

Smooth-billed Ani Nesting in Collier County, Southwest Florida

The Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), native to Central and South America, the Bahamas, and the Greater and Lesser Antilles, became established as a breeding species in Florida in the late 1930's. Until recently it was known to breed only in the Florida Keys and southeast Florida, primarily in the area from Miami to Fort Lauderdale to Clewiston (Sprunt 1954, Florida Bird Life, Coward-McCann, New York City; Robertson and Kushlan 1974, The Southern Florida Avifauna, Memoir 2, Miami Geological Society). Although the species is found regularly in scattered localities on the southwest coast of Florida, primarily around Naples and on Sanibel Island (T. Below, G. Bancroft, pers. comm.), I find no previous record of breeding there.

On 8-9 April 1975 in Collier County, Route 865A, about ½-mile north of Vanderbilt Beach, I saw a flock of anis in a cut-over area, with Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), Dwarf Wax Myrtle (*M. pusilla*), Rusty Lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginea*), and Salt Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) the major vegetation. No anis were seen in this region during a 3-hour search on 20-21 February or on a one-hour search on 7 April. However, on 8 April, as I left the road to enter the property, 2 anis flew about 200 m from me to the top of a Wax Myrtle, approximately 3 m high, and called loudly and incessantly. Over the next hour, while I watched the widely scattered members of the flock, one or often 3-5 individuals maintained this lookout from the highest location near the flock. I counted not more than 12 individuals: 4 large ones, the most vocal and visible; 3 or 4 middle-sized birds that remained rather secretive but called frequently; and 3 small birds that remained hidden most of the time, called only occasionally, and were seen primarily when they flew poorly across an open area while moving with the flock. The flock moved a distance of about 140 m while I watched them, and members were scattered over an area about 50 m in diameter.

On 9 April I found the flock, or rather the 2 largest birds found me and called loudly from a lofty perch, approximately 200 m west of where I last saw them in late afternoon on 8 April. I captured one of the small birds and, before it escaped, made the following observations: The basal 5 cm of all 8 rectrices were sheathed, and the outer 5-6 cm were fully unfurled. All primaries and secondaries were sheathed basally for about 3 cm, and the body feathers were very sparse and growing. The culmen was not so highly arched as it is in adults. I believe these characters clearly indicate a bird hatched in the nearby vicinity, thus breeding is established for Collier County. While in my hand the young called softly, but no older birds gave an obvious response. The young also bit my finger without causing any pain.

On 6-7 May I found only 2 large anis in the area, and their be-

havior was distinctly different from that in April. They called only twice during about one hour while I was near them, and they remained visible for only short periods and generally acted very secretively. On 25 May I did not find any anis in the area. I suggest that breeding actually occurred some distance from this site and that the birds were moving through the region when I found them in mid-April.

Mr. A.L. Dougherty provided access to his property and generously supported these observations. G.E. Woolfenden kindly improved the manuscript.—*Ralph W. Schreiber, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla. 33620.*

Ruddy Turnstones Feeding on Coconuts

On 3 April 1975, while censusing pelicans on the beach at Naples, Florida, I observed 8 Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) feeding on the meat of a coconut. They were feeding from an unhusked coconut that had been halved lengthwise. The coconut was above the high-tide line on a section of beach frequented by people. I assume that the coconut was left the day before, as the turnstones were observed feeding at 0700 EDT.

When first observed, one turnstone seemed to be resting on the coconut; then it jumped off and ran down the beach. A few seconds later another turnstone jumped onto the coconut and pecked inside it from 2 to 3 minutes. This procedure was repeated by 7 other turnstones within a span of 30 minutes. One turnstone dislodged a piece of coconut meat about the size of a dime, hopped off the coconut, and was chased by 2 other turnstones. The first bird then proceeded to eat the coconut meat in my full view. Upon examining the coconut I found that most of the meat was gone and that what remained was perforated by peck marks.

Few other references to fruit-feeding by Ruddy Turnstones have been found. Richard Pough (1951. Audubon Water Bird Guide, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y.) stated on page 216 that "although small mollusks, crustacea, and insects are staples, turnstones are quick to take advantage of a variety of items. In various places, especially in the Arctic, they eat quantities of berries, climbing about in bushes to get them." A.C. Bent (1928. Life Histories of North American Shorebirds, U.S. National Museum Bull. 146:287) referred to Manniche's statement that the species feeds "mainly on vegetable food" just after arriving in Greenland. Paul Bartsch (1922. A visit to Midway Island. *Auk*, 39: 481-488) found them feeding on berries in "dense *Scaevola* thickets" on Midway Island in November.—*T.H. Below, P.O. Box 554, Naples, Fla. 33490.*