

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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FIELD NOTES

Another Inland Colony of the Least Tern

Lohrer and Lohrer (1973. Inland Nesting of the Least Tern in Florida. *Fla. Field Nat.*, 1:3-5) have called attention to the rarity of inland nests of the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) in Florida. On 12 June 1973, Mrs. P. A. Frank showed me a small colony of Least Terns nesting at an abandoned strip mine near the intersection of Atlantic and Southside Boulevards in Jacksonville, about 15 miles from the coast. Since the soil there is ancient beach sand exposed by mining, the habitat strongly resembles ocean dunes. There is a small marsh nearby where the terns feed.

On 12 June the colony contained 3 nests, each with 2 eggs. On 14 June one nest contained 2 young. Based on an incubation period of 20 or 21 days, this clutch must have been laid on 22, 23, or 24 May. A fourth nest was found on 19 June with 2 eggs. Three nests were subsequently destroyed, probably by children. One young was seen on 21 and 24 June, but could not be located on 29 June or 3 July. Adults were still present and excited on 3 July, so at least one young tern may have survived. —Robert W. Loftin, Univ. of North Florida, Box 17074, Jacksonville, Fla. 32216.

Singing Female Orchard Orioles: A Word of Caution in Identifications

On 22 April, 1939, on the University of Alabama campus (Tuscaloosa), I heard a song so similar to that of the Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) that I looked for that rarity with confidence. To my surprise, the singer proved to be a female Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). The bird showed no trace of the black throat patch of the one-year-old male, and the song was quite different from that of the male, bearing some resemblance to that of a male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*).

In recent years I have mentioned to other field workers that female Orchard Orioles sometimes sing, but none thus far had previous knowledge of the fact. For the most part this phenomenon has been overlooked in the literature. Saunders (1935) did not mention it, but Bent (1958:203) stated tersely, “. . . sometimes females sing a little.”

The fact that I have recorded song by only 5 female Orchard Orioles illustrates the unusual nature of the phenomenon. In the 1950's one sang