

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The Spring 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Ornithological Society (*FOS*) was held on Friday, October 11, at the Residence Inn, 2101 Northpointe Parkway, Lutz, FL. President Kent called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM after determining that a quorum was present. The following people attended the meeting or a portion of the meeting:

Adam Kent, President	Bill Pranty, Field Observation Committee
Elena Sachs, Vice President	David Stock, Finance Committee
Jim Cox, Secretary	Wes Biggs, Robertson Research Award
Peter Merritt, Treasurer	Karl Miller, BBA ad hoc Committee
Dave Goodwin, Director	Rick West, BBA ad hoc Committee
Jon Greenlaw, Director	Brian Ahern
Erik Haney, Director	Ann Paul
Marianne Korosy, Director	Donald Ware
Tom Engstrom, Conservation Committee and Editorial Advisory Board	Katy NeSmith
Andy Kratter, Records Committee	

AGENDA

The agenda and meeting packet were mailed electronically to board members prior to the meeting. The agenda was approved without additions

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Fall Board meeting held in Tallahassee on October 8th were distributed with the meeting packet. Director Greenlaw noted that his first name had been misspelled. With this correction, Vice President Sachs moved that the minutes of the meeting be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kent updated the Board on plans for a joint meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society in Fall 2011. The meeting would take place at Dauphin Island and would feature a student paper competition and a banquet presentation by John Dunn. The Board was enthusiastic about the proposal and thanked Kent and Vice President

Sachs for their efforts. Kent also reported that funding for the *Teaming with Wildlife* initiative was uncertain. The program supports wildlife conservation through grants given to state wildlife agencies, but funding will likely decrease this year because the House and Senate have different allocations in their proposed budgets (Senate version provides more). President Kent also stressed the assistance needed by groups attempting to monitor hawk migration in the Florida Keys. He suggested FOS should organize a special weekend centered on this program and hoped someone might step forward to spearhead the effort.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Sachs reported 70 people had registered for the meeting. Field trips and other activities seemed to be well organized at this point. Sachs noted that local committees had not been very active in the organization of several recent *FOS* meetings. The lack of local assistance has made it difficult to organize field trips with some local flavor and engage local speakers. The absence of local assistance also likely increased expenses. She encouraged the Board to find ways to engage local *FOS* members in the planning of future meetings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Cox completed the following tasks:

- (1) Worked up minutes from the Fall 2010 board meeting and distributed the minutes with the Board meeting packet.
- (2) Treasurer Merritt noted discrepancies in the listing of Board members provided on the web page and FFN; I reviewed these and provided corrections to both editors.
- (3) Participated in the breeding bird atlas meetings organized by David Stock.
- (4) Provided approved minutes from the Spring 2010 board and general business meeting to Tom Webber and Steve Bankert.
- (5) Assisted with planning for the sparrow drives to be conducted at the Spring 2011 meeting.
- (6) Compiled and distributed committee reports for the Spring 2011 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Merritt submitted a written report. Total assets as of December 31, 2010 were \$137,831.62. Funds were distributed among *FOS* budget categories as follows:

Fund	Balance
General Operating Fund	\$24,943.12
Special Publications Fund	\$28,060.55
Grants and Awards Fund (Cruikshank)	\$37,616.62
Grants and Awards Fund (Robertson)	\$14,666.69
Endowment Fund	\$21,661.04
Friends of FFN	\$1,468.10
Life Membership Fund	\$7,631.35
Deferred Items (2011 Dues)	\$1,784.15
Total Assets	\$137,831.62

The balances indicate the assets allocated to General Operations, Special Publications, Grants and Awards, Endowment, Friends of FFN, and Life Memberships. A separate accounting is maintained for the Cruickshank and Robertson portions of the Grants and Awards fund. At the end of each year, the annual interest received from interest-bearing accounts plus the change in asset value in brokerage accounts are added together and distributed proportionately among these budget categories. The current balances include a \$5000.00 transfer from the General Operating Fund to the Robertson portion of the Grants and Awards Fund that was approved by the Board of Directors in April 2010.

Total assets are distributed among mutual funds at Fidelity Investments. All money received by FOS in 2010 was deposited in the Fidelity Core Account and was then transferred into the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund. This money market fund was used to cover all payments made by FOS in 2010. On December 31, 2010, a balance of \$414.55 was in the Fidelity Core Account and \$16,521.78 in the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund. The non-cash portion of *FOS* assets resides in eleven mutual funds. The portfolio was rebalanced on September 30, 2010 and was scheduled to be rebalanced again on April 1, 2011. *FOS* has specified a “growth” target asset allocation for the account, and the asset value of the non-cash portion of the Fidelity account increased from \$107,870.67 on December 31, 2009 to \$120,256.55 on December 31, 2010.

Price-Campbell Foundation Grant

The Price-Campbell Foundation Grant of \$15,000 was awarded to FOS several years ago to enhance FOS presence on the Internet. As of December 31, 2009, \$14,997.63 had been spent out of the original grant, leaving a balance of \$2.37. The balance of this grant was applied to web hosting charges in 2010.

