

**Copulatory behavior of the Common Loon.**—S. T. Olson and W. H. Marshall (1952. *The Common Loon in Minnesota. Occasional Papers: No. 5, Minn. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, pp. 27–28) described what they considered to be the courtship of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and stated that copulation had not been observed. They suggested that the act was performed at night. Thus, the following description of copulation is perhaps the first recorded for the species.

On 14 June 1960, I observed two loons at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area (Grantsburg, Burnett County, Wisconsin) which behaved in a manner similar to that described by Olson and Marshall (op. cit.). While driving along Phantom Lake dike I noticed at a distance what appeared to be a white-capped wave moving irregularly across the lake. As I drove nearer I distinguished the heads of two loons above the churning water. The birds skimmed over the water at varying speeds, striking the surface with powerful wing beats. The pursuing bird was never more than a few feet behind the lead bird. Occasionally the birds gave a great burst of speed lasting for 15 to 20 feet. The first uninterrupted chase covered a meandering course of several hundred feet. After stopping, both loons stood upright, stretched their wings, and dived. After surfacing, one bird started another wing-splashing trek across the water and was soon followed by the second loon. Several other pursuits of shorter length followed. During these the lead bird appeared to be tiring and slowed down. The pursuer seemed less tired and overtook and mounted the lead bird. Together they submerged like an overweighted object. After about 40 seconds they surfaced at the same location, one still on top of the other. The top bird slipped off immediately and both birds swam about slowly for a few minutes. One or two short, less vigorous, chases occurred and then the birds left for another part of the lake.—WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 11 July 1960.*

**Cattle Egrets in Mexico.**—The remarkable spread of the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) northward from South America has been recorded through the islands of the West Indies and in the Gulf and Atlantic coastal areas of the United States. The only previously published reports of this egret from eastern Mexico, a logical route for its dispersal, appear to be of the individuals noted in Quintana Roo near Chetumal on 16 December 1956, and on Cozumel Island, 8 January 1959 (R. Denham, 1959. *Auk*, 76:359–360). The following additional records of its occurrence to the northward in Mexico are of interest. On 13 April 1959, B. L. Monroe, Sr., and B. L. Monroe, Jr., saw nine birds two miles south of Panuco, Veracruz, near the Tamaulipas border. D. M. Lay and D. G. Berret noted seven Cattle Egrets on 22 April 1959, two miles south of Miramar (near Alvaro Obregón), Tabasco. In 1960, D. M. Lay and J. E. Woods observed about 50 birds on 29 February near Huastecas, Tabasco, 18 miles north of Teapa. The following day in the same locality they found 150 Cattle Egrets and collected a specimen. These observers and J. Gee also noted the egrets there on 25 and 30 March. We found a Cattle Egret in a wet field 2.4 miles west of Ciudad Lerdo on the main road between San Andres Tuxtla and Alvarado, Veracruz, on 13 March 1960.—ROBERT F. ANDRLE, *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 3, Louisiana*, and HAROLD H. AXTELL, *Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo 11, New York, 3 August 1960.*

**Long-tailed Jaeger in Ohio.**—On 20 October 1956, an immature jaeger with an injured wing, found two days earlier near Ashtabula, Ohio, on a road near Lake Erie, was brought to me. It had been kept in a small basement room, where it had apparently consumed very little of the food and water offered it.

I had the feathers of the injured wing clipped, and kept the jaeger in a large box indoors. It was given exercise in the yard every day, and placed in a large tub of water two or three

times a day. Although a pan of water was also available, the only observed drinking was done when in the tub. Each day the bird accepted six or seven finger-sized fish or similar-sized strips of larger fish, and about ten pieces of fish-flavored cat food molded to the same size. Such food was taken freely when dangled in front of the bird, but not from the floor unless dropped there by the bird itself. When it ate more than about three pieces at a time (it would take five or six), it would regurgitate the extra pieces with violent effort and pay no further attention to them, or to more food proffered at that time. It seemed to be in vigorous health, frequently tried to fly, and became quite tame, allowing its head to be stroked and not objecting to some handling when shown to visitors.

On 10 November, after about ten minutes in its tub, it was found dead from no obvious cause. Shortly after death it was examined by Drs. Harry C. Oberholser and Owen Davies, and identified as a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). The specimen, apparently the second for Ohio (Trautman and Walker, 1930. *Auk*, 47:242), has been deposited in the University of Cincinnati Museum.—EDWIN NOVOTNY, 97 W. 44th St., Ashtabula, Ohio, 8 July 1960.

**Purple Martins nesting in city buildings.**—On 29 May 1960, I discovered four pairs of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) nesting in crevices and cavities of a two-story brick building on the main street of Ottawa, Franklin County, Kansas. The birds were using the building housing the Kramer Drug Store, near the corner of Second and Main streets. The side of this building facing the street has its upper edge (approximately 40 feet high) ornamented with 14 objects resembling one-gallon tin cans suspended on their sides. About one-half of these have one or both ends, or their base attachments, partly or fully broken away, allowing entrance to the interior by the birds. Besides the four pairs of martins, Starlings (*Sternus vulgaris*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were nesting in these ornaments. The martins all appeared to be adults; two pairs behaved as if incubating and another as if feeding young on 2 June, when Richard F. Johnston and I visited Ottawa and observed the birds.

Although several other buildings seemed to possess suitable cavities for martins, no indications of their breeding elsewhere in such crevices were noted by us. Johnston and I questioned an elderly resident of the town about the birds, selecting for this inquiry a gentleman who had three martin houses in his back yard. He was familiar with the birds in question, estimating that they had frequented the Main Street area for 10 to 15 years, although he had never determined where the birds entered the building. Purple Martins nesting in bird houses are common in Ottawa as they are throughout eastern Kansas, and there is no noticeable scarcity of such man-made structures which might cause the birds to use natural cavities.

Allen and Nice (1952. *Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 47:614-616) summarize use of natural cavities for nesting by Purple Martins. In the eastern United States, use of nest sites other than those provided in martin houses has been rare in populated areas and has not been reported since the early part of the 20th century. Use of crevices in city buildings is known in the western United States (for example, Seattle, Washington), but previous to discovery of these Kansan birds, may not be recorded for the eastern half of the country. The use of natural cavities in sparsely populated areas farther east (such as in northern Minnesota and coastal Florida) doubtless still occurs.

The present observations were made while I was a research zoologist at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.—JOHN WILLIAM HARDY, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California, 25 July 1960.*