

## RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fla. Field Nat. 24(4):122-134, 1996.

**Twelfth Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 1994 & 1995.**—The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (F.O.S.R.C.) critically reviews all written sight reports and specimen and/or photographic records (including audio recordings) submitted to it to determine the validity of the reports. The Committee's findings are published annually in the *Florida Field Naturalist (F.F.N.)*. Of 72 reports received in 1994 and 1995, 5 were not reviewed and 5 are "still under consideration": SCARLET IBIS, *Eudocimus ruber* (94-299), WHITE-FACED IBIS, *Plegadis chihi* (94-312b), LEPTOTILA DOVE SPECIES (95-337), COMMON POORWILL, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* (95-336), MYIODYNASTES FLYCATCHER SPECIES (95-343). In addition to the remaining 62 reports, the Committee resolved 2 reports that had been in "still under consideration" status since 1994: 47 (73%) were accepted and 17 (27%) were not accepted. Three species were added to the official list of verified Florida species bringing the total to 466 (see Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, *F.F.N.* 23:38-43, 1995). Three reports received prior to 1994 remain "still under consideration": ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus sasin* (88-138, 93-276), and CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, *Calcarius ornatus* (89-181).

F.O.S.R.C. members who evaluated these reports and their expiration dates of tenure are as follows: Bruce H. Anderson (1996), Lyn S. Atherton (1995), John W. Fitzpatrick (voluntarily retired 1995), Wayne Hoffman (1998), Brian H. Hope (1999), Vaughn W. Morrison (1997), William B. Robertson, Jr. (2002), P. William Smith (2001), and Glen E. Woolfenden (2000).

In this issue is a list of bird species that the Committee has deemed sufficiently rare or difficult to identify to suggest F.O.S.R.C. evaluation. Any species reported on this list should be documented by the observer. All observers are encouraged to submit these reports to the F.O.S.R.C., including those intended for publication in the *Florida Field Naturalist*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, or another publication.

While in the field, the observer should write a detailed description of all body parts (e.g., bill, legs, and feet, noting sizes, shapes, and colors). Although a specimen or photograph and vocal recording are preferred, a sketch of the bird and vocal descriptions are beneficial. Behavioral traits and the habitat should be detailed. It is necessary to describe how all similar species were eliminated (e.g., members of the genus *Myiarchus*), not only those known or suspected to occur in Florida, but also any species that could possibly stray here. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form that is available from the Secretary. In addition to uniformity, the report form provides the Committee and the observer with guidelines to those factors used by the F.O.S.R.C. for its evaluation. Completed forms with supporting materials should be submitted to the Secretary.

Since 1994, the Committee has consisted of 7 members. Through 1995, an accepted report required the unanimous vote of all Committee members. When a report is accepted, it gains status on the official Florida state list (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). A species or race new to the state is given full status only when its natural occurrence is probable, and there is a supporting specimen, photograph, or audio recording; otherwise it is given hypothetical status. When a report is not accepted, it does not necessarily mean that the species or form was not correctly identified. Sometimes a sighting is too brief or the written account lacks sufficient details to eliminate all possibilities. The Committee will reconsider a report if additional information is submitted that might alter a previous decision. All documentation is deposited in the F.O.S. Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

The F.O.S.R.C. was established in 1981. Published reports of unusual sightings that have not been submitted to the Committee (either before or since 1981) have been given varying degrees of scrutiny by the various editors. Recently, Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) and Stevenson and Anderson (1994) have evaluated many of the unusual sightings not evaluated by the Committee. At this time the F.O.S.R.C. has made no commitment to review reports that have been published prior to 1981 and those that have not been submitted to it.

Each species that appears in this report is listed according to the A.O.U. (1983) checklist and supplements through 1996. The number of published reports (including verifiable records and the reports published herein) through 1995 for each species or race is given after the species name; these numbers follow Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) unless otherwise stated. Each account includes the initials of the contributor(s) for accepted reports and reports received but not reviewed, F.O.S.R.C. catalog number, and abbreviations for supporting materials. Following the account of each species is a listing of catalog numbers for other reports previously considered by the F.O.S.R.C.

Abbreviations used in this report are: A=audio recording; A.B.=American Birds; A.B.S.=Archbold Biological Station; A.F.N.=Audubon Field Notes; C.P.=county park; N.P.=national park; N.S.=national seashore; N.W.R.=national wildlife refuge; P.=photo; S.=specimen; S.PR.=state preserve; S.R.=state road; S.R.A.=state recreation area; S&A=Stevenson & Anderson 1994; U.F.=Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida; V.=video; and G.E.W.=Glen E. Woolfenden at A.B.S. Also, contributors are identified by their initials.

