Sight records of the Arctic Tern on the Gulf coast of Florida.—On 19 July 1979 Wamer and Thomas Nobles observed an adult Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradiseaea)* at the eastern end of St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. It was studied with binoculars and a spotting scope from a distance of about 30 m, as it rested near the edge of a small group of Laughing Gulls *(Larus atricilla)* and Royal Terns *(Sterna maxima).* The bird's tarsi, toes, and most of the bill were bright red, but the distal tip of the bill was dusky red. The head appeared white just below the black cap, and the underparts seemed the same shade of gray as the mantle. When flushed, it showed the distinctive narrow dark margins on the underside of the primaries. At least one of the left outer rectrices had been dropped or was growing, as this side of the tail was noticeably shorter than the right side. This, and the scattering of white feathers in the black cap, indicated that this bird may have just begun post-alternate molt.

A second Arctic Tern, also an adult in alternate plumage, was found on 14 September 1979 by Cavanagh and Stevenson near the south end of the St. George Island causeway. Through a 20X telescope at a distance of about 35 m, they noted the bird's all-red bill, tarsi noticeably shorter than those of an immature Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* standing beside it, and the white area under the eye separating the black cap from the grayish throat and lower side of the face. We believe that two different individuals were involved in the above records, as the second bird did not show the scattered white feathers on the black cap or the dusky red bill tip of the first. Two hurricanes may have played a part in the obvious displacement of the second bird—Hurricane David along Florida's east coast on 3-4 September and Hurricane Frederic in the western Panhandle on 12-13 September. Unfortunately, the second bird flew away before it could be collected, and the first was in a state park (St. George Island S.P.).

The known history of the Arctic Tern in Florida is a very recent one. None were reported until Hebard (1952, Fla. Nat. 25: 126) and Richard Kuerzi saw one at Fernandina Beach (Nassau Co.), on 20 April 1952. Perhaps the first convincing record occurred when a freshly prepared skin was given to the University of Miami in the spring of 1975, but see Kale's (1977, Amer. Birds 31: 988-992) discussion of this record. Three more records, including a second specimen, followed in the spring of 1977. On 5 May William Dowling identified about six at Dynamite Point (St. Lucie Co.), on 8 May members of the American Birding Association saw one off Islamorado (Monroe Co.), and on 21 May Paul Sykes collected one of three seen east of Ponce de Leon Inlet (Volusia Co.) (Kale 1977). Thus all prior Florida records had been in spring along the east coast.

Although our records in the eastern Gulf of Mexico may be unique, Arctic Terns have been recorded on five occasions on the Texas coast. Oberholser (1974, The bird life of Texas, Austin, U. Texas Press, p. 397) cited records at La Porte (Harris Co.), 13 September 1969, just after the passage of Hurricane Carla, and at Port Aransas (Nueces Co.), 19 August 1968. In the spring of 1975, three were seen at Port Aransas on 20 April, four or five on the Bolivar Flats (Chambers Co.) on 12 April, and six at the latter place on 26 April (Webster 1975, Amer. Birds 29: 875-878).

As the normal fall migration route of the Atlantic Arctic Terns is on the eastern side of the Atlantic Ocean, the fall records from the Gulf of Mexico are perplexing. It is interesting to conjecture whether these birds may have been strays from the Pacific population, which in the fall move south along the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean.—Noel O. Wamer, *Florida Dept. of Natural Resources, 3540 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, Florida 32303;* Henry M. Stevenson, *Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312;* and James E. Cavanagh, Jr., *3211 E. Lakeshore Dr., Tallahassee, Florida 32312.*