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A Possible White Ibis-scarlet Ibis Hybrid in Alachua County, Florida

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I thank Bruce Anderson for making a study skin of the jay and to the two reviewers whose comments improved this note.—WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR, *Department of Biology, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida 32816.*
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A possible White Ibis—Scarlet Ibis hybrid in Alachua County, Florida.—On 2 June 1981 we observed a light-pink ibis foraging among scattered American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) with several White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*) in Alachua Lake, Payne's Prairie State Preserve, Alachua County, Florida. The bird was observed and photographed during a 10 min period. Maehr's color transparencies of the bird are on file at the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Laboratory, Gainesville, Florida. The pink coloration was entire, although darker on soft parts.

On January 25, 1982 the same or another light pink individual was seen by Hintermister and F. Percival on the north side of Orange Lake, Alachua County, Florida. The bird was observed at 1000, feeding on an exposed mudflat with seven adult White Ibises.

There have been several other reports of "pink" ibises, apparently White Ibis—Scarlet Ibis (*E. ruber*) hybrids, but these have all been restricted to southern Florida (Robertson 1967, Kale 1971). These hybrid birds were apparently the result of the introduction in 1961 of 22 Scarlet Ibis eggs from Trinidad into White Ibis nests at Greynold's Park, North Miami Beach (Bundy 1962, Zahl 1967, Owre 1973). Scarlet Ibises are no longer breeding in the park, although 5 hybrid birds of various shades of redness are present in the colony (G. Hoffman pers. comm.).

The individual seen on Payne's Prairie appeared paler pink than the F1 hybrid photographed in Zahl (1967). Subsequent breeding of hybrids with White Ibises may have resulted in a gradual fading of the red pigment past the F1 generation. We believe this sighting represents the northernmost record for a White Ibis—Scarlet Ibis hybrid for North America. Drought conditions in southern Florida may have caused the scattering of these birds away from their known range. The sighting may also represent offspring of locally breeding mixed parents since records exist for Scarlet Ibises from Tampa Bay (Robertson 1962) to Alabama (Dusi 1965).

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