

STATUS OF THE ARCTIC TERN IN THE COASTAL AND OFFSHORE WATERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

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Abstract.—Sixty-one records of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) in the coastal southeastern United States (Maryland–Texas, through spring 1991) that were mostly subsequent to a compilation of records by Clapp et al. (1983) are summarized, and a re-analysis of the 81 total regional records (excluding eight questionable reports) is presented. Data are provided on 11 specimen records. There are still no acceptable records for Alabama, Mississippi or Texas, and only sight records for Maryland and South Carolina. This summary supports the findings of Clapp et al. (1983) in that the majority (88%) of records are from spring, and that fall migration through the region is very limited (12%; no fall specimens or photographs). Spring migration is generally later and more protracted than previously indicated. The scarcity of Arctic Terns in fall is attributed to the clockwise Atlantic migration route. The species' relative rarity in spring may result from migration routes that are well-offshore and largely bypass the recessed coast of the southeastern U.S.; June and July birds found along the northern Gulf Coast probably strayed and became "trapped" in the Gulf of Mexico. Caution in the identification of Arctic Terns, and in the evaluation of all (especially early spring) records of this species from the southeastern U.S., is advocated.

ESTATUS DE *STERNA PARADISAEA* EN LA COSTA Y EL MAR ADENTRO DEL SURESTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

Sinopsis.—En este trabajo se resumen 61 informes de la Gaviota Ártica (*Sterna paradisaea*) en la costa sureste de los Estados Unidos (Maryland a Texas, hasta la primavera de 1991) que habían sido recopilados por Clapp et al. (1983), y se presenta un reanálisis de los 81 informes regionales (incluyendo a ocho dudosos). Se proveen datos de 11 especímenes coleccionados. Al presente no hay informes adecuados para Alabama, Mississippi o Texas, y sólo hay avistamientos para Maryland y Carolina del Sur. Este trabajo, apoya el trabajo de Clapp et al. (1983) en relación a que la mayoría (88%) de los informes son de la primavera, y que la información sobre la migración por esta región, durante el otoño, es bien limitada (12%; sin especímenes o fotografías). La migración primaveral ocurre generalmente más tarde y es más prolongada que lo previamente indicado. La escasez de estas gaviotas durante el otoño, es el resultado de la ruta migratoria del Atlántico que utiliza el ave. La rareza relativa de la especie durante la primavera puede ser el resultado de rutas migratorias lejanas a las costas y al sobrepasar la costa sureste de los Estados Unidos. Las aves observadas en junio y julio a lo largo de la costa norte del Golfo son probablemente gaviotas extraviadas que son "atrapadas" en el Golfo de México. Se recomienda tener mucho cuidado en la identificación de gaviotas árticas, y en la evaluación de informes (particularmente temprano en la primavera) de esta especie en la parte este de los Estados Unidos.

Although large numbers of Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) use the Atlantic Ocean during their transequatorial migrations, relatively few have been recorded in the southeastern United States (Atlantic and Gulf

coast states from Maryland to Texas) and adjacent waters. Prior to the early 1970s this tern was considered accidental in the region (American Ornithologists' Union 1957, Harrison 1983). By 1980, however, there were 24 records (Maryland and Virginia not included in survey), 25% of which were from the Gulf of Mexico (Clapp et al. 1983). That summary indicated that 46% of the regional records were from the Atlantic coast of Florida, and that the species occurs in the southeastern U.S. primarily during spring migration (12 April–22 May, 75% of total records) and rarely in fall (19 July–14 September, 25%).

Here, we summarize records of Arctic Terns from the southeastern U.S. not included in, or subsequent to, Clapp et al. (1983), including records for Maryland and Virginia. We also provide data for specimens from the southeastern U.S., present hypotheses to explain observed patterns of occurrence in the region, and advocate caution in accepting sight records of Arctic Terns.

METHODS

We attempted to locate all published regional occurrences (through spring 1991) of Arctic Terns in relevant American Birds [Am. Birds] regional reports, state or regional bird books and journals, from unpublished reports obtained from other researchers conducting seabird surveys in the region, and from state rare bird records committees. Published sight records were taken at face-value unless specifically questioned by authors or records committees, but we separated sight records from those supported by specimens or photographs in our analyses. In this paper, flocks or birds presumed to be the same individual(s) present at the same locality for a period of days were considered single records.

