

White Ibis near Rosman, N.C.

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23 September 1977

On 21 August 1977 I was leading a canoe trip down the French Broad River from Rosman to US 276 at Brevard, Transylvania County, N.C. We had been on the river about an hour and had already spotted several Green Herons and Belted Kingfishers when we saw an immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) on the north bank of the river at a distance of about 15 meters. It was perched about 3 meters off the ground in a dead snag. Even without binoculars, the profile was unmistakable. The long decurved bill, the dark brown body showing a clear separation with the lighter neck, and the large size (about 45 cm high) were clearly visible. The bird did not fly at seeing us and seemed unusually unconcerned about our presence. I watched the bird for over a minute while I stopped paddling and let the river current take us by. Several other canoeists saw the bird, but none were familiar enough with birds to give it a name. The river level was lower than normal as a result of the dry summer.

[NOTE: See related article below.—JFP]

White Ibis in Transylvania County, N.C.

ERCEL FRANCIS
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9 September 1978

On 3 August 1978 an immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) was discovered by George Letchworth at Cedar Mountain in Transylvania County, N.C. The bird was first observed on a golf course at an elevation of about 2800 feet. The bird was seen by numerous people until 15 August. Photographs were secured by Mabel Boulet. Studied closely on several occasions, the bird had a long, faintly pink, decurved bill, a gray neck, white underparts and rump, and a dark humped body.

[NOTE: Observations of immature White Ibis are increasing in the North Carolina mountains. This apparently relates to the increasing success of the breeding colonies at Battery Island in southeastern North Carolina and at various places in coastal South Carolina. A continued increase in the number of White Ibis that wander inland in late summer can be expected as long as the coastal colonies thrive.—JFP]

Harlequin Duck on Bull's Island, S.C.

BOB AND LISA LEWIS
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30 August 1977

On 6 March 1977 we observed an immature male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) within a few feet of the shore along the north beach of Bull's Island, Charleston County, S.C. We were so close to the bird that its body more than filled the field of view at 80X on our telescope. We observed the bird for about 10 minutes. This occurred in the afternoon, under heavily overcast skies.

The bird appeared to be in molt. The head showed all the requisite stripes and patches, but they seemed indistinct, or perhaps worn. An exception to this was the white ear patch, which had very precise borders. Two chestnut patches were prominently displayed in the crown stripes. On the body, the large vertical white stripe on the side was present, as was the horizontal white stripe leading from the bend-of-wing area around to the front of the breast. The long white scapular stripe of the adult male plumage was not visible, however, nor was the chestnut-colored flank patch. Instead, these last two regions, along with the back and mantle, appeared black. These plumage characteristics are con-