

wonderfully adorned birds of the western world. The plumage is pure white, and during the mating season the birds wear a magnificent train of long plumes springing from the back. These are the aigrettes or "ospreys" of the feather trade.

The plumes grow early in the season, but the feather-hunters know better than to attack a colony at this season, for the killing of one bird might cause the whole colony to scatter. So the millinery agents wait until the eggs are hatched; then, though its neighbours are shot down, the parent egret will return to its young again and again, only in the end to meet the fate of its mates. The orphaned fledglings are left to starve, and so, where once these lovely birds were found by the tens of thousands, they are now rare except in their protected breeding-places.

The crane looks like the heron, but belongs to another order. Although so large, the BLACK-NECKED STORK crane is closely

A MONARCH AMONG HERONS



The Great Blue Heron, who is here displaying his royal wings, is the largest of the American herons, and a most stately and dignified bird he is. You should see him fish! Standing in the water, still as a statue, with his neck doubled into a capital S, let a frog swim within range, and with a stroke quicker than your eye can follow, the frog has been seized in that long bill. In another second it has disappeared—and again the statuesque pose.

they first make a great circling in the air, and finally form into two lines meeting at an angle. One of the oldest of the flock sets the pace, leading off with a trumpet-like call that may be heard even after the birds have risen above the clouds.

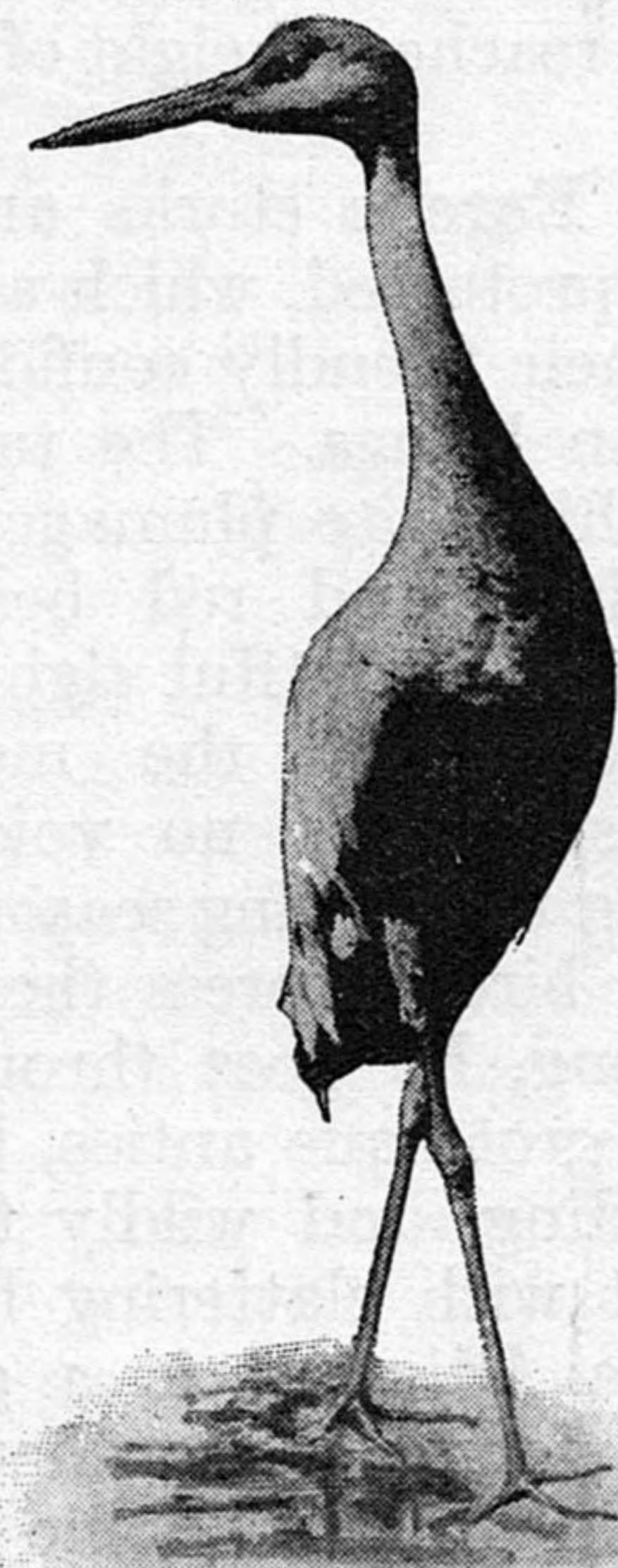
The crowned crane of Africa has on its head a spreading tuft of feathers. The Japanese crane, or tancho, is a greyish bird.

The storks and herons belong to the order *Herodiones*, and the cranes to the order *Alectorides*. Scientific name of common white stork, *Ciconia alba*; adjutant stork, *Leptoptilus dubius*, *javanicus*, and *crumeniferus*; sacred ibis, *Ibis aethiopica*; spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*; common heron of Europe, *Ardea cinerea*; the little egret, *Herodias garzetta*; European crane, *Grus communis*; the sandhill or brown crane, *Grus mexicana*.

