

it held its neck stretched forward and down at an angle; its legs trailed behind; and its wings flapped stiffly above its back.

Its long, slender neck and long legs somewhat suggested a heron's shape, but its neck lacked the herons' double bend, and its beak, though not notably long or curved, did not taper strongly to a point like a heron's. Its size was near that of a Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). Its plumage was dark brown throughout, closely streaked with white on head, neck, and foreparts of the body. Its legs were blackish, its beak dark, paler toward the base. The white streaks in the plumage were distinctly visible at a distance of 20 yards. No other marks or white patches appeared on the under surface, rump, or flight feathers. Immature night herons, the only other brown waders of comparable size with white streaking, would have much different profiles and behavior, as well as spotted wings and paler legs. The jerking tail is particularly distinctive of Limpkins (A. Sprunt Jr. and E.B. Chamberlain, 1949, *South Carolina Bird Life*, Univ. South Carolina Press, Columbia).

Outside Florida in the southeastern states, the Limpkin occurs in small numbers in extreme southeastern Georgia (T.D. Burleigh, 1958, *Georgia Birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman) and on rare occasions in coastal South Carolina (Sprunt and Chamberlain, *op. cit.*). *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* report only three occurrences of this species since 1948 north of the Altamaha River, Georgia: one each in Tennessee (*Aud. Field Notes*, 15: 474), Maryland, and Virginia (*Amer. Birds*, 25: 717, 841), all in late spring.

At the time of our observation, we were aware that Limpkins would not be expected in North Carolina. Our account of the bird's behavior and appearance is summarized from our field notebook. Because we know the species well from several seasons in South America, we feel confident in our identification, although the absence of objective substantiation makes this record hypothetical.

[Dept. Ed.—This is the first report of a Limpkin occurring in North Carolina. With the publication of this record, this species can be placed on the hypothetical list for North Carolina.]

A Bridled Tern From North Carolina

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On 3 October 1971, after Hurricane Ginger, David Hughes and Gary Williamson found a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus recognita*) dead on the bridge at Oregon Inlet, Dare County, N.C. The bird, a female (ovaries 4x8 mm) weighing 90.6 g, was very emaciated, and the skull was crushed. It is in the bird collections at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History (No. 4066). The identification was verified by Roxie C. Layborne of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. Although this tropical species has been found offshore with some regularity in summer, this appears to be the first specimen actually obtained for the state. A second specimen, possibly blown ashore by the same storm, was found by Gilbert Grant, identified by Mrs. Laybourne, deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, and reported in *Chat* (37:23-24).