

like those of the American elm. Much of the nest material was twine. The lining was principally of horsehair. The drawing was made years ago, and while it is crude, it may bear the marks of authenticity more satisfactorily than any impression I might now reconstruct from memory.

I have seen a good many two-storied nests of the Red-eyed Vireo and Yellow Warbler; but I know of no other instance where nests of this sort were joined in this manner.

If by any chance two pairs of birds made the double nest, their sociability may reflect the colonizing habit of some of the tropical Icterids such as *Zarhynchus*. If but one pair built the two nests, is it not possible that the male used one as roosting quarters? In any event the building of these nests between upright forks, in the manner of many Orchard Oriole nests which I have seen, is an interesting and unusual deviation from the usual custom of this species of swinging the pouch from a drooping bough.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Ithaca, N.Y.*

The Wood Ibis Observed in Southern Indiana.—Robert Ridgway, in his "Descriptive Catalog of the Birds of Illinois", published in 1913, gives the following range of the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*): "The whole of tropical and most of warm temperate America, north to New York (casual), Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California, south to Equador and the Argentine Republic." Ridgway also mentions several sight records of the Wood Ibis in the lower Wabash Valley, and adds that the species is an irregular summer visitor to southern Illinois. A. C. Bent, in his "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds", mentions that the species has been recorded in late summer from near Bicknell and Terre Haute, Indiana.

A partial survey of the literature has failed to disclose any recent Indiana records for the species, so it would seem of value to record the following experience. The writer, in company with Mr. Robert H. McCormick, was engaged in some biological studies in southwestern Indiana during the early part of September, 1930. On September 5 we came to Hovey Lake, situated about twelve miles south of Mt. Vernon, Posey County. Posey is the extreme southwestern Indiana county, being bounded on the west by the Wabash River and on the south and east by the Ohio River. Posey Lake averages about ninety acres in size, is only a short distance from the Ohio River, and during flood time is connected by backwaters with that stream. A border of cypress trees with expanded bases and "knees", surrounds and in many places extends out over the waters of the lake. Numerous pecan trees, a neighboring cane break, and plants of many other species found in the vicinity, create an atmosphere which would lead one to believe himself many miles farther south in the Mississippi Valley.

Due to drouth conditions, the lake was at a very low level at the time, and so shallow that it was difficult to approach the numerous mud bars to identify the occasional flocks of shore birds feeding there. About a dozen Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*), a solitary American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), and five Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in white plumage, were feeding along the margins.

Twenty-two Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*), a species which is said to sometimes nest in the county, still remained at the lake. Most of them were perched on the dead tops of bald cypress trees growing in the shallower portions of the lake. Many perched awkwardly, drying their outstretched wings in the bright sunshine, as Turkey Vultures frequently do in the

early morning. Others were engaged in fishing activities in different parts of the lake. Seven birds in one tree permitted us to approach with our boat until almost immediately beneath them, giving us the opportunity to take numerous photographs.