The Committee thanks Susan Allan for additional photographs of 95-334, Kevin T. Karlson for his photograph of 95-338, Kevin J. Zimmer for his evaluation of 93-277, George Barrowclough and Paul Sweet for the loan of specimens from the American Museum of Natural History for 94-310, Gary Graves and Phil Angle for the loan of specimens from the National Museum for 95-332, Walter Kinglsey Taylor for his helpful suggestions with earlier drafts of this manuscript, and Tom Webber who maintains and provides access to the F.O.S.R.C. Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Contributors to this report are Bruce H. Anderson, Lyn S. Atherton, Michael J. Austin, Jocelyn L. Baker, Richard L. Ballman, Richard Bowen, Robert A. Duncan, John W. Fitzpatrick, Wally George, David Goodwin, Brian H. Hope, Howard P. Langridge, Barbara P. Muschlit, Blair Nikula, Bill Pranty, Harry Robinson, Rex Rowan, Sean P. Rowe, Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, James H. Saunders, Macklin Smith, P. William Smith, Annette E. Stedman, Paul W. Sykes, Keith A. Tarvin, Philip C. Tetlow, Tom Webber, Ann Y. Weinrich, and Philip S. Weinrich.

#### ACCEPTED REPORTS

ALBATROSS SPECIES, *Diomedea* SPECIES: 7 albatross reports, not all evaluated, includes 1 specimen and photographs of another YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS, *D. chlororhynchos* (S&A). One believed to be a YELLOW-NOSED, was seen about 152 m from the Lake Worth pier, Palm Beach Co., on 5 January 1995 (H.P.L., 95-326, Langridge 1995). While agreeing that a species of *Diomedea* was observed, the first Florida winter report, the Committee was unable to rule out some form of *D. cauta*, especially *D. cauta*, the WHITE-CAPPED (SHY) ALBATROSS.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL, *Pterodroma hasitata*: about 20 reports, not all evaluated, includes 4 specimens (S&A). One was seen and sketched on an F.O.S. pelagic trip in the Gulf Stream along a weed line, about 11 km E of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach Co., on 24 April 1994 (D.G., 94-295). (Previously not accepted, 89-177, 90-183). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*: about 20 reports, not all evaluated, includes 6 specimens (S&A). Two were observed through a telescope, less than 300 m from shore

S of Bethune Beach, Canaveral N.S., Brevard Co., on 15 November 1994 (H.R., 94-322).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*: 5 reports, not all evaluated, includes 3 specimens and another individual photographed (S&A). One subadult in flight and on water was seen from a boat about 10 km S of Key West, Monroe Co., 11 May 1995 (H.P.L., P., 95-334, published photo, *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:241). The location of 1 found moribund on Hutchison Island, St. Lucie Co., on 27 August 1986, that died on 3 (A.B. 41:76; S&A), or 6 or 9 (Wes Biggs pers. comm.) September 1986, was solved by Wes Biggs; the specimen is preserved as a flat skin (A.B.S.), and a skeleton (Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY, *Sula sula*: about 20 reports, not all evaluated, includes 3 specimens and others photographed (S&A). One probable subadult in flight was observed between Hospital Key and Long Key, Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe Co., on 20 September 1995 (P.W.Sm., 95-344). Not received for review were 3 other reports from Dry Tortugas N.P. (*F.F.N.* 22:11, 23:100, *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:240). (Previously accepted, 82-013). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 7 reports, not all evaluated, includes 1 specimen and others photographed (S&A). The various accounts submitted make reference to at least 1, possible 2, individuals identified as this species out of 3 or 4 *Plegadis* ibis observed from 26 October-16 November 1994 (22 November in *F.F.N.* 23:46), Ft. Walton beach Sewage Treatment Facility, Okaloosa Co.; other individuals were identified as GLOSSY IBIS, *P. falcinellus*. The Committee assigned different catalog numbers based on the dates of observation to clarify its findings. Four observers submitted detailed reports of at least 1 individual identified as this species (94-312a): 26 October 1994 (P.C.T., R.A.D.); 9 November 1994, resulted in the only report of the bird with a streaked head and neck (R.L.B., J.H.S.); and 11 November 1994 (P.W.Sy.). Each observation included a single bird in basic plumage without blue facial skin but with distinct red eyes. The other reports (94-312b) remain "still under consideration".

CURLEW SANDPIPER, *Calidris ferruginea*: more than 20 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs (S&A). Three observers submitted reports of 1 sandpiper seen near the Holiday Inn at Ft. Myers Beach, Lee Co. (V.C.M., W.W., V.K., P., 93-301). First observed in basic plumage on 24 September 1993, with "sporadic reports in Feb.," it was not seen again until the "end of April [1994] . . . in breeding plumage." Another observer gave 9 October as the date that he last saw the individual in basic plumage. The species was last reported at this locality on 20 May 1994. The Committee accepted the observations of 24 September and 9 October 1993, and those from the end of April-15 May 1994. The Committee did not have sufficient evidence to conclude that 1 overwintered in the area because there is only a vague reference to "winter" observations, or that the bird described and photographed in the spring was the same individual as seen the previous fall. One in basic plumage was seen at Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard Co., on 15 October 1994 (H.R., 94-320). A bird in alternate plumage was observed at the end of Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P., Monroe Co., on 25 April 1995 (M.J.A., 95-339). A 1995 report from Ft. Myers Beach was not received by the Committee (*F.F.N.* 24:21). (Previously accepted, 84-065, 87-125; previously not accepted, 87-113, 91-243). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

