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First Nesting of White Ibis in Oklahoma—In early July 2000, W. David Arbour observed adult White Ibis (Eudocimus albus) in a rookery containing several thousand nesting Cattle Egrets (Bubulcus ibis) and Little Blue Herons (Egretta caerulea) in small willow trees (Salix nigra) growing in a private lake (Ward Lake), 13 km SSW of Haworth, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. About 2,000 White Ibis were using this rookery as a roosting site. On 20 July 2000, Berlin A. Heck, W. David Arbour, and James W. Arterburn entered the rookery and found 2 White Ibis nests containing 2 and 3 eggs, located in forks of willow trees about 1.5 m above the water. Arterburn was able to photograph the nest containing 3 eggs (Fig. 1). The eggs were subelliptical in shape and were cream colored with small, medium-brown blotches. The nests, constructed of green willow branches, contained fresh green willow stems and leaves (possibly part of the living tree rather than carried in). Nests were within 5 m of each other at the edge of the rookery and located lower in the trees than most other nests in the rookery. On 5 September 2000, Heck and Arbour observed 3 nestling White Ibis perched in the willow tree above 1 of the nests. The nestlings' ability to climb from the nest indicated they were 3-4 weeks old (Kushlan, J. and K. Bildstein. 1992. White Ibis [Eudocimus albus]. The Birds of North America, No. 9 [A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, eds]. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.). This rookery was abandoned in 2001, and there has been no other report of nesting White Ibis in Oklahoma.

Max Parker, Chair of the Arkansas Bird Records Committee (pers. comm., 2004), stated that there are several confirmed nesting records for Arkansas: 2 adults on nests, 13 June 1996, and 4 adults on nests with 7 nestlings, 18 June 1996, in Clark County; 4 fledglings, 29 August 1997, and several adults on nests, 18 June

Vol. 39, No. 1

1997, in Columbus County; and adults carrying sticks into a rookery from 22 June to 31 July 2002 in White County. Nesting of White Ibis in northwestern Louisiana has been confirmed in the Shreveport area in Caddo and Bienville parishes (Weidenfeld, D. and M. Swan. 2000. Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas. Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge). Nesting of White Ibis has not been documented in northeastern Texas, but Matt White (Birds of Northeast Texas. Texas A&M University Press, College Station) states, "populations of this ibis have increased substantially in recent years, and small flocks of adults in breeding plumage may arrive in April. Breeding is suspected in mixed heron and egret rookeries at Cooper Lake and Lake Fork Reservoir."

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Fig. 1. White Ibis nest with eggs (photograph by James W. Arterburn).

ANNOUNCEMENT

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