

GENERAL NOTES

Spring migration of Common Loons from the Gulf of Mexico.—During the past 15 years, I have spent many hours of early morning outdoors in northern Florida within 50 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico while listening intently for wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) to gobble. On especially quiet mornings I sometimes heard swishing wings of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) flying northward overhead at high altitude. The birds were easily identified with binoculars.

During the last two weeks of March and the first half of April on mornings with clear skies, a few flocks of loons usually passed overhead at an altitude I estimated to be 1,500 feet. In the approximately 60 times that I have seen this, I have not seen or heard a flock of loons earlier than one-half hour after sunrise or later than about 09:30. I have occasionally watched and listened for loons flying overhead at other hours of the day, including late afternoon, but have not seen any except in the morning. My observations are not sufficient to conclude that no loons depart northward later in the day, but I believe that most loons depart in early morning. Usually two to six loosely associated flocks of two to 15 loons were involved, headed approximately north. I have also seen this during early May, but the amount of time I have spent watching for loons in early morning after mid-April has not been sufficient to describe the seasonality of this migration.

It is doubtful that this has been seen regularly farther inland because loons are not very conspicuous at 1,500 feet. I may never have noticed them either had I not first heard their wing beats under the ideal hearing conditions of quiet spring mornings.

The ground speed of Common Loons has been clocked at about 60 mph (Bent, Life Histories of North American Diving Birds, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 107, 55-56, 1919). Continuous northward flight at this speed during 12 hours of daylight would carry loons more than 700 miles north of the Gulf on the first day of migration, or to about the Great Lakes. The relative scarcity of surface records of loons south of Ohio (Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 1, Yale University Press, p. 28, 1962) indicates that they do not normally alight during the first day of migration. This may have caused overland migration to go largely undetected, while it may, in reality, be of substantial magnitude or even the rule for loons wintering on the Gulf of Mexico.—LOVETT E. WILLIAMS, JR., *Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Projects Office, Gainesville, Florida 32601. 10 July 1972.*

White Ibis nesting in the Florida Everglades.—White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*) usually nest on islands—either true islands surrounded by open water or islands of woody growth surrounded by marshland. In the spring of 1972 I discovered an unusual nesting colony of White Ibis in the Florida Everglades. Located at 26° 0' N latitude and 80° 30' W longitude, approximately 40 km west of the city of Hollywood, Florida, the colony is notable in several respects. It was located not in an isolated island of vegetation but within a continuous marsh composed primarily of sawgrass (*Mariscus jamaicensis*). It is the first colony reported from within the true Everglades although a number of colonies have existed on its periphery, and it is the largest nesting colony of White Ibis reported in over 20 years south of Lake Okeechobee. This area which includes the Everglades, Big Cypress Swamp, and the Florida mangrove swamps at one time supported colonies of White Ibis numbering in the hundreds of thousands of birds (see e.g., Holt,



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