Membership

FOS membership as of March 1, 2011, is summarized in the following table:

Membership Type	4/16/07	10/3/07	4/2/08	9/5/08	4/2/09	9/1/09	3/1/10	8/31/10	3/1/11
Individual	226	260	216	243	210	232	190	229	183
Individual Life	0	0	4	4	6	7	8	8	8
Family	61	75	62	65	45	49	32	40	45
Family Life	0	0	4	4	4	4	5	6	6
Contributing	27	32	22	24	20	21	17	19	20
Student	5	8	7	8	5	6	2	7	7
Institutional	33	39	32	33	32	34	30	34	32
Exchange*	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	15	15
Honorary*	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Gift*	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	372	433	364	398	339	370	302	360	318

* Non-paying

Treasurer Merritt reported a current membership of 329, which was up a bit from the previous time last year. The first membership renewal request was sent on December 16, 2010. The second membership renewal request was sent on February 10, 2011. As of March 1, 2011, membership was up 5.3 % over the same time last year. However, 74 of last year's members have not renewed their membership for 2011. Nineteen new members joined FOS in 2011.

EDITORS' REPORTS

a. Florida Field Naturalist

Assistant Editor Tom Webber submitted an email report. Editor Webber was in the final stages of editing all manuscripts for issue 37(4). He said about a dozen articles were on hand in various stages of editing, and these would fill the next two issues.

President Kent asked whether the Board saw any need to have the FFN indexed by BioOne. Vice President Sachs asked if there was a charge involved, while others noted that articles appearing in FFN often came up when other search routines were used (e.g., Google scholar). Kent said he asked Editor Robinson about this and did not sense any urgent need to initiate such indexing, but he asked Board members to look at the issue and bring it up at a future meeting if anyone saw benefits.

Treasurer Merritt noted that the Board decided previously to purchase PDF versions of articles appearing in FFN and post them on the web 2 years after articles appeared. Treasurer Merritt noted that the PDF versions purchased by *FOS* could also be given to authors who currently must purchase PDF versions independently from Painter. Editorial Advisory Board Chair Engstrom said the Committee had discussed this question recently but had not come to a decision. Director Greenlaw suggested *FOS* could charge authors for PDF versions to recoup publication expenses. Secretary Cox noted that several journals provided PDF versions free of charge to encourage submissions. This might be a useful approach given the small expense involved and the decision made to purchase

PDF versions for posting on the web. Cox moved that PDF versions be provided free to authors of *FFN* articles. The motion carried with one nay vote.

The Board next considered a request to cover the expenses of publishing a color photo of a Sand Plover in *FFN*. The cost would be \$485 as compared to \$45 for a black-and-white photo. Treasurer Merritt noted the *Friends of FFN* had been established explicitly to improve the content and appearance of *FFN*; however, if the money in this fund was treated like other FOS funds, only the interest that had accrued could be used to support the journal. At this point, the interest accrued in the *Friends of FFN* could not cover this expense. Secretary Cox suggested greater latitude existed. With no explicit directives regarding the amount the Board could expend annually, the Board could spend any amount it deemed appropriate as long as the money was used to improve the look and content of *FFN*. Director Goodwin suggested the color photo would do just this. Treasurer Merritt also noted that funds from *Friends of FFN* had not been used at this point, and use of the funds might be mentioned along side the picture to encourage additional contributions. Committee Chair Pranty asked what guidelines should be used when deciding whether to support the expense of color figures. Treasurer Merritt recommended color photos be considered when they were essential for proper identification. Director Goodwin moved that the expense of publishing the color photograph be covered by funds in the *Friends of FFN*. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Newsletter

Editor Palmer submitted a written report. Despite great changes in the look of the newsletter, Palmer continued to have difficulties securing content. He has asked for submissions on recent research, birding spots, and other items but has not received any contributions. He asked for additional ideas and guidance from the Board. Some of his ideas included:

Essays on why *FOS* members do what they do? Why bird? Why become an ornithologist?

Florida's changing bird list. It tops 500 now. Any thoughts on what has influenced the additions since, say, Howell's day?

Periodic updates on the impacts of wildlife in the aftermath of the Gulf oil spill.

Did the USDA /FWS plan to draw birds away from spill-impacted areas work? Was it even a practical idea?

Periodic updates on the new Breeding Bird Atlas effort.

What about the Important Bird Area publication? What will it contain and what will it add?

Editor Palmer suggested the newsletter might be more useful if it moved to a web-based format, but President Kent noted the importance of the newsletter in providing a permanent record of newsworthy items. Web pages are ephemeral. Secretary Cox suggested developing a group of regional contributors similar to the organization of the *Field Observations Committee*. Local contributors could search out and help Palmer develop content for the newsletter.

c. Special Publications

Ann Paul relayed information on the *Important Bird Areas* publication by Bill Pranty. She said steady progress was being made. Editor Jackson was making final edits and maps were going to be produced by Secretary Cox. Cox said he had not yet received the files needed to create maps but would work on figures for the publication just as soon as they arrived.

d. Web Site

Editor Bankert submitted a written report. He continues to update the site as needed and recently posted the Skin Quiz from the Spring Meeting. He also was developing the new website for a launch early in 2011. Future goals were to update articles from FFN on the web (Volumes 34-37, possible issues 1-3 of Volume 38) and to continue to post changes and updates as they are published. He noted that logistical support for the North American Migration Count needed attention. Using eBird was a possibility, but information for an area could come from someone not directly involved with the migration count.

