

tion densities of these turtles. These dietary differences may reduce competition between the sexes, allowing larger numbers of *G. barbouri* to inhabit an area.

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### Royal Tern Nesting on West-Coast Peninsular Florida

Although Royal Terns (*Thalasseus maxima*) have been reported nesting on the coast of the Florida Panhandle and the Florida east coast during the past 25 years (Hallman 1952 and 1968; Stevenson 1972; Ogden 1974), the species has not nested on the peninsular west coast since the mid- to late 1800's. There are eggs in the United States National Museum collected from "Charlotte Harbor" by G. Wurdemann in the 1850's (USNM 985) and from "Clearwater" by S.T. Walker in the 1880's (USNM 21598). Robertson and Kushlan (1975) comment that commercial eggging probably caused the disappearance of the species from the State by around 1890.

On 13 June 1975 in Charlotte County, Florida, on a spoil island just east of the intracoastal waterway in northern Charlotte Harbour, three-fourths of a mile north of Devilfish Key, we found and banded (FWS 624-69500) a Royal Tern chick about three weeks old. Two adults flew overhead calling while we had the chick in hand, and, when released, the chick joined the 2 adults on the beach 50 yards from where we were working. Approximately 500 pairs of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) have nested on this island for the past three years. It is interesting to note that in 1974 a pair of Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) nested on the island (Dunstan, Schreiber, and Dinsmore 1975), but no Caspian Terns were seen near the island during this breeding season.

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### Nesting of Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on the Dry Tortugas, Florida

On 14 June 1974 on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, T. Below and C. Winegarner found 5 Brown Pelican nests about 12 feet above ground in the White Mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) along the north shore. Nineteenth-century records of pelicans breeding on the Dry Tortugas are ambiguous: Holder (1874: 390), in 1859, reported at least one nest with 2 chicks; Bryant (1859: 19) definitely states that he found a few pairs breeding, but the exact dates of his visit are unknown; Scott (1890: 307) found pelicans present but not nesting in March and April, 1890: and Bartsch (1919) made no reference to Brown Pelicans nesting on the Tortugas. Howell (1932: 84), possibly referring to the observations of Holder and Bryant, states that Brown Pelicans "formerly bred . . . on the Tortugas (1860)." It thus appears that a few pairs did breed on the Tortugas in the mid-1800's, but by late in the century none did so. Our record is the first reported nesting of this species in the 20th century on these ornithologically well-known islands (Robertson and Mason, 1965).

Three of the nests found in 1974 contained 2 eggs each, one nest was empty, and the fifth was not checked. On 19 June Schreiber and G.E. Woolfenden found one nest with 3 eggs and 4 nests with 2 eggs each. The empty nest of 14 June now contained 2 eggs. All nests survived a severe wind and rainstorm of 24-28 June. On 28 August, Below banded 7 nestlings from the 5 nests. Based on bill and wing lengths, plumage development, and weights, we estimate these nestlings were all between 6 and 7 weeks old, and their vigorous condition would suggest they all fledged (Schreiber, ms.). If the Tortugas nesting followed the typical chronology of Brown Pelican nesting, construction began in early June and all eggs were laid between 8 and 19 June. Mid-June is a late laying time for pelicans in