SKUA SPECIES, *Catharacta* SPECIES: 8 reports (contra *F.F.N.* 23:39), not all evaluated, includes photographs of 1 SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *C. maccormicki* (S&A). An immature skua, identified as *C. maccormicki*, was seen below Bethune Beach at Canaveral N.S., Brevard Co., from shore, at a distance of about 550 m, on 28 October 1994 (H.R., 94-319). The description provided could not eliminate all other skuas due to the complexities of their identification. According to Bourne and Curtis (1994. *British Birds* 87:289-297), there are no verifiable reports of this species in the western Atlantic

north of the equator in autumn. (Previously accepted, 82-024, 93-275; previously not accepted, 83-030, 83-056).

**MARBLED MURRELET, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*:** 4 records, not all evaluated, including 3 specimens and another individual photographed. The first live bird seen in Florida was on 17-28 March 1994, in the boat basin at Cedar Key, Levy Co. (B.P.M., P, 94-304, Muschlitz 1995). The third Florida specimen (U.F. not yet numbered) was 1 bird that died on 29 November 1995. The murrelet was found alive the day before by John Tipton about 4 km off the coast of St. Pete Beach. All records are of individuals with white orbital markings, and an elongated bill indicative of the Asiatic *B.m. perdis*. (Previously accepted, 87-118, 93-281).

**LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*:** 8 reports, not all evaluated, includes 2 specimens and another bird photographed (S&A). One was photographed and video-taped at A.B.S., Highlands Co., 20 March 1994, during daylight hours (K.A.T., 95-292, Tarvin 1994). One was flushed about 1000 m from the 1994 A.B.S. location, on 2 March 1995 (B.P., 95-330).

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles acutipennis*:** more than 20 reports, not all evaluated, includes 1 specimen and photographs of other individuals (S&A). A lone individual was observed in flight about 750 m SW of the road to Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., Dade Co., on 26 November 1994 (P.W.Sm., 95-327). Other published reports from E.N.P. and St. George Island were not submitted to F.O.S.R.C. (contra *F.F.N.* 23:50, 82). (Previously accepted, 83-028, 83-033, 85-078, 87-129, 88-134, 88-157, 93-217, 93-267; previously not accepted, 85-086, 90-200). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT, *Streptoprocne zonaris*:** 2 specimens. One was found on 15 September 1994, "floundering" on a lawn of a residence at NW 29th Street in Lauderdale Lakes, Broward Co. This swift was brought to Debbie Anderson, a wildlife rehabilitator, and subsequently died on 17 September 1994 (W.G., P, 94-310, dates contra *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:39). The specimen (U.F. 38059) is about 8-10% smaller than any specimen from Mexico/Central America, including Florida's first specimen, and accords well with the West Indian form *S.z. pallidifrons*; this female represents the first record of this subspecies for North America.

**VAUX'S SWIFT, *Chaetura vauxi*:** 6 reports (many other reports have been speculative), not all evaluated (S&A). Vocalizations were recorded on 22 January 1993, from a group of 6 *Chaetura* swifts that repeatedly appeared in and around Gainesville, Alachua Co. (T.W., A., 95-331, Webber and Collins 1996). The vocalizations recorded and corresponding sonograms were compared to nearly identical, known *C. vauxi* calls recorded in Oregon. Thus, a species long-suspected of having occurred in Florida, was added to the list of verified species. Three other Alachua Co. reports were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:92, *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:141). The first winter specimen of a *Chaetura* swift in Florida proved to be a hatching year male CHIMNEY SWIFT, *C. pelagica*. It was found alive on the ground on the U.F. campus, Gainesville, and died 3 hours later. The specimen (U.F. 38060) bears the date "31 November 1993"; however, the salvager, Richard Bucholz, "put down 31 November instead of realizing it was 1 December" because he "never knew how many days are in which months," but he is sure that "it was November/December rather than October/November" (fide T.W.). (Previously not accepted, 90-184).

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, *Amazilia yucatanensis*:** 15 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs. Four reports were received of individuals that were banded: an adult at Choctaw Beach, Freeport, Walton Co., on 18 December 1989 (B.S., M.S., P, 94-307); a hatching year bird at Destin, Okaloosa Co., on 19 December 1995 (B.S., M.S., P, 95-348); and 2 other hatching year birds in Pensacola, Escambia Co. (R.A.D., B.S., M.S., P), on 28 November 1995 (95-347), and on 26 December 1995 (95-349). A report for a fifth banded bird in the Panhandle was received in 1996 (96-356). Details

of 1 in Ft. Lauderdale for the sixth year were not received (*N.A.S.F.N.* 39:59, 242). (Previously accepted, 83-036, 90-196, 90-198, 93-280; previously not accepted, 88-131, see below). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD, *Stellula calliope*:** 8 reports, not all evaluated, includes 1 specimen and tail feathers from another bird. Four reports were received in 1995: 2 in Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co.: an adult female from 30 November-5 December 1995 (B.S., M.S., 95-350) and a hatching year male from 12-16 December 1995 (B.S., M.S., R.A.D., 95-351); 2 hatching year males in Pensacola, Escambia Co.: 19 December 1995 (B.S., M.S., P., S. to A.B.S., 95-352), and 16 December 1995 (B.S., M.S., R.A.D., 95-353). Two reports were received in 1996: 1 from Gulf Breeze (96-357) may be the same individual as 95-353; and 1 from Polk Co. Details of 1 reported in Duval Co. were not received (*N.A.S.F.N.* 49:163). (Previously accepted, 90-192).

**WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, *Contopus sordidulus*:** 3 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs and audio recording (S&A). One was seen and heard on the McJunkin Ranch west of A.B.S., Highlands Co., on 19 June 1995 (B.P., P., A., 95-342, Woolfenden et al. 1996). The call notes and sonograms prepared from the observers' recordings are nearly identical when compared with those from recordings of known WESTERN WOOD-PEWEES. This record resulted in the species being added to the list of verified species. (Previously accepted, 86-107, but see below).

**CUBAN PEWEE, *Contopus caribaeus*:** 2 reports, not all evaluated, includes video record. One observed from 11-17 March and 1-4 April 1995 (*F.F.N.* 23:104) at Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Co. was described from observations and recordings made on 11-12 March (B.H.H., P.W.Sm., M.S., V., 95-333, published photos *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:216, 242). This is the first verified record of this species for Florida and the United States, and appears in the cited literature under the former name, GREATER ANTILLEAN PEWEE.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax flaviventris*:** about 50 reports, not all evaluated, includes 7 specimens (S&A). From 7 January-4 April 1994 (contra *F.F.N.* 22:122), one individual was observed at a golf course in Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co. (B.H.H., A., 95-341). This was the first confirmed observation of this species in Florida in winter. Six reports from Dry Tortugas N.P., and Palm Beach and Seminole counties were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:122, 23:83, 51, 24:54). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

**LASAGRA'S FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus sagrae*:** 22 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs and audio recording. Two reports came from Broward Co.: 1 was seen 20-21 April 1994, in John U. Lloyd S.R.A., Dania (J.L.B., 94-298); the farthest inland report to date, 1 was seen and heard about 19 km from the coast at Tree Tops Park, Davie, from 12 November 1994 (W.G., M.J.A., A., 94-318), through the first week of January 1995 (*F.F.N.* 23:83). Two other reports from Palm Beach and Dade counties were not received (*N.A.S.F.N.* 49:242). (Previously accepted, 83-028, 83-033, 85-078, 87-129, 88-134, 88-157, 93-274). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus cinerascens*:** 34 reports, not all evaluated, includes 2 specimens and photographs of other birds (S&A). One was described from Ft. Walton spray field in Okaloosa Co., on 9 December 1993 (R.A.D., 94-287). Present there since early January 1994 (*F.F.N.* 22:92), 2 were heard calling on Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Pinellas Co., on 5 February (L.S.A., P., 94-289). One was seen at Fairpoint, Santa Rosa Co., on 23 October 1994 (R.A.D., 94-314). Two observers submitted reports of presumably the same individual seen on 6 December 1994, and 3 February 1995, on La Chua Trail at Old Sweetwater Branch, Paynes Prairie S.P.R. (B.P.M., R.R., 94-324). One adult was seen from a dike off Canal Road along the southern shore of Lake Jessup, Seminole Co., on 31 December 1994, a locality where 2 were seen in 1992, and again in 1995 (B.H.A., 94-325). Thirteen other reports from Brevard, Escambia, Franklin, Volusia, and Wakulla counties were not received (*F.F.N.*

23:83, 104; 24:54; *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:163). (Previously accepted, 83-051, 90-186; previously not accepted, 90-187, and see below). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

"TROPICAL" KINGBIRD COMPLEX, *Tyrannus* SPECIES: 26 reports of the complex, not all evaluated, includes photographs, 7 reports of COUCH'S KINGBIRD, *T. couchii*, and 1 of TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *T. melancholicus* (S&A). Three observers submitted details of presumably the same individual, identified by all as a COUCH'S, seen near Loxahatchee N.W.R., Palm Beach Co., on 18 and 20 December 1993 (H.P.L., A.Y.W., P.S.W., 84-285), through 16 April 1994 (*A.B.* 46:414). Although 2 observers described a vocalization heard, the description does not perfectly match those given in many field guides. The Committee members agreed that the description of the morphology and plumage did accord with an individual of this complex. Details for reports of COUCH'S on Dry Tortugas N.P. and another in Palm Beach Co. were not received (*F.F.N.* 21:125, 23:83). The first specimen of this complex was salvaged in 1996, in Palm Beach Co.; it has yet to be evaluated by the Committee. (Previously accepted, 86-092, 86-106).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus savana*: 15 reports, includes photographs (S&A). An adult was seen and sketched at Buck Island Ranch, Highlands Co., on 16 July 1993 (J.W.F., 94-292). An adult was observed on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe Co., 23 April 1995 (M.J.A., P., 95-338). The report of 94-292 does not include the description of a nuchal collar; however, the published photo (*N.A.S.F.N.* 49:242) of 95-338 shows the presence of a collar that is typical of South American populations. (Previously accepted, 83-039, 84-068, 86-191, 90-210, 92-259). Reports of this species will no longer be evaluated by F.O.S.R.C.