We contacted ornithological collections in the region in an attempt to locate specimens taken in the southeastern U.S. Specimen records and measurements are listed in Table 1. We did not examine the 27 Apr. 1975 Florida specimen at the University of Miami (Clapp et al. 1983). The identification of that specimen is correct (Henry M. Stevenson, pers. comm.), and Oscar T. Owre measured the specimen at our request.

The 61 "new" records of Arctic Terns are listed in Appendix 1. Spring occurrence in the region is depicted in Figure 1; for comparative purposes, the 55 spring records from this study, the 18 spring records from Clapp et al. (1983), and the subset of 17 regional specimen/photograph records are indicated separately. For historical and demonstration purposes, we included two unaccepted spring Texas records from Clapp et al. (1983) in Figure 1, but these records are excluded from the overall regional record totals and percentages. The ten records from late summer and fall are not graphed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the 11 regional specimens, there are three adult males, one adult female, one unsexed adult, three immature males, two immature females, and one of unknown age or sex (not examined). Based on the

TABLE 1. Selected data for Arctic Tern specimens from the southeastern United States. Specimens are listed chronologically. Body mass is in grams and other measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations: CU = Clemson University; FL = Florida; GA = Georgia; LA = Louisiana; LSUMZ = Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science; NC = North Carolina; NCSM = North Carolina State Museum; UMRC = University of Miami Research Collection; USNM = National Museum of Natural History. See Appendix 1 for full localities.

Specimen No.	Date	Locality	Age/sex (gonad size)	Body mass	Wing chord	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus
UMRC 10572	27 Apr. 1975	FL: Dade County	—	—	267	164	31.2	approx. 15
NCSM 6000	18 May 1977	NC: Dare County	immature male (3 x 1)	110.4	254	153	29.3	14.5
NCSM 8382	19 May 1982	NC: Dare County	adult male (5 x 2.5)	106.1	264	170	31.3	14.5
USNM 527750	21 May 1977	FL: Volusia County	immature female (5.5 x 5.5)	84.3	242	138	26.8	12.3
CU 2575	22 May 1921	GA: Ware County	adult female (ovary small)	—	260	165	29.5	15.0
NCSM 7611	29 May 1980	NC: Dare County	adult male (1 x 0.5)	95.5	266	135	33.3	14.0
LSUMZ 135933	5 Jun. 1988	LA: Cameron Parish	adult male (7 x 5)	128.3	265	160	32.1	13.5
NCSM 15043	5 Jun. 1989	NC: Currituck County	immature male (2 x 0.5)	103	250	140	29.8	13.6
UMRC (No. ?)	10 Jun. 1982	FL: Dade County	adult, sex?	—	267	164	31.2	approx. 15
LSUMZ 152033	10 Jun. 1990	LA: Cameron Parish	immature female (6 x 3, ova minute)	99.6	252	142	30.0	13.6
LSUMZ 135934	21 Jun. 1988	LA: Cameron Parish	immature male (2 x 2)	94	240	129	31.4	13.8

