

Insect Control—

Friendly Birds Protect Cattle

African Bird Invades County

By J. JOHNSON
State Museum of Natural History
In Brunswick County and especially along the coast, a surprising sight may cause cattle owners to look twice. Whitish, long legged birds perched on top of their animals have caused herd owners to do a "double-take" over the past few years.

The bird, relatively new to the area, is the Cattle Egret and it has come a long way from its native home in Africa. There it is traditionally associated with the water buffalo and other grazing animals of the African Veldt. In its native habitat it is known as the tick-bird, or tick-heron and, though never proved, the bird is believed to eat the ticks from the backs of the animals upon which it perches.

Long legged as well as long necked, the Cattle Egret is a member of the heron family. It stands some 15 inches high and has yellow legs, feet and beak. The feathers are white except for the pale reddish-buff colorings on the crown, breast and back. Unlike most other herons that normally feed in shallow water on such as frogs and fish, the Cattle Egret's diet consists mostly of insects found in meadows and plains. Somewhere along its line of evolution the bird discovered the trick of following grazing animals which flush out insects from the growth beneath the cattle's feet. In following the animals, and even perched on their backs, the birds easily snap up the insects. The Cattle Egret was first reported in North Carolina in Bladen County in 1956, and appeared about three years later in the Morehead City area.

It is not known when or how the bird established itself in the Western Hemisphere, but it is fairly certain that it crossed the Atlantic Ocean to South America from Africa under its own power. The first written records of the Cattle Egret's presence in South America place the bird in Dutch Guiana between 1877 and 1882, and in British Guiana about 1911 or 1912. Apparently, it was from this beachhead in northern South America that the bird rapidly spread its range to Venezuela, Columbia, Bolivia, Panama, Haiti, Cuba, the Bahama Islands, and eventually, in June of 1952, ten of them were sighted at Lake Okeechobee, Florida.



Scenes like this are becoming more common in the eastern part of North Carolina where the Cattle Egret is making friends with grazing animals, ever ready to snap up the insects flushed from cover by the cattle as they feed. This picture was made on the Foster Robbins farm near Winnabow.

Spreading rapidly during the past six years, the Cattle Egret has been recorded in North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Maine and even Illinois.

So if you see the Egret getting friendly with your cattle, riding their backs or walking with them in the pasture, don't shoot—they are friends, not foes.

SUNDAY RECEPTION

On Sunday afternoon a reception was held at the Community Building for the seniors and their parents. This was given by the parents of Southport High School mascots, Mayor and Mrs. E. Hahn and Mr. and Mrs. Hufham, and by the High School faculty. The marshals served and the mothers of the marshals assisted in preparations.

Social Security Changes Listed

Old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits are becoming increasingly important as a community resource according to Albert P. Mason, District Manager of the Wilmington office of the Social Security Administration.

\$198,680.00 is paid monthly in social security benefits in Columbus County. This is an increase of about 16 per cent over last year's figures. While the benefits are intended primarily for the beneficiaries' economic security, they help business in the community generally. Most of the money is spent immediately for food, clothing, and other necessities.

At the present time, social security benefits are being paid at a rate of over one billion dollars a month. "There are several reasons for the increase," Mr. Mason said. There are more aged people; benefits are now payable at age 62; and less social security credit is needed to meet the eligibility requirements for benefits.

The table below shows the number and amount of each type of benefit being paid in Columbus county, as of December 31, 1961, the date of the latest available tabulation:

Beneficiary Group	No. Beneficiaries	Total of Payments
Retired Worker	1,745	\$101,305.
Wife or Husband	691	18,321.
Widow or Widower	275	14,028.
Mothers and Children	1,277	42,625.
Disabled workers & dependents	411	18,899.

single: Mrs. Hulan Watts, blue and red; Margaret Hickman, white; double: Ethel Pittman, blue and red. Cornflower: Thelma Fisher, blue. Marigold: Evelyn Gilbert, blue. Unlisted annuals: Sue Jones, blue and red; Mrs. Lee Castor, 2 yellow. Biennials: Mrs. Thomas St. George, blue; Joy Gergory, blue. Perennials, columbine: Sue Jones, yellow; Snapdragon: Elizabeth Harrelson, blue; Mrs. Sinclair, red and yellow. Sweet William: Thelma Fisher, blue; Mrs. Ruth Hickman, red. Unlisted Perennials: Mrs. Lee Castor, Mrs. Annie Arnold, Joy Gregory, Mrs. Ben Wilson, Mrs. Ruth Hickman, Margaret Hickman and Mrs. Fred Willing all blue winners. Unlisted Perennials: Ellen Watts, Sue Jones, Walburg Moore, Grace Brown, Evelyn Gilbert all red winners; Grace Brown, yellow; Mrs. Lee Caster and Grace Brown, white. Madona Lily: Grace Ruark, blue; Margaret Hickman, red; Betty Doshier, yellow. Tiger Lily: Catherine Garrett, blue. Amaryllis: Dorothy Hardee, blue; Thelma Fisher, red; Mrs. Black, yellow. No. gladiolus. Daylily: Mrs. Dodson, yellow; Mrs. Q. Snipes, white. Unlisted bulbs, corns, etc: parrot tulip; Dorothy Hardee, red; King Alfred Daffodil, Francis Burdette, red. Hybrid tea roses—red rose: Joe Walton, red; pink rose, Mrs. Dodson, yellow and red; yellow rose, Mrs. Sinclair, yellow. Polyanthas and floribundas: Mrs. Snipes, blue; Mrs. Burney, red. Climbers and ramblers: Mrs. J. B. Russ, blue; Mrs. Tommy St. George, red; Mrs. Hoyle Doshier, yellow. Other varieties roses: Mrs. J. B.

Russ, blue (sweetheart rose).

