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The Cattle Egret in Tasmania.—When returning to Hobart on April 19, 1965, from the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Easter Camp I stopped at Rostrevor Lake to look for a pair of Little Grebes that had been reported from there a few days previously. I noticed two small white egrets standing amongst some steers a few yards from the water's edge. The birds soon commenced feeding close to the steers, approaching to within a few inches of their muzzles and between their legs. One bird perched on the back of a steer for, perhaps, a minute, before they both flew off to feed close to another steer.

The birds were about 18 in. long, with rather short necks, yellow bills and slate-grey legs. I had no difficulty in identifying them, from their appearance and habits, as Cattle Egrets, *Ardeola ibis*, a species with which I was familiar in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. In the field, neither bird showed any trace of the buff-coloured breeding plumage on the crown or back.

A short paragraph to the effect that the species had been recorded on the East Coast, the first record for Tasmania, appeared in the "Mercury" for April 22, under the pen-name "Vigilant". On the following day "Vigilant" reported that one had been seen "at Macquarie Plains recently", and on April 24 he reported, "An East Coast resident assures me that the egrets about which Tasmanian ornithologists are ecstatic (his choice of word, not mine) have been in the area for several weeks . . .".

On April 24, M. R. S. Sharland saw two birds on the edge of the River Derwent a couple of miles above New Norfolk.

There have been earlier reports of unidentified small white egrets, mainly from the St. Helens district, which could have been of this species.

The Cattle Egret has now extended its range to include Tasmania. It remains to be seen, however, if it succeeds in establishing itself as a breeding species or becomes a winter visitor, in irregular numbers, as is the case with the three other species of egrets that visit the island.—D. G. THOMAS, 2 Lallaby Road, Moonah, Tasmania.