

*Bubulcus ibis* in Venezuela.—A specimen of this small white heron, native to southern Europe, Africa, and southern Asia, was collected on January 27, 1943, near San José de Tiznados, west of Calabozo, State of Guárico, Venezuela.

The collector was Octavio Arleo B., of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, of Caracas, and the specimen is the property of that institution. It was identified by Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Walter Dupouy, Director of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, writes: "According to Arleo, the specimen was together with three others which looked exactly the same to him. The four flew past him and he shot one. Arleo states that the flight of these birds seemed much quicker than that of the small herons found around that habitat and in other places in country."

The question arises as to whether this individual, or the four seen together, were stragglers from Spain or North Africa, or whether the specimen in hand was an escaped captive bird. The species occurs in southern Spain and there is a passenger line of steamships from there to Venezuela. The locality where it was collected is on the prairies of the Apure River, in the Orinoco Valley, many hundreds of miles from the seacoast. The specimen does not show any signs of captivity but it is possible, nevertheless, that the bird may have escaped from the zoological gardens at Maracay, only 100 kilometers distant.—WILLIAM H. PHELPS, *Caracas, Venezuela.*