

to the acre, although this estimate may be quite too small or too large. In West Carroll Parish, where I was staying, there may be more than one hundred thousand of these birds. Of these, the Red-headed Woodpecker was apparently the most common; but, if it were not so conspicuous, it might be noticed not much oftener than the Red-bellied Woodpecker, which could be heard much of the time. Flickers, although less numerous, are as common as I have seen them anywhere. I noticed about nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are less numerous. Mr. Oldham complained about the woodpeckers picking into the ends of the unripe ears of corn.

Blue Jays were rather common, and a few Crows were heard. Of Meadow-larks I saw nearly a hundred in one field; of blackbirds about a thousand in one flock flying to roost, and on other days smaller flocks, perhaps made up of part of the one large flock. In these flocks all that I could see plainly were Bronzed Grackles. I saw only one Red-winged Blackbird this winter, but about forty were seen when I visited the same district three years ago. I did not notice any Rusty Grackles on my recent visit.

If I had had field glasses, I could have identified more sparrows. Large flocks of White-throated Sparrows were seen, altogether probably five hundred; of Slate-colored Juncos, three or four hundred; Cardinals, about 30; Towhees, about 12; Vesper Sparrows, 3; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; and Field Sparrow, 1. I saw a dozen or more Field Sparrows on January 2, 1925.

Other birds, with approximate numbers seen and heard, were: Mallard, one flock of about 23, January 5; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Barred Owl, 2; Turkey Buzzard, a few; Black Vulture (a flock of 15 before I arrived); Killdeer, 12; Phoebe, 1, (three years ago, 11); Migrant Shrike, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 1, (three years ago I saw in the same district about 30 Myrtle Warblers); Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 8; Carolina Wren, 5; Bewick's Wren, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Carolina Chickadee, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Hermit Thrush, 16; Robin, 4; Bluebird, 14.—E. L. MOSELEY, *Bowling Green, Ohio*.

Ground-nesting of the White Ibis.—In Mr. Arthur C. Bent's splendid book on the Marsh Birds, he mentions nothing about White Ibis nesting on the ground. It seems strange that with all his extensive excursions and numerous notes on this species that this habit was not noted by someone. However, if it has not been noted, such is what keeps ornithologists constantly seeking for further knowledge, and indicates that the ground-nesting habit must be rare among this species.

On April 27, 1922, Fred Walker and the author visited a small colony of White Ibis, which were nesting in a small clump of bay trees, covering perhaps a quarter of an acre, situated in a small grass pond, surrounded by pine and oak timber, on what could be described as flat-woods land, in the western part of Orange County, Florida. There was an occupied farm house 400 yards from the colony, and a sandy road fairly well traveled between the house and the pond, and brooding birds could plainly be seen against the green bay leaves. There were three small islands, and the birds used two of them. Green, Louisiana, Little Blue and several Ward's Herons, also the Snowy Egret and Water Turkey, were nesting in considerable numbers, with nests containing eggs in all stages of incubation, and many young.

Upon approaching the Ibises they rose with grunty noises and circled around over the nest-clump. When we entered it they flew to a tall dead pine tree on the shore and sat silently watching. Occasionally a few came circling around while we were examining the nests. There were about forty or fifty pairs breeding, and all were in the *full adult* plumage. The nests were placed on the slender branches, or against the trunk of the tree. Some held only one nest and others four or five, from ten feet to twenty-five feet above the ground.

Four or five nests were made of green bay twigs with leaves intact, and a few dead twigs, *placed upon the ground*, among roots at the bases of trees. Both islands harbored ground nests. I have sets now in my collection taken from this colony that were from these ground-nests. None of the nests held young, but some of the eggs were incubated about two weeks. From one fresh egg to three were found, the latter being the largest number.

It has always been a mystery to me why such a large bird builds so small a nest. Some nests are no larger than the hand of a large man in width, and with scarcely any depression. Although a few nests are quite appropriate and approach the size of an ordinary Little Blue Heron's nest, they can be told by their compactness, caused by layers of leafy twigs broken off living trees.

I was told by Mr. Redding, my guide, an old alligator hunter, of a place on the St. John's River Marshes, near Lake Washington, Brevard County, Florida, where the birds nested in an immense colony of several thousand birds, in the saw-grass and on the ground. This colony bred there in 1924. Mr. Redding stated that they arrived in large flocks and broke down the saw-grass with their weight until it appeared like a steam roller had run over the place for several acres in area. Here they built their nests upon the matted saw-grass, and among the saw-grass that remained upright. I myself have never been able to go to this place, but feel perfectly justified in accepting his statement, as he was well acquainted with their usual habits of tree nesting, and had no object in telling me anything but facts. I have visited several other breeding places of the White Ibis, but these are the only two instances where I found or heard of them making ground-nests.

Mr. Bent mentions the fact that he has not found White Ibis nesting on islands in salt water and that they resort to fresh water to nest. It might be well for me to mention a colony found on an island in Lake Worth two miles south of Palm Beach, on March 28, 1927. This is quite salty and the neck of land between the colony and the Atlantic Ocean was not over a half mile. On this date the birds were just beginning to nest; only a few had laid sets of three, and all were fresh. Other species nesting were hundreds of Black-crowned Night Herons with young fully feathered, Louisiana, Little Blue and Green Herons, and a few Snowy Egrets. The island was within 200 yards of a number of fine houses, and motor boats passed in numbers daily quite close. On the day I was there a noisy hydroplane passed over the island. There were no ibis nests found upon the ground, but they were built close together in vine-covered trees, in Mangroves, and three were found built against the trunk of a palm tree supported by the dead cabbage "boots" which had broken off and left six or eight inch stubs standing at an angle of 45 degrees.

In all the White Ibis colonies that I have seen I have never observed any but full-plumaged birds about, and I do not believe that they nest until they are fully matured.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*