

brushed the impaled fish against the branch of the tree. Each bout of brushing began with the lowering of the bird's head and placement of its bill against the branch. The Anhinga forced the fish toward the tips of its mandibles by drawing its bill across the branch from base to tip while rotating its head and bill from side to side. Each bout was interrupted by tossing. The fish was removed from the lower mandible after four bouts of brushing and tossing, and was thrown from the upper mandible, caught, and swallowed headfirst, after two more bouts of brushing.

In the first observation, the mangrove root was used as a substrate on which to strike the fish. The fish was not impaled and possibly too active for swallowing, or to be thrown from the mandibles and successfully caught. It is likely that the injury caused by impalement is important in subduing prey. Consequently, when a fish has not been impaled battering may follow.

The second observation is similar to those described by Owre (1967, pp. 129-130). In each instance, a large catfish was brought to the surface and dragged to shore without once lifting it from the water. The fish were freed by vigorously wiping the mandibles against branches. Owre hypothesized that the impaled fish were too heavy and thick-bodied to be thrown from the mandibles. In our observation, the fish was thin-bodied and not so heavy as to prevent the Anhinga from lifting its head, but the mandibles may have been driven so deeply into the fish that removing it was difficult. The branch was used to manipulate the fish to a position where it could be successfully thrown from the mandibles.

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Bahama Mockingbird in West Palm Beach.—On 14 April 1985, I found a singing Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus qundlachi*) in my yard in southeastern West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (Fig. 1). This bird had been singing for three previous days before I identified the singer, and it stayed for five more days before disappearing.

The brownish gray color, streaking on the breast and flanks, white tipped tail, no white wing patches, and faint buffy wingbars were noted by 158 observers from eight different states. As I have seen this species many times in the Bahamas, especially on Eleuthera, I was interested in the behavior patterns. It sang frequently from thick cover as well from wires. The melodic song was short and repetitive with four or five phrases. It did not imitate other birds. A Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) harassed the Bahama Mockingbird frequently but did not succeed in driving it away or changing its behavior patterns.

This bird seemed oblivious of the presence of many photographers, recording persons, observers, and the media and was even found running about the street in early morning and late afternoon. While in the street, the bird's wings drooped slightly, and the tail was fanned frequently. The bird ate insects and the berries of the Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), and native red mulberry (*Morus rubra*). Out yard has been planted to resemble coastal hammock, and this may have been an attractant.

Since Russell (Russell et al. 1980, Fla. Field Nat. 8: 31-32) reviewed the records to that date for North America, Sandy Sprunt and Karen Sunderland found a Bahama Mockingbird on Long Key on 10 June 1982 (Paul 1982, Amer. Birds 36:970). This sighting in West Palm Beach is the fifth for the United States, the only record for mainland North America, and the earliest spring date for this species.



Figure 1. Bahama Mockingbird in Palm Beach County, Florida, by Ray Plockleman.

A tape of the song, made by Al Liberman, has been deposited with the Florida State Museum, Bioacoustics Archive, as Cut no. 5 of Master Tape 781. A color slide, by Ray Plockelman, has been submitted to Florida state Museum.

I wish to thank Howard Langridge for his help and Wesley Biggs for providing records and additional information.—Cynthia Plockelman, 311 Franklin Rd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33405.

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Recolonization of Pelican Island by Reddish Egrets.—Although Bryant (1859, Proc. Bost Soc. Nat. Hist. 7: 5-21) observed Reddish Egrets (*Egretta rufescens*) nesting on Pelican Island, Brevard County, Florida, no records are known to us from the Twentieth century. Here we report on the recolonization of Pelican Island by Reddish Egrets.

During the course of monitoring the reproductive success of Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*), we located a single Reddish Egret nest in prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) on 2 May 1985. The nest contained three dark-phase nestlings about two weeks old with an attending dark-phase adult. On 29 May, the three fledglings were observed foraging along the shoreline.