

OBSERVED STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF GLOSSY IBIS



Research institute
for the conservation
of Mediterranean
wetlands



Pictures by ©Irene Badone/ Tour du Valat
taken in the Natural Reserve of Scamandre
during the breeding seasons 2017 and 2018

Stage 0

EGG

Around the beginning of April, after the courting period, the couple install in the colony. The two individuals contribute to build the nest bringing branches and reeds.



Stage 0

The incubation last about 20 days.

The egg is dark blue, almost green.



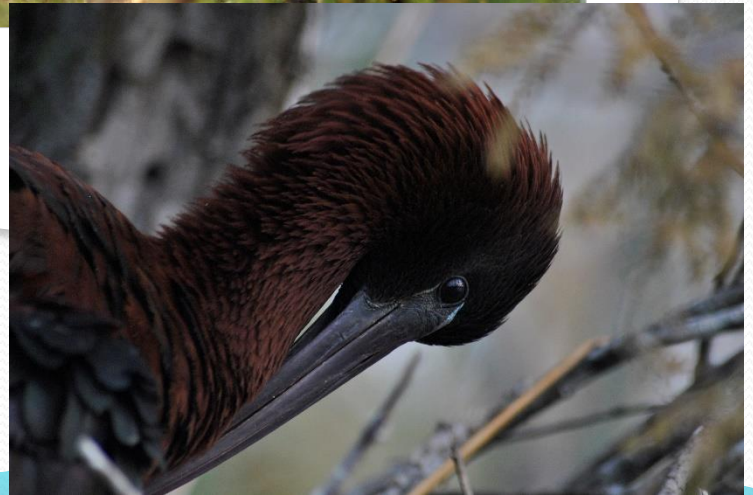
Stage 0

Parents alternate in the nursing activity but the female stays longer on the nest.