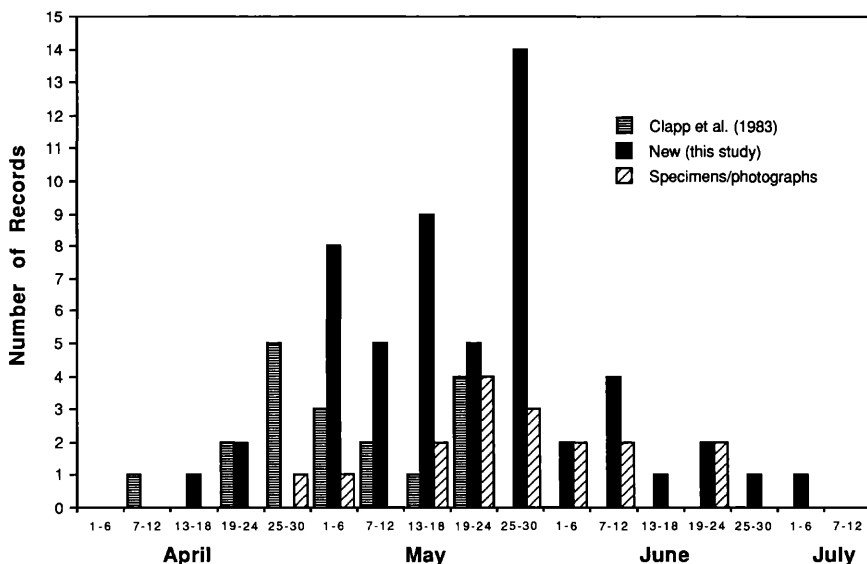


FIGURE 1. Spring occurrence (April to early July) of Arctic Terns in the southeastern U.S. The 18 records from Clapp et al. (1983; includes unaccepted Texas records for 12–26 Apr. 1975 and 20 Apr. 1975), the 55 records from this study, and the subset of 17 specimen/photograph records are indicated separately (total = 71 “acceptable” records). Months are divided into 6-d periods; there were no records for 31 May, which is excluded for convenience.

diagnostic short tarsi (Ridgway 1919), all specimens are well within the range for the Arctic Tern (Table 1). All specimens are in relatively fresh plumage, showing little sign of molt or wear. Specimens from 18 and 21 May 1977, 5 Jun. 1989, 10 Jun. 1990 and 21 Jun. 1988 are immatures in first-alternate (“Portlandica”) plumage, as was one seen 26 May 1989 off South Carolina (R. Barber, pers. comm.). Spring individuals in this plumage were originally believed to represent a distinct species (Ridgway 1874). Three of the immatures (North Carolina State Museum [NCSM] No. 15043, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science [LSUMZ] No. 135934, and LSUMZ 152033) have light head and nape molt, and the left central rectrix of NCSM 15043 is only 5% grown. Two of the adult males (NCSM 8382, LSUMZ 135933) had somewhat enlarged testes; all other specimens had relatively small gonads. A bursa was present in two immatures (NCSM 15043, LSUMZ 152033), but a bursa was not present in another immature (LSUMZ 134934) or in one of the adults (LSUMZ 134933). Skull ossification was incomplete in all individuals checked, ranging from 25% (LSUMZ 152033, immature, bursa present) to 50% (LSUMZ 135934, immature, no bursa; LSUMZ 135933, adult, no bursa).

Specimens with soft part colors noted indicate that all adults had bright blood-red, scarlet, red, or orange bills, legs and feet, and that immatures

had black bills (two with some red at base of mandible), and red, red-brown, reddish-black (with dull scarlet ankle joints), or blackish-red legs and feet. Two immatures had scarlet or dull scarlet mouth-linings, and one had a scarlet gape.

The stomach of NCSM 8382 contained 2.8 g of well-digested fish remains and the crop contained bones, spines, and scales of small fishes. The stomach of NCSM 7611 had 0.12 g of small fish bones, that of LSUMZ 135933 (adult) had two partially digested small fish, and those of LSUMZ 135934 and 152033 (both immatures) were empty. Mean body mass (rounded to nearest gram) of specimens from the region is 103 g (range 84–128 g, $n = 8$, Table 1), which is fairly close to the mean of 110 g (86–127 g) for 261 adults from Maine and New Brunswick (Dunning 1984), suggesting relatively healthy individuals. Adults from the southeastern U.S. averaged 110 g (96–128 g, $n = 3$), and immatures averaged 98 g (84–110 g, $n = 5$). The two immatures from Louisiana had light fat and empty stomachs, and the adult had moderate fat and a full stomach, possibly accounting for the body mass difference between the adult and the immatures. The 21 May immature from Florida (National Museum of Natural History [USNM] No. 527750), lightest of the specimens, was noted as having light fat.