Treasurer Merritt said he was having difficulties determining whether someone paid their dues over the Internet using Paypal. He also could not determine where funds were to be deposited when someone made additional contributions to a specific FOS fund. Editor Bankert said he would work to get the payments accurately categorized on the new web site. Bankert also asked what had happened to the *FOS* Facebook page that had been established. It could be used to distribute notices more readily. Vice President Sachs said she would look into this. Former President Jack Hailman had established the account and probably just needed to transfer administrative rights to Sachs or someone else.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Archives Committee

Committee member Tom Webber sent a list describing the 132 items stored in the FOS archives at the UF museum (Appendix 1). President Kent said he had visited the archives and learned a great deal. He suggested it would be nice to have minutes from older meetings scanned and posted on the web site. Vice President Sachs said she would meet with Webber and work on this.

b. Bylaws Committee

No action needed.

c. Conservation Committee

Chair Engstrom submitted a written report (Appendix 2). The Committee sent a letter to Brian Branciforte, Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee, regarding a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) developed by the program. The methods used to develop the list led to inclusion of some species (e.g., Red-throated Loon) that needed additional justification. The Committee suggested the document could also be improved if relationships between the list of SGCN and federal- and state-listed species were better defined. The list also included several game species that may receive adequate attention and support through sale of hunting licenses, but the stated intent of the SGCN list was to "...to capture species that are not already managed or monitored, and are in need of conservation." The Committee also recommended the program should try to balance the habitat-based approach it has taken with the important research needs of individual species. Some species on the SGCN list make use of multiple habitats, while the habitat needs of others were not well understood.

Director Korosy asked what response had been received. Chair Engstrom said that a formal "thank you" letter had been received. Korosy noted that funding for nongame research had declined in recent years and the habitat-based approach used by the program was ignoring some very rare species that warranted increased attention. She encouraged the Conservation Committee to send a separate letter addressing this point directly to the Executive Director of the agency.

The Committee also submitted an outline (Appendix 3) for a potential new area of emphasis for FOS. The concept, based on the organizational goal of uniting professional and amateurs in pursuit of the study of Florida birdlife, was to support projects that emphasized scientist-directed volunteer research. The Committee noted the many advantages such a program might have for FOS and also suggested funding for projects might come through State Wildlife Grants (SWG), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and National Science Foundation.

The Board expressed interest in the projects but also thought the forthcoming Breeding Bird Atlas project represented the most important large-scale volunteer effort to undertake at this time. Chair Engstrom said he agreed with the importance of the atlas project but also thought there was room for exploring one of the proposed topics (Appendix 3). He said he would report back to other members of the Committee and see whether any would do the organizational work needed to get a test project up and running.

d. Editorial Advisory Board.

Chair Engstrom submitted a written report (Appendix 4). The Committee provided several recommendations for improving the content and quality of *FFN*. These included a new editorial section in the journal, soliciting research articles from agencies, non-profits, and other organizations engaged in wildlife monitoring and management. The Committee also made recommendations for the *Field Observation* section to help distinguish this section from the information presented in *North American Birds*. The Committee also recommended content for *FFN* be searchable on line (e.g., SORA) and an entry created in Wikipedia that linked to PDFs of *FFN* articles. Finally, the Committee also asked the Board to evaluate the advantages of joining forces with other state societies in the southeastern U.S. and create a regional journal. This model has been pursued by several western states. Director Greenlaw suggested the proposal to merge with other state societies was interesting but would lose the important state focus currently provided by *FFN*. Director Goodwin suggested the Board should help to identify priorities among the ideas presented and then work with the Committee to develop a plan of action.

e. Field Observations Committee

Chair Pranty submitted a written report. Through Spring 2010, the Committee has published 81 consecutive seasonal bird reports. The Summer 2010 report was in press, the Fall 2010 report was submitted to Tom Webber one month ago, and the Winter 2010–2011 report was in preparation. Chair Pranty noted that Paul Miller has agreed to serve as a regional coordinator, and this appointment helped to fill a gap in south central Florida.

f. Finance Committee

Chair Stock submitted a written report. The past year saw increases in stock prices with the result that FOS investments began at \$107,870.67 and built to \$120,256.55 for a gain of \$12,385.90. This rate was not likely to be sustained, and the assumption of a 5% return for this year used by the Treasurer seemed appropriate.

The Committee recommended the Board be cautious last year when dispersing grant funds. This year, thanks to returns, the Board probably can grant \$2500-3000 from the Cruickshank Fund and \$2500 from the Robertson Fund.

The Committee also reminded the Board that FOS has 4 streams of revenue (in descending order): membership, investments returns, meetings, and gifts. The most important of these, membership, is not growing to the extent that it should. The Committee encouraged FOS to make sure it is actively seeking new members. Several suggestions have been made, but we need action to ensure the organization has a firm foundation.

The Committee also applauded the work of Treasurer Merritt in his timely rebalancing of FOS investments, his promptness in providing us the information for us to offer the Board wise advice, and for his excellent execution of business as FOS Treasurer

g1. Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Award Subcommittee

No activity.

g2. Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Education Award Subcommittee

No activity.

g3. William B. and Mary J. Robertson Award Subcommittee

Chair Biggs said a proposal to monitor Least Tern colonies had been submitted by Marianne Korosy (Audubon of Florida) and Elizabeth Forys (Eckerd College). The Committee recommended the Board consider funding for the proposal. Director Korosy left the room at this point so the proposal could be discussed objectively.

