

A Wood Stork Record From 1966

We are indebted to Betty Hardesty of Findlay, who called this record to our attention, and to Chris Gajewicz and Susan Heslop, who consulted original material in the archives of the Jerome Library at Bowling Green State University and sent copies of seven photographs, the MS of an article for the *Wilson Ornithological Journal*, and a journal entry from Harding County naturalist and author Robert Stuart "Doc" Phillips (1913-1993). This record is currently under review by the OBRC. —Ed.

From Phillips's Miscellaneous Notes

Ibis, Wood (Wood Stork)

June 28, 1966. Hancock County, Ohio. On this date I received a telephone call from Mrs. Richard Hall, (Roberta Doxsey), County Road 94, west of Findlay, off State Route 224.

She reported that there were 7 "storks" in her swimming pool. Bob Wolford, C. R. 136, a neighbor of Halls also called me about some of these birds that were in a drainage ditch behind his house. When I got to Hall's house the birds were gone, but I found them at Wolford's. I found another in Don Alexander's farm pond, in the same area.

In the following days I saw several birds of this species, probably 7 in total. They left the area on July 12, 1966.



A Typescript with Handwritten Emendations, Labeled "Wilson Ornith. Journal"

Wood Ibis in Northwestern Ohio.—On 27 June 1966 Mrs. R. J. Hall of Township Road 94, 3 miles West of Findlay, Ohio, called to tell me that there had been 7 very large white birds standing in their swimming pool that morning and that she was unable to identify them. That afternoon I went out to the Hall's but the birds were gone. However, a quarter of a mile northeast of their home I found one immature Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) fishing in a farm pond. Later the same evening I received a call from Robert E. Wolford of Township Road 136, stating that there was an unusual white bird walking around in his backyard. The next morning I visited the Wolford's and found an immature Wood Ibis fishing in a drainage ditch that circles the Wolford backyard. I observed 3 of these birds at one time but both the Hall's and Wolford's saw the entire group of 7 birds on a number of occasions. All of the birds that I saw were immature and the Hall's and Wolford's stated that each of the birds had gray-brown feathers covering head and neck indicating that they were immatures. All the birds were quite tame. I began to photograph them using a 400 millimeter lens, moving up with each exposure. At a distance of 28 feet, I switched to a 150 millimeter lens and proceeded as before moved up until I was within 7 feet of the birds. Some of the Wood Ibises could almost invariably [sic] be found at the Hall's swimming pool or in the Wolford's drainage ditch 1 mile away or in the farm pond a quarter mile from the Hall home. These birds were last observed on 11 July 1966. The only previous record of the species in Ohio is by H. E. Chubb who collected a specimen near Cleveland, Ohio in 1879 (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club*, I, 43). 🐦

