SOUTH FLORIDA RESEARCH CENTER

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A Bibliography of South Florida Wading Birds

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A Bibliography of South Florida Wading Birds

The wading birds of south Florida have attracted the attention of naturalists, biologists and conservationists for decades. These species of herons, ibis, spoonbills, and storks have figured importantly in national and international conservation efforts and in the establishment of natural preserves such as Everglades National Park and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Regional population decreases caused initially by hunting and then by loss of habitat are well known. However, understanding the current status and providing for the conservation of these species require much additional research. A basic tool in such research is the information available in the many previous publications on the biology and status of wading birds in southern Florida. This report is an attempt to bring together some of the existing published information.

The bibliography includes published reports concerning ciconiiform wading birds in south Florida. The geographic range extends from Lake Okeechobee through the lower Florida Keys. Those species of wading birds that have been reported in this area include: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*), Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Great Blue

Heron (Ardea herodias) and its white color morph, the Great White Heron (Ardea herodias occidentalis), Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea), American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus), Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis) and the American Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber). Although a bibliography of these species can probably never be exhaustive, we hope that it is sufficiently complete to be useful to those engaged in research and conservation of these birds. The publications on this list unfortunately do not represent all that is known about south Florida wading birds. Much information exists only in personal notes or institutional files, particularly those of the National Park Service and National Audubon Society. Other data may be found in seasonal reports on the Florida region published in American Birds (formerly Audubon Field Notes), that are not listed here. This bibliography also omits some popular accounts and books that casually mention wading birds in south Florida. Where necessary, the citations contain short annotations to make their content clearer.

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