

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

avored habitat appeared to be a thicket composed of characteristic trees and shrubs of this semi-arid region. Nest trees were along the border or in openings in the thicket. Dominant plants in such thickets were ebony, mesquite (*Prosopis chilensis*), retama (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*) and several species of cactus (*Opuntia* spp.).



Other birds nesting in this habitat included the Red-billed Pigeon (*Columba flavirostris*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*), Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*), Kiskadee Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), and Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*).

The writers are grateful to Mr. Montgomery for showing them the tree-duck nests on his lands.—BROOKE MEANLEY AND ANN GILKESON MEANLEY, *P. O. Box 1365, Alexandria, Louisiana, August 1, 1957.*

**Interspecific defense of roost site by Loggerhead Shrike.**—In late November, 1956, a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) established a feeding territory in the vicinity of my home at the northwest edge of Midland, Texas. Within this territory, he chose an evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*) about 12 feet in height as his nightly roosting place. He seldom sat in this bush during the day. Three days after the shrike began roosting in the sumac bush, a Pyrrhuloxia (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*) entered the bush in the afternoon. The shrike was then sitting on a wire about 150 feet from the bush. He immediately flew to the bush and alighted on one of the topmost limbs, uttering harsh, scolding cries. The Pyrrhuloxia left precipitously. The same thing occurred at various