

then with 1 or 2 retches the bird deposits a pellet between its feet. At other times I have seen Black-bellied Plovers, Willets and Sanderlings flick their heads sideways and eject a pellet without any other casting behavior. One White Ibis ejected in flight, flicking its head sideways to cast the pellet. I have seen retching behavior in Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) suggesting that these 2 species may also eject pellets.

The pellets were generally ovoid but varied in size and shape in different species. Shorebird pellets were elongated, tern pellets almost round, and gull pellets teardrop-shaped. Pellets of different species may also vary considerably in size (Table I). Royal Tern pellets were large and consisted of an ovoid body often with a long fin projecting like a tail. Measurements of the pellets of this species are for the body only, as inclusion of the tail would overestimate the real pellet size.

Pellets I examined were composed mostly of indigestible material. Tern and skimmer pellets resembled each other closely, containing mainly fish scales, bones, and fins. One Royal Tern pellet contained pieces of crab carapace and legs. Shorebird pellet composition varied considerably. Some shorebird pellets were composed completely of whole and crushed shell of coquina (*Donax variabilis*). I have seen this type of pellet ejected by Black-bellied Plovers, Willets, and Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) and it is impossible to differentiate among the pellets of these species. At other times these 3 species eject pellets that seem to be composed mostly of chitinous material. Gull pellets not only contain indigestible parts of food items, but occasionally bits of glass, plastic and metal.

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Rufous-collared Sparrow victimized by Bronzed Cowbird.—On 4 July 1977, on a lawn in Guatemala City, Guatemala, I saw a recently fledged Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) following and begging food from a Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*). I watched them intermittently for about 1 h during which time the sparrow fed the cowbird frequently. Once the cowbird flew to the ridge of a low roof, followed by the sparrow carrying food, which it gave to the young bird. This sparrow is heavily parasitized by the Shiny Cowbird (*M. bonariensis*) in South America (Friedmann, H., et al., *Smithson. Contr. Zool.*, No. 235, 1977) but there are no records of parasitism of *Z. capensis* by *M. aeneus*.—AMANDA VILLEDA, 8_a Av. 17-32, Zona 1, Guatemala, Guatemala. Accepted 6 Nov. 1978.

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Probable Canada Goose × White-fronted Goose hybrids.—Records of hybrid geese produced in captivity are common, particularly within genera (Gray, *Bird Hybrids*. Tech. Comm. No. 13, Commonwealth Agric. Bureau, Farnham Royal, Bucks, England, 1958; Cokrum, *Wilson Bull.* 64:140-159, 1952). Davis (Auk 62:636, 1945) and Nelson (Auk 69:425-428, 1952) each reported single instances of Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) × Lesser Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens caerulescens*) hybrids in captivity and Bailey (Auk 66:197, 1949) recorded a similar hybrid in the wild. Thirty *B. canadensis* × *A. c. caerulescens* hybrids were observed in the wild by Prevett and MacInnes (*Condor* 75:124-125, 1973).

Reports of crosses between Canada Geese and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) are

less common. A captive *B. canadensis* male and a captive female *A. albifrons* produced hybrid offspring that were smaller than the *B. canadensis*, but no plumage description was given (Gray, op. cit.). Cockrum (op. cit.) reported 1 cross and cited Baird ([Note on hybrid goose.] *Forest and Stream* 2:5, 1873) as reporting another, but again no physical descriptions of the hybrids were presented. Johnsgard (*Condor* 62:25–33, 1960) reported such crosses in captivity and from the wild.

White-fronted Geese generally migrate west of the Mississippi River (Bellrose, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1976), and they are uncommon in Wisconsin. During 4 years of behavioral observations on wild color-marked *B. canadensis* in Wisconsin, the senior author has observed 15 *A. albifrons*. The latter were observed on 3 of 400 days of field activity. In contrast, *B. canadensis* were encountered on every day of fieldwork. When present in the same area, *B. canadensis* and *A. albifrons* often forage together (Johnsgard, Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1975).

On 23 September 1977, while using a 15–60× spotting scope to observe a flock of *B. canadensis* on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, the senior author noticed 1 adult *A. albifrons* moving with 3 aberrant geese. The 4 geese were grazing with approximately 1000 *B. canadensis* in a dense stand of moist soil plants (*Bidens* spp., *Polygonum* spp., *Carex* spp., and *Cyperus* spp.) for approximately 5 min before they were flushed by passing automobiles.

The 3 aberrant geese appeared identical in size and plumage, having the distinct white face patch of an *A. albifrons* and black neck, bill, and head of a *B. canadensis*. Cheek patches were also present but were indistinct and charcoal gray. A few scattered white feathers were visible on the crown. Body feathers were darker than those of an average *B. canadensis*, but the pattern was similar. The dense vegetation precluded determination of leg and tail color. The senior author observed many of the plumage variations summarized by Hanson (*Auk* 66:164–171, 1949) while banding more than 10,000 *B. canadensis* on and near Horicon NWR, but none resembled these aberrant birds.

When disturbed by the passing automobiles, 1 *A. albifrons*, the 3 aberrant birds, and 1 previously unnoticed *B. canadensis* took flight. The 5 geese were still together when they disappeared from view (the *A. albifrons* leading and the *B. canadensis* in the rear). The flight behavior, the low probability of observing 3 identical but unusual variants of *B. canadensis* together, and the white face patch of the aberrant geese, support the conclusion that the 5 geese were a family group composed of an *A. albifrons* paired with a *B. canadensis* and 3 hybrid offspring—perhaps yearlings as suggested by the white face patch.

On 23 December 1977, about 14:00 CST, the junior author observed 2 (or possibly more) hybrids of *A. albifrons* × *B. canadensis*, that matched the senior author's description at Lake Newton near Bogota, Jasper Co., Illinois, ca. 484 km due south of Horicon Marsh. On that occasion, the hybrids accompanied 900–1000 *B. canadensis*, 2 *A. albifrons*, and at least 3 *A. caerulescens* as well as other waterfowl. This assemblage was observed for about 10 min from a distance of about 400 m with the aid of a 20× scope.

It is possible that the hybrids noted were the same individuals observed at 2 widely separated points along their migration corridor. Although incomplete, these observations provide plumage descriptions for previously undescribed wild hybrids.—SCOTT R. CRAVEN, *Dept. Wildlife Ecology, Univ. Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706* AND RONALD L. WESTMEIER, *Illinois Natural History Survey, 304 Poplar Dr., Effingham, Illinois 62401*. Accepted 2 Jan. 1979.