Conclusions

This study clearly indicates that wind velocity and direction affect the number of Brown Pelicans roosting for the night on the groins in the Gulf of Mexico in Naples, Florida. Our data from elsewhere in Florida indicate that winds may also affect the number of birds present at one specific location. On calm nights, the number of birds spending the night increases in an exposed situation. However, as the wind velocity increases and becomes more directly from across the water (and thereby increasing wave size and amount of flying spray), the number of pelicans decreases. If the wind velocity continues to increase or continues to blow for some period of time, the pelicans leave the exposed roosts to spend the night elsewhere. We will present our data on population utilization of the whole Naples region elsewhere. However, these data clearly indicate the need for careful consideration of the effects of weather on ecological monitoring (i.e., Christmas Bird Count data), the need for censusing large geographic areas, and the need for long-term, frequent censusing for accurate population studies.

P. O. Box 554, Naples, Florida 33940, and Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007.

Request for assitance. — Nestling Turkey and Black vultures are being used as surrogates to perfect techniques that may be used as part of the recovery program for the endangered California Condor. If you know of active vulture nests from which nestlings can be obtained, please contact Michael Wallace, Archbold Biological Station, Rt. 2, Box 180, Lake Placid, Florida 33852. Call collect 813/465-2571.