

The specimen (GMS 12195) was not fat (weight 117.1 grams). The ovary measured 5.5 x 3 mm. The shortest of the ten incoming rectrices measured about 40 mm., the longest 109. The shortest two were neither the outermost pair nor the innermost. Each rectrix was heavily sheathed at the base.

STOVALL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA,
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069, 7 MARCH 1969.

THE CATTLE EGRET IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

BY JOHN G. NEWELL

THE CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) has thus far been formally reported from only three counties in Oklahoma—Alfalfa, Tulsa, and Cleveland (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 32). Its summering in Tulsa County in 1962 and its breeding there in 1963 and 1964 have been carefully documented by John S. Tomer (1967, *Wilson Bull.*, 79: 245).

In central Oklahoma the species was first noted in the spring of 1964, when V. J. Vacin saw one at Silver Lake, in Oklahoma County, in the extreme north-western part of Oklahoma City; this sighting was never reported, since the exact date was not recorded in any way. In the spring of 1968 one to five Cattle Egrets frequented fairly high, dry pastureland about one and one-half miles west of Lake Overholser, in Canadian County, just east of the city of Yukon. Various observers saw enough of them to raise hopes that the birds would join the large Oklahoma City heronry and nest, thus establishing a breeding record for central Oklahoma.

In 1968 the Oklahoma City heronry occupied a grove of oaks on the north side of Northwest Twenty-third Street just west of Rockwell Road. Here Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) bred in considerable numbers. The herons have been forced to move every few years as the trees have been bulldozed out to make room for housing developments.

Until recently the pastureland visited by the Cattle Egrets in 1968 was inhabited by a rapidly expanding colony of prairie dogs. The rodents allegedly ate so much grass that the owners of the herd of Black Angus cattle pastured there saw to it that the "dogs" were eliminated by poison.

On 18 May I found a single Cattle Egret feeding with the cattle on a gentle slope in the pasture. The following day several observers checked the area both morning and evening, seeing three Cattle Egrets on each visit. On subsequent days for about a week from one to three birds were seen with the cattle. On one occasion Jane Turner and Mary Coleman, both of Midwest City, Oklahoma, followed the egrets to the Oklahoma City heronry, but when Jack S. Roberts visited the heronry on 22 May he did not find any Cattle Egrets there.

I last saw the Cattle Egrets on 30 May. On this occasion five birds were in

the pasture with the cattle. I was not able to get very close, but I could clearly see the buffy brown on the crest and back of each bird. I was not convinced that the egrets were fully adult, for the buffy brown seemed much less intense than that in illustrations available to me. At no time did I observe any sign of courtship or display. The birds seemed to ignore each other. They spent most of their time stalking insects near the cattle or at some distance from them. During the summer I visited the pasture and several other areas that appealed to me as likely habitat, but I did not see the Cattle Egrets again.

4129 NORTH EVEREST, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73111, 6 SEPTEMBER 1968.

NESTING OF HOUSE WREN IN TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

BY RUTH W. KIESS

ON 30 JUNE 1968 I saw a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) in my yard at 2910 East 29th Street in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. On 2 July my husband and I observed what we presumed to be the same bird or its mate carrying nest material. That day we noticed a long piece of straw sticking out of a nestbox suspended about 10 ft. above ground from an overhang of the roof. On 4 July we saw two House Wrens in the yard.

On 22 July we observed a wren going into and out of the nestbox, but it was moving so quickly that we could not be sure that it was carrying food. On 26 July we ascertained that food was being carried — presumably by both parent birds; we heard young birds inside the nestbox; and we noticed that a House Wren was singing volubly in the yard. On 30 July we heard no singing but were loudly scolded by the wrens. During the first three days of August the young were still being fed in the nestbox. Shortly thereafter the brood fledged, though we did not witness their departure from the nestbox. On 7 August we saw a young bird with one of its parents in the yard.

At no time did we open the nestbox, so we did not ascertain how many eggs or young there were. From 7 to 16 August we saw no House Wren, either adult or young, in the yard. From 16 August to 3 September we were away from Tulsa on vacation. On our return we did not see a House Wren until 25 September, on which date we saw one in the yard. We saw one again the following day. Presumably these were migratory birds. When we cleaned out the nestbox we found neither eggshells nor remains of dead nestlings.

The House Wren is a well known bird in Tulsa County. It has been seen and heard singing from late March to late May in and near Tulsa, and seen again from mid-September to late October; but so far as I know the above-reported nesting is the first for the Tulsa area.

2910 EAST 29TH STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74114, 7 NOVEMBER 1968.