

become separated from its parents. At the time of its death it was 33-34 days old and had probably been on the wing for only 6 or 7 days.

The second bird (band no. 1103-19422) was also raised at Monomoy. It was not a pure-bred Common Tern but the offspring of a female Common Tern and a male Common Tern x Roseate Tern hybrid (*Sterna hirundo* x *S. dougallii*). The only chick this pair raised, it was hatched on 12 June and fledged on 4 July 1975. I caught it again on 6 July and it was probably still present on 8 July, when I was vigorously attacked by the hybrid parent. It was not seen again at Monomoy despite daily checks, but it had been color-marked and was seen by V. Laux at Nauset Inlet on 9, 13, and 14 July. On 24 July it was found dead there by A. G. Brown. It had already been dead for several days; to judge from its wing length (216 mm, versus 172 mm on 6 July, when it was growing at 4-5 mm per day) it had been killed about 16 July. It would then have been about 34 days old and have been on the wing for about 10 days: it was first seen at Nauset only 5 days after fledging.

The third bird (band no. 1103-19272) was a Common Tern, raised at Bird Island, Marion, Massachusetts (41° 40' N, 70° 43' W) in 1975. I banded this bird as the older of two chicks in a nest with a hatching egg on 10 June 1975, and judged that it had been hatched on 8 June. It was not encountered again until I found it dead at Nauset on 24 July. It appeared to have been dead at least a week, but its wing length (247 mm) suggested that it was at least 40 days old. Hence the date of its death can be placed close to 17 July. Since Common Terns usually fledge at 23-27 days of age (Nisbet and Drury, *ibid.*, Table 3, and unpublished observations), it would have been on the wing for roughly 13-17 days when it was killed at Nauset, 67 km ENE of Bird Island.

Together with the three early recoveries reported by Austin and cited above, these three recoveries indicate that some juvenile Common Terns disperse away from their colonies as early as 5-18 days after fledging. The records of birds at Nauset only 5-6 days after fledging represent unusually early dispersal, since my observations summarized earlier in this note indicate that most juvenile Common Terns remain attached to their natal colonies for 10-15 days after fledging.

Adult terns can gain obvious advantages by moving their families away from large colonies to less crowded feeding areas, but the fate of the three juveniles described above illustrates that very early dispersal may be hazardous. At 33-40 days of age a juvenile tern's wings are not fully grown and it may well be ineffective at avoiding a predator. It is also likely that juvenile terns are more vulnerable to predation when roosting in an unfamiliar place than in their own colony: although several hundred terns of four species were raised to fledging at Nauset in 1975, the only fledged juveniles found dead and decapitated were the two that I had banded in other colonies. Earlier in the 1975 season the Great Horned Owl apparently took a number of Common Tern chicks from the Nauset colony, but I found no evidence that it killed any locally raised juveniles after they had fledged.

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Capturing and Banding Limpkins in Florida.—As part of a study of the ecological impact of the proposed Cross Florida Barge Canal we captured and color marked Limpkins (*Aramus guarana*) to determine the size and movements of the population in the area of Lake Oklawaha (Rodman Reservoir), Marion and Putnam counties, Florida. Between 6 October and 11 November 1975, 46 Limpkins were caught at night from an air-boat with a handheld spot light and a large dip net; they were weighed, measured, color-marked and released. Capture was most successful on moonless or overcast nights. Average capture success was 2.5 birds per hour of effort from time of arrival to time of departure from the study area.

Average weight for 31 adult Limpkins was 1.08 ± 0.11 kg within a range of 0.90 to 1.27 kg. Weights for 15 chicks captured during this study appear in Table 1. All chicks weighing less than 0.88 kg were flightless.

TABLE 1.
Weights and dates of capture for 15 Limpkin chicks.

Band number	Weight	Capture date
567-68906	0.78 kg	6 Oct. 1975
567-68911	0.39	8 Oct. 1975
567-68917	0.68	8 Oct. 1975
567-68918	0.88	8 Oct. 1975
567-68919	0.72	3 Nov. 1975
567-68929	0.70	3 Nov. 1975
567-68930	0.65	3 Nov. 1975
567-68931	0.70	3 Nov. 1975
567-68934	0.71	3 Nov. 1975
567-68935	0.78	3 Nov. 1975
567-68936	0.89	3 Nov. 1975
567-68937	0.74	3 Nov. 1975
567-68938	0.99	3 Nov. 1975
567-68948	0.94	11 Nov. 1975
567-68949	1.01	11 Nov. 1975

We did not capture chicks that were obviously too small to hold a patagial wing tag. For this reason, the number and size of chicks are not truly representative of the total population but do indicate a substantial number of young birds that were still developing in early November, probably having hatched in mid- or late September. It seems apparent from these data that the nesting dates of middle February through March and April given by Sprunt (Florida Bird Life, New York, Coward-McCann, 1954) do not always apply. The occurrence of these chicks in October and November may be the result of delayed or second nesting. Of 31 adults examined, 27 (87.1%) were undergoing a remigial molt. Adults captured on 11 November were in the later stages of or had recently completed this molt.

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A New Method For Restraining Live Birds.—A major problem to the avian researcher is restraining live birds without damaging them during weighing. A new type of food package on the market is ideally suited to this purpose: the cardboard tubular container. Several companies have products packaged in these containers, providing holders for different sizes of birds: Pringles Potato Chips, Planters Potato Chips, Daddy Crisp French Fried Potatoes, and Tiny Thin Pretzels.

The best way to prepare the container is to remove both ends, place the plastic resealable cap on the bottom, and cut off the top metal rim with a knife to make the can the desired height. This prevents claws, feathers, and bills from getting caught on the metal edge. Make a 1.5 cm slit, horizontal to and 1.5 cm from the top edge to fasten the pesola spring balance. Insert the bird head first, weigh, and pull it out carefully tail first. The plastic cap may be removed from the bottom and the bird pushed straight through, head first, if desired. Removal of the cap on the bottom makes cleaning relatively simple.

These containers may be used on a balance beam to restrain birds, too. For small birds that could fly out of the container, a plastic cap from a second can of similar size may be placed on the top.—ELIZABETH FERGUSON SCHREIBER, *Seabird Research, Inc., 11008 Teegreen Drive, Tampa, Florida 33612*. Received 5 January 1976, accepted 13 February 1976.