The information presented here generally agrees with that presented by Clapp et al. (1983) in that the vast majority (88%) of records are from spring. The relatively small total number of spring records suggests that in the western North Atlantic Ocean major northward migration routes are well-offshore, with terns probably flying direct routes from off the coast of South America to northeastern North America, and largely bypassing the recessed coast of the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico. The only accepted Gulf of Mexico records ($n = 6$, 7% of all records) are from June, July, and September (excluding records from the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas). This, and the near lack of spring records from the southern Atlantic Coast after mid-June, suggests that most birds seen along the Gulf Coast may be isolated vagrants that strayed too far west and became “trapped” in the Gulf. Most spring records of Arctic Terns from the southeastern U.S. involve single individuals or small flocks, further indicating that normal migration routes are outside the area. A “flurry of sightings” (seven records) off the southern Atlantic Coast during May 1991 (Am. Birds 45:435,1110) was partly attributed to strong easterly winds blowing Arctic Terns closer to shore.

With the exception of extreme southern Florida records for 27 April (specimen), and 5 and 13 May (photographs), all specimen and photograph records from the southeastern U.S. (Table 1, Fig. 1) are from 18 May–23 June. Twenty-six records reported in this study, including six of 11 specimens and three of six photograph records, are from 24 May–2 July, whereas Clapp et al. (1983) reported no spring records from later than 22 May. Thus, the combined records suggest that the duration of spring migration is substantially longer, and that the spring peak is substantially later, than was previously indicated. On the other hand, it

is possible that the late spring pattern of specimen/photograph records, perhaps involving mostly stragglers, birds trapped in the Gulf of Mexico, or loitering non-breeders (the species typically does not breed until ≥ 3 yr of age, Cramp 1985), is a phenomenon unrelated to the main spring passage of migrants off the Atlantic Coast. Also, depending on latitude, early arrival dates on the breeding grounds range from early May (Cramp 1985) or late May (Harrison 1983) to late June. It is reasonable that migrants would be encountered occasionally from mid-April to mid-May, especially in the southernmost areas of the region. Interestingly, seven of eight accepted April records are from Florida. Nonetheless, many records for April and early May remain problematical. For example, there are 26 sight records from Maryland to Florida from prior to 15 May, but the earliest spring record for North Carolina, where coverage has been heaviest, is 15 May. Furthermore, the earliest well-documented spring records are the 5 and 13 May birds photographed in extreme southern Florida. (We are reluctant to use the 27 April Florida specimen as the earliest record. The identification of the specimen is correct, but there is some question as to the specimen's date of collection and origin [Am. Birds 31:988]. The freshly skinned bird was left at the University of Miami with information about its location and date of salvage. The person who found the bird could not be located to verify the record.) Although we have not examined the original written documentation for any of the early date sight records, and are thus reluctant to firmly accept or dismiss any of them, we feel that they should be treated with caution until better documentation accumulates to confirm the regularity of Arctic Terns in the southeastern U.S. prior to mid-May.

Interestingly, the status of Arctic Terns in California during spring migration (Garrett and Dunn 1981) closely parallels the late spring pattern that we present here for the southeastern U.S. Relatively small numbers are found off California from mid-May to early June. Isolated inland records from late May to mid-June, at least some of which are supported by specimens or photographs, strongly mirror the pattern of the Gulf Coast records, and probably involve northbound migrants that have become "trapped" at the head of the Gulf of California and that are then compelled to continue north into the interior of the continent. Older published reports of larger numbers off California during late April and early May are now questioned (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

Fall migration through the southeastern U.S. apparently occurs during August and September and is limited (12% of all records); there is no specimen (despite intensive fall coverage off North Carolina) or photograph from fall. Late July and September sight records of adults on the Florida Gulf Coast (Wamer et al. 1980) are difficult to interpret because they could involve either "trapped" summering individuals that had become lost and delayed in the Gulf of Mexico during spring, or fall migrants. It seems likely that the September bird was displaced westward by hurricanes David or Frederic; likewise, the unreviewed September record from Texas (see Appendix 1) could have been associated with

Hurricane Carla (Wamer et al. 1980). The published description of the late July bird from the Florida Gulf Coast does not convincingly eliminate the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) as a possibility.

The shortage of fall records in the southeastern U.S. is expected because fall migrants originating from northeastern North America are known to move eastward across the North Atlantic Ocean to the coasts of Europe and Africa, and then south to Antarctic waters (Salomonsen 1967). We believe that with the current lack of specimens or diagnostic photographs, the occurrence of Arctic Terns in the southeastern U.S. in fall needs definitive documentation.