HORNED LARK, *Eremophila alpestris*: more than 25 reports, not all evaluated, includes 2 specimens and other individuals photographed (S&A). One was observed on a dirt road parallel to S.R. 405, E of the Banana River bridge, about 1 km W of the eastern boundary of Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard Co., on 9-10 March 1993 (S.P.R., P., 94-294). Details for reports in Brevard and Leon counties were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:92, 24:54). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe*: 6 reports, not all evaluated, includes 2 specimens and photographs of other birds (S&A). One was observed in a debris-strewn construction area near administration trailers and nursery at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.R.A., Key Biscayne, Dade Co., from 19-23 October 1994. The bird's coloration and form are indicative of a hatching year male *O.o. leucorhoa*, the form breeding in Greenland and eastern Canada. (P.W.Sm., P., 94-316, Smith and Woolfenden 1995). (Previously accepted, 82-020; previously not accepted, 81-003).

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus gundlachii*: 28 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs and 1 nest (S&A). One was seen in John U. Lloyd S.R.A., Dania, Broward Co., 20-24 May 1993 (J.L.B., 94-297), and again at that location on 27 April 1994 (J.L.B., 94-303). Details for other reports from Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:92, 123; 23:23, *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:242). (Previously accepted, 86-090, 86-094, 88-142, 88-148, 89-180, 90-203, 90-204, 91-230, 91-236, 91-239; not accepted 84-061, and see below). This species will no longer be evaluated by F.O.S.R.C.

THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*: 17 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs and audio recordings (S&A). One (contra *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:39) was seen Port Bouganville Tract, Key Largo, Monroe Co., on 8 September 1994 (P.W.Sm., 94-308). Detailed reports for counties of Palm Beach and Broward (first for this county) were not received (*F.F.N.* 23:105, 24:55). (Previously accepted, 89-179, 90-202, 91-226; previously not accepted, 88-151, 93-279).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica townsendi*: 14, not all evaluated, includes photographs (S&A). A female-plumaged warbler was video recorded at East Beach Woods, Ft. DeSoto C.P., on 11 September 1993 (L.S.A., V., 94-283), and a first-year male was

observed from 4 December 1993 through 19 March 1994, Sawgrass Park (L.S.A., P., 94-291). These are the second and third reports for Pinellas Co.; details for the fourth county report, and 1 for E.N.P. were not received (*F.F.N.* 23:105, 24:56). All 4 accepted fall reports for Florida have occurred between 11-15 September. (Previously accepted, 83-029, 83-047, 85-088, 93-266; previously not accepted, 81-001, 85-071). This species will no longer be evaluated by F.O.S.R.C.

**BANANAQUIT, *Coereba flaveola*:** about 30 reports, includes 1 specimen and photographs of other birds (S&A). Present from 20 April-3 May 1994 (*F.F.N.* 22:124), 1 was photographed and video recorded on 30 April 1994, at Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Co. (M.J.A., 94-300). This is the first individual in immature plumage to be reported in Florida; most post-breeding dispersal, at least to Florida, involves birds in definitive plumage. Details for a report for Palm Beach Co. were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:94). (Previously accepted, 88-153, 89-174; not accepted, see below). This species will no longer be reviewed by F.O.S.R.C.

**YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivacea*:** 4 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs (S&A). An adult was seen on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas N.P., on 20 April 1994 (B.N., P., 94-305), and through 25 April (*F.F.N.* 22:125). Photographs show an individual with little black on the face. This feature precludes an adult of the Mexican/Central American race, *T.o. pusilla*, the form commonly kept in captivity. The bird was most likely an adult or immature from a West Indies population, such as the nominate race that is a resident of the Greater Antilles breeding as close to Florida as Cuba.

**HARRIS' SPARROW, *Zonotrichia querula*:** 15 reports, not all evaluated, includes photographs. An immature was described from an observation at Gulf Islands N.S., Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., on 26 October 1994 (R.A.D., 94-315). Details for a report for Okaloosa Co. were not received (*F.F.N.* 22:94).

#### REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

**LITTLE EGRET, *Egretta garzetta*:** not previously reported. A photographer, while showing slides to a friend, realized that the bird in one of his pictures appeared to exhibit characteristics of this species, especially 2 long occipital plumes. The photographer recalls that this slide was one in a series taken between 11-17 April 1993, in Pinellas Co., between Ft. DeSoto C.P. and Tarpon Springs, the exact location unknown (*vide* L.S.A., P., 95-340). The presence of a nuchal crest and recurved dorsal plumes, the length of those plumes, the colors depicted in the photograph of the lores and toes, the relative shortness of the legs, and the thickness of the bill lead members to believe that the bird is an aberrant SNOWY EGRET, *E. thula*. One or 2 strikingly similar birds, referred to as "probable" SNOWY EGRET X LITTLE BLUE HERON, *E. caerulea*, hybrids were seen in Connecticut in spring 1995 (P.; *N.A.S.F.N.* 49:227-8). However, it seems unlikely that these birds in alternate plumage could be hybrids, and not exhibit some color characteristics of the darker species. A specimen of this crossed parentage was collected in Glades Co., in 1953 (S&A).

