



**A juvenile White Ibis from
the Class of 2008**



**A second-year juvenile from
the Class of 2007**

Coastal Carolina Wildlife Juvenile White Ibises

The member of the White Ibis class of 2008 shown above is a young juvenile whose plumage will become lighter brown by this fall and then molt into its white, definitive plumage by fall of 2009. Contrast to the Class of 2007 ibis (right) that will soon achieve its definitive adult plumage.

Probably both were brooded and fledged at Battery Island. By late summer, most ibises have left Battery (a phenomenon known as post-breeding dispersal) and may be found in fields and swamps around the Lower Cape Fear and far to our north.

To honor our ibises, the Southport Ibis Festival is being planned by the City of Southport and the Cape Fear Audubon Society for May 13-16, 2009. Mark your calendars.

The festival will feature field trips to sites such as Battery Island (by boat), Bald Head Island, Fort Fisher, Sunset Beach, and Brunswick Town. Salt marsh and black water kayak tours will also be offered. Possibilities for workshops on growing herbs and native plants; wildlife photography and creative nature writing; bird identification basics; and birding by ear are being explored.

John Ennis