

Turcotte, W.H. and D.L. Watts. 1999. Birds of Mississippi. University Press of Mississippi.

CATTLE EGRET FORAGING BEHIND WHITE-TAILED DEER

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On 16 August 2019, at approximately 1815 hrs, I drove into the Mayes Lake section of LeFleur's Bluff State Park in Jackson for a quick look, especially for wading birds. I drove along the road leading to the campground and the Pearl River boat ramp. At the point where the road turns back around on itself, I stopped to check a slough that has had most of the waders usually found in the park show up to feed, including White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) and Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). This slough was about 3 m below road level and fairly open above. The water was usually about 15-30 cm deep.

On most days several white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) fed on vegetation while wading in the water. There were a couple of deer feeding on this date along with Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*), Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), a Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), and one Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), which in my experience was unusual to find in the park. The Cattle Egret began following one of the deer, and they both waded at the water's edge. At least twice the Cattle Egret was able to snap up some type of prey item apparently stirred up by the deer. I wasn't able to identify what the prey was.