 nestlings banded at Murphy, Venado Tuerto, Santa Fe, 31 December 1967 and 10 January 1968, only 4 have been recovered. One, however, was taken after about five months as far away as in the Amazonas, northwestern Brasil, of 3,500 km from the hatching site. One wonders if such a bird ever returns to the vicinity of its hatching site. Another was recovered during the 2nd year 1,400 km from the hatching site, while two birds were taken after 3 and 5 years near the site.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), Fig. 4. The movements of this population seem to be rather regular. At Murphy, Venado

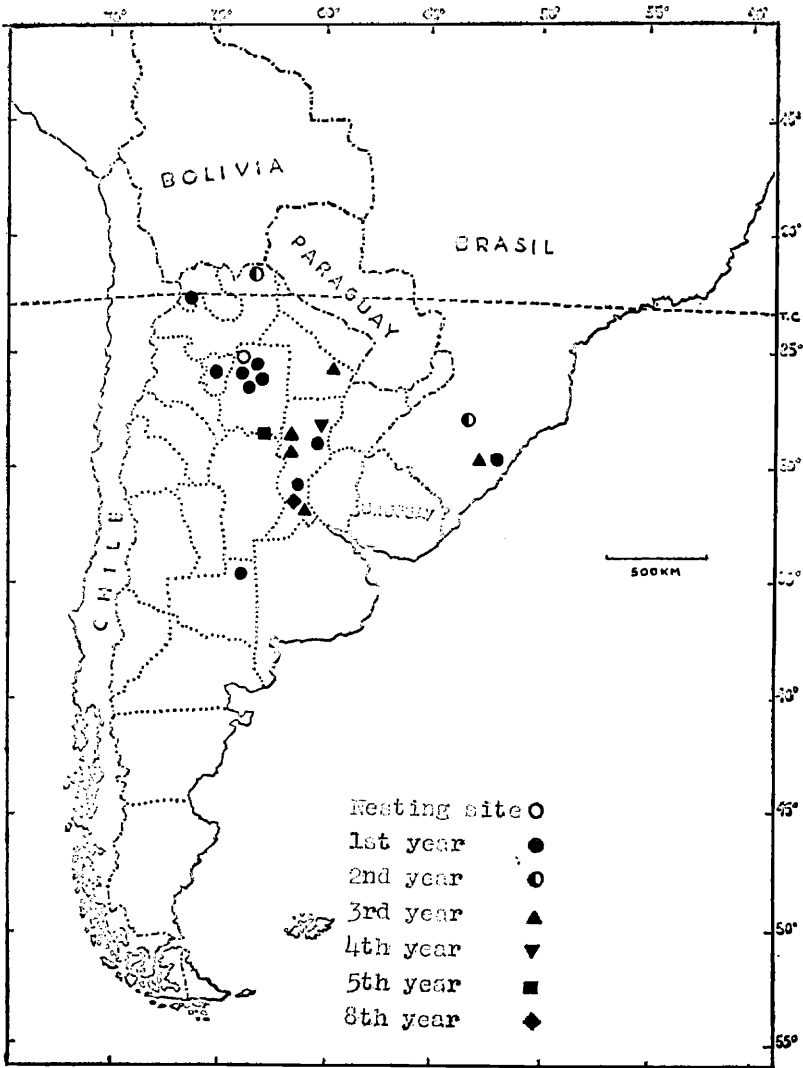


FIGURE 1. Recoveries of Neotropical Cormorant.

