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### Notes on the Breeding of the Chestnut-bellied Heron (*Agamia agami*) in Venezuela

CRISTINA RAMO AND BENJAMIN BUSTO

*Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales, Ezequiel Zamora, Guanare, Estado Portuguesa, Venezuela*

Although some information on the breeding of the Chestnut-bellied Heron (*Agamia agami*) in other countries has been published (Michener et al. 1964, Haverschmidt 1968, J. Hancock and H. Elliot 1978), no previous breeding records have been reported for Venezuela. On 26 July 1980, we located three nests of this heron, each with two nestlings, in a seasonal marsh surrounded by forest close to the village of Santa Rosa, Estado Barinas. The surface area of the marsh was about 2 ha, and its depth was 60 cm. The vegetation was dominated by *Rhandia aculeata* (Rubiaceae), a shrub about 3 m high, and by *Thalia geniculata* (Maranthaceae), a typical marsh perennial. A number of small trees under 6 m tall were sparsely distributed over the marsh. The nests were found in a small area containing *R. aculeata* and were approximately 1.5-2 m above the water level.

At our second visit on 31 July, we discovered six nests, each with two downy chicks. There were nine adults in the immediate area. In later observations at the same site, we found no more nests or nestlings, and thus we believe that there were but six breeding pairs. Each nest was placed in a separate bush.

In this same heronry we also found active nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*), Boat-billed Herons (*Cochlearius cochlearius*), and Bare-faced Ibis (*Phimosus infuscatus*). When the Chestnut-bellied Herons abandoned the colony, it was occupied by breeding Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*).

This small colony (80 breeding pairs) was about 75 m from a much larger heronry (2,000 pairs) that contained the following breeding species: Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), Cattle Egret, and Bare-faced Ibis. Michener et al. (1964) found a colony of *Agamia agami* with about 12 nests in Veracruz, México near some nests of Great Egrets and Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*).

On 9 August the young Chestnut-bellied Herons were able to climb into the branches of their nest bushes, and on 18 September they were completely feathered and found in the canopy of the bushes. Our last visit to the colony was on 23 September, at which time we were not able to find any *Agamia agami*. Therefore, the period of nesting at this site in Venezuela was from June to September, the time of maximum annual rainfall in this area.

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### Nesting by One-year-old Black-crowned Night Herons on Hope Island, Rhode Island

THOMAS W. CUSTER<sup>1</sup> AND WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20708 USA, and

<sup>2</sup>Boston University, College of Basic Studies, 871 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215 USA

There have been few consistent reports concerning the frequency and success of nesting attempts by im-

mature night herons of the genus *Nycticorax*. One-year-old Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax*