

FIELD NOTES

An Inland Record of Wilson's Storm-Petrel

On 25 September 1975, while birding 16 miles SW of Marianna, Jackson County, Florida, we observed a Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) floating on a small cattle-watering pond next to a graded road on the south side of Compass Lake. The bird was observed briefly on the water at a distance of about 15 m. Our initial reaction was that it resembled a small Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) because of the shape of the head and tail. When it flushed, we observed its size, manner of flight, and the shape, coloration, and markings of its wings. The pattern on the dorsal surface of the wing was almost identical to that shown by Peterson (1947. A Field Guide to the Birds). We observed the bird for at least 5 minutes as it glided over the pond; it came very close to us in its maneuvers. The white tail patch was conspicuous, and the tail was spread in flight so that the absence of a notch was obvious. In contrast, Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) is identified by a forked tail and light, bouncing flight, as opposed to the gliding flight of Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Harcourt's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), less frequently recorded in Florida, also has a slightly forked tail. The inland occurrence of our bird must have been a direct result of Hurricane Eloise, which crossed this area on its inland course from Panama City two days previously.

Although Wilson's Storm-Petrel is a regular offshore summer resident in Florida, only one previous inland occurrence has been reported. On 10 June 1948 Alexander Sprunt IV (*Auk*, 66: 76), in company with J. Pittman and M. Nehrenberg, during a period of "quite normal" weather, saw at Biven's Arm, near Gainesville, a bird identified as this species by its "white rump, characteristic legs and feet." It seems worth noting that their account did not refer to the shape of the tail and that Leach's Storm-Petrel is also known to migrate northward in June.—*Mary S. Gray, P. O. Box 50, Marianna, Fla. 32446, and Donald P. Scott, 1106 Buena Vista, Panama City, Fla. 32401.*