

encounter herons from other regions when they migrate and, unless they are banded, it is virtually impossible to determine their origin. Because Great Blue Herons occasionally winter on P.E.I. and elsewhere in the Maritimes, it surprised me when 3 of our birds were recovered in the West Indies: 1 from Haiti, 1 from the Dominican Republic, and 1 from the Bahamas (see Fig.1). Single P.E.I. individuals have also been recovered in Florida, Virginia, and Delaware. In addition, 4 were recovered in New Brunswick and 1 on P.E.I. Of these 11 individuals: 4 were found dead, three were shot, 2 were found sick and later died, while the remaining 2 were apparently snared (in the West Indies) and possibly

eaten! Seven of these herons were less than 1 year old when recovered, thus supporting the fact that birds suffer their greatest mortality during their first year while they are still relatively inexperienced.

Another P.E.I. banding program involved cormorants. Between 1974 and 1978 I banded 634 Great Cormorants at a colony near Souris and 45 Double-crested Cormorants at a colony near French River. To date 1 Double-crested and 19 Great Cormorants have been recovered. Great Cormorants, in North America, breed only in the Gulf of St. Lawrence region while the Double-crested Cormorants breed in all Canadian provinces and throughout much of the U.S. Great Cormorants are not truly migratory as many will remain in the vicinity of the breeding colonies year round if shallow water remains ice-free. The major wintering areas, however, are along the New England and Nova Scotia coast.

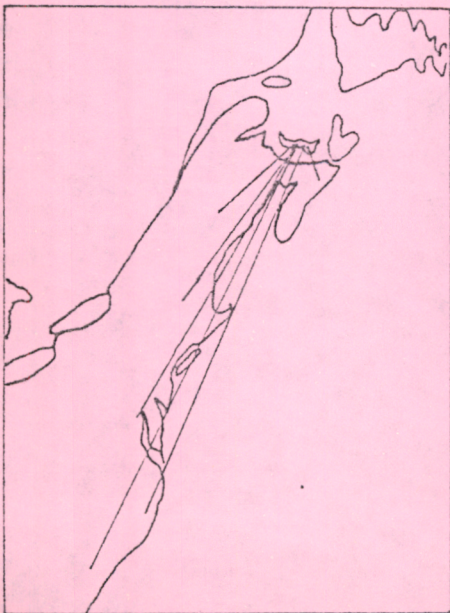


Fig. 2

Thus, it is not surprising that most of the P.E.I. birds were recovered from these areas: 5 in Nova Scotia 4 in Maine, and 5 in Massachusetts (see Fig. 2.). One individual was recovered in each of New Brunswick and P.E.I.. The most surprising recoveries were single P.E.I. individuals in Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The southern recoveries support the recent observations in American Birds that greater numbers of Great Cormorants are wintering farther south than usual and are lingering there longer in the spring. If this trend continues it is likely that this species will extend its breeding range to include the northeastern