Jasey's Bird House
White Ibis

Hi Birders, we were visiting family in Florida this week and were near the beach. There were so many fun little beach friends running around, dodging the waves and one of them was the White Ibis. It's so fun to watch them calmly striding through the waves and occasionally stabbing their bills into the sand to catch a snack. Hope you get a chance to see one! ~ Jasey

White Ibis
Eudocimus albus

Size: About the size of a crow, weighing about 27 -37oz

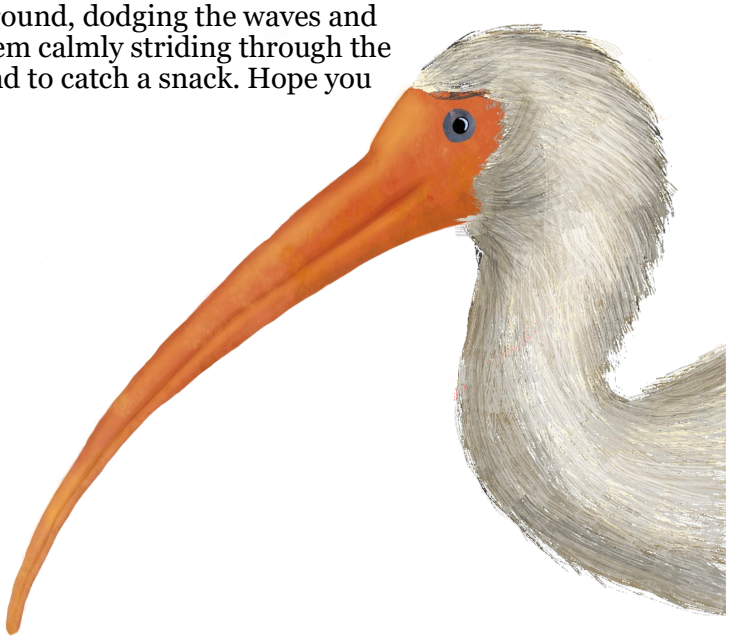
Adult: Almost entirely white with black tipped wings and red-orange bill, face and legs

Nest: A messy platform of sticks 10 inches wide in a colony of other water birds

Eggs: Creamy or blue-green with brown spots

Hatching Condition: Helpless

Food: Insects, crustations, lizards, frogs, snails and whatever other small creatures they can find



Artwork by Jasey from a photo by Ted Floyd

Viewing Tips
Look for these birds along the coast lines of the Southeast. Often seen wading around shallow water with other wading birds. They are easy to spot with their white bodies and red bills and legs.

Fun White Ibis Facts

1. Male White Ibises are very protective of their mate and their nests. They stick close by all day to keep other males from stealing sticks from the nest or trying to advance on his mate. He usually does not leave her alone until nightfall when the risk is lower.

2. Ibises have curved bills but they aren't born that way. Baby Ibises are born with straight bills that then begin to curve when they are about 14 days old.

3. The White Ibis is the mascot of the University of Miami. They were chosen because of their supposed ability to withstand hurricanes which is the name of the football team.

4. Females are much smaller than males. They often weigh up to 10 oz less and have smaller wings and bills.

5. The oldest known White Ibis was at least 16 years and 4 months old.

Fun facts and info from https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White_Ibis