

Total length 405 mm., tarsus 82 mm., culmen (exposed) 46 mm., culmen anterior to the nostrils 33 mm., wing 200 mm., and extent 785 mm.

The young could easily be confused with those of Little Blue Herons or Snowy Egrets, Leucophoyx thula (Molina), if only casual observations were used because size and general appearance are the same. Color differences when looked for were present. The newly hatched young had pink bills, legs and skin for about the first week. At two weeks of age the feathers were grown well enough to show that the tips of the primaries would be completely white. Little Blue Herons have black-tipped primaries. The bills were black with yellow tips. Little Blue Herons lack the yellow tip and the bill is lighter in the middle and at the base, sometimes being almost flesh color. Snowy Egrets have solid black bills. The Cattle Egret skin was a lime green on the thighs as is that of the Little Blue Heron. The Little Blue Heron tarsus and toes is this same color, whereas that of the Cattle Egret additionally contained a blackish wash on the anterior tarsal surface and the dorsal surface of the toes. The Snowy Egret has the blackish tarsal wash but the toes are green.

At the five-week-old stage, the Cattle Egrets had a darker wash of black on the tarsals and toes. Other features remain much the same. Since observing 636-44074 at this stage, we have not observed these young Cattle Egrets.

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Mr. Bill Summerour, III is doing graduate research work on the Life History of the Cattle Egret in Alabama. He is interested in any records or observations of this species in the State, especially data on distribution and nesting. If you have any such information, Bill would greatly appreciate receiving it at 937 Old Mill Road, Auburn, Alabama.

NOTES

Correction to Cattle Egret Record. The data and measurements of a male cattle egret, collected May 7, 1958 by R. W. Skinner are as follows: Wing, 243; Tarsus, 75; Tail, 84; Culmen, 59; Total Length, 505; Weight, 13 oz.; Testis, L. 8mm.; Rt. 7mm. The stomach contained approximately 90 percent grasshoppers and a few beetles. This bird was collected at Boatyard Lake near Tensaw, Baldwin County, Alabama. It was the third and most northern specimen for the state.

This note is an addition and correction to a previous one contained in Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 6, No. 1-2, page 19. -- Robert W. Skinner

Notes from Livingston, Alabama. On April 21, 1963 I had one of the most delightful bird experiences I have had. While walking down the creek on my farm I noticed a little bird hid behind a limb in a Willow tree overhanging the creek. I was about to pass it up as an Indigo Bunting but decided to examine it with binoculars. All that was visible at

first was the top of the head which was not the Indigo shade of color. Motionless, I waited until the little bird became bold and raised up. Before me was a jewel if ever there was one - violet head and neck, meeting a golden back, green wings, dark red tail, and completely vermillion underneath. I instantly knew I had added to my Sumter County Bird List the most beautiful little bird in the United States, and one of the rarest - The Painted Bunting. For an hour there followed one of the best exhibitions I have ever experienced. The bird ignored me completely and began to feed among the Willow blossoms. It would hang up side down, hover over the foliage to pull out a worm and fly to a limb to devour it, fly almost down to my feet to eat the seed of the native blue grass, and at one time perched in the top of the Willow and gave his "whisper song." The song was higher pitched and more delicate than the song of the Indigo Bunting and had considerably more pattern to it. After about an hour this bird was joined by another male Painted Bunting which I only glimpsed and the two flew away.

On April 30, 1963 I was able to add to my Sumter County List what is considered by many the second most beautiful water bird in the United States, for on that day a Purple Gallinule with a wounded wing landed on my pond. He is still there and probably will be the rest of his life as the left wing is about completely gone. He could not have picked a better place to spend the rest of his days as I have planted there dozens of species of aquatic plants, including water lilies. He presents a beautiful picture walking on the lily pads among the blossoms as he feeds on the insects, snails, etc. which abound in such habitat.

On April 28, 1963 I saw for the first time in my life at Eutaw, Alabama, a flock of about fifteen Tree Swallows. At the same place and time I saw Shovelers, Baldpates and Blue-Winged Teal, and at the same place I saw, on May 3rd, one lone Ruddy Duck. This seems unusually late for all except the Blue-Winged Teal, which I have seen in Sumter County as late as June. Jenkins Jackson, Livingston, Alabama.

Summer Observations From the Decatur Area. The following are observations of summer residents of the Decatur area, 1963. Those birds marked (N) were seen at the nest or with young.

Seen near 2206 Eleventh Street, Southeast, from June 4 to July 19, were: Brown Thrasher (N), Starling (N), House Sparrow (N), Robin (N), Bluejay (N), Orchard Oriole (N), Cardinal (N), Rufous-Sided Towhee, Downy Woodpecker, Mockingbird, Common Grackle, Purple Martin (N), Mourning Dove and Eastern Kingbird.

At the East end of Finley Island were seen the following, during the same period: Crested Flycatcher (N), Rufous-sided Towhee, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Cardinal, Bluejay, Common Grackle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Bobwhite, Wood Thrush, Robin, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, and Carolina Wren (N).

Red-headed Woodpeckers and Nighthawks were seen in other parts of the city. Barbara C. Flindt, Decatur, Alabama