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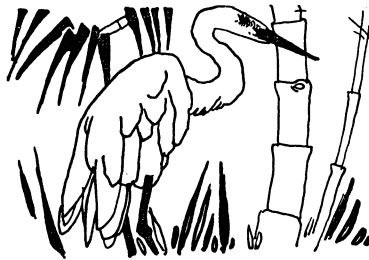
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ORNITHOLOGY  
**NATURE RAMBLINGS**



**Egret**

➤ **COVERING THE** southern tip of Florida is a watery, mangrove-choked waste land now a U. S. national park.

To the Everglades, visitors from the frozen north will throng by the thousands this winter. They will come to see, not majestic mountains or towering waterfalls, but strange plants and beautiful birds.

The southern Everglades swarms with bird life, and naturally a great many of the birds are those which frequent water or the water's edge. In the Everglades there is a lot of water. Of all the tropical swimming or wading birds there, none are more beautiful than the herons, and of the herons none is more lovely than the egret.

This snowy bird is not so large as some of his cousins. It is a good-sized fowl, standing about two feet from beak to stern, but it is dwarfed in size by other herons or "cranes" which tower on spindly legs and soar on wide-stretched wings.

To ornithologists the true egret is "Egretta candidissima"—the whitest egret. He has a taller relative, with a few colored feathers. Both birds bear, during the nesting season, the delicate plumes once used in vast quantities to adorn milady's feathered hat.

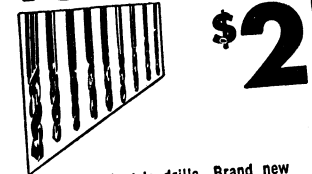
Hunting these "aigrettes" threatened the very existence of birds which grew in quiet glory before man came. Even today, poaching is a considerable menace, although there are protective laws practically everywhere the egret might fly. These are well enforced, thanks to public sentiment and the National Audubon Society. Today there are egret colonies even in populated areas, near cities and tourist routes.

There is no reason why the North should not have its colonies of egrets as well as the South. The birds once nested as far north as Indiana. They retreated to their present restricted range, from North Carolina south and west to Louisiana, partly because too many human inhabitants moved into their homelands, and partly because fashionable ladies demanded feathers of brilliant hues for their vanity.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1955

**SURPLUS TOOL BARGAINS**

**46 SURPLUS TWIST DRILLS**

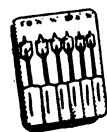
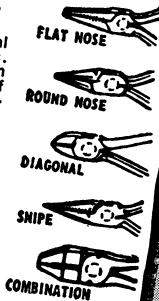


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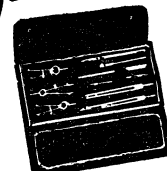
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