

of lower Louisiana. He stated that he actually saw the bird pick up the young Heron by the neck and dart off with it.

During the summer of 1928 either in late June or the early part of July Mr. Joseph Howell, of Orlando, Florida, told me of a nearly parallel case. He was hunting for late nests of the Florida and Purple Gallinules on the west side of Lake Apokpa in Lake Co., Florida. While standing quietly watching for birds he noticed a Florida Gallinule go to a Purple Gallinule's nest and pick up something and as it rose and flew past near him, he said he could see that the bird had stuck its bill through an egg and was carrying it in that manner.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida*.

Notes on the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) in Florida.—A Roseate Spoonbill has always been a sort of Will-o-the-wisp, to me, and although I have been to most of the places where it has been reported to me I have yet to see one in its native habitat. The following reports covering recent years may be of interest.

Mr. A. M. Nicholson, a reliable observer, informed me that he had found a few pairs of Roseate Spoonbills nesting among a colony of White Ibis, on Bird Island, Lake Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida. This was either during the early nineties or late eighties. At one time this was a famous rookery, but as early as 1908, few breeding birds were to be found upon the island; only such birds as Ward's Herons, several pair of Black-crowned Night Herons, Florida Ducks, and a colony of Stilts. In April, 1909, a single pair of Glossy Ibises nested on the island, and a set of two fresh eggs and the parent birds were secured by Gilbert R. Rossignol, Jr.

A trapper by the name of Henry Redding, has told me of the Spoonbill breeding at the mouth of Wolf Creek, Osceola Co., Florida, in a marsh which is part of the St. Johns River system. He was corroborated in his statement by a woodsman, Edw. Murphy, who also had occasion to visit this heronry.

There were no eggs taken, and they might have presumed the birds nested as they were associating with the numerous Herons and Ibises which were nesting. They both declared that they had seen Roseate Spoonbills at this place in different years.

These men also stated they had seen this species in numbers in the Mosquito Lagoon, at the Haulover Canal, near Oak Hill, and thought they were nesting there. This was within the last several years.

Benj. Reddit, an old reliable resident of Orange County, told me of seeing two or three Spoonbills feeding on the Indian River, near Cocoa, Brevard County, in June 1923, or 1924.

While riding with the late William Leon Dawson, in March 1927, through the wildest part of Okeechobee County, returning from a Wood Ibis colony we had been photographing in Blue Cypress Lake, we came upon an intelligent Seminole Indian who told us that the Roseates nested at Fish-eating Lake, south of La Belle, Hendry County. This coincided with information received from several Indians that I questioned while

camped near Everglade, Collier County, in March, 1928. They vowed that they nested in practically the same locality and still nested there. I took a trip with one Indian who volunteered as a guide and took me straight to a spot where they had nested in recent years, but the water was low and practically all dried up, and no birds were found.

My brother-in-law, Captain Chas. Lockwood, who pilots parties of tourists on fishing excursions, has told me of seeing many "Pink Curlews" flying to roost on Pavillion Key, Ten Thousand Islands, late in the evening. This was six or eight years ago.

The latest record that I have of nesting Spoonbills, was in March, 1928, in Palm Beach County, by Henry Redding. He stated he found them while on a surveying party, nesting on a small Lake, where also were a few breeding Everglade Kites. He took the pains to write and tell me this, knowing that I was especially interested in such records. No specimens were collected.

Twelve years ago they nested on the edge of the Everglades on the southeast side of Lake Okeechobee, some miles below Eupotia. This I gathered from an old resident of that place, named Carl Barber. He knew the birds well and had seen them nesting there. This information was given me in 1922.

A trip to Cape Sable in April 1927, in company with William Leon Dawson, on purpose to see these birds, resulted in failure. I was also at Shark River in March, 1928, and remained in that vicinity for two weeks in March and one week the first part of May, but saw none of the birds.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

Early Date for Solitary Sandpiper.—I wish to report an apparently early date for the Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromas solitarius*). A single specimen frequented a small fresh water pond with trees growing to the water's edge on the east boundary of Pelham Bay Park, N. Y., near Long Island Sound, and was seen three times, a week apart—Sunday, April 7, 1929; Sunday, April 14 and again on the 21st. It was undoubtedly the same bird as it did not leave the pond but flew only from one shore to another when disturbed. All of these dates appear very early, according to Griseom's 'Birds of New York City Region,' Chapman's 'Birds Eastern N. A.' and Eaton's 'Birds of New York State.' As it was tame I had a good chance to study it at a short distance for a long time with a strong pair of Zeiss glasses after checking up with descriptions in the above works and with the plate of Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers in Eaton's book.

My reasons for identification are as follows: its habitat was typical, and it was the right size. Its flight was quite different from that of the Spotted Sandpiper (with which I am familiar and with which it might possibly be confused) and it has a trick of holding its wings aloft when alighting, and then slowly closing them. It was pure white underneath and the edge of the wing was brown without spots, forming a strong contrast. The wing