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Leach's Storm-petrel Sighted in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

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GENERAL NOTES

Leach's Storm-Petrel sighted in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. — On 15 August 1976 a Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) was sighted in the Gulf of Mexico eighty nautical miles west of Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida. While our boat was lying at anchor, a storm-petrel was sighted at some distance, whereupon it turned and flew toward us. As the bird approached to within 10-13 m of the stern, a prominently forked tail was observed, quickly separating this species from a more expected Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) with which we are familiar. Feeding several times before flying away, this petrel dipped into the water holding its slender wings very high. It did not dance or "patter" off the water with its feet and its flight was more erratic and less graceful than that of a Wilson's. Although the gray feathers that partially divide the white rump in most populations of Leach's were not detected, the white appeared to be confined to the rump without extending to the flanks or undertail coverts.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel is regular in the Gulf of Mexico during the summer, albeit in small number. However, only three specimens of Leach's Storm-Petrel from the Gulf are known to us. The first two were discussed by Rohwer and Woolfenden (1968, Auk 85: 319); one was from Florida and the other from Louisiana. More recently a third specimen was taken near Tallahassee (Ogden 1976, Amer. Birds 30: 945-948). — CHARLES B. BUHRMAN, 3926 34th Terrace S. Apt. L, St. Petersburg, Florida 33711, and LARRY A. HOPKINS, 538 Garland St., St. Petersburg, Florida 33703.

Feeding association between Brown Pelicans and Wood Storks. — In interspecific-feeding assemblages between ciconiiforms and other waterbirds, one species serves as a "beater," thus stirring up prey items that become available to the associate species. Ciconiiforms are the opportunistic species in most reported commensal foraging relationships (Emlen and Ambrose 1970, Leck 1971, Mueller et al. 1972, Courser and Dinsmore 1975, and references therein); there are few observations of interspecific feeding associations where other waterbirds derive benefit from foraging with ciconiiforms (Meyerriecks 1967, Clancey 1976).

On 15 September 1977 I observed 21 yearling and 2 adult Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) feeding with 53 Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) along the western shoreline of Terra Ceia Bay, Manatee County, Florida. The concentrated, rapid moving flock of storks were gape feeding (Rechnitzer 1956) in 25-35 cm of water about 10 m from the mangrove shoreline. The pelicans were predominantly swimming and scoop feeding (Dinsmore 1974) among and around the storks. However, when left 10-12 m behind the moving storks, the pelicans repeatedly leap frogged forward and dove among the storks and began scoop feeding again. After 45 minutes the storks became dispersed, probably resulting in lower efficiency at stirring up prey, and the pelicans ceased feeding.

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