

FIELD NOTES

Singular Brown Pelican Feeding Behavior

On 8 September 1974 an immature Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) was observed swimming in a shallow freshwater pond located in Panama City Beach, Florida. The bird appeared to be stalking prey hidden in the flowers of the Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*).

Open flowers were cautiously approached by the bird; then, with a lunging stab, they were engulfed by the pelican's pouch and plucked from their stems. The pelican proceeded to shake the flower about in its pouch, make several obvious swallowing motions, and then expel the flower.

Prey identification was never possible, but it was fairly apparent that food of some sort was being secured, although animal food could hardly have been present in large amounts. This process was repeated more than half-a-dozen times in the course of 8 to 10 minutes.

As the pelican soon flew off strongly toward the Gulf and then westward along the coast, it is not likely that its singular feeding behavior should be attributed to sickness or injury. During that day, however, Hurricane Carmen had created considerable turmoil in the Gulf; quite possibly the 3 to 5 foot waves then rolling in discouraged the pelican's characteristic plunge-diving and forced it to adopt a different feeding procedure.

Other recent observations (Dinsmore, *Florida Field Naturalist*, 1974:11) have noted that Brown Pelicans may forage while swimming in salt water. The present record not only indicates that pelicans are adaptable enough to utilize fresh water while feeding, but also demonstrates that food sources other than fish may comprise at least a small part of their diet.—Stephen J. Stedman, 1407 East Sixth Court, Panama City, Florida 32401.

Whip-poor-will Singing in Winter

On 31 December 1973 at dusk near the intersection of the Fellsmere Canal and Lateral Q, Indian River County, Florida, I heard a Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) give a series of four or five "whip-poor-wills" from a strip of woods between the far side of the canal and the adjoining pasture.

Nelson, quoted by Tyler in Bent (1940, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 176:179), said that the Whip-poor-will is not in song during the winter in central Florida, but just before it starts northward late in March it sings for a few evenings. Sustained singing after arrival in fall and continuing oc-