

Wood Stork

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: All field marks look good for a Wood Stork.

CM2: Yes. This was a well-documented bird, seen by many observers, including myself. The descriptions and photos rule out any similar species. A juvenile bird would also tend to disperse more than an adult.

CM3: Fantastic record, and wonderfully documented! This is a species that is easy enough to identify when given reasonable looks. In this case, multiple observers were able to see and document the bird. The photographs leave no doubt as to the identification. There seems to be no concern for provenance given the plumage state and lack of banding. Also, this species showed up during a time when an appreciable number of other southern waders were observed north of their normal haunts. Thus, a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM4: Indisputable photographic evidence.

CM5: I vote to include the Wood County sighting of the Wood Stork record for official state list. This is an excellent report with supporting photographs from multiple photographers that provide evidence to conclusively include the record. The observation was well documented and the report is signed by five well-respected birders. The photographs are unmistakably a Wood Stork and the written documentation supports the photographic evidence. This report meets the standards set by the by-laws for inclusion on the Official State List.

CM6: Great find.

CM7: This bird was seen by multiple individuals who took several photographs that allow for positive identification. The bird in question is large, with a thick bill that is mostly straight with a slight downward curve at the end. The plumage and size of the bird limit the species to either White Ibis, American White Pelican or Wood Stork. The overall size and shape of the bird, especially the bill, eliminate White Ibis. The grayish color and rough texture of the bill combined with the grayish color and rough texture of the plumage on the head eliminate the American White Pelican as an option. The color and texture of the head feathers, particularly the lack of a black band on the back of the head, indicate that this is a juvenile Wood Stork. I have seen dozens of Wood Storks in Coastal Georgia in very similar circumstances as this one, behaving in the same manner.