It is certain that many Arctic Terns might go undetected in the region because of relatively limited offshore coverage and because of the close morphological similarity of the Arctic Tern to some other species of locally common *Sterna*. For example, note the higher percentage (46%) of immature "Portlandica"-plumaged birds in the small series of specimens compared to the near lack of sight records of immatures. Erroneous records could also be generated by field observers who may assume that Arctic/Common-type terns seen well-offshore are Arctic Terns by probability and habitat. People need to be aware that Common Terns are present in substantial numbers at considerable distances from land (e.g., NCSM records including specimens taken 48–81 km offshore along the outer continental shelf [Am. Birds 45:435]) and that this species has a much more protracted migration (NCSM specimens taken well-offshore from 9 March–26 November) than does the Arctic Tern. Also, field observers might underestimate the close similarity of some individual Arctic Terns and Common Terns in corresponding plumages; even under good viewing conditions of standing birds, relatively small-billed and short-legged Common Terns can be mistaken for Arctic Terns. Although offshore surveys are still infrequent through most of the region, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, locally increasing numbers of pelagic bird surveys off the South Atlantic Coast since the late 1970s (as it became better established that Arctic Terns occurred in the area), including intensive surveys off North Carolina, have not resulted in a steady increase in numbers of Arctic Terns reported (Fig. 2).

Although most geographically unusual records are carefully examined by regional bird records committees, similar criteria are usually not applied to out-of-season occurrences. A good case in point involves the report of 4–5 Arctic Terns at Bolivar Flats, Chambers County, Texas on 12 Apr. 1975, and up to six birds there (photograph) on 26 Apr. 1975 (Am. Birds 29:877; Texas Bird Records Committee [TBRC] File No. 1988-165). Initial acceptance of this report extended the early arrival date of the Arctic Tern in North America by weeks ahead of that supported by other verified regional photograph and specimen records. Other sight reports from mid-April to mid-May were "legitimized" by the "documented" Bolivar Flats record and became incorporated into the accepted pattern of spring records summarized by Clapp et al. (1983). Subsequent rejection of the Bolivar Flats record (based on re-examination of the

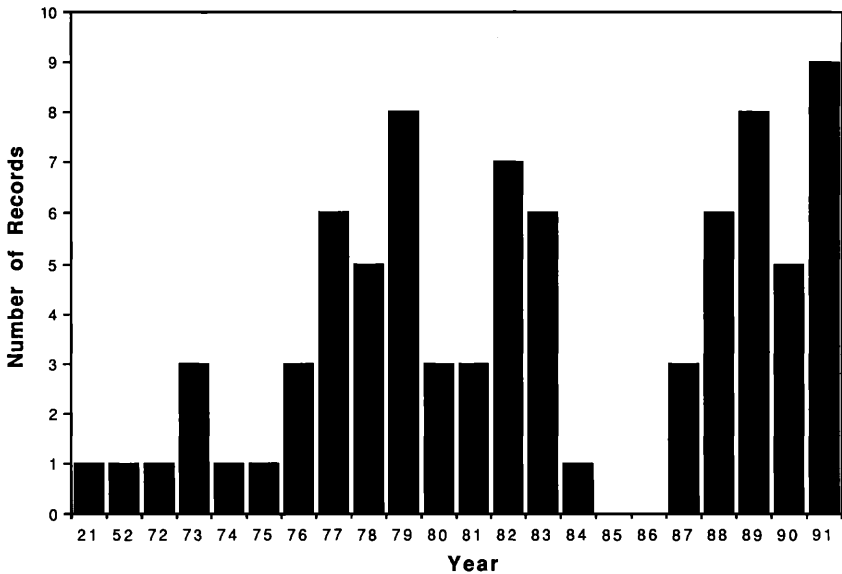


FIGURE 2. A chronology by year of the 81 Arctic Tern records for the southeastern U.S.

photograph by the TBRC; Lasley 1989) necessitates cautious re-evaluation of all southeastern U.S. records from prior to mid-May. As we have pointed out, the additional records summarized herein, and particularly the specimen and photograph records, make a better case for a later and somewhat more protracted passage of spring migrants off the southeastern U.S., than for the earlier and more concentrated migration suggested by the earlier survey by Clapp et al. (1983). Until enough regional information is available to delineate a pattern of occurrence for a species, it is difficult to recognize potentially aberrant or erroneous reports. We therefore recommend that persons reviewing bird records should pay as much attention to seasonal patterns as they do to purely geographically unusual reports. At the same time, reporting or publication of unusual geographical and seasonal observations needs to be encouraged.

