Did you know...

…the University of Miami adopted the American white ibis as its official athletics mascot in 1926?

**History**
Remains similar to the American white ibis have been found in Middle Pliocene deposits of the Bone Valley formation in central Florida, and Lower Pliocene deposits of the Yorktown Formation at Lee Creek in North Carolina dated at 13,900 years old.

**Characteristics**
The American white ibis begins breeding in its third summer, although birds in captivity may breed as young as nine or ten months of age. The oldest member of the species recorded in captivity was over 20 years of age, and a wild bird has been picked up 16 years and 4 months after being banded.

During the summer, the American white ibis roams along the coast of tidal flats and mangrove swamps as the inland marshes are usually flooded. However, as the water level recedes in the fall, populations at the coast shift their foraging area inland, to inland marshes and swamplands. It has become more common in urban landscapes in Florida since the late 1990s, and is one of a number of wetland-dependent bird species which forages in man-made ponds on golf courses in the southwest of the state.

The draining of wetlands in south Florida has impacted on species that forage in shallow water such as the American white ibis, and its increase in numbers is a key indicator of restoration of habitat within the Everglades.

**Web Site (and E-Group)**
For more details about wildlife on the Bay Colony Club property (as well as Fern Forest and Anne Kolb Nature Centers), see:

http://southfloridawildlife.weebly.com

Native American legend holds that the ibis is the last to seek shelter before a hurricane, and the first to emerge afterwards.