

Fla. Field Nat. 9(4): 62-63, 1981.

**Brown Pelican found dead with adult Double-crested Cormorant in pouch.**— On Friday afternoon, 5 December 1980, park rangers working at St. Andrews State Recreation Area, Bay County, Florida, noticed a dead pelican floating in the ship channel, a man-made inlet connecting St. Andrews Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Lt. Perry Smith, Assistant Superintendent of the recreation area, collected the bird when it washed ashore and brought it to my office. We found that the gular pouch of the immature Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) was greatly distended with an adult Double-crested Cormorant (*Phacacrocorax auritus*) in it (Fig. 1). The cormorant was completely enclosed and it appeared that the cormorant had torn a hole in the pouch struggling to escape. Apparently both birds had drowned, possibly the same day as found. Lt. Smith and I concluded that this was a natural event probably occurring during a feeding frenzy, rather than someone forcing the cormorant into the pelican's pouch as a sadistic act, partly because seas were too rough that day even for commercial fishing boats, and thus few people would have been out and in possible contact with the birds. The birds were taken to the National Marine Fisheries Laboratory, Panama City Beach, and placed in a freezer in the same position as found.



Fig. 1. Thomas L. Francis (l) and Horace Loftin examining Brown Pelican found dead on 5 December 1980 at St. Andrews State Recreation Area, Bay County, Florida, with adult Double-crested Cormorant in its pouch.

The pelican carried a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service leg-band No. 559-03057. It was banded as a Hatching Year bird on 17 July 1980 at Isle Aux Petre, St. Bernard, Louisiana by personnel of the Louisiana Game and Fish Commission. Ronald Reynolds of the Bird-Banding Laboratory kindly supplied the information on this banded bird.—THOMAS L. FRANCIS, *Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, 4415 Thomas Drive, Panama City, Florida 32407.*

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**First Florida record of the Black-tailed Godwit.**—On 15 February 1981, we saw a Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) in an impoundment at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard County, Florida. From a distance of 46 m and through a 15x spotting scope we noted the following field marks: the long, straight bill with orange base; the unmarked, light grey back; the light grey wings with some scalloping; the light buff of the head, neck, and breast; the wide, white wing stripe; the white underwings with white axillars. The last two characteristics were evident when the bird flew and are the important field marks that distinguish the Black-tailed from the Hudsonian Godwit (*L. haemastica*) (Baird 1968, *Auk* 85: 500-501; Tove and Hughes 1981, *Chat* 45: 13-14). Subsequently, many observers saw the bird and on 17 February Paul W. Sykes, Jr., and C. Wesley Biggs photographed it (Fig. 1).

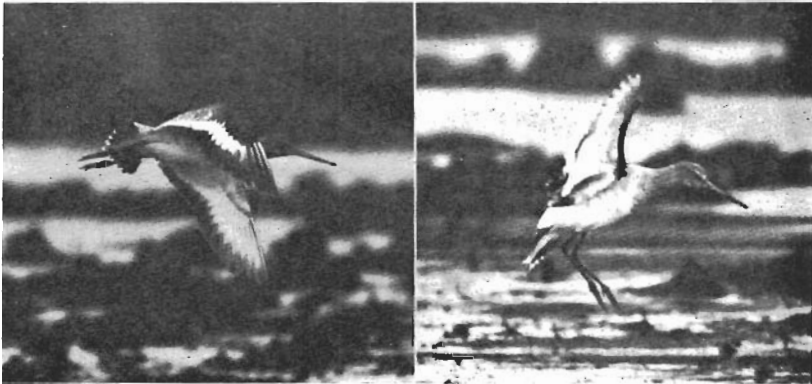


Fig. 1. Black-tailed Godwit at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard Co., Florida, 17 February 1981. Photo by Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

This sighting is the first for Florida (Bowman 1978, FOS Spec. Publ. No. 1; Stevenson 1976, *Vertebrates of Florida*, Gainesville, Univ. Presses of Florida). The five previous United States records of this Eurasian species are from the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to North Carolina (Tove and Hughes 1981).—HOWARD P. LANGRIDGE, *1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, Florida 33462* AND TADZIU TROTSKY, *1782 18th Ave., N., Lake Worth, Florida 33460.*