

American White Ibis: *Eudocimus albus*



The American White Ibis is a species of wading bird that ranges from the mid-Atlantic and Gulf coast of the United States and south into the tropics. A medium-sized bird (23-27 in. in length), the American White Ibis has a bright red-orange down-curved bill, long legs, and an overall white plumage with black wing tips usually only visible in flight, making them easily recognizable in their loose lines or “V” formation flight patterns. The males are larger than the females.

Outside the breeding season, this species is found in a variety of wetland habitats, nesting in huge colonies near water and feeding on crawfish. Since crawfish devour fish eggs, these birds help increase fish populations. The American White Ibis’ droppings help to fertilize the water, increasing the growth of plankton: the basic food of all marsh life.