Chair Biggs explained that the purpose of the research was to understand the factors that were contributing to the Least Tern declines in Pinellas County through intensive population monitoring, banding of chicks, and surveys of all beaches before migration. The proposal requested \$455.00 to purchase banding equipment and supplies. Banding will be used to determine where Least Tern nestlings that are banded in rooftop colonies in Pinellas County end up. Other objectives included collection of data on clutch size, hatching success, chick, fledgling, and adult mortality to determine whether Least Terns in Pinellas County were dispersing to other regions within the species' breeding range.

Treasurer Merritt asked how the proposal fit with the overall goals of the Robertson Award. Chair Biggs said the proposal dealt with a species that ranked as a conservation concern throughout the geographic region covered by the fellowship and also was based on field procedures similar to those that Robertson used extensively. Biggs also noted that few proposals had been submitted to their Committee in recent years, and the support sought here was minimal. A motion to award the project \$455 was made and passed unanimously. After this vote, Director Korosy was asked to return to the room.

h. Membership Committee

No activity.

i. Nominating Committee

Chair Cox provided a written report. The Committee recommended the following slate of candidates to replace Officers and Directors whose terms expire at the upcoming Spring meeting.

Vice President: Ann Paul has agreed to serve as Vice President. Ann served in this position previously and has great connections with Audubon chapters that can

be used to organize local committees for upcoming meetings. She also has served as a Director and is one of our most dependable volunteers.

Secretary: Brian Ahern has agreed to serve as Secretary. Brian is a Florida native who has been active in the birding community for over 20 years. He has served on the observations committee since 2006 and is also a regional editor for *eBird.org*. His interests in Florida ornithology include species status and distribution, sparrow biology and ecology, and bird song. He also has served as secretary for other not-for-profit organizations.

Director: Dr. Gregory R. Schrott has agreed to serve as a Director. Greg will provide an important connection with Archbold Biological Station where he directs bird monitoring programs on Avon Park Bombing Range. Greg is one of those young professionals whose ideas and connections can further the goals of our attempts to unite lay and professional bird watchers.

Director: Erik Haney has agreed to serve as Director for a second term. Erik was appointed to succeed in the position abdicated by Larry Manfredi and would appreciate having the chance to make a greater contribution.

The slate of candidates was approved by the Board unanimously and will be presented to the membership at the General Business Meeting.

j. Records Committee

Chair Kratter noted there had been no recent meetings of this Committee. Six potentially new state records had been received and would be reviewed at the next meeting.

k. Ad hoc Committees

Breeding Bird Atlas Committee

Chair Stock provided a written summary of recent activities. Committee member Rick West also provided a detailed list of data storage and collection issues that is provided as Appendix 4. The Committee met to iron out some of the final details regarding data storage and the type of information to be collected. Methods for quantifying abundance were also proposed based on mini-routes. Running an initial mini route is an efficient way to find about two-thirds of the species that occur in a block and may add one or two species to the Atlas results. The Committee planned to engage in limited atlas work this year using a small core group and then suggested the project be officially launched at the Fall 2011 meeting. The Board agreed with this recommendation. Rick West next provided a potential logo for use with the project. The logo featured an American Swallow-tailed Kite similar to the image used for the previous atlas project. The Board reviewed and accepted the proposed logo.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

No activities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Cox
FOS Secretary

Appendix 1. FOS Archive items stored in the Bird Range of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (revised October 1, 2008).

1. Photographs of the Bird Range of the Florida State Museum (now Florida Museum of Natural History) and some of its personnel, 1981. Plus group photo of 40 people who study birds at the University of Florida, 1981.
2. Photographs of two curators in ornithology at the Florida State Museum; Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. and Dr. John William Hardy. 1981. Plus Austin and Hardy with Arthur Singer, 1989.
3. First U.S. Record of White-collared Swift (Streptoprocne zonaris); J.W. Hardy and Mary H. Clench.
4. Contributions from the estate of Oscar E. Baynard to the Florida State Museum.
5. Correspondence re Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus).
6. "A Band-tailed Pigeon recovery in Florida", by Lucy Duncan.
7. Letter from Allan Cruickshank to Henry M. Stevenson about Least Terns (Sterna antillarum).
8. Correspondence about three Florida records: Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus), Audubon's Shearwater (Puffinus lherminieri), and Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera).
9. Correspondence between William Courser and J.W. Hardy about establishment of FOS Archives at Florida State Museum.
10. Correspondence between J.W. Hardy and Henry M. Stevenson regarding deposit in FOS Archives of monthly bird count records from Lake Kissimmee State Park .
11. Note on Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) specimen (UF 20622) from Santa Rosa Co., Florida.
12. Photo of and information about Yellow-throated Vireo (Vireo flavifrons) nest donated to Florida State Museum by Manuel Lopez.
13. Note and newspaper clipping about young Razorbill (Alca torda) rescued by Allan Cruickshank.
14. Voucher photos of Ruddy Shelduck (Tadorna ferruginea) near Gainesville, Florida, 16 December 1978.

