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Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Florida

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juvenile Least Tern, but found the same number of adult-plumaged Least and Roseates. The two Least Tern nests contained the same number of eggs as before and were being closely attended by adults. One clutch of Roseate eggs had disappeared and the other 3 nests of Roseates now held one egg each.

We have no later information on this nesting, but it is of interest that Least Terns have again attempted to nest at Dry Tortugas after an absence of almost 25 years. We have deposited two photographs of the two-egg Least Tern nest (courtesy of Marsha L. Winegarner) at Everglades National Park to document the record. *Glen E. Woolfenden, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, Fla. 33620, and William B. Robertson, Jr., Everglades National Park, Homestead, Fla. 33030.*

Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Florida

The Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) was first reported in the Western Hemisphere during the early 1930's from along the coasts of the mid-Atlantic states. Since then records of the species from North America have increased dramatically, and now the bird is known from eastern Canada and the Great Lakes region in the North to Texas and Florida in the South. We obtained the first Florida specimen (GEW 4440) on 22 February 1971 along the Courtney-Campbell Causeway in Hillsborough County. It is a male in adult plumage, weighing 938 g with moderate fat. It proved to be of the western European race, *L.f. graellsii*, which, as far as we know, is the only subspecies known to occur in the Western Hemisphere. Our identification was corroborated by Eugene Eisenmann with use of specimens at the American Museum of Natural History. All other North American records of this species known to us also are of adult-plumaged individuals, even though immature gulls typically wander farther than older birds. Most likely this is the case also for the Lesser Black-backed Gull, but immatures probably are overlooked because they are virtually indistinguishable from immature Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*).

Only one sighting of the Lesser Black-backed Gull existed for Florida prior to the 1970's, a bird observed by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and others at Key West in 1938. Wisely it was relegated to the Hypothetical List in the absence of a voucher specimen (Sprunt, 1954. Florida Bird Life. Coward-McCann, Inc., New York City). Six sight records have been published since our collection of the first specimen (*American Birds*, vols. 25-27): one from McKay Bay, Tampa; 3 in the Florida Keys; one at Cape Canaveral; and one at Marco Island. The Marco sighting occurred in early May, but all others are from mid-October to early March, including two instances of apparently the same individual remaining at the same locality all winter. To our knowledge no great increase in experienced observers has taken place

in Florida during the past 10 to 15 years, therefore we suspect these recent records are indicative of a real increase in this European vagrant in Florida. Local observers have a good opportunity to document the early history of this species in Florida, but we urge careful study before identifications are decided upon. Both of us have witnessed erroneous identifications when observers attempted to distinguish between the Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), which definitely is increasing as a winter resident in Florida. *Glen E. Woolfenden and Ralph W. Schreiber, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.*

ERRATUM

Through inadvertence, the pages were not numbered in volume 1, number 2, of this journal. The editorial should be numbered page 17 and the remaining pages numbered consecutively through page 38. The page numbers appearing in the table of contents on the outside back cover are in error.

Fall Meeting

Fla. Ornithological Society

November 8 - 10, 1974

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