

Two Birds New to the Pleistocene of Reddick, Florida

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IN examining material collected from the Pleistocene fossil beds of Reddick, Marion County, Florida, I encountered elements of two taxa not previously reported from this deposit. The taxa are the family Ardeidae, represented by a nearly complete left coracoid (University of Florida no. PB 9039) and the Mississippi kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*, represented by a complete right tarsometatarsus (PB 9032).

The heron coracoid (from Site C of Hamon, 1964) resembles that element of *Hydranassa tricolor*, *Leucophoyx thula*, and *Florida caerulea*. The fossil bone is long in relation to the size of the upper part of it. The ratio between the distance from the notch of the procoracoid to the upper end and the distance from the notch of the procoracoid to the internal distal angle was 0.292 in the fossil. For the three contemporary species, means and extremes for the same ratio were

H. tricolor (7 specimens), 0.333 (.320-.360)

L. thula (16 specimens), 0.319 (.297-.346)

F. caerulea (12 specimens), 0.309 (.293-.327).

On this basis, the probability that the fossil specimen is from a population with the same mean as the sample of *H. tricolor* (standard deviation, 0.0134) is less than 0.05. The fossil is somewhat larger than any available specimen of these three species. Its length is 41.7 mm measured from the internal distal angle. Means and extremes for the three contemporary species were

H. tricolor, 38.1 (36.8-40.2)

L. thula, 37.6 (34.7-41.3)

F. caerulea, 37.6 (35.4-39.7).

The fossil is not similar to *Palaeophoyx columbiana* McCoy, reported from the Pleistocene of Florida (McCoy, 1963). The coracoid of *P. columbiana* is longer with a very long, slender "shaft" and a high scapular facet.

The fossil kite (from Site B) differed from *Ictinia plumbea* and resembled *I. mississippiensis* in having the inner proximal foramen at the base of the calcaneal ridge rather than medial to it,

in having the inner calcaneal ridge straight rather than curved laterally, and in having the wing of the trochlea for digit 2 relatively narrow. The Mississippi kite is known from prehistoric sites in Ohio and Illinois (Brodkorb, 1964), but this appears to be the first record of its occurrence during the Pleistocene.

Other specimens examined, representing species already reported from Reddick (Brodkorb, 1957; Hamon, 1964) were a complete right ulna of *Spatula clypeata*; the distal portion of a right femur of *Coragyps occidentalis*; complete left and right femurs, a complete left tibiotarsus, and a complete right humerus of *Colinus sutilus*; and a nearly complete left coracoid of *Protocitta dixi*.

The avifauna of Reddick identified to species now totals 64, of which 13 species are extinct.

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