

Hippoboscid Flies from Cattle Egrets in Central Florida

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As part of a study on the life history and ecology of the Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, in Central Florida, we have routinely collected external and internal parasites of collected specimens. These birds have been remarkably free of external parasites with only an occasional bird serving as a host to hippoboscid flies.

The hippoboscids we have collected belong to two species, *Ornithoica confluenta* (Say) and *Lynchia albipennis* (Say). Both species are specific parasites of the Order Ciconiiformes, and both are wide-spread geographically, being known from both the Old and New World (Bequaert, 1954-56).

Ornithoica confluenta is a very small fly and extremely difficult to collect. Dr. J. C. Bequaert (personal communication) states that, as far as he can trace, there is only one published record of this species from the cattle egret in the New World. Eight specimens were collected from a cattle egret at Cantaura, State of Anzoategui, Venezuela, by F. D. Smith on August 25, 1948. However, it is the most common hippoboscid on cattle egrets in Central Florida. Some birds harbor only one or two flies but occasional birds are heavily infested. Immature birds usually are more heavily parasitized than adults. We have collected specimens of this fly in January, March, June, July, September, October, and December.

Lynchia albipennis has been recorded from a number of species of wading birds from Florida. We have collected only one fly of this species from an adult male cattle egret taken near the east side of Lake Okeechobee, Palm Beach County, on January 22, 1964. However, this species has been found on both *Bubulcus ibis* and *B. i. coromandus* in the Old World (Bequaert, 1954-56, p. 339).

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LITERATURE CITED

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