**SCARLET IBIS, *Eudocimus ruber*:** Escapes from waterfowl collections, and at least one attempt to introduce, make its natural status uncertain. Not all reports have been evaluated. One specimen. Apparently the same adult individual has resided in the Lakes Park area of Ft. Myers, Lee Co. (P., 94-306). The first sightings occurred from 10 March 1991, through January 1992. What is believed to be the same individual reappeared in April 1993, and was last seen on 24 March 1995 (*F.F.N.* 23:100). Reports were submitted by 2 observers; the color of the bird photographed appears lighter than typical adults in the wild leading some members to believe that the bird is a long-lived Greynolds Park derivative: a hybrid SCARLET IBIS X WHITE IBIS, *E. albus*; in addition, the documentation does not exclude a possible escape. Details were not

received for reports of 1 at E.N.P., or hybrids there and in Hillsborough Co. (F.F.N. 22:88, 119; 23:78).

**KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis*:** 7 reports, not all evaluated, includes 2 specimens and other individuals photographed. A single bird identified as a subadult male was seen and sketched in Escambia Co. at Spanish Point in the Intercoastal Waterway at Perdido Key on 27 December 1993 (94-286). Although the Committee agrees that the description and accompanying sketch are referable to an eider, the Committee is unable to exclude the COMMON EIDER, *S. mollissima* or even a hybrid. The description of the dark back, color of the bill, distinct line of separation between the neck and upper breast, and the presence of an orbital ring are typical of *S. spectabilis*. The sketched profile of the head, and bill process are those typical of *S. mollissima*. Eye and feet color are not typical of either species.

**MASKED DUCK, *Oxyura dominica*:** about 30 reports, not all evaluated, includes 4 specimens and photographs; no previous reports of breeding (S&A). A report was received of a pair of these stiff-tailed ducks with young at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Palm Beach Co., on 11 February 1977 (94-311, Bowman 1995). Up to 9 MASKED DUCKS of both sexes were reported in the same locality as was this observation (A.F.N. 31:322); however, no other observer that year reported breeding. The original documentation, a manuscript, was submitted to the Committee on 14 October 1994, and a copy was submitted for publication in the F.F.N. A refereed and revised copy was submitted to the Committee by the editor in March 1995. The original documentation includes a description of "a brown female with . . . blue bill." We were unable to find any source that described a female having a blue bill in any season. In the revision, the observer omitted any reference to the color of the female's bill. "[F]our small ducklings probably not more than a month old . . . were not as large as my fist . . . two dark horizontal streaks on their pale cheeks" described the breeding evidence in the original documentation; the description was revised to "four small brownish ducklings with a dark horizontal streak on the pale cheek . . . about the size of an Easter chick" in the edited version. Based on the original description, the "young" of this small species, "fist-sized," could have referred to birds in feathered juvenal plumage; Johnsgard (1975) wrote that "the juvenal plumage so closely resembles that of the adult female that probably the only certain plumage criterion of immaturity is the presence of juvenal tail feathers." According to the observer's revised description, the young must have been downy. Delacour (1959) describes the downy young with one dark stripe through the eye, and, in addition, his illustration by Peter Scott shows a rather poorly defined malar stripe. Bond (1961) refers to the malar stripe as "dark . . . (and) more prominent" when comparing Cuban specimens with Delacour's description and Scott's illustration. Palmer (1976) referred to Bond (*ibid.*) when describing the downy chick in which "one cheek stripe is prominent." The Committee concludes that the observer saw this species, but because of the revisions in the observer's documentations of key characters used to distinguish young, does not find definitive evidence for breeding. It is apparent that the observer did not rely on any detailed notes of the observation that may have been taken at the time of the occurrence, and the observer's recollection may no longer be reliable. Furthermore, the observation was made in late winter and the species is typically a fall breeder in both hemispheres, Johnsgard (*op. cit.*) providing dates of breeding in southern Texas from September through November. Finally, the documentation makes reference to a male in alternate plumage in company with the female and young. Johnsgard (*ibid.*) wrote that in Argentina, "[m]ales . . . were never seen in association with broods," and in southern Texas ". . . only female-like birds have been found associated with broods." (Previously accepted, 83-045; previously not accepted, 90-197).

**BLACK-HAWK SPECIES, *Buteogallus* SPECIES:** Since 1973, and as recently as 1995 (F.F.N. 23:101) individuals of suspect origin have been observed in Broward, Dade, and Mon-

roe counties. Not all reports have been evaluated. There is 1 photograph of COMMON BLACK-HAWK, *B. anthracinus* and 1 specimen of GREAT BLACK-HAWK, *B. urubitinga* (S&A). A dark hawk was seen in flight near Suwannee, Dixie Co., on 25 April 1994 (94-296). Some Committee members believe that a *Buteogallus* is a possibility, but the report is not accepted because neither the origin of this bird nor the species can be determined with certainty based on the documentation submitted (94-296).

