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Cattle egret: pp 100-101.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis coromandus* (Boddaert 1783), Migrant
Winter 1956 Upper Moutere, Nelson
July 1978 Norfolk Island

Cattle Egrets were first recorded in 1956 at Upper Moutere, Nelson (Brown 1980). Mr C. and Mrs M. Hamann saw five "white herons" with cattle, at least one of which was perched on a beast. Their sighting was confirmed by Mr R. Smeaton, a local farmer, who also saw Egrets and fixed the year as 1956. The birds also stayed for a couple of months.

The next record was of a bird at Belfast, just north of Christchurch, during May-September 1963, and another in Otago about the same time (Turbott, Brathwaite & Wilkin 1963). The Belfast egret spent its time alternating between two herds of Friesan-Holsteins "on town supply". These were thought to be the first records until the Nelson records were published.