

Students interested further in the subject should consult Ludwig's 500 pages dealing with the question of left and right in both animals and plants, a volume not available to me.

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Nesting of the Cattle Egret in the Virgin Islands.—The first specimen of the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) from the American Virgin Islands was taken on St. Croix on February 21, 1955 (Seaman, 1955. *Wilson Bull.*, 67:304-305). No evidence of breeding of this egret was found in 1955.

On May 29, 1956, while banding White-crowned Pigeons (*Columba leucocephala*) at Krause Lagoon, St. Croix, a small breeding colony of Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) and Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) was visited. Several Cattle Egrets were identified at this site immediately and their bright plumage, guttural cries and agitated behavior left no doubt that they were sharing the mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) with their companion herons in breeding activities. There were about 30 breeding herons on this mangrove island on this date. All young were about two weeks old, and mixed up helter-skelter through their many-limbed home. Although I felt very sure that some of the young observed belonged to the newly-arrived Cattle Egrets, no report was made, since none of the nests or eggs found was identified positively.

On February 26, 1957, 10 Cattle Egrets were observed at the heronry at Krause Lagoon. There were no nests on this date but breeding behavior was evident. On April 23, three nests containing two pale, blue-green eggs each were identified at the old site. They were typical heron nests, loosely constructed of twigs and placed on the western or lee side of the mangrove clump or "island."

On April 30, four nests of the Cattle Egret were found; these contained 2, 2, 1, and 3 eggs, respectively. Hatching was in progress in one nest on this date, and it was completed in three by May 7. On the latter date the bills of the nestlings that had

hatched on April 30 were noticeably short and stout (see photograph). On May 14, it was discovered that all eight eggs in the four nests had hatched.

It is interesting to note the social habits of the three species on this small mangrove "island" which had been utilized for nesting by the Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets for many years. The Little Blue Herons took up quarters by themselves on the east or windward side of the mangrove clump, whereas the Snowy and Cattle egrets nested on



the lee side of the island. When danger threatened, all the young climbed together to the center of the tree. Later, as the parents returned to look at their young or bring food, each group found its own nest and parents. The Cattle Egrets were apparently accepted in this old community with no undue animosity or discrimination. No other breeding site of this heron has been located on the island.—G. A. SEAMAN, *Box 474, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, August 20, 1957.*

Nesting habitat of the Black-bellied Tree Duck in Texas.—On a recent trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the writers were shown 10 nests of the Black-bellied Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), by Mr. R. J. Montgomery, near Rio Hondo, Cameron County. All of the nests were located in hollow trees near a small lake; eight were in ebony (*Pithecolobium flexicaule*) trees, and two were in hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*). Nesting cavities were located in the main trunk, and the entrance hole was seldom over three or four feet from the ground.

Although there had been much clearing of accompanying vegetation, in most cases the