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APPENDIX 1. Individual records of Arctic Terns located during this study. Records are listed geographically by state (Maryland to Texas), chronologically by month and day, and are sight records of single birds unless noted otherwise. Record totals per state are given in parentheses after state names.

MARYLAND: (10 records). 6–7 May 1978, one bird each day (two records) off Ocean City, Worcester Co. (Am. Birds 32:990); 8 May 1977, 21 birds mostly near 126 km E of Ocean City; 16 May 1976; one bird each (two records) at 89 and 113 km ESE of Ocean City (preceding three records from Rowlett 1980); 25 May 1980, off Ocean City (Am. Birds 34:763); 28 May 1973, from shore at Ocean City (Rowlett 1980); 12 Jun. 1982, two birds off Ocean City (Am. Birds 36:964); 2 Jul. 1991, Ocean City (Am. Birds 45:1104); 12 Aug. 1972, one or two birds 16–20 km off Ocean City (Rowlett 1980).

VIRGINIA: (11 records). 3 May 1987, 40 km E of Virginia Beach, Princess Anne Co. (Am. Birds 41:414); 9 May 1981, two birds at Hampton Roads (Am. Birds 35:811); 9 May 1982, two birds 89 km off Virginia Beach (Am. Birds 36:839); 20 May 1973, three adults off Virginia Beach (Am. Birds 27:756); 25 May 1990, off Virginia Beach (Am. Birds 44:409); 26 May 1974, two birds over Norfolk Canyon, 105 km E of Norfolk, Norfolk Co. (photograph; Am. Birds 28:784–788); 27 May 1989, off Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach (Am. Birds 43:461); 27–28 May 1978, Lynnhaven Inlet, Princess Anne Co. (photograph; Am. Birds 32:990); 28 May 1989, two birds about 29 km E of Assateague Island, Accomac Co. (37°51'45"N, 74°56'12"W), with four more birds nearby at 37°53'21"N, 74°55'08"W the same day, and another bird nearby at 37°55'47"N, 74°54'37"W the same day (three records; R. Barber, pers. comm.). Kain (1987) reported about eight records (9 May–21 May, 20 Sep.–11 Oct.), but gave no specific information for some of the spring records or for any of the fall records (thus, we regard the fall records as questionable).

NORTH CAROLINA: (16 records). 15 May 1991, adult at Topsail Island, Pender Co. (D. S. Lee, pers. obs.); 18 May 1991, three birds off Oregon Inlet, Dare Co. (Am. Birds 45:1110); 19 May 1982, off Oregon Inlet (specimen, North Carolina State Museum [NCSM] 8382); 21 May 1988, off Morehead City, Carteret Co. (Am. Birds 42:422); 24 May (adult) and 25 May ("2nd-year") 1991, on Cape Lookout, Carteret Co. (Am. Birds 45:435); 25 May 1991, eight birds off Oregon Inlet (Am. Birds 45:1110); 26 May 1991, five birds off Oregon Inlet (Am. Birds 45:1110); 29 May 1980, off Oregon Inlet (specimen, NCSM 7611); 5 Jun. 1989, about 11 km N of Corolla, Currituck Co. (specimen, NCSM 15043); 28 Jun. 1988, 24 km E of Currituck Light, Currituck Co. (NCSM files); 20 Aug. 1988, off Oregon Inlet (Am. Birds 43:301); 22 Aug. 1987, three birds off Oregon Inlet (Am. Birds 42:57–58); 3 Sep. 1989, Cape Hatteras, Dare Co. (Am. Birds 44:255; listed as "no details," we regard the report as questionable); 10 Sep. 1979, 30 seen "far offshore" in association with Hurricane David (R. Rowlett, pers. comm.); 18 Sep. 1988, off Oregon Inlet (Am. Birds 43:301); 22 Sep. 1989, Shelby, Cleveland Co. (following Hurricane Hugo; Am. Birds 44:253). A record in Clapp et al. (1983) of five birds on 21 May 1977, 29 km S of Cape Hatteras, is supported by a photograph (Lee and Rowlett 1979).