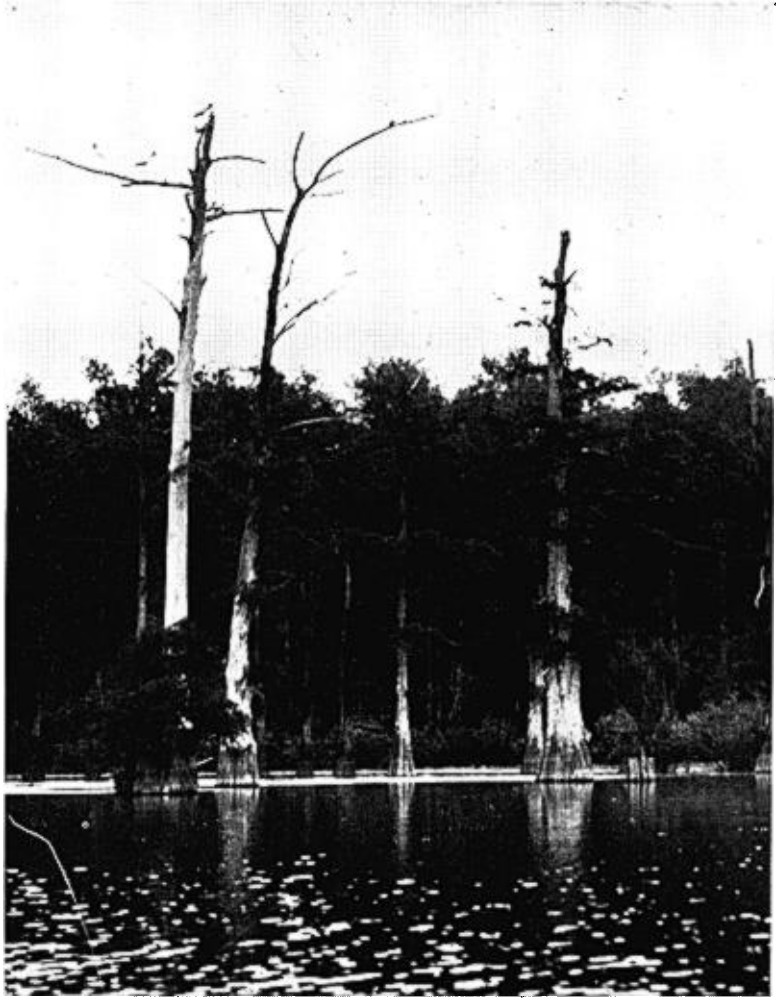


FIG. 4. Wood Ibises are perched in tops of the Cypress trees. Photograph by L. E. Hicks.

Our attention, however, was soon attracted to seven large, light-colored birds resting in a tall cypress snag about three hundred yards down the lake. A hasty examination through the binoculars proved them to be the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*). As we watched, eleven more birds appeared on the horizon and approached until nearly overhead, flying at a great height, yet exhibiting plainly

the black of the tail and wing tips. Then, in long swooping curves, the birds began their descent, tacking back and forth in long graceful swoops and curves, spiraling lower and lower with each change of direction, until within a hundred feet of the lake surface. Here the glide was flattened out and these large birds, appearing immense now at close range, flapped to the tops of a half-dozen snags by slow easy beats of their wings, alternating with an occasional short sail.

From the boat we kept the birds under observation through our binoculars for more than an hour. Most of them kept perfectly motionless except for the restless twitching of the necks, giving us an opportunity to observe their ugly unfeathered "flintheads", and the oddly positioned bill. Many sat quietly, balanced upon one leg, in a dejected, hunch-backed position, breasts to the strong sunlight and dozing in the heat of noonday. Observation told us, however, that the ibises were very much aware of our presence and actually alert in spite of their sleepy appearance.

Gradually, we drew nearer, stopping occasionally to take another photograph at the closer range. Several times our boat stranded in the muddy bottom and the activity involved in getting under way again, usually caused one or two birds to take alarm and fly. At last only three birds remained. Already we were closer than 100 yards to our quarry, now only 80, now 60, now 50. Suddenly, when we were scarcely 100 feet distant, the trio rose from their perches with powerful springs which caused the branches of the old cypress tree to vibrate, and with rapid flaps of the wings and legs dangling, rose high above the tree tops, moving in their gyrating flight slowly to the far side of the lake to join the others in the tops of another group of cypress snags.

Later we visited Mr. Robinson, caretaker of the lake, who told us that our birds with the bald heads had been present at the lake for at least two weeks. On September 1, he related, one of the birds with an injured wing was seen to run across the highway and was struck but not further injured by the wheels of the automobile that he was driving. The bird was captured and kept in a garage for three days after which it managed to escape, successfully resisting with vicious thrusts of the long bill all efforts of a dog to grasp it and eventually succeeding in evading its tormentor, wading to safety far out in the deeper waters of the lake.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio Division of Conservation, Columbus, Ohio.*

An Early Morning Mixed Migration.—On August 24, 1931, at 6 A. M., I witnessed an interesting morning migration. A large loose flock of common Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) flew over, and smaller flocks of the same species continued to come for nearly an hour. Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) also came scattering along with the first species. Family parties of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) were also in flight, and were often mixed in with the Kingbirds. The strangest part, however, was the presence of an occasional Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), following closely along with the other birds and going in the same southeast direction. This mixed company of four species were thus apparently migrating together, and on the best of terms. Estimates were as follows: Kingbirds, 1500; Arkansas Kingbirds, 75; Baltimore Orioles, 400; and about two dozen Red-headed Woodpeckers. By 7 A. M. the flight was over, and the morning migration was ended.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*