15. Flora O'Brien's field notes and bird records from the Dry Tortugas, 1966-1968.
16. Original field paintings by Oliver L. Austin, Jr.
17. Photos of albino Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina) trapped by Clayton Byrd, Gainesville, Florida, winter 1981. Photos by J.W. Hardy.
18. Two photos of Bullock's Oriole (Icterus bullockii) from Florida. Donated by Jerre L. Gamble.
19. Duplicate slides of Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus), south of Boardman, west side of Orange Lake, Marion Co. Florida, 22 November 1980. Photos by Peter May.
20. Copies of data slips for Florida Seaside Sparrow (Ammodramus maritimus) eggs in the collection of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo, California.
21. Some of Oscar E. Baynard's field notes.
22. Photocopy of Tall Timbers Research Station voucher photograph catalog. With list of additional slides sent to Tall Timbers by C. Wesley Biggs, 1979.
23. Florida Ornithological Society's Rare Florida Specimen Photo File, compiled by C. Wesley Biggs.
24. Information about Seaside Sparrow (Ammodramus maritimus) captive breeding program, Gainesville, 1980-1983.
25. Correspondence about photocopies of Donald G. Nicholson's field notes. Original notes at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo, California.
26. Photocopies of Donald Nicholson's field notes, with copies of some field notes by Wray Nicholson and J.C. Howell, Jr.
27. Correspondence between J.W. Hardy and Fred Lohrer concerning establishment of FOS Archives at Florida State Museum.
28. Article from Tropic magazine about Ted Below, 12 October 1980.
29. Correspondence between Fred Lohrer and Henry Stevenson about Hallman collection.
30. Photograph illustrating Marc C. Woodin and Crystal D. Woodin 1981 "Everglade Kite predation on a soft-shelled turtle." Florida Field Naturalist 9:64. Not published.

31. Contingency copies of Special Publications of the FOS, the Florida Field Naturalist, Florida Audubon Society Ornithological Research Division Newsletter, FOS Newsletter, and Florida Rare Bird Alert circulars.
32. Correspondence between Fred Lohrer and J.W. Hardy about deposition of contingency copies of FOS publications in FOS Archives.
33. Drawing of Oliver L. Austin, Jr.
34. Three photographs of Frank M. Chapman: as a young man, with his mother, in front of a cabin with Carolina Parakeets (Conuropsis carolinensis).
35. Photograph of Charles E. Doe, oologist and first curator of birds at the Florida State Museum.
36. Local check-lists.
37. J.K. Colehour collection of Florida bird photographs, and correspondence about its deposition in the FOS Archives.
38. Photo by Robert L. King of nestling White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus). See Florida Field Naturalist 15: 106-107.
39. Correspondence between G. Heinzman, A. Wetmore, G. Watson, and J. Cox concerning possible sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (Campephilus principalis) in Florida, purported Ivory-bill feathers (UF 21064) in collection of FLMNH, and purported Ivory-bill roost cavity, also at FLMNH. See Florida Naturalist 44:46-47 (1971).
40. Proposal for organization of the FOS, presented at first meeting, St. Petersburg, May 1972.
41. Correspondence of Henry M. Stevenson as editor of the Florida Field Naturalist, 1972-1975.
42. Cover art for Florida Field Naturalist and correspondence about same.
43. Correspondence of Fred Lohrer as editor of the Florida Field Naturalist.
44. Correspondence between Fred Lohrer and Sharp Printing re Florida Field Naturalist, 1976-1978.
45. F. Lohrer's correspondence with Storter Printing and E.O. Painter Printing, 1977-1981.
46. Correspondence regarding promotion of Florida Field Naturalist, 1977-1988.

- 47.** Correspondence between Fred Lohrer, editor of the Florida Field Naturalist, and Betty Vaulkenburg, Assistant Treasurer of the FOS, re FFN. 1976-1978.
- 48.** Correspondence between F. Lohrer, Editor of the FFN, and Karen Harrod Cantrell, Managing Editor of the FFN, 1976-1977.
- 49.** Correspondence between Fred Lohrer, C. Wesley Biggs, and John Hintermister re proposed regular rare-bird summary in FFN, 1976-1979.
- 50.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, 1976.
- 51.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, 1977.
- 52.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, 1978.
- 53.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, mostly 1979.
- 54.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, 1980.
- 55.** Manuscripts and correspondence thereon from F. Lohrer's editorship of the FFN, 1981.
- 56.** Letters to and from James Kushlan as editor of the FFN: letters about his takeover of editorial duties; letters about promotion of and advertising in the FFN; letters about printing the FFN.
- 57.** Three editions (1975, 1981, 1988) of Birds of the Gainesville Region by Oliver L. Austin, Jr., and John W. Hardy.
- 58.** Photographs of Oliver L. Austin, Jr., and others. Date and place unknown.
- 59.** By-laws of the FOS, 1974 - 1998.
- 60.** Photographs and biography of Donald J. Nicholson. (Biography from Florida Naturalist, October 1953.)
- 61.** Two picture postcards of Oscar Baynard (no date). Oscar Baynard's calling card. Portrait of Oscar Baynard, dated Christmas 1942, apparently presented to Charles E. Doe.
- 62.** Photograph of Bahama Mockingbird (Mimus gundlachi) in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co., April 1985.

