



Food of Herons and Ibises

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Mrs. Solger's notes accurately described it in 1897, and told of its nesting and rearing a brood in 1898. By an oversight her observations were not included in the bird bulletin published by the Chicago Academy of Sciences a few years ago.¹

That the birds have nested along the Des Plaines year after year is quite probable, for the conditions are ideal, both as to nesting sites and food supply.

The discovery of the Riverside nest positively establishes the fact of the Prothonotary breeding much farther north in Illinois than previously reported, and sets a new nesting record for Cook County.

The nest and its occupants were visited by a number of bird lovers before its desertion, some of them coming purposely from quite a long distance. Several attempts were made to photograph the parent birds while perching on the edge of the lantern, but no good negatives were produced on account of poor light.

Mr. Ben. T. Gault of Glenn Ellyn, Ill., photographed the pavilion from across the river, and the accompanying picture shows the remarkable nesting site.

¹ The Birds of the Chicago Area, 1907.

FOOD OF HERONS AND IBISES.

BY OSCAR E. BAYNARD.

During the past three years that I have been Warden of the Orange Lake Florida Reservation of the National Association of Audubon Societies I made a special effort to learn the exact kind of food that the Herons and Ibis prefer.

From the following list it will be seen that these birds do a lot more good to the country than any one has given them credit for. The Ibis for their fondness for Crayfish have about cleaned up the thousands of acres of flooded marshes around Orange Lake and the other known fact that Crayfish destroy thousands of the spawn of fish and I have noticed that lakes and ponds that have marshes around them and no

Ibis are nearly always devoid of any great number of fish. However, lack of fish is not always due to lack of Ibis as we have a class of men in Florida who trap lakes and catch any fish that they can sell, and this means almost anything from three inches and up in length. However, lakes that have not been bothered with this class of fishermen and also have not had the Ibis there are poorly stocked with fish.

Orange Lake has been fished with traps continually but with the thousands of Ibis and Herons that use the lake as a reservation have kept the crayfish down to such an extent that there are more fish today in Orange Lake than in many years. There are several thousand acres of marsh around this lake and this has given the fish plenty of places to spawn. As young fish eat millions of mosquitos it stands to reason that with Ibis and Herons we have more fish and less mosquitos, and any bird that does so much good to a State is of very great value and should be protected for that reason alone.

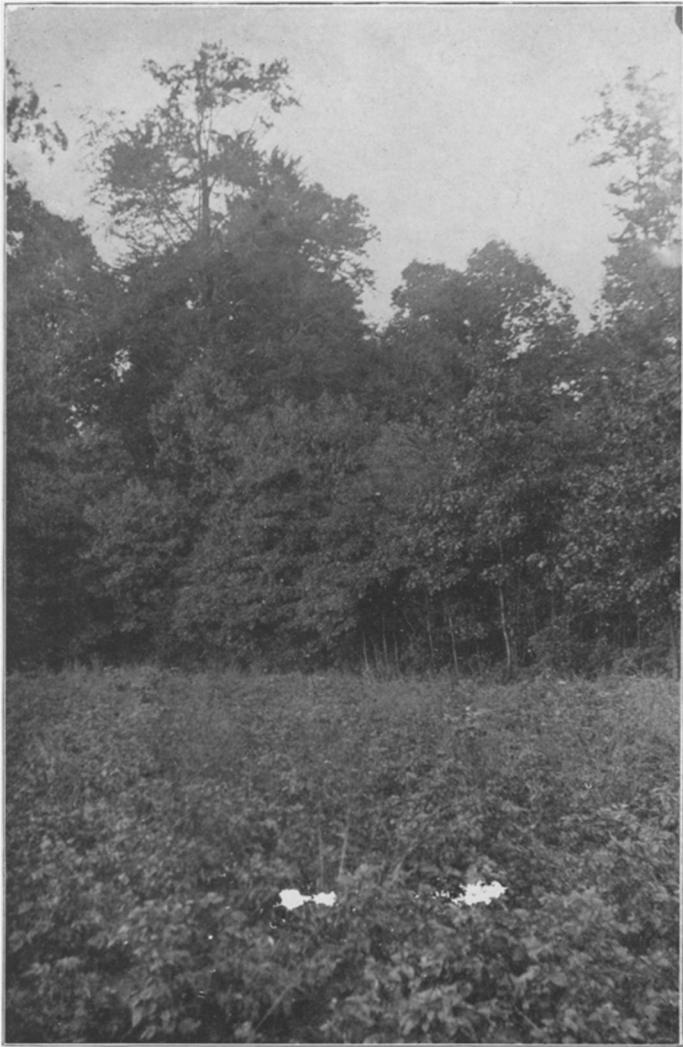
This past Summer we had six days of continuous rain and I noted in one field of about three acres on the edge of the lake that had been planted in squash over two thousand Ibis walking around, turning over the squashes and catching grasshoppers, and from the eagerness with which they hunted they were having good luck. Grasshoppers do millions of dollars damage to the crops of the Florida farmers, and any bird that does this great good is the farmer's best friend.

One Glossy Ibis male that I dissected contained: 14 cut-worms, 12 grasshoppers, 19 small crayfish, part of small moccasin, 1 black bug of some description.

Adult Little Blue Heron had in its stomach: 51 grasshoppers, 2 small frogs, 3 cut-worms, 1 small lizard, remains of three crayfish.

Adult Green Heron had in its stomach: 6 small crayfish, 16 grasshoppers, 2 cut-worms, remains of small frogs.

Adult Louisiana Heron had in its stomach nothing but grasshoppers too far digested to determine the number but evidently about 200.



North-west end of the roost showing the woods on the north
of the roost, and two of the trees where the first
arrivals alight. Northfield, Ohio.

(Photo by A. J. Stover.)

Food of 50 young Egrets that was disgorged by them at the nests immediately after being fed, running over a period of four weeks. The total of the 50 meals follows: 297 small frogs, 49 small snakes, mostly the Water Moccasin. 61 young fish, suckers, not edible, 176 crayfish.

Food of fifty meals of young White Ibis: 352 cut-worms, 308 grasshoppers, 602 crayfish, 42 small moccasins.

Food of fifty meals of Young, Little Blue Herons: 1900 grasshoppers, 37 small frogs, 149 cut-worms, 8 lizards, 142 small crayfish.

Food of fifty meals of young Louisiana Herons: 2876 grasshoppers, 8 small frogs, 17 cut-worms, 6 lizards, 67 small crayfish.

Food of fifty meals of young Snowy Egrets: 120 small suckers, 762 grasshoppers, 91 cut-worms, 2 small lizards, 29 small crayfish, 7 small moccasins.

Food of fifty meals of young Water Turkeys. All contained fish, mostly the suckers, pickerel and a few small catfish, none of which are much used for food fish.

Food of fifty young Night Herons: 60 crayfish, 610 small catfish, 31 small pickerel, 79 dragon flies.

A ROBIN'S ROOST.

BY A. J. STOVER.

At Northfield, Ohio, east of the car line is a strip of woods and swamp, in this is a 5 acre piece of land which had once been cleared then neglected, and is now covered with a dense growth of dog-wood, oak, sassafras, wild cherry, chestnut, shumach, etc., about 15 to 20 feet in height. This is protected on the north and east by woods and on the south by a tamarack swamp, the west is open. This low protected place is where the robins roost.

Scattered about this region are numerous bog holes, covered with huckle, alder, and elder berry bushes which afford an abundance of food during late summer and autumn.

Soon after the nesting season small groups of robins may