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## Recolonization of Pelican Island by Reddish Egrets

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**Figure 1. Bahama Mockingbird in Palm Beach County, Florida, by Ray Plockleman.**

A tape of the song, made by Al Liberman, has been deposited with the Florida State Museum, Bioacoustics Archive, as Cut no. 5 of Master Tape 781. A color slide, by Ray Plockelman, has been submitted to Florida state Museum.

I wish to thank Howard Langridge for his help and Wesley Biggs for providing records and additional information.—Cynthia Plockelman, 311 Franklin Rd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33405.

Florida Field Naturalist 14: 75-76, 1986.

**Recolonization of Pelican Island by Reddish Egrets.**—Although Bryant (1859, Proc. Bost Soc. Nat. Hist. 7: 5-21) observed Reddish Egrets (*Egretta rufescens*) nesting on Pelican Island, Brevard County, Florida, no records are known to us from the Twentieth century. Here we report on the recolonization of Pelican Island by Reddish Egrets.

During the course of monitoring the reproductive success of Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*), we located a single Reddish Egret nest in prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) on 2 May 1985. The nest contained three dark-phase nestlings about two weeks old with an attending dark-phase adult. On 29 May, the three fledglings were observed foraging along the shoreline.

We suspect that dark-phase Reddish Egrets nested at Pelican Island prior to 1985. Two recent fledglings were seen along the shoreline on June 9 and 23, 1982 (Paul 1982, Amer. Birds 36: 968). Adults frequently were present during the spring and summer of 1984, and we often saw them flying into the mangroves on the island. Paul et al. (1979, Fla. Field Nat. 7: 24-25) reported single Reddish Egret nests on Riomar Island, Indian River County and on Haulover Island, Brevard County in 1978. Bill Leenhouts of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (pers. comm.) indicated Reddish Egrets are still observed in low numbers at the Haulover Island colony, and Paul (1982) reported Reddish Egrets nested on Riomar Island as late as 1982. Although Reddish Egrets have successfully reestablished a breeding population along the west coast of Florida in Tampa Bay (Paul et al. 1975, Fla. Field Nat. 3: 9-10; pers. comm.), they have been slow to recolonize and increase their numbers along the Atlantic coast.

We thank J. A. Kushlan and R. T. Paul for providing helpful comments on this note.—**James A. Rodgers, Jr.** and **Stephen T. Schwikert**, Wildlife Research Laboratory, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 4005 S. Main St., Gainesville, Florida 32601.

Florida Field Naturalist 14: 76-77, 1986.

**Additional observations on the reproductive success of herons on the west coast of Florida.**—In an earlier paper, I reported on the breeding success of three species of herons in Tampa Bay (Rodgers 1980a). In this note I present further observations on the reproductive success of the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), Tricolored Heron (*E. tricolor*), Snowy Egret (*E. thula*), Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*N. violaceus*) in the Tampa Bay region of Florida.

Data were collected at weekly intervals during 1979 and 1980 on Sunken Island (colony no. 615007), Hillsborough Bay, Hillsborough County and Bird Key (colony no. 615027), Terra Ceia Bay, Manatee County. The dominant nesting vegetation on the dredged material Sunken Island is Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*), and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*). Bird Key is a natural island dominated by black and red (*Rhizophora mangle*) mangroves. Full descriptions of their location, other wading birds present, and vegetation are in Lewis and Lewis (1978), Rodgers (1980b) and Nesbitt et al. (1982). Because of the small sample size, data for both years were combined.

Clutch size, percent of eggs hatching and nestling survivorship to two weeks of age are in Table 1. For all species, egg survivorship to one week of age was high, but exhibited a large decrease between one and two weeks of age. No obvious sources for nest, egg, or nestling loss were identified. Usually, the nest and/or its contents disappeared between my visits. Similar reproductive rates were reported by Rodgers (1980a) for Tricolored Herons and Snowy Egrets; however, the breeding success of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in this study tended to be greater, especially clutch size. Overall, the reproductive rates of ardeids on Sunken Island and Bird Key are intermediate to those reported elsewhere (see reviews in Palmer 1962, Wiese 1978, Rodgers 1980a, 1980b, Black et al. 1984).

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