63. Photograph of Upland Sandpiper (Bartramia longicauda) at Alachua, Alachua County, 22 April 1981.
64. Photographs of Back-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) on Bivens Arm, Gainesville, Alachua Co., 21 December 1983.
65. Draft of "bylaws" for, and correspondence about, FOS Records Committee, 1977-1984.
66. Correspondence about depositing Laura H. Moseley's field notes in the FOS Archives, 1978-1982.
67. Documents about introduction of exotic birds by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission : Williams, Lovett E. 1978. Draft of an "Environmental Assessment Report" on proposed release of White-winged Doves (Zenaida asiatica) in Florida; 1982 FGFWFC memo on progress of White-winged Dove introduction; article on of Muscovy Ducks (Cairina moschata).
68. Florida Audubon Society/NASA film of first Christmas Bird Count conducted at Merritt Island. Includes footage of Allan Cruickshank.
69. Fisk, Erma J. Early 1980's. "Recovery records of South Florida Birds." Unpublished manuscript.
70. Banding records of William M. Davidson, ca. 1928 to ca. 1961.
71. Photos and map of Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva) nest sites in southeast Florida. Photos and map by P. William Smith.
72. MS. by Lynn Lewis on (first?) breeding record of Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus) for Hendry Co., spring 1988.
73. Three color slides and one color print of Cassin's Kingbird (Tyrannus vociferans), photographed at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge 17 December 1988. With letters about the record from Paul Sykes and C. Wesley Biggs. Copy of cassette recording of the bird's calls, made by C.W. Biggs 19 December 1988, is in Bioacoustics Archives of the FLMNH, cataloged as Master 1070 Cut 3. Biggs' original cassette recording, plus sonograms made from it and from Cassin's Kingbird cut on Peterson western birds album, sent to Helen Dowling for perusal by FOS records committee.
74. Three color slides of Zenaida Dove (Zenaida aurita) taken on North Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, 20 June 1988. With letter from P. William Smith about the photos. See P.W. Smith and S.A. Smith, Florida Field Naturalist 17: 67-69.

75. Color transparency of Bahama Swallow (Tachycineta cyaneoviridis), at Homestead, Dade Co., Florida, 11 April 1989. Photo by George F. Wagner.

76. Four color transparencies and two color prints of Bahama Swallows (Tachycineta cyaneoviridis), taken by P. William Smith:

Transparencies:

23 August 1986, Flamingo, Monroe Co., Florida.

25 May 1988, Cutler Ridge, Dade Co., Florida.

30 June 1989, Cutler Ridge, Dade Co., Florida (2 slides).

Prints: both taken 27 July 1986 at Big Pine Key, Monroe Co., Florida. With letter from P.W. Smith describing photos.

77. Photographs of Thick-billed Vireo (Vireo crassirostris). 13 photos by George F. Wagner, taken at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area, FL, 19 September 1989. Two photos by Duncan S. Evered and Lyla R. Messick, taken at Hypoluxo Island, FL, 10 March 1990.

78. Two transparencies of Yellow-faced Grassquit (Tiaris olivacea) taken ca. 5 km NW of Homestead, Dade Co., FL, 7 July 1990. One by P. William Smith, one by Wayne Hoffman.

79. Testimonials from FOS in honor of various ornithologists.

80. Correspondence about a proposed FOS policy on collecting wild birds.

81. Sample of an FOS shoulder patch with some correspondence about same.

82. Original artwork for FOS logo.

83. Articles of incorporation of FOS (1974), with amendments of 1979, 1984, 1992. Includes certification of not-for-profit status by FL Dept. of State, and confirmation of tax-free status by IRS.

84. Correspondence about oil portrait of Allan Cruickshank.

85. Photos, video, and article about various FOS members: C. Kingsbery, J. Johnson, W. Biggs, L. Hopkins, N. Wamer, D. Goodwin.

87. FOS membership lists: 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1984.

90. FOS cancelled checks, check stubs, and deposit slips, 1985-1988.

91. FOS records of income and expenses.

92. Color print of European Turtle-Dove (Streptopelia turtur) by Wayne Hoffman, documenting first occurrence of that species in Florida. Accompanies article by Hoffman et al. in Florida Field Naturalist, Vol. 18 No. 4 (1990).

93. Photographs, many annotated, taken or owned by Donald J. Nicholson. Given to FOS by Herbert W. Kale II in January 1991.

- Photographs of Limpkin (Aramus guarauna) feeding.
- Photographs of Black Skimmers (Rynchops niger) in Orlando, 1957-1958.
- Letter from Nicholson about above two items.
- Annotated photographs from D.J. Nicholson--Sidney Peyton expedition to vicinity of Teller, Alaska, 1961. Plus maps by and letters from Francis Lee Jacques describing location of Bristle-thighed Curlew (Numenius tahitiensis) breeding grounds about 40 mi. east of Teller.
- Photographs of miscellaneous northwestern North American birds and bird specimens, including Bristle-thighed Curlew (Numenius tahitiensis) and Kittlitz's Murrelet (Brachyramphus brevirostris).
- Photographs of Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus) nests in Florida.
- Photographs of nesting Willets (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus) and Willet nesting habitat near St. Augustine, 1955 and 1963.
- Photographs of White Ibis (Eudocimus albus) rookery at Port Orange, 1955.
- Photographs of Sarasota and vicinity, 1955.
- Photographs of Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis) at nest, Craggy Mountain, North Carolina, 1959.