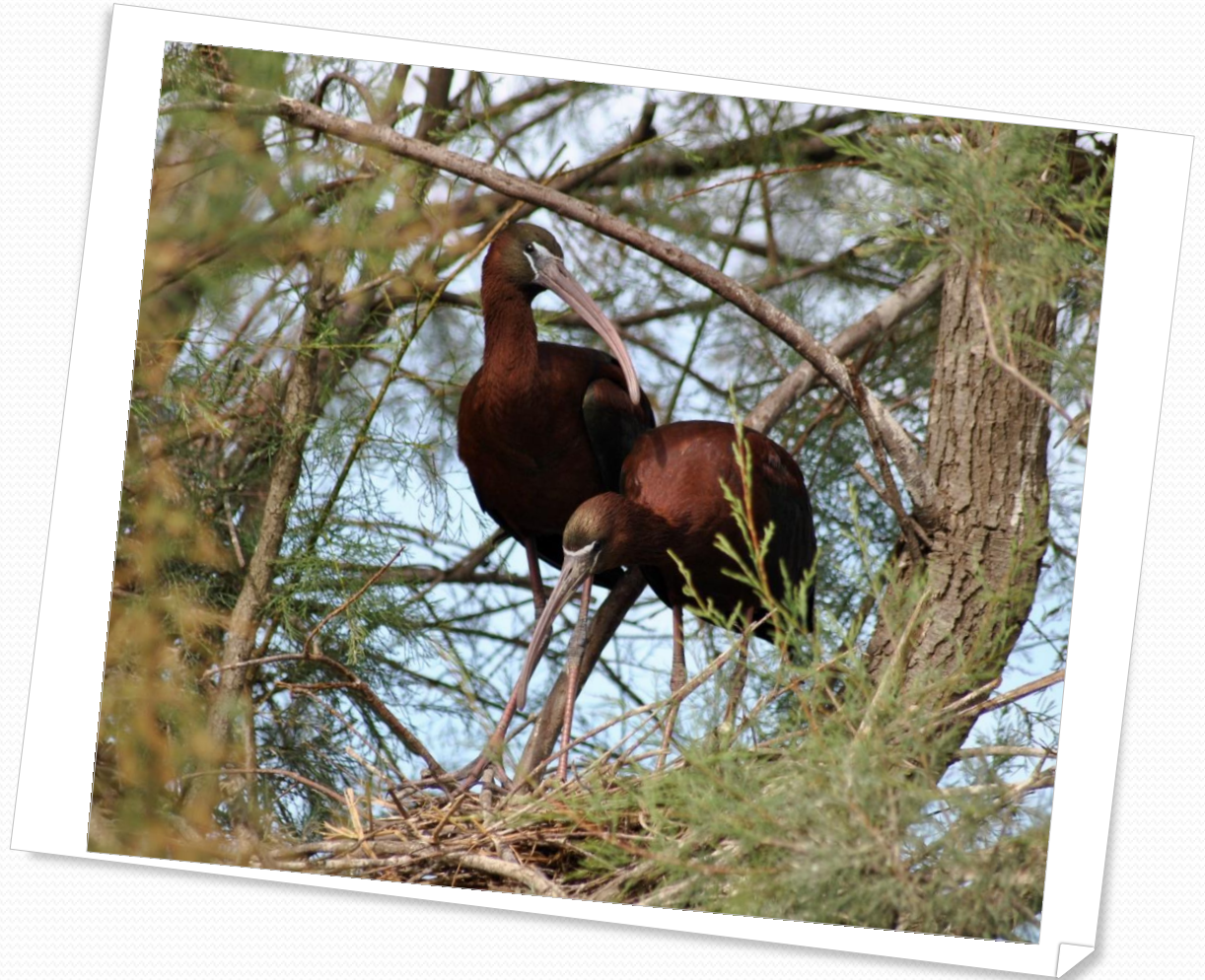
Stage 0

The nesting individual stands up very rarely, only to gently turn over the eggs with its bill.



Stage 0

During this stage it's rare to be able to read any ring, so it is necessary to wait the partners' change. The two individuals recognize each other by their particular call and before changing, they reassure each other touching with beaks and verifying the eggs conditions.

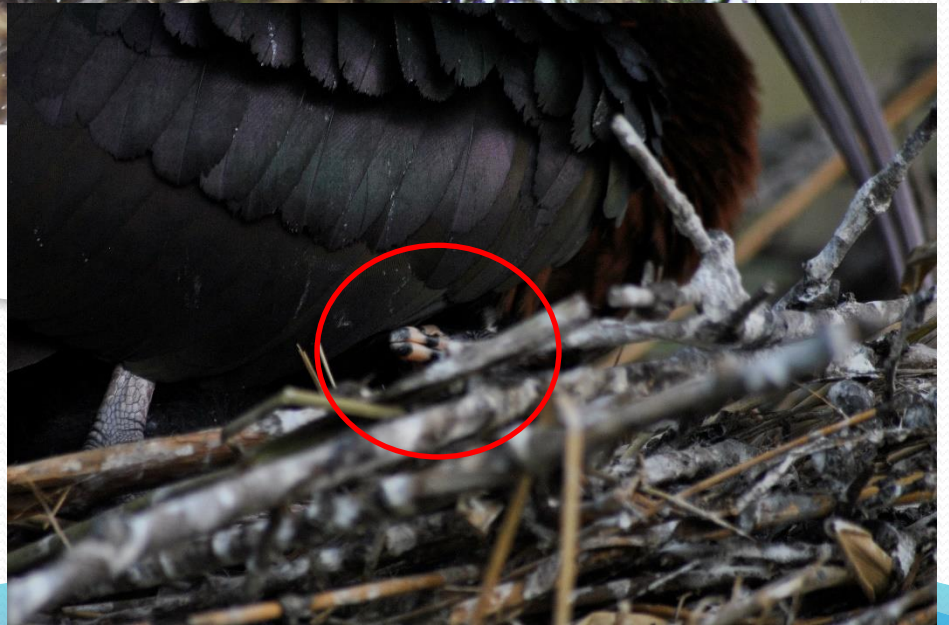


Partners' alternation

Stage 1

FROM 0 TO ONE- WEEK CHICKS

Parents alternate on the nest where the chicks are really small and difficult to see.



Stage 1

The nesting individual is not completely laying on the nest, but it leans on its wings a bit opened.



Stage 2

FROM ONE TO TWO-WEEKS CHICKS

Parents feed very frequently their chicks, that are asking for food insistently.



