

Specimens and Eggs of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) Purportedly From the Carolinas

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The Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) was a former resident of South Carolina and North Carolina. David Lee (1999) reviewed the few records of the species for North Carolina, with the most prominent record being that of Alexander Wilson (1828) who captured an Ivory-billed Woodpecker near Wilmington. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1972) and Jackson (2006) presented South Carolina's more numerous records of the species. In addition to those records, a clutch of eggs and two adult specimens should be noted for the history of the species in the Carolinas, at least as hypotheticals.

Two eggs purportedly belonging to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker were collected by Norwood Giles. They are recorded as being from Wilmington, North Carolina, but no collection date is listed. These eggs are held at the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution (specimen USNM B 16196), and they were mentioned by Bendire in his life history series (1895). The USNM holds only a few sets of eggs of various species which were collected by Giles. Although no date is given for the Ivory-bill Woodpecker eggs, the other sets in the collection are dated 1872. There remains some uncertainty about the location of the collection of the set, as most of the egg sets from Giles in the Smithsonian are listed as being from Wilmington, which was his home. So it is possible that the location for the eggs refers only to his home. However, one set of eggs is listed as coming from Maryland and another from South Carolina, so the location label seems to refer to a place of collection. Furthermore, the collection site seems legitimate because it is reasonable that a collector of his day would have mainly collected close to home.

Two adult specimens of the species are held in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, Germany, and both list "Carolina" as the collection location. Although the specimens are listed in Hahn's detailed list of specimens (1963), they are not noted in the standard ornithological reference books for either North or South Carolina (Pearson et al. 1942, Sprunt et al. 1970, Potter et al. 2006). One specimen, ZMB 10349, was accessioned into the museum on 7 March 1816. The other, ZMB 10350, was purchased at "Bullock-Auktion" on 8 June 1819. The latter specimen likely went to Germany via William Bullock's Museum and Pantherion in Piccadilly Egyptian Hall, London. The museum's collection was dispersed via auction in 1819 and replaced by artifacts which Bullock (for whom the Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*, is named) brought from Mexico. Neither specimen gives an exact date or location for its collection. There is no way to know to which of the Carolinas the tag data refer, but the curator of the collection believes that

South Carolina is the more likely choice (pers. comm.) given that other specimens in the collection from that time period are definitely from South Carolina.

None of these specimens provides adequate documentation to be unreservedly admitted to the records for either state. However, they are worth noting as intriguing hypothetical records for the past distribution of the species in the Carolinas.

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