94. Three color photographic prints of Black-bellied Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis) adult(s?) and young. Photos taken September 1990 by Jim Sampson. Locality not given.

95. Proceedings of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC). Includes report forms, letters, photographs, and decisions by FOSRC on reports of observations. All items in this file have the basic catalog number FOSA 95, but each decision also has its own number assigned by the records committee. For instance, one might have the records committee number 88-35. That means it is the 35th decision the committee has ever made, and they made it in 1988. For most records, the first number (88 in the preceding example) is also the year of the observation, since in most cases the

committee made its decision in the same calendar year the bird in question was observed. For citation, the decisions in this file should be cited in this form: FOSA 95:88-35.

96. Correspondence from James A. Rodgers' editorship of FFN, 1986-1990.

97. Susan R. Blackshaw's Florida banding records, 1981-1991.

98. VHS videocassette by Larry Hopkins. Contains footage of:

- Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna), 31 January 1988, Tallahassee. ID accepted by FOS Records Committee: see FOS 95:88-154.
- Rufous/Calliope (Selasphorus rufus/Stellula calliope) Hummingbird? 4 March 1988, Tallahassee.
- Rufous/Allen's (Selasphorus rufus/S. sasin) Hummingbird? 31 January 1988, Cedar Key.
- Rufous/Allen's (Selasphorus rufus/S. sasin) Hummingbird? 29 February 1988, Cedar Key. See FOS 95:88-138.
- Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), first Florida nest, 30 May 1988, SR 2, NW of De Funiak Springs.

THIS VIDEOCASSETTE IS NOW IN FOSA 95: 88-154 (FOS Records Committee file for Calypte anna).

99. Two color photographic prints of Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe) nest. Photo taken 28 June 1988 at Pond Creek bridge on C-2, Okaloosa Co., FL, by Jim Brickell.

100. Audiocassette recording of Bahama Mockingbird (Mimus gundlachii) by Lynn Atherton, 11 May 1991, Cape Florida State Recreation Area.

101. One color slide of Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Slide taken 28 December 1990 on Bay County FL Christmas Bird Count. Photographer Tony Menard.

102. Article from The Stuart News, 14 December 1992, about Thick-billed Murre (Uria lomvia) at Hobe Sound, FL, in early December 1992. Submitted by H.P. Langridge.

103. Documentation reports for rare or unusual bird sightings on Florida Christmas Counts, beginning with 1991. These are submitted by the local count compilers to the state compiler, who in turn sends them to FOSA. See correspondence between Jocie Baker and Paul Sykes in the Contents/General Information file in the first FOSA file drawer. Each year's documentation forms will have the basic catalog number FOSA 103,

followed by a colon and a suffix to indicate the year of the count for which they were submitted; thus the reports for 1991 have the catalog number FOSA 103: 1991.

104. Color slide of "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) taken 3 May 1993 at Dry Tortugas by Brian E. Small. First verified record for Florida.

105. Short autobiography by Lawrence H. Walkinshaw.

106. Two copies of newspaper article about Henry M. Stevenson: St. Petersburg Times, Section F, Pp. 1, 3, 8; Sunday, January 15, 1995. Submitted by Fred Lohrer. Plus invitation to celebration marking publication of *Birdlife of Florida*.

107. Video: "A Celebration of Life," and binder of written tributes, with same title; appreciation of Herbert W. Kale II, summer 1995.

108. Color photo print of Henslow's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus henslowii*) taken 18 June 1996 on Kissimmee Prairie, Okeechobee Co. Photographed by Bill Pranty. First summer occurrence in Florida.

109. Records of FOS meeting finances, 1985-

110. North American Migrant Count data for Florida. Compiled by Rex Rowan.

111. Description of Western Spindalis (*Spindalis zena*) at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park 5 May 1995; by Steven Mlodinow.

112. Color transparencies of Vaux's Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) at Apalachicola, FL, winter [1997/98?], by Douglas B. McNair.

113. Videotape and still photos: Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) at Ft. Walton Beach, April 2000; by Bob and Lucy Duncan.

114. Bird census data and manuscripts of Herbert W. Kale II.

115. People and events at FOS meetings:

- Notices of meetings
- Meeting agendas and minutes; some treasurer's reports; lists of Society officers
- Audio cassettes of board meetings
- Photographs

RECORDS OF FOS MEETING FINANCES ARE IN **FOSA 109**. OTHER FOS FINANCIAL DATA ARE IN **FOSA 91**.

