

At 17:10 on 30 July 1977, we saw a single Long-winged Harrier cruising upwind 1-3 m above the vegetation. It hovered briefly, landed on the platform of a jacana nest that contained 4 eggs, and held its wings aloft as the pair of jacanas charged it giving alarm calls. An unmarked male jacana joined the pair in defending the nest. When not attacking the harrier, the jacanas remained 4-6 m away from it. The harrier made 4 trips to the nest, departing each time with an egg in its bill. Eggs were eaten about 30 m from the nest. The harrier revisited the empty nest twice within 5 min before departing from view. The platform of the nest was scrambled and no eggshells were found in the area.

On 11 August 1977, about 17:00, a Long-winged Harrier hovered briefly above a second nest that contained 4 eggs, and dropped out of sight for several min before rising, hovering, and descending at the same place again. After the fourth descent the harrier took flight and quartered another field. When we reached the nest all eggs were missing, the platform was disarranged, and the male stood nearby giving alarm calls. We found remains of 4 eggshells, at separate locations on the dike, about 15 m from the nest.

On 22 August 1977, about 17:30, we saw a harrier over another nest in the same drainage ditch as the second nest. The male had incubated 4 eggs since 10 August. Again the harrier made 4 descents, hovering briefly each time before dropping. Upon checking the nest we found both adults vocalizing nearby, the 4 eggs missing, and pieces of eggshells on the dike.

The 3 cases of predation were on nests that had contained 4 eggs earlier in the day. Because we were about 0.4 km away and these last 2 nests were obscured by vegetation, we couldn't see whether the harrier carried the eggs away. Here, evidence of predation is inferred primarily by harrier behavior. The jacana's anti-predator behavior was apparently ineffective against the harriers. The harriers revisited the nests within a short period of time until all eggs were removed.

The observations are interesting relative to the high rates of predation and nest destruction reported for Wattled Jacanas (Osborne and Bourne, *Condor* 79:98-105). Of 51 nests followed through hatching in the present study, 43 (84.3%) failed to produce at least 1 young. Twenty of 43 (51%) nest failures are attributed to egg removal by predators, 3 of these (13.6%) to Long-winged Harriers. It appears Long-winged Harriers are efficient and important predators on jacana eggs.

Research in Guyana was funded by grants to Osborne from the Alumni Foundation of Miami University.—DAVID R. OSBORNE, *Dept. of Zoology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056* AND STEVEN R. BEISSINGER, *1 Johns Road, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania 19012*. Accepted 3 Oct. 1978.

*Wilson Bull.*, 91(3), 1979, pp. 471-472

**Arboreal foraging by Cattle Egrets.**—The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is among the most versatile herons in foraging. It is known to use at least 14 foraging behaviors and forage in commensal association with a number of animals and other slow moving objects (Kushlan, *in* *Wading Birds*, Natl. Audubon Soc., New York, 1978:249-297). Typical foraging methods involve chasing prey or walking slowly on the ground stalking prey.

Neither Cattle Egrets nor other herons have been reported to forage arboreally, except to use branches as perches while fishing. I have seen 2 instances of Cattle Egrets foraging arboreally in south Florida. On 25 December 1976, I observed a flock of about 20 birds

feeding while walking on pole bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) vines. This cultivated crop is supported by a trellis of poles and horizontal wires to a height of nearly 2 m. The Cattle Egrets walked on top of the plants while stabbing at potential prey. On 18 June 1978, an egret foraged on top of a closely trimmed, flat topped ixora (*Ixora coccinea*) hedge in Coral Gables, Florida. The egret walked slowly around the hedge, periodically stopping and stabbing or hopping and then stabbing.

Arboreal foraging is another of many examples of the versatility and adaptability of the Cattle Egret. This species is known to forage off the ground by riding on the backs of commensals from which it stabs at prey or hops to the ground when prey is seen (Skead, Ostrich Suppl. 6:109-139, 1966; Kushlan, op. cit.). Similar use of plants with a suitable structure is not a very different procedure so it is probably easily developed. The potential is not geographically restricted, as Lancaster (pers. comm.) has seen similar behavior by Cattle Egrets in Colombia. Probably the structure of natural vegetation rarely permits an egret to walk slowly on it, but plants cultivated for agricultural or horticultural purposes appear to provide suitable horizontal substrates for such an adaptable bird.

I thank Thomas C. Custer and Douglas D. Lancaster for comments on this paper.—  
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## NEW LIFE MEMBER



Mr. Theodore W. Gutzke is now a life member of The Wilson Ornithological Society. Mr. Gutzke is wildlife biologist and assistant wildlife refuge manager of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. His principal interests in ornithology are in waterfowl biology and ecology with an emphasis on habitat requirements and management applications. He has directed work on the Wood Duck and Canada Goose. Mr. Gutzke is a member of a number of natural history organizations. Bird watching, photography, camping, and gardening are activities Mr. Gutzke enjoys. He is married and has two children.