African violets: Gertrude Johnson and Mrs. Ruth Hickman, blue; Bertrude Johnson and Mrs. Ruth Hickman, red; Gertrude Johnson and Goldie Ruark, yellow. Flowering plants: Gertrude Johnson, blue. Cactus: Catherine St. George, blue; Mrs. Lee Caster, blue; Mrs. Ruth Spencer, blue. Flowering shrubs: Catherine Garrett, blue; Joyce Gregory, blue; Mrs. J. B. Russ, blue; Grace Ruark, red; Joy Gregory, red.

Winners of the Artistic Arrangement and their ribbons are as follow: Class 1: blue, Patsy Allen; red, Jean Doshier; yellow, Mrs. Lee Caster; white, Susan Bellamy. Class 2: blue, Margaret Hickman; red, Dorothy Hardee; Continued On Page 4



Waterfront

On Friday we attended a luncheon for members of the State Library Board and their wives, and the item on the menu which drew more comment than any other was deviled crabs. One board member shamelessly went back for seconds with the apology "I may never see any this good again".

The nicest thing about these crabs is that they were locally caught and locally processed; and the shame is that there are not more of them given this same treatment. Deviled crabs, done with the Miss Annie St. George, Mrs. L. D. Hayman or some other local recipe, should be a feature on the menu for each restaurant in town. This should be something that folks would go out of their way to get at Southport.

We recall that deviled crabs—plus plenty of boiled shrimp—made converts of a large number of newspaper visitors here several years ago when the N. C. Press Association held a luncheon meeting in Southport. It was for that occasion that Miss Annie deviled more crabs than we ever had seen prepared for one meal. The popular acceptance of this item on the menu left no doubt of how popular it would be if made more generally available.

From time to time attention has been given here to various phases of crab operations. Twen-

ty-five years ago Allen C. Ewing leased the old N. C. Fisheries plant and engaged in the production of crabmeat. Crabs were caught locally and workers in the processing plant were local women. This helped the employment problem, but at that time the demand for fresh crabmeat was not great. The product was of good quality, but a poor market brought an end to this business.

Through the years the late Mr. Willie Cooker and his family caught crabs and sold crabmeat, but increasingly stringent health restrictions had just about put an end to this phase of his fishing operations before this venerable old gentleman passed away.

More lately there was a big winter business here three years ago for several fishermen who set crab traps and sold their product to a Carteret county processing plant. This gave off-season income to several men, but when the live crabs were hauled away Brunswick county citizens were losing many man-hours that go into the preparation of crabmeat for the table.

This brings us back to the case in point: We think it would be sound local business to set up a plant which would buy live crabs, clean and pick out the meat, Continued On Page 2

Southport Flower Show Big Success

The Annual Southport Flower Show, sponsored by the Live Oak Garden Club was held on Saturday at the Community Building.

Judges for the show were: Mrs. Burney, Mrs. Snipes, Mrs. Willard, Mrs. Earle all of Wilmington, Mrs. Barron and Mrs. Thomas of Greenville, S. C., who are all National Council accredited judges and apprentice judges.

The chairman of the show reported 82 entries in the arrangement classes and a total of 109

entries in the horticulture section. Award of Merit in horticulture went to Mrs. J. B. Russ. Mrs. Russ also was the winner of the sweepstakes in the horticulture section.

Mrs. Vicki Wells was the winner of the Tri-color award, Award of Distinction and the sweepstakes in the arrangement division.

Winners in the various horticulture classes with their ribbons are as follow: Annuals-Larkspur



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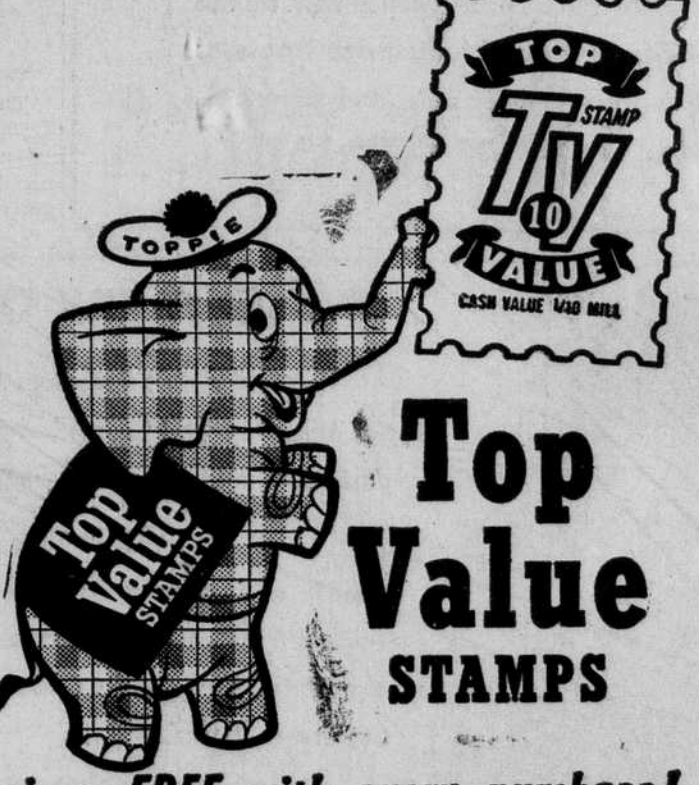
LEMONS .. Doz. 27c

Tommy Tucker 1/2-Gal. Decanter

Orange Drink 29c

Canned # 303 Size Can

TOMATOES .. 10c



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Franks Pkg. 39c

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BACON lb. 39c

Miss Carolina # 300 Size Can

Pork & Beans 10c

Red & White All-Purpose Large

DETERGENT 19c

Red & White Frozen 12-Oz. Can

Orange Juice 3 for 89c

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