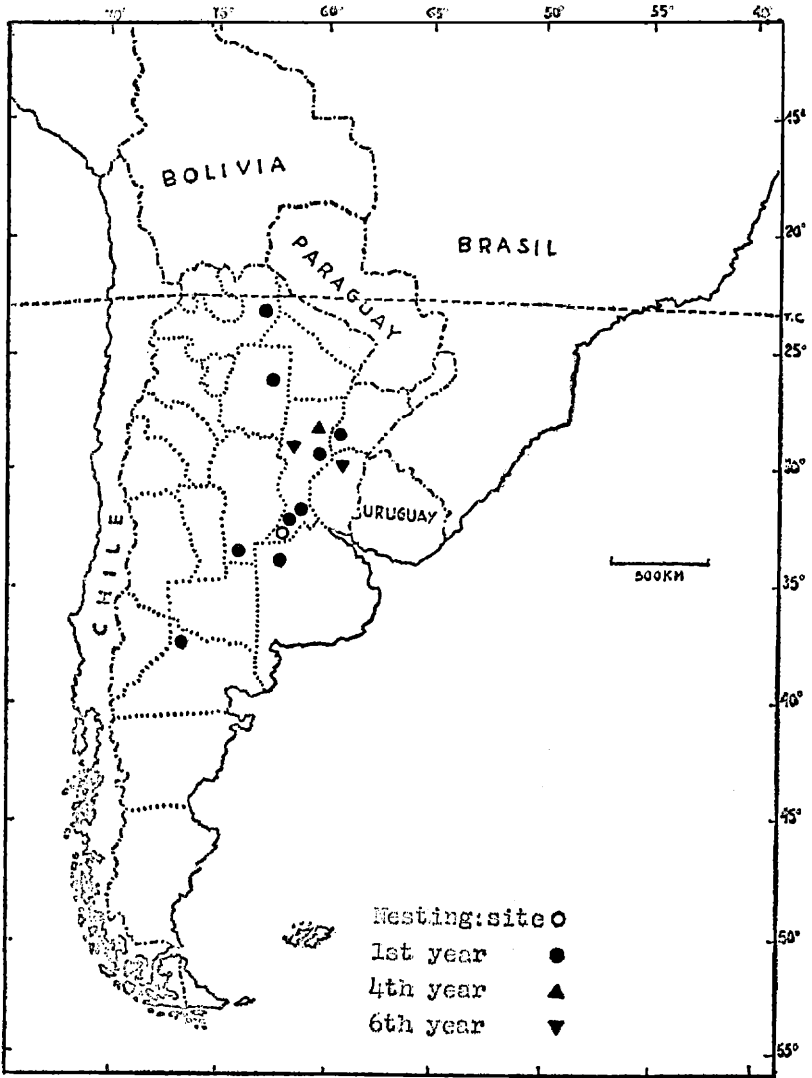


FIGURE 2. Recoveries of Great Egret.