116. Bird notes by Lyle S. Hubbard, 1955-1968: Florida, Michigan, "north", elsewhere.

117. Photographs, letters, diaries, and other documents of Allan Cruickshank and Helen G. Cruickshank.
118. *The 2000-2001 northeast Florida Red-throated Loon invasion* by Noel Wamer. 6 pp. with cover letter.
119. Casual Observation Cards (blank) from first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 1986-1991.
120. FOS membership brochures, from period when Caroline Coleman was treasurer. Submitted by Fred Lohrer.
121. Photographic prints of Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) and Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*) at Collier-Seminole State Park; both 10 February 2002. By Terry Doyle.
122. Three color photo prints of the first Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nest for Florida; Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Orange Co., 26 June – 5 July 1999. Gian Basili and Bruce Anderson for scale.
123. Two color photo prints providing first verifiable winter records of Black-throated Blue Warblers (*Dendroica caerulescens*) in Florida: female at West Lake, Everglades National Park, 28 January 2001; male on Snake Bight Trail, ENP, 30 January 2001.
124. Records of Florida seabird observations, 1977 – 1993, by Howard Langridge.
125. CD-R containing still photos and videos of parrots in Broward Co., FL, by Bill Pranty and Susan Epps. Documentation for a paper to be published in Florida Field Naturalist.
126. Selected field notes of David W. Johnston, Florida, 1963 –1977. 1) 19 September 1963 – 15 June 1970: mostly Alachua and Gilchrist Cos., with much on Indigo Buntings, 2) 13 February 1971 – 17 April 1977: Amelia Island, Nassau Co.
127. “The National Audubon research program, its past and present” by Alexander Sprunt, IV, December 1973. 8 pp. typescript.
128. Records from FOS presidency of **Peter Merritt**, 1999-2003.

One CD: "FOS files/Peter Merritt/May 8, 2003"

File folders:

- President
- Board of Directors
- Price-Campbell Grant
- Grants and awards

- Florida Field Naturalist
- FOS newsletter
- Editorial advisory board
- Archives
- Membership
- Conservation
- Records
- FOS documents
- Nominating committee
- Meeting – Fall 1999
- Meeting – Spring 2000
- Meeting – Fall 2000
- Meeting – Spring 2001
- Meeting – Fall 2001
- Meeting – Spring 2002
- Meeting – Fall 2002
- Meeting – Spring 2003

129. Records from FOS presidency of **Frances James**, 2003-2005.

One CD: "Supplement to paper files/FOS 2003-205/10 March 2005/F. James"

File folders:

- President
- Board of Directors
- Finance/Treasurer
- Grants and awards
- Florida Field Naturalist
- FOS newsletter
- Special Publications
- Web site
- Editorial advisory board
- Membership
- Conservation
- Records
- Nominating committee
- Field Observations
- Fund raising
- Archives
- Meeting – Spring 2003
- Meeting – Fall 2003
- Meeting – Spring 2004
- Meeting – Fall 2004
- Meeting – Spring 2005

130. Some papers of **Samuel A. Grimes** (1906-2006), first Honorary Member of the Florida Ornithological Society. Field observations, skin and egg data, some manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, photo logs, some photo prints but no negatives, audio tape logs but no tapes. Received Fall 2007 from Robert Crawford, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee.

131. Five color photo prints of **Herbert W. Kale, II**, taken at FOS meetings.

132. CD of bird photographs from Lake Okeechobee April – August 2007. Supplement to P. Gray et al., Shorebird and larid use of mudflats at Lake Okeechobee....Florida Field Naturalist 37(2).

Appendix 2. Full report of the Conservation Committee provided by Chair Engstrom

- The FOS Conservation Committee drafted and sent the attached letter to Brian Branciforte about the Species of Greatest Conservation Need list and listing process. (first item)
- We held a meeting in Tallahassee on 8 October 2011 after the FOS Board meeting. Among other things at this meeting, we discussed research projects in which FOS membership could get involved (second item) and the Florida Bird Conservation Initiative.

SGCN letter

1 November 2010

Brian Branciforte
Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Dear Brian,

We are writing this letter in response to your request for review, input, and comments on the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) criteria and draft bird species list. Robin Boughton, Avian Coordinator for Species Conservation Planning, sent us a 4-page supporting document of SGCN principles, goals, uses, definitions, and frequently asked questions and a spreadsheet with lists of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 bird species. The Florida Ornithological Society Conservation Committee reviewed these documents and developed the following comments and questions.

- 1) The draft list of 157 avian taxa on the Tier 2 SGCN list was derived from eight sources: Millsap et al. (2008), IUCN, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) state ranking, Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC 2008), Audubon Watch List, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Florida state-listed species. The spreadsheet contains citations or links to these lists in comments within spreadsheet cells. These citations and links should be added to the supporting document for transparency. Selection of these lists should also be discussed and justified. For example, BCC 2008—like SGCN—is also a summary of lists (Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan, the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan). The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan is also used in the SGCN list, so this plan is actually covered twice in the Florida SGCN! Justification for inclusion on the SGCN needs to be made for each taxon (e.g., Red-throated Loon).

- 2) FWC probably has documented this in-house, but how does the SGCN list relate to federal and state lists? An outline of how SGCN is related to other programs in the state should be included in the supporting document.
- 3) The SGCN supporting document (page 2) defines Tier 2 species as “non-harvested, non-Federally listed taxa,” yet 14 taxa--six ducks, the Northern Bobwhite, six rails, and American Woodcock--on the list are all legally harvested in Florida! Further, inclusion of game species on the SGCN list would seem to be contrary to the statement on page 4 number 5 of the supporting document that intent of the SGCN list is “...to capture species that are not already managed or monitored, and are in need of conservation.” Ducks and quail are managed and monitored on federal, state, and private lands, and several substantial sources of funding exist for their research and management. One way to clear this up is to:
 - Reserