

Cattle Egret nesting in northeastern Oklahoma.—The observations reported here were made and recorded by Anne Reynolds and Bruce Reynolds of Tulsa, Oklahoma who have kept an almost daily watch at a heronry where the Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) have resided during the summer months of 1962, 1963, and 1964. Several other observers including the author saw the birds during the observation periods described.

The heronry is on the Romac Farm 3.5 miles southeast of the city limits of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. It has been inhabited regularly from 1957 through 1964. An estimate of the breeding bird population found there during the summer of 1964 is: 150 pairs of Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), 30 pairs of Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), 3 pairs of Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), 1 pair of Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), and 2 pairs of Cattle Egrets. The nests are located in a grove of large privet bushes (*Ligustrum* sp.) near the center of a 160-acre pasture. A stream flows from west to east across the pasture south of the privet grove. Two small ponds are impounded on this stream, one west and the other southeast of the nesting area. Large cottonwood, elm, and pecan trees grow along the stream banks.

The first Cattle Egret found in this area was an adult, seen by Anne Reynolds in the heronry on 13 May 1962. Throughout the summer to 11 August, one and sometimes two adults were seen in the same locality. Three adults were seen on 27 May 1962. No young or evidence of nesting were seen during 1962 (Baumgartner, 1962, *Audubon Field Notes*, 16:488).

One, two, and three adult Cattle Egrets were seen regularly in the same area from 20 April to 29 August 1963. Three young birds being fed by one and two adults were seen several times from 18 July to 26 July. Another brood of 2 young birds was observed being fed by one and two adults from 3 August to 21 August (Baumgartner, 1963, *Audubon Field Notes*, 17:468) (Reynolds, 1964, *Proc. Oklahoma Acad. of Sci.*, 44:64-65).

From 19 April to 4 August 1964 one to five adults were seen feeding among grazing cattle near the heronry and flying into the heronry. From 30 June to 25 July 1964 adults were seen feeding young in the branches of the privet grove.

Two specimens in juvenal plumage were obtained. One was found dead under one of the nesting trees 6 July 1964 and another apparently somewhat younger bird, out of the nest and climbing in the upper branches of a nest tree, was captured alive 11 July 1964. Both were taken to Dr. George M. Sutton at the University of Oklahoma where they were identified as *Bubulcus ibis*. They are now numbers 5487 and 5488 in the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology collection. The first specimen measured: length of exposed culmen, 57.5 mm; length of middle toe without claw, 58 mm; length of exposed portion of tibia, 43 mm. The latter specimen measured: length of exposed culmen, 48 mm; length of middle toe without claw, 51 mm; length of exposed portion to tibia, 34 mm. These are, I believe, the first nesting records of *Bubulcus ibis* for Oklahoma and the first specimens to be taken in this state.—JOHN S. TOMER, 5911 East 46th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135, 11 January 1966.

A Robin nests in winter.—On 12 December 1965 office workers at a Columbus, Ohio insurance firm noticed that a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) was building a nest outside a window of their downtown office building. A similar late nesting of this species has been reported from Pennsylvania in January 1965 (Berger, 1966, *Auk*, 83:668).

The Columbus nest was completed in two weeks, and by 26 December the Robin was incubating three eggs. During the days of nest-building and incubation the daily high temperatures recorded averaged 43 F and the low temperatures averaged 28.5 F. The highest temperature recorded during this period was 63 F; the lowest was 12 F. After

a 12-day incubation period, two of the eggs hatched on the morning of 6 January 1966 and the third hatched the following day. On 6 and 7 January the adult fed worms to the young birds, but in the early morning of 8 January the temperature dropped to a low of 12 F and by daylight the ground was frozen and unyielding. That morning the adult shuttled on and off the nest, alternately brooding the young and searching for food.

The low temperatures and lack of food were evidently too much for the young birds and on January 9, the nest was completely deserted.

At no time during these events was more than one adult observed at the nest, and nest-building, incubation, brooding, and feeding were carried out by a single bird, presumably the female.

The initiation of nesting activity coincided with the construction of a huge Christmas display across the street from this office building. The thousands of bright, colored lights adorning this display may have been a factor in triggering nesting activity in this bird. Bissonette and Csech (1936. *Bird-banding*, 7:108-111) induced Connecticut pheasants to lay fertile eggs in January by "night-lighting," and Welty (1962. "The Life of Birds," p. 152) states that "'night-lighting' has stimulated other species of birds to lay eggs out of season; rats, mice, and sheep to breed precociously; and brook trout to spawn in December instead of March." Benoit (1950. Grasse, "Traité de Zoologie," Tome XV, Oiseau. Masson et cie, Paris) points out that red light rays penetrate the tissues of the head more effectively than the shorter wave length blue light, thus providing greater stimulation of the gonads via the anterior pituitary. This may have been a factor here for over half of the lights in the display were red.—STEPHEN W. KRESS, 680 Vernon Road, Bexley, Ohio, 27 January 1966.

Wing and tail flashing of Painted Redstart.—On 21 April 1961, near Payson, Arizona, I watched a Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*) as it moved around the exposed roots of an old sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) near the top of the steep river bank. While foraging the bird opened and closed its tail feathers as one would open and close a small fan and flashed its wings in a manner similar to that of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). In the half-light among the roots, the white wing bars and tail feathers were made very conspicuous by these movements.—MARY WIBLE, Gaines, Pennsylvania, 28 January 1966.