

the species, or whether the Mackay, Townsville, and Ingham-Cairns population are linked, are problems awaiting future observers.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the Spice Finches now occurring in various parts of eastern coastal Australia, from Sydney to Cairns, originated from escapees from aviaries, or from birds purposely liberated. Years ago large numbers of these birds were brought into Australia on ships from south-east Asia and sold as cage birds.

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#### REFERENCES

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**"Cattle Egret" proves to be a Little Egret.**—In *The Emu* (vol. 60, 1960, p. 202) John L. McKean refers to the reported recovery in Trinidad, West Indies, of a Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) banded at Coto Donana, Spain, "a year previously". Actually the bird was banded as a nestling on July 24, 1956, and captured on January 13, 1957. As mentioned by John McKean, the specimen was stated to be a Cattle Egret by Guy Mountfort (*Portrait of a Wilderness*, 1958, p. 100); the same statement appears in the American edition of the book which was published under the title *Wild Paradise*.

Sr. J. A. Valverde originally advised that the bird was a Cattle Egret, thus the report to that effect in *Portrait of a Wilderness* (Guy Mountfort, *per. comm.*). However, when the specimen was checked against comparative material in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, it was found that the supposed "Cattle Egret" was a Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, in first winter dress. The facts of the case were published in the *Auk*, Vol. 76, 1959, pp. 241-2, by Wilbur G. Downs.

Trinidad is some 4000 miles across the Atlantic from the Spanish locality where the Little Egret was banded less than six months earlier. The occurrence is a striking example of a trans-Atlantic migration in a species closely related to the Cattle Egret, a bird which has extended its range very considerably within the past 25 years or so.—J. M. HEWITT, Sydney, 1/11/1960.