January 2004

LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS ARMOURI
(Northern Curlytailed Lizard)

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At ca. 1325 h on 19 February 2003, a hazy-sunny day with a temperature ca. 27°C, HTS observed a juvenile (white plumage) Little Blue Heron prey on a small (4–5 cm SVL) *L. c. armouri* on a concrete seawall in Martin County. This site is adjacent to the 1999 county record location (Hauge and Butterfield 2000, *Herpetol. Rev.* 31:53), but has been occupied since at least 1994 (Smith and Engeman 2002, *Florida Field Nat.* 30:132–133) and is at the northern end of a relatively contiguous 90 km surveyed range of this species (Smith et al., *in press*, International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation). The heron was foraging on top of the seawall using the “walk slow” behavior (Rodgers 1983, *Colonial*
Waterbirds 6:11–23), when it saw the lizard (also on top of the seawall) dart into a vertical crevice. In 10–15 seconds of slow approach, the heron waved its head and neck slowly in a wide side to side sweep. When it reached a position over the crevice, the heron plucked the lizard out with one strike and swallowed it in < 10 sec.

The event was noteworthy because it involved a juvenile wading bird foraging in a terrestrial situation and preying on the exotic *L. c. armouri*. Although the Little Blue Heron occasionally hunts on land, most time is spent methodically foraging in shallow water (Willard 1977. Condor 79:462–470; Rodgers and Smith, *op. cit.*). Although herons and egrets have been known to capture and consume exotic lizards in terrestrial situations (Franz 2001. Herpetol. Rev. 32:253), and *L. carinatus* has been the subject of other unusual predation events (Smith and Engeman, *in press*. Herpetol. Rev.), we know of no similar wading bird depredation reports for *L. carinatus* in the literature.

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