

## GENERAL NOTES

**Cattle Egrets nesting in Mexico.**—The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is now a widespread bird of the Atlantic coastal lowlands of southern Veracruz and Tabasco, is spreading into the more arid interior of the country, and has reached the west coast. The only published account of the species in Mexico since its discovery in Quintana Roo (Denham, 1959. *Auk*, 76:359–360) is a series of sight records by Axtell and Andrie (1961. *Wilson Bull.*, 73:280).

Apparently the first specimen record for Mexico is an immature male I collected from a group of six, about 3 miles northeast of Tlacotalpan, Veracruz on 15 November 1958. New state records for the species on the Atlantic lowlands are: *Chiapas*, two immatures collected at Estación Suspiro, east of Pichucalco, on 20 January 1963; *Campeche*, groups of 2 or 3 to 30 plus individuals scattered along the coastal highway between Champotón and the Campeche border at the mouth of the San Pedro River, 15 and 16 November 1963 (3 specimens collected); *Yucatan*, 5 individuals seen feeding along the highway between Valladolid and Puerto Juarez (= Meco), ca. 10 miles east of Valladolid, 10 November 1963. Records for the arid interior of the country are: *Puebla*, 5 seen at Laguna del Carmen 19 November 1963; *Morelos*, an immature was collected from a flock of about 20, 3 November 1962; *Estado de México*, one observed feeding among burros at Lago Zumpango by Vincent Heig. The first record of Cattle Egrets on the west coast of Mexico is two seen, one collected, near El Quemado, Guerrero, 12 March 1964. El Quemado is a small village about 6 km north-east of Acapulco. A third individual was seen nearby on 15 March.

The large numbers of Cattle Egrets observed on every trip to the southern Atlantic lowlands indicated the probability of local nesting. An adult male taken near Teapa, Tabasco, 8 February, had testes measuring  $7 \times 3.5$  mm and was in prealternate molt in the plume areas. An adult male taken near Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, 27 March, had testes measuring  $11 \times 7$  mm and had completed the prealternate molt. An immature male without the nuptial plumes, taken with the second adult, had testes measuring  $5 \times 2$  mm and was not molting.

On 13 May 1963, accompanied by Dr. William A. Wimsatt, I visited a heron colony near Minatitlán, Veracruz, found nesting Cattle Egrets, and collected the first nestlings taken in Mexico. We were unable to remain in the colony long enough to permit the adults to reoccupy their nests or to feed their young, and so no accurate estimate could be made of the numbers nesting in the colony. When we first entered the center portion of the diffuse colony, approximately 15–20 adults flushed but I do not know what portion of the total nesting population this number represented. The colony was inhabited by Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Boat-billed Herons (*Cochlearius cochlearius*), and by Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*). The young of the Black-crowned Night Herons and many of the Boat-billed Herons were completely fledged. The Green Heron had eggs only, while the other species were in all phases of nesting.

I was not familiar with the eggs and young of the Cattle Egrets and could not separate very small young from those of the Snowy Egret. Two ambulatory young of *Bubulcus* and one of *Egretta* were collected.

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