
A FIRST OHIO RECORD OF THE WHITE IBIS, *EUDOCIMUS ALBUS*.¹—Had it not been for the untimely death of Benedict J. Blincoe from complications following an auto accident in December, 1965, this note would have been prepared by his hand. Blincoe's wife, Edith, provided the present author with his partially completed description, which reads as follows: "Early in August 1964, a letter to



FIGURE 1. Photo of white ibis from Dayton Journal Herald.

¹Manuscript received July 12, 1967.

Blincoe from Beecher Beery of Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, stated he had seen several heron-like birds fly over his home a day or two before. His impression was that they greatly resembled immature White Ibises which he had seen in Florida the winter before.

"On the morning of 20 August, Blincoe found a single immature ibis feeding in shallow water in a mud flat area at Englewood Dam, Montgomery County, where wading birds and shorebirds congregated." Subsequently this bird was seen by the author, by Paul Knoop and his staff of Aullwood Audubon Center, and by many other local observers. The last sight record was obtained on August 31. During these eleven days, many photographs were taken of the bird. An excellent photo was published in the Dayton Journal Herald on August 21 (page 1). Color photos with excellent detail were taken by Mr. Beecher Beery.

Because local observers had no information which would enable them to separate the White Ibis and the Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) in immature plumage, the possibility that the bird might be a Scarlet Ibis, even though it was highly improbable, was investigated. This possibility was explored by contacting Mr. Carter F. Bundy, who is noted for the introduction of the Scarlet Ibis into the Greynolds Park heron rookery (North Miami Beach, Florida) adjacent to his home (Bundy 1965), and who, in his Greynolds Park experiment, was faced with the difficult task of separating the immatures of both species.

In reply to the author's query concerning field identification of the two species, Mr. Bundy says, ". . . there is no positive means of telling an immature Scarlet from an immature White Ibis in the field," but adds that the young Scarlet Ibises are in general much darker, almost black, where the flesh is exposed around the eyes and beak. This is especially true in very young birds. The legs are also darker. The problem is that some young White Ibises are almost as dark, and that the differences diminish as the birds progress toward maturity. "Your bird appeared in August last year. This means it could have been anywhere from two months old on, though it was probably about four months old. This is a very difficult time to distinguish the two birds."

Mr. Bundy offered to examine the color photos of the bird and, on the basis of this examination, reported: "The bird is a White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), immature, about five months old. Plumage would be the same to about 9 to 12 months old, but it would have to be the younger age, unless it was from an off-season nesting. Nothing about the bird's beak, legs, or face indicates otherwise. It is a White Ibis. In pictures that reveal so much detail there would be ample evidence if it were a scarlet." Thus, with Mr. Bundy's assistance, the bird was established as a White Ibis.—EDWARD H. SCHELL, 3613 Elderberry Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45416.

REFERENCE CITED

- Bundy, C. F. 1965. A New Floridian: The Scarlet Ibis. Audubon Mag. 67(2): 84-85.
-