

On the Reef Egret, *Demigretta sacra ringeri* STEJNEGER from Jogashima Isle, Miura Peninsula, Japan.

Arthur E. ARONOFF M. D.

(With 2 Text-figures)

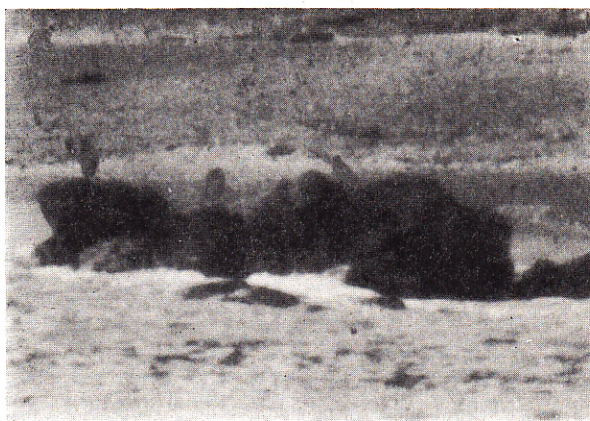
Last winter I started visiting Jogashima occasionally to look for birds as it seemed like an interesting area from an ornithological point-of-view. On January 24, 1957 I saw two Reef Egrets (*Demigretta sacra ringeri* STEJNEGER) there for the first time. Subsequently I saw them on several occasions during that winter and the following spring. They were usually seen on the southern side of the island on the rocks at the base of a large cliff on which many Temminck's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capillatus*) and a smaller number of Pelagic Shags (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*) roosted. On June 9, 1957, I saw four birds in that area, two adults and two young. At first the two adults were seen flying around and after a while, one of them, carrying a long twig in its bill, flew to a wide break at the base of the cliff. It landed on the ground at the bottom of the break and the two young birds ran over to it immediately but the adult soon flew off. After a while both adults returned and soon they and the two young were flying and jumping from place to place on the cliff and the rocks at the base of the cliff. The young birds were nearly full-grown, were able to fly well, and looked like the adults in color, except that perhaps there was a pale purplish tint to the head and neck of the young. At one time, one of the young birds, while flapping its wings, walked after one of the adults, grabbing at the adult's head. Finally it appeared as though the adult fed the young though I am not certain of this. By the time it got dark, two or three of the birds were roosting near each other on the cliff, and another one was a little distance away, in the large break at the base of the cliff.

I have not been to Jogashima since June 9, but I passed it in a boat on July 21 and saw a Reef Egret flying over the ocean near the island. I also saw one at Koajiro near Aburatsubo on September 8, 1957.

In addition to the Reef Egrets seen on the Miura Peninsula and at Jogashima, I saw one on the Izu Peninsula near Shimoda on December 30, 1956 and one or two at Oshima on February 9 and 10, 1957. All the Reef Egrets I have seen in Japan have been dark-phase birds.



Habitat of *Demigretta sacra ringeri* STJNEGR. Jogashima, Misaki.



Four Reef Egrets, roosting.

抄 録

城ヶ島のクロサギ

アーサー・イー・アロノフ

1957年1月24日、三浦半島南端の三崎城ヶ島で2羽のクロサギを目撃した。以後数回同所で目撃したが、1957年6月9日には2羽の幼鳥を連れた雌雄、計4羽のクロサギを城ヶ島南面の崖にある大きなわれ目の附近で目撃した。幼鳥は既に巣立後で頸部と頭部に淡紫色の斑点がある外、色彩は親鳥と殆ど同様であった。これらの幼鳥は常に親鳥と行動を共にし、その1羽は親の頭をつついて羽攪きをしていた。未だ親鳥から給餌を受けているようであったが確認はしていない。暗くなる頃3羽は崖上に、1羽は崖下の大きなわれ目に少しはなれてとまった。

7月21日、島の近くを船で通ったとき、西側の海上を飛ぶクロサギを見た。9月5日には油壺近くの小網代でも1羽目撃している。三浦半島周辺では下田で1956年12月30日に1羽、伊豆大島で1957年2月9日に1羽、翌10日に2羽記録している。私が日本で見たクロサギはすべて暗色型であった。