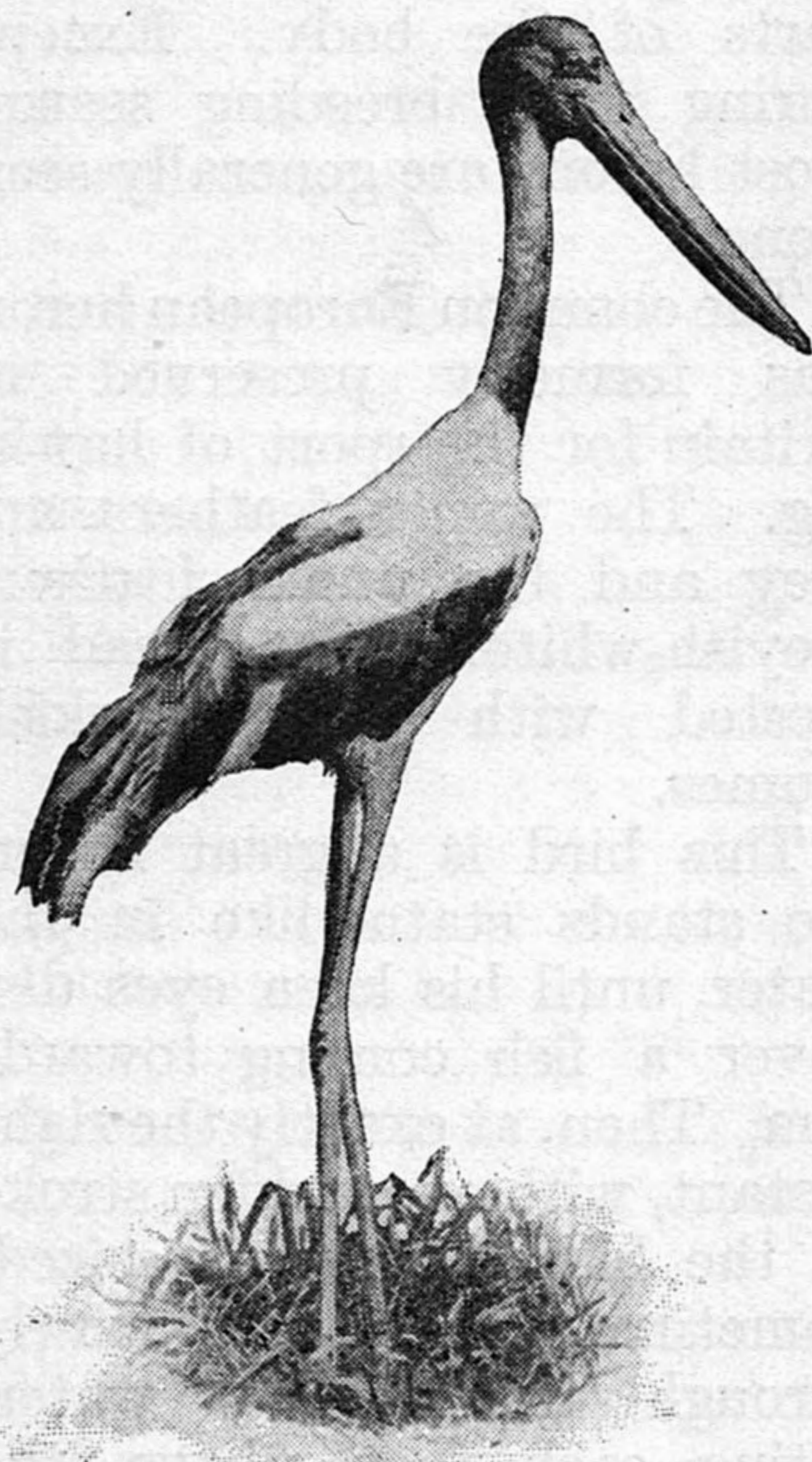
STORMS. Whenever the air in one place becomes warmer than the air surrounding it, it has a tendency to rise. That is because warm air is light and cold air is

heavy. The movement towards the place of lightness and warmth shown on the weather

SANDHILL CRANE



Except the rare Great Whooping Crane, the Sandhill Crane is the largest of his family in America. His height is nearly that of the average man.



The common stork is chiefly white. The Black-necked Stork is marked as you see here. The black is relieved by a tinge of bluish-green.

related to the little rail. The female lays her two or sometimes three eggs in a nest built upon tufts of marsh grass. Cranes feed principally on the vegetable and animal life of the swamp, and also often plunder newly sown grain fields.

These birds are great travellers. They migrate from southern India to Lapland and from arctic America to the tropics. When setting out on their long journey

heavy. The movement towards the place of lightness and warmth shown on the weather map causes winds, which blow in from all sides along curved lines. In the Northern Hemisphere these winds blow "counter-clockwise"—that is, in a direction opposite to that of the hands of a clock. In the Southern Hemisphere they move clockwise. The curving of the lines and the difference in direction are due to the curve and rotation of the earth's surface.

This inblowing of winds causes a whirl—such as anyone may see on a warm day in a dusty place. These whirls may be a few inches or many

For any subject not found in its alphabetical place see information