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### Glossy Ibis Nesting in Southern Florida

Although the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) nests commonly at Kings Bar in Lake Okeechobee, there are only a few records, all over 30 years old, of its nesting further south in Florida. A few pairs were reported to have nested in large mixed-species colonies of wading birds at Shark River in 1934 and at an unnamed southwest coastal river in 1940 (Allen, 1934a, b; Baker, 1940). A few were also reported to have nested in 1940 at a colony north of Tamiami Trail (Baker, 1940). Considering the incompleteness of existing information on the early history of southern Florida wading birds, the two reports of nesting near Shark River suggest that the Glossy Ibis probably nested there irregularly and in small numbers throughout the 1930's. The record from Tamiami Trail is certainly a single episode.

Despite relatively intensive coverage of wading bird colonies after the 1930's, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Everglades National Park, and other agencies, there had been no additional nesting records south of Lake Okeechobee until the spring of 1973. At that time we found Glossy Ibis nesting in a wading bird colony located about 2.5 km south of State Road 84 (Alligator Alley) between U.S. Highway 27 and the Miami Canal in the Everglades of Conservation Area 3. The colony was composed primarily of White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor*), and Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*). Due to the difficulty of reaching the colony, it was not visited until 25 May. By then, young ibis of both species were able to fly but were still in the colony. A fledgling Glossy Ibis, found injured, died in captivity on 21 June 1973. The skin is deposited in the reference collection of the University of Miami (UMRC 7497). By the time of our visit, it was not possible to estimate the number of nesting Glossy Ibis. However, previous counts of the number of Glossy Ibis entering and leaving the colony suggest that there were approximately 600 nests. This tallies well with a count of 1300 Glossy Ibis which roosted on an island north of Tamiami Trail just prior to the nesting season.

This is the first proven nesting of Glossy Ibis in the Everglades. However, a few were seen all spring in 1972 at a White Ibis colony located about 11 km south of the 1973 colony (Kushlan, 1973). Although no nests or young were found in that colony, they could have been overlooked due to its size.

We would like to thank Mr. Carl Gage of Key Largo, Florida, for piloting the flight on which the colony was discovered. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our indebtedness to Michael Ardoin, biologist, teacher, and friend.

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