Stage 2

Chicks can already stay alone in the nest while both parents fly outside the colony looking for food.

Chicks' bill is distinctly striped orange and black and they still don't have a lot of plumage on their head.



Stage 2

The colony is very noisy when all the chicks are screaming to have food.



Chicks' call

Stage 3

FROM TWO TO THREE-WEEKS CHICKS

Chicks start to go outside the nest, reaching the branches near them.



Stage 4

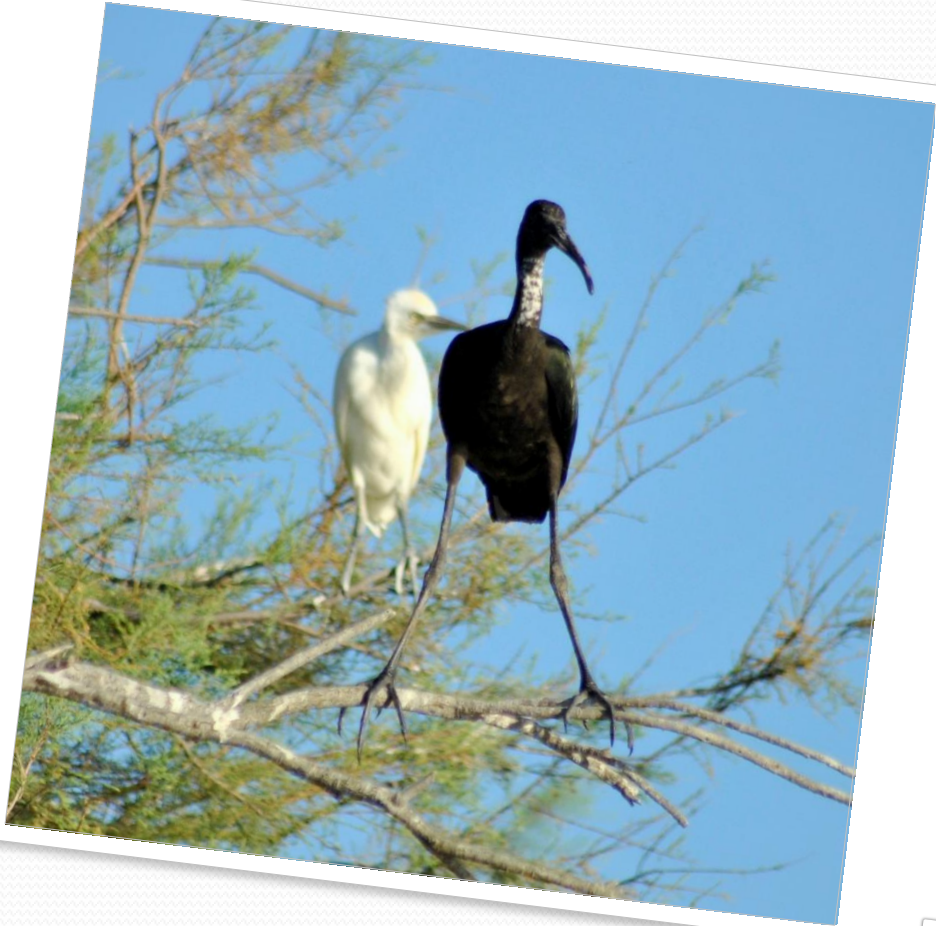
FROM THREE TO FOUR-WEEKS CHICKS

Chicks are hardly related to their belonging nest because they stay the most of the time at the top of the trees, waiting for their parents to come back with food.



Stage 4

In this stage chicks' bill is not striped anymore. They have white spots on the neck and on the head.



Stage 4

Parents regurgitate a part of what they were able to catch in rice fields and marshes: fishes, larvae, mulluscs and Louisiana crayfishes.



Stage 4

Sometimes the parent waits on the top of the trees, calling its own chick to feed him.



Call for food

Stage 5

FROM FOUR TO FIVE-WEEKS CHICKS

Around a month after the birth, chicks are able to fly but they still stay into the colony, learning to feed independently.



Stage 6

FROM FIVE TO SIX- WEEKS CHICKS

Chicks always follow their parents flying out of the colony to feed in rice fields and marshes a few kilometers far.