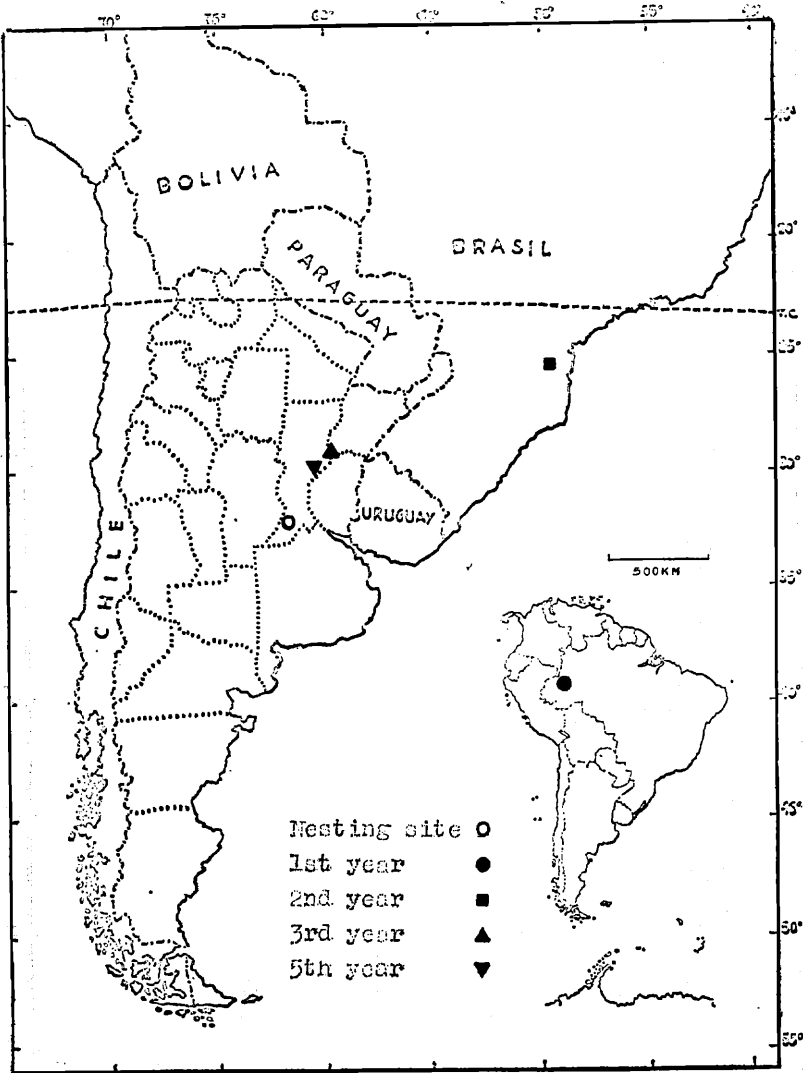


FIGURE 3. Recoveries of Snowy Egret

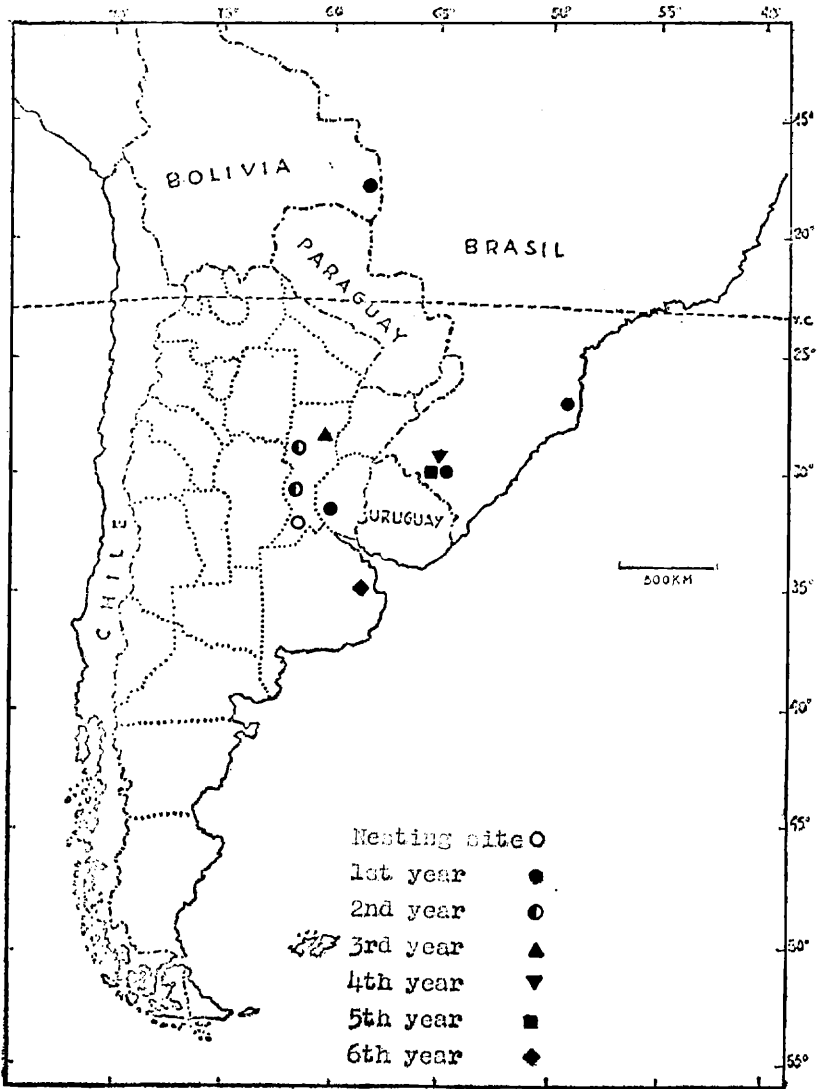


FIGURE 4. Recoveries of White-faced Ibis.

Tureto, Santa Fe, 7 and 8 January 1968, 746 nestlings were banded. First years' recoveries indicate a direction taken towards the north and the northeast, the farthest two being 1,800 and 1,400 km from the hatching site. Second and 3rd years' recoveries were all from the vicinity or less than 300 km during the summer months, while in the 4th and 5th years birds were recovered again from southeastern Brasil and during winter months. The last recovery was after 6 years in the summer. It seems that this population moves rather regularly between southern Santa Fe in Argentina and Rio Grande do Sul in southeastern Brasil, spending the winter months there and the summer months in north temperate Argentina.

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