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Oyster-catcher Breeding in New Jersey

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Carolina, in 1940, this is the only breeding record for the Southeast north of Florida.

I was observing a large colony of White Ibises, Snowy Egrets, Louisiana, Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons when I saw first one then another Glossy Ibis among the hundreds of birds in the air above the rookery. During the next four hours I saw the two Glossies repeatedly and their behavior indicated beyond a reasonable doubt that they were nesting in a certain part of the rookery where hundreds of White Ibis and heron nests, with both eggs and young, were placed in low thickets of myrtle (bayberry), buttonwood, maple and willow. It was impossible at the time to determine which one of these many nests belonged to the Glossies, which were much shyer than the White Ibises, circling in the air at a pretty good height and refusing to come down to their nest while my boat was visible. The bushes were growing on floating islands which would not bear a man's weight, the water was deep and the growth so thick that it was almost impossible to force the boat through it.

On July 3 I returned to the rookery with Alexander Sprunt, Jr., E. Burnham Chamberlain, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Charleston Museum, Ellison A. Williams and Alexander Sprunt III. One of the two Glossy Ibises showed itself almost at once in the air and, as on the earlier occasion, revealed the approximate location of the nest by circling over a specific part of the area. Nevertheless, it took several hours—a large part of which time was spent by Chamberlain and Sprunt up in trees, whence they could look out over this area of the rookery—to locate definitely the Glossy Ibis nest.

It was about five and one-half feet above the water in a thicket of myrtle (bayberry) and other growths. In it were two young Glossy Ibises (easily distinguishable from the young of the White Ibises), both of them dead. Apparently they had been dead only a few hours, for decay had hardly begun and the bodies were in excellent condition. What had caused their death is a mystery. Although we saw only one parent bird on this second occasion, she was assiduous in her attention to the young even after their death, so it seems certain that they had not lacked food.

The nest, composed of sticks, Spanish moss and grass, and the two young birds—partly fledged and weighing 14 and 15 ounces, respectively—are now in the collection of the Charleston Museum.—HERBERT RAVENEL SASS, *Charleston, South Carolina*.

Oyster-catcher breeding in New Jersey.—On July 26, 1947, at Little Beach Island, Ocean County, New Jersey, William W. Lukens, Jr., Quintin Kramer and I found the nest of an American Oyster-catcher, *Haematopus p. palliatus*. The nest contained three eggs, two of which were pipped—one so far advanced that we could see the bill and head of the chick and hear it peep in the egg several times.

We actually counted four adult Oyster-catchers on the Island, but located the nest of only the one pair on a little mound of sand near a colony of approximately two hundred Black Skimmers and about twenty Common Terns. It was interesting to observe that some of the Skimmers and Terns quite often attacked the nesting Oyster-catchers by diving at their heads while they were standing on the beach, and flying after them when they were in the air. However, the female Oyster-catcher (slightly larger and browner on the back than the male) was not bothered when brooding the eggs.

So far as we know, this is the first record of Oyster-catchers nesting in New Jersey in almost eighty years.—EVELYN Y. KRAMER, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

The range of the Northern Cliff Swallow in Alaska.—The A. O. U. Check-List gives the range, in part, of the Northern Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon a. albi-*