

GENERAL NOTES

Sight record of the Scarlet Ibis for Alabama.—On 9 May 1964, an adult Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) was observed in a White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) nesting colony located about 15 miles southeast of Dothan, Houston County, Alabama. The ibis was perched in the top of a tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*) tree preening its feathers. No fear was displayed by the bird as it was observed from a distance of 150 feet through 7×50 binoculars and was color photographed through 8×40 binoculars in the late afternoon. The bird was observed for about 15 minutes, before it flew away. There was no evidence of bands or other markings to indicate the origin of the bird. Although the bird was not collected, the observation was verified by Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Professor of Zoology at Auburn University, who was conducting a study of herons in the area at that time. No additional sightings have been made to June 1965.

“A Manual of the Ornithology, the Water Birds, of the United States and of Canada,” written by Thomas Nuttall (1834, p. 84) is the only reference used by the authors of the Alabama ornithology books. Howell (1928, “Birds of Alabama” p. 71) and Imhof (1962, “Alabama Birds” p. 109) refer to Nuttall’s statement, “This brilliant and exclusively American species, inhabits chiefly within tropics, abounding in the West India and Bahama Islands, and south of the equator, at most, as far as Brazil. They migrate in the course of the summer (about July and August), into Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina; but retire into Mexico, or the Caribbean Islands, at the approach of cool weather.” Imhof (op. cit.) commented, “It is doubtful that new definite sight records will be obtained because the immature birds, which are the great wanderers, are virtually impossible to distinguish from immature White Ibises.”

Palmer (1962, “Handbook of North American Birds.” Vol. 1:530-531) listed for North American distribution nine possible records from Texas (some occurred after tropical storms), Audubon’s questionable sight record from Louisiana, and the A.O.U. Checklist records from Honduras, Costa Rica, and Jamaica. He lists, also, an ibis found dead in Dade County, Florida, 12 November 1954, that was possibly an escapee.

Robertson (1962, *Audubon Field Notes*, 16:470) indicated in his nesting season reports for the Florida Region that a number of Scarlet Ibises had been reported in the Tampa Bay area. Six Scarlet Ibises were known to have escaped from the Busch Gardens; another one was reported seen for two consecutive days at the Myakka River State Park. He also mentioned the experiment of Carter Bundy.

Carter Bundy (1962, *Florida Naturalist*, 35:87) reported an experiment in July 1961, in which 22 eggs were obtained from Trinidad, and placed under brooding White Ibises in the Greynolds Park rookery, north of Miami, Dade County, Florida. Seventeen of the fledglings survived of which the oldest birds were 11 months, at the time of his article.

The Scarlet Ibis sighted and reported here could have been an escapee from the Tampa Gardens or the Greynolds Park colony. It also could have been a wanderer from the natural area of distribution. Regardless of its origin, it arrived in Alabama, and its sighting is given for the record.—ROSEMARY T. DUSI, 560 *Sherwood Drive, Auburn, Alabama*, 26 June 1965. (Originally submitted 8 September 1964.)

Osprey preys on turtle.—On 27 September 1964 at about 5:00 PM, the following observation was made at Big Creek, southeast of Amherstburg (Concession II, one mile north of Highway 18 in Malden Township), Essex County, Ontario.