

(*Glottidium vesicarium*) stubble. Occasionally the bird was seen in the company of a normally-plumaged phoebe. We detected no behavioral differences between the two. The bird's remiges, rectrices, belly, and top of the head were ivory white, whereas the remainder of the bird's plumage was a pale creamy olive (Fig. 1). The eyes and all flesh parts were normally pigmented. It is interesting that Hostetter's (1934) description of a leucistic nestling Eastern Phoebe is identical to our observations except that the nestling's feet were light-colored.—Anne Shapiro Wenner, David S. Maehr, and Stephen A. Nesbitt, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Laboratory, 4005 South Main Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 97-98, 1984.

Some avian predators of the round-tailed muskrat.—The round-tailed muskrat (*Neofiber alleni*) is found only in Florida and extreme southeastern Georgia and is one of the region's most poorly known rodents, one reason for its designation as a "Species of Special Concern" in Florida (Tilmant 1978). Very little is known about predation on round-tailed muskrats or their role in marsh food chains. In this note I present some observations on muskrat predators.

On April 12 1973, F. F. Snelson, H. C. Sweet and I observed an adult Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) on a canal bank on the north side of NASA Parkway West, 0.5 km west of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center, Brevard County, Florida. The bird was attempting to swallow a round-tailed muskrat. As we approached, it flew several hundred meters with its prey, three times. Each time it alighted, it picked up and dropped the rodent several times and attempted to swallow it by tossing it aloft. We were finally able to frighten the bird away from its catch and collect the specimen. It was a 230 g young adult female and is now in the mammal collection at the University of Central Florida (UCF M546).

During a brief investigation of *Neofiber* populations at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in 1972, I was puzzled by the discovery, on many occasions, of *Neofiber* skeletal parts (upper skulls, jaw rami, teeth, etc.) lying on top of their nests. Later I found freshly regurgitated owl pellets that consisted of a well-cleaned *Neofiber* skull completely wrapped in a bundle of *Neofiber* hair. My earlier observations were probably of weathered pellets, consisting only of skeletal parts. The owls were probably Barred Owls (*Strix varia*), judging by the size of the pellets and the frequent sightings of that species in the area. Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) and Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) also prey on round-tailed muskrats (Birkenholz, 1963) and Lefebvre (1982) found two owl pellets containing *Neofiber* skulls and other skeletal parts.

The first record of predation of round-tailed muskrats by Great Blue Herons was reported by Howell (1932), who noted that in 1885 C. J. Maynard saw a heron carrying a rat in its bill, on the Indian River. Collecting the rodent after firing a shot at the heron, he found it to be the second specimen of *Neofiber alleni* collected to that time. Other known avian predators of *Neofiber* include Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*) (Birkenholz 1963) and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (McEwan and Hirth 1980). Lefebvre (1982) sug-

gested that Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) and Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) may also feed on them, but presently, verified avian predators of round-tailed muskrats include only three owls, the Marsh Hawk, Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron.

This is contribution 36, Merritt Island Ecosystems Studies.

LITERATURE CITED

- BIRKENHOLZ, D. E. 1963. A study of the life history and ecology of the Round-tailed Muskrat (*Neofiber alleni* True) in northcentral Florida. Ecol. Monogr. 33: 225-280.
- HOWELL, A. H. 1932. Florida bird life. New York, Coward-McCann, Inc.
- LEFEBVRE, L. W. 1982. Population dynamics of the round-tailed muskrat (*Neofiber alleni*) in Florida sugarcane. Ph.D. dissertation, Gainesville, Florida, University of Florida.
- MCEWAN, L. L., AND D. H. HIRTH. 1980. Food habits of the Bald Eagle in north-central Florida. Condor 82:229-231.
- TILMANT, J. T. 1978. Round-tailed Muskrat. Pp. 40-42 in Rare and endangered biota of Florida. Vol. 1. Mammals. (J. N. Layne, Ed.). Gainesville, Florida, Univ. Presses of Florida.
- Llewellyn M. Ehrhart, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Central Florida, P. O. Box 25000, Orlando, Florida 32816.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 98-99, 1984.

Some comments about "white-winged" gulls in Florida.—Several species of gulls in Florida may be nearly white in certain plumages. Two of these, the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) and the Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides*), are very similar in plumage at the same age, and their first-year plumages can resemble paler examples of Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*). Also the problem may be compounded by occasional albinism in other species of gulls (Atherton and Atherton 1981, Anon. 1972).

Through the spring of 1977, Florida records of about 45 Glaucous Gulls and 27 Iceland Gulls had been published in Audubon Field Notes, American Birds, and Florida Naturalist. None of these gulls was reported to have been older than two years. We believe from our review of specimens and photographs that many of the birds thought to be Iceland Gulls were misidentified, and that Glaucous Gulls are by far more frequently encountered. For example, a "score of records" of Glaucous Gulls in Brevard County (Cruikshank 1980) implies that many other records of this species have not been published. In this paper we review existing records and identification criteria.

Specimens. A reported Iceland Gull (Cunningham 1965) collected by H. L. Stoddard, Sr., at St. Augustine (St. Johns Co.), 28 October 1964 (TTRS 358), proved to be an almost pure-white Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) showing a faint bar on the bill (Stevenson 1972). A gull collected by Lovett Williams, Jr., on a spoil island off Port St. Joe (Gulf Co.), 19 August 1971 (FSM 15778),