SOUTH CAROLINA: (5 records). 3 May 1981, off Charleston, Charleston Co. (Am. Birds 35:813); 11 May 1991, three birds off Beaufort Inlet, Beaufort Co. (Am. Birds 45:1110); 19 May 1990, one plus another possible six birds off Beaufort Inlet (Am. Birds 44:1126); 26 May 1989, one in non-breeding plumage about 60 km SE of Cape Romain, Charleston Co. (32°31'N, 78°56'12"W; R. Barber, pers. comm.); 13 Jun. 1984, 160 km E of Hilton Head, Beaufort Co. (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). The Arctic Tern is considered "hypothetical" in South Carolina due to a lack of specimens or photographs (Post and Gauthreaux 1989; Am. Birds 43:1305).

GEORGIA: (9 records). 21 Apr. 1983, 135 km E of Ossabaw Island, Bryan Co.; 2 May 1983, single birds (two records) at 146 and 148 km E of St. Catherines Island, Liberty Co. (all C. Haney, pers. comm.); 5 May 1990, Jekyll Island, Glynn Co. (Am. Birds 44:1126); 6 May 1983, 220 km ESE of Hilton Head Island (South Carolina); 13 May 1983, 40 km E of Wassaw Island, Chatham Co.; 14 May 1983, 130 km E of Ossabaw Island (preceding three records from C. Haney, pers. comm.); 15 May 1982, 22 birds at 24 km off Jekyll

APPENDIX 1. Continued.

Island (Am. Birds 36:842); 16 May 1982, nine birds at 19 km E of Brunswick, Glynn Co. (Haney 1982).

FLORIDA: (6 records). 20 Apr. 1987, four birds at 45 km E of Cape Canaveral, Brevard Co. (Am. Birds 41:420); 5 May 1989, adult between Bush and Garden Keys, Dry Tortugas (photograph; Am. Birds 43:469); 13 May 1991, adult at Whale Harbor bridge, Islamorada Key, Monroe Co. (photograph; Am. Birds 45:437); 16 May 1981, two birds off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia Co. (Am. Birds 35:816); 10 Jun. 1982, southwestern Miami, Dade Co. (specimen, University of Miami Research Collection; Am. Birds 36:969); 11 Jun. 1982, 32 km E of Miami (Am. Birds 36:969).

ALABAMA: no records.

MISSISSIPPI: no records.

LOUISIANA: (4 records). 5 Jun. 1988, adult 3 km W of old mouth Mermentau River, Cameron Parish (specimen, LSUMZ 135933); 10 Jun. 1990, immature 11 km W of old mouth Mermentau River, Cameron Par. (specimen, LSUMZ 152033); 21 Jun. 1988, one adult (Louisiana Bird Records Committee [LBRC] File No. 89-47) and one immature (specimen, LSUMZ 135934) together (one record), 11 km W of old mouth Mermentau River, Cameron Par.; 23 Jun. 1990, two adults 5 km SE of Cameron, Cameron Par. (photograph, LBRC File No. 90-49). These are the only records for Louisiana.

TEXAS: no accepted records. Texas reports listed by Clapp et al. (1983) have either never been officially submitted to, or evaluated by, the TBRC (20 Apr. 1975, 19 Aug. 1968, 13 Sep. 1961), or have been subsequently determined to be unacceptable (12 and 26 Apr. 1975; Lasley 1989). Clapp et al. (1983) listed the reports for 12 and 26 Apr. 1975 as two separate records, but sightings from those two dates are assumed to pertain to the same group of birds (Lasley 1989). A fifth record for 20–26 Apr. 1985 (TBRC File No. 1985-22) is also considered unacceptable (G. W. Lasley, pers. comm.).
