

Neill (1964, *Herpetologica* 20: 62-66) later described the one-toed amphiuma (*Amphiuma pholeter*) from the Gulf Hammock region. Although *A. pholeter* was not described until 14 years later, the type specimen was collected September 8, 1950, the same night that Neill collected the type of *P. s. lustricolus*. Neill (1964:62) reported, "On the night of September 8, 1950, I collected aquatic salamanders in Levy County, Florida, between Otter Creek and Cedar Keys. . . . *Siren lacertina*, *Pseudobranchius striatus lustricolus* and *Amphiuma means* were found in roadside ditches or swimming across the flooded highway." The type locality for *A. pholeter* is 4.5 miles (7.2 km) ENE of Rosewood, Levy County, Florida. Rosewood lies approximately 19.8 km southwest of Otter Creek, and, thus, the locality "4.5 miles (7.2 km) NE by E Rosewood" is approximately 12.6 km southwest of Otter Creek, a distance identical to the distance from Otter Creek to the reported type locality of *P. s. lustricolus*.

The type locality of *P. s. lustricolus* should be corrected to: 12.6 km southwest of Otter Creek, Levy County, Florida, a site approximately 17.1 km WNW of the reported type locality. To my knowledge, *P. s. lustricolus* has not been collected in the 35 years since Neill's original series. This emendation of the type locality may prove useful to persons attempting to rediscover this poorly known salamander.

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**Bill deformity in a Ring-billed Gull.**—Abnormally long bills have been reported for several bird species including the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*, Post 1985), Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*, Arendt and Arendt 1986), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*, Slack 1979), Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, Easterla and Todd 1971), and Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*, Taylor 1973). I observed and photographed a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) with an elongated, decurved bill on a public beach at Cedar Key, Florida in May 1983 (Fig. 1). The bird's plumage indicated an approximate age of 1 year. It appeared healthy and exhibited no difficulty in competing for and consuming bread tossed to the flock of gulls with which it was associated.

Pomeroy (1962) reported that bill abnormalities are rare in wild birds, although elongation is the most common observed deformity. He attributed most cases of abnormally long mandibles to injury of the bill and subsequent regrowth. Fox (1952) also attributed bill deformities that he examined to injuries. Slack (1979) recorded the abnormal regrowth of the maxilla of a free-ranging Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) after the tip had been severed. Gulls and other bird species that feed on tidal flats may be susceptible to a unique cause of this type of injury. American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) have been known to become entrapped when a large oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) clamps shut on their bill (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). I have personally witnessed a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) with its bill caught in a hardshell clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and the tip nearly severed as a result of its struggle to free itself. Shore-feeding species that opportunistically try to grab an open bivalve may find themselves so entrapped. If they are not drowned by an incoming tide and are able to get free, they may survive with the type of injury to cause the bill abnormality in Fig. 1.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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**Figure 1. Ring-billed Gull with an abnormally long bill photographed at Cedar Key, Florida in May 1983.**

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**An observed incident of rat snake predation on Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) chicks in Florida.**—Predation is one of the major causes of nest failure in Snail Kites (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) (Beissinger 1986, *Ecology* 67: 1445-1459; Sykes 1987, *J. Field Ornithol.* 58: 171-189). The identity of nest predators, however, often is difficult to determine because the evidence (e.g. broken shells, missing young) left at nests may be inconclusive. Beissinger (1986) and Sykes (1987) reported that rat snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta*) were responsible for much of the nest losses of Snail Kites during their studies but provided no empirical evidence to support these suspicions. In this paper we describe the first observed incident of a rat snake preying upon a brood of Snail Kites.