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## SHORT NOTE

### A Cattle Egret

On May 1985, I picked up a Cattle Egret on the Drake Flats, Waitotō Valley, South Westland, which appeared to have been recently taken by a Falcon. The whole neck and body were plucked, the feathering remaining only on the head and wings. All the plumage was white.

The bill was horn yellow at the tip, shading to deep yellow at the base; the iris was clear yellow; the legs were grey-green around the metatarsal joint, shading to charcoal lower down; top of toes blackish, undersides pale sage-green; claws blackish. Although this was about 22 km in a direct line from the sea coast and where Hereford cattle were grazed, three other egrets were feeding 7 km further up the valley (at the Donald Flats), where there were no stock.

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