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Great Blue Herons trapped in algae.—On 5 November 1987 at 1900 hr, we observed two adult Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) on the southwest shore of Newnans Lake, Alachua County, Florida that appeared disabled. The birds were 50 m apart, standing 5 m from shore, in water 40 cm deep. When approached by boat, the herons struggled but did not run or fly. They were noticed again at 2300 hr exhibiting similar behavior. Upon investigation we found that the herons were tangled in filamentous, blue-green algae (*Lyngbya spp.*). Each bird had a large mass of plant material connecting both feet. One bird, apparently unable to fly, hobbled away and was not captured. The other heron was immobilized by a larger (970 g, wet weight) conglomeration of algae and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) twigs and leaves. Algal filaments were tightly interwoven around the tarsometatarsus of each foot, just above the toes. The algae was cut away and the bird was released. Both birds appeared to be in good health and otherwise unhindered.

Lyngbya species occur as free floating trichomes or adhered to submerged objects (Tarver et al., 1978, Aquatic and wetland plants of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida: Bureau of aquatic plant research and control, Department of Natural Resources. 127 pp.). Recent low water levels and wave action on Newnans Lake may have dislodged and concentrated algae near the shoreline (D. Griffin, III, pers. comm.). The herons probably accumulated algae on their feet while foraging. We know of no other reference to Great Blue Herons trapped in algae.

Other herons (*Herodias nigripes* [sic]; Eastern Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*; and Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*) have been reported trapped in vegetation (seeds of *Pisonia spp.*) "that often prove(s) fatal" (sources cited in H. N. Ridley, 1930, The dispersal of plants throughout the world, Ashford, Kent: L. Reeve and Co., Lloyds Bank Bldgs., pp. 613-615). In Florida, birds incapacitated near the shoreline would be easy prey for American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), but at this latitude alligators usually have stopped eating by November (McIlhenny, E. A., 1935, The alligator's life history. Boston, Massachusetts: The Christopher Publ. House. 117 pp.). Concentrations of algae may indirectly contribute to some wading bird mortality.

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