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides*: more than 30 reports, not all evaluated, includes 1 specimen and photographs (S&A). The description and sketch of 1 seen at Wards Bank, Duval Co., on 9 October 1993 (93-277), accords well with the second year basic plumage of the *kumlieni* race; however, the description could not definitely eliminate a small bleached-out HERRING GULL, *L. argentatus* (Previously accepted, 93-270).

COMMON POORWILL: 2 reports, includes 1 "still under consideration". The songster was not observed, but the observer heard vocalizations at 9:25 p.m. for about 1 minute, at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., on 1 December 1995 (95-346). The observer is familiar with the whistled call of this species in the western U.S., and compared those notes heard with a commercial recording of the species' call. Some members believe that there is not enough description of the call notes to establish with certainty the presence of this species in Florida.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE: see above. A pewee was seen at St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla Co., on 26 and 28 October 1986 (P. A., 86-107). Accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. when initially submitted, the Committee decided to again review the record in light of the latest verified record (95:342). Woolfenden *et al.* (1996), compared sonograms of the recorded calls of 86-107, with those of known individuals of this species. The Committee is convinced that this record can not be identified to species with certainty based on the recorded calls or the photograph.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*: "TRAIL'S" FLYCATCHER COMPLEX species are rare in fall and casual in spring. Status of species is uncertain due to difficulty separating this species from WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *E. traillii* in field. Not all reports have been evaluated. There is 1 specimen. A small flycatcher was seen in the picnic area at Ft. DeSoto C.P., Pinellas Co., on 25 September 1994 (94-321). The identification is not accepted because this species is not known to flit its wings and tail, and the call described is not diagnostic of this species. (Previously not accepted, 89-173).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: see above. A member of the genus *Myiarchus* was observed at Imeson Industrial Park, Jacksonville, Duval Co., on 19 December 1993 (94-284). The orange color of the mouth lining described is not typical of this species. Neither the call nor the tail pattern is described. All other species of the genus that could possibly stray to Florida can not be eliminated.

CARIBBEAN MARTIN, *Progne dominicensis*: 1 previous reference to this species. A martin observed and sketched at Eco Pond, Monroe Co., on 12 February 1995 (95-332), was identified as an adult male of this species. The drawing, when compared with both male and female specimens, does not suggest the actual "junco-like" ventral pattern of this species.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH, *Catharus bicknelli*: 5 specimens (S&A). A thrush seen at Oak Hammock Nature Trail, Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard Co., on 15 October 1994, was identified as this species (94-323). No diagnostic field marks are presently known (Rimmer 1996). Perhaps this species can be separated from GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, *C. minimus* by measurements (Ouellet 1993).

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus gundlachi*: see above. Nests have been built, but breeding has not been verified. The caption below a photograph (A.B. 47:1163) states that the adult BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD pictured was feeding the juvenile and that the picture did "not rule out the possibility of a Northern X Bahama hybrid." The photograph was taken at Key West, Monroe Co., on 17 June 1993. The juvenile *Mimus* in the photo is not being fed by the adult, and the juvenile does not exhibit any plumage

- characteristics of *M. gundlachii*, only those typical of the NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, *M. polyglottis*. Subsequent reports of hybrids at Key West have not produced a specimen nor photograph (F.F.N. 23:23).
- WARBLING VIREO, *Vireo gilvus*: about 100 reports, not all evaluated, 2 specimens. Other species have been misidentified as this species making its status uncertain. One was reported singing at Lake Sharon, north of Choctaw Beach, Walton Co., on 13 May 1995 (95-335). The description is not sufficiently detailed to make a definitive identification. Some members do not find the described size and vocalizations to be diagnostic of this species. (Previously accepted, 88-156).
- BANANAQUIT: see above. One individual identified as an adult was seen at John U. Lloyd S.R.A., Dania, Broward Co., on 19 December 1993 (94-309). Although the submitter has previous experience with this species, the description lacks specific details of the entire bird. Details included in the report are not definitive of this species.
- VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, *Vermivora virginiae*: no previous reports. A bird identified as an immature was seen on Lachua Trail, Paynes Prairie S.PR., Alachua Co., on 7 February 1995 (95-328). Although the overall description suggests this species, the combination of "clear gray" back and "olive" rump does not. The back color ranges from brownish gray in the adult male to brownish in the immature. The rump ranges from yellow in the adult, to dull yellow in the immature.
- SMITH'S LONGSPUR, *Calcarius pictus*: no prior reports. Two reports were received involving 1 bird seen in a small field W of Hwy. 98, south of Bay Bridge, Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., on 27 October 1994 (94-313). Details are insufficient to exclude similar species. This species has been reported in Alabama 8 times, including 1 on 29 January 1996 (N.A.S.F.N. 50:182).

#### REPORTS NOT EVALUATED

- YELLOW-LEGGED GULL, *Larus cachinnans*: no previous reports. One adult gull was seen sometime during the winter of 1991-1992, at Pompano Beach, Broward Co. The observation was considered withdrawn when the observer later wrote that he was not satisfied with the quality of his photograph that was submitted for identification (R.B., P., 94-293).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD: see above. One was captured for banding at Destin, Okaloosa Co., on 29 November 1994 (R.S., 94-317). This individual was a banding return and was evaluated and accepted by the Committee when first captured and banded (93-280). The Committee decided not to reevaluate any individual that has been evaluated in the past.
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus alexandri*: about 30 reports, not all evaluated, includes 3 specimens and photographs of other birds. A female-plumaged bird was seen at a feeder in Tallahassee, Leon Co., during December 1992 (N.W., 94-288). This species was removed from the list of species reviewed before this report came before the members for review. Thirteen individuals were reported from fall through spring 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 (F.F.N. 22:92; 23:50; 83; 24:53) from Escambia, Pasco and Duval counties. (Previously accepted, 83-050, 89-169, 90-188, 90-189, 90-190, 90-191, 90-193, 90-194).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: see above. One was banded on Casey Key, Sarasota Co., on 27 September 1994 (A.F.S., 95-345). This species was removed from the list of species reviewed before this report came before the members for review.
- HARRIS' SPARROW: see above. A report was submitted by an individual who do not view the bird, and who was unsuccessful securing details of the observation from the actual observer. Because no details were submitted by the observer, the Committee was unable to evaluate the bird seen at a feeder on the third floor of a multileveled-dwelling in Gainesville, Alachua Co., on 22 February 1995 (95-329).

## LIST OF SPECIES REVIEWED

Species in the list below should be documented when seen and submitted to the F.O.S.R.C. for review. Most of these species appear in the main list of verified species for Florida in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). In addition, documentation should be submitted to the F.O.S.R.C. for any species observed in Florida, believed to have occurred naturally or escaped, but not appearing in the main list of that publication.

LEAST GREBE	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
WESTERN GREBE	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS	<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>
MANX SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>
RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>
SCARLET IBIS	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>
WHITE-FACED IBIS	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
ROSS' GOOSE	<i>Chen rossii</i>
WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
KING EIDER	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>
COMMON MERGANSER	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
MASKED DUCK	<i>Oxyura dominica</i>
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
FERRUGINOUS HAWK	<i>Buteo regalis</i>
MOUNTAIN PLOVER	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
BAR-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
SURFBIRD	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
SOUTH POLAR SKUA	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>
LITTLE GULL	<i>Larus minutus</i>
BLACK-HEADED GULL	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
BAND-TAILED GULL	<i>Larus belcheri</i>
THAYER'S GULL	<i>Larus thayeri</i>
ICELAND GULL	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>
THICK-BILLED MURRE	<i>Uria lomvia</i>
RAZORBILL	<i>Alca torda</i>
MARbled MURRELET	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>
ATLANTIC PUFFIN	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>
SCALY-NAPED PIGEON	<i>Columba squamosa</i>
BAND-TAILED PIGEON	<i>Columba fasciata</i>
ZENAIDA DOVE	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>
RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>
FLAMMULATED OWL	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>
LONG-EARED OWL	<i>Asio otus</i>
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>
WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
VAUX'S SWIFT	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
ANTILLEAN PALM SWIFT	<i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>
BAHAMA WOODSTAR	<i>Calliphlox evelynae</i>
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD	<i>Calypte anna</i>
CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD	<i>Stellula calliope</i>
GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
CUBAN PEWEE	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>

BLACK PHOEBE	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
SAY'S PHOEBE	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
COUCH'S KINGBIRD	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>
LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>
CUBAN MARTIN	<i>Progne cryptoleuca</i>
SOUTHERN MARTIN	<i>Progne elegans</i>
BAHAMA SWALLOW	<i>Tachycineta cyanoviridis</i>
ROCK WREN	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
BEWICK'S WREN	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
NORTHERN WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
BICKNELL'S THRUSH	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>
VARIED THRUSH	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>
SAGE THRASHER	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
CURVE-BILLED THRASHER	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>
THICK-BILLED VIREO	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>
WARBLING VIREO	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
YELLOW-GREEN VIREO	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>
BACHMAN'S WARBLER	<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>
GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER	<i>Dendroica chrysoparia</i>
KIRTLAND'S WARBLER	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>
LAZULI BUNTING	<i>Passerina amoena</i>
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>
SPOTTED TOWHEE	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>
BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>
LARK BUNTING	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>
HARRIS' SPARROW	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>
TAWNY-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD	<i>Agelaius humeralis</i>
WESTERN MEADOWLARK	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
RED CROSSBILL	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>

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## CHANGE OF EDITOR

Effective with this notice, all manuscripts for possible publication in the *Florida Field Naturalist* shall be sent to Dr. R. Todd Engstrom, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 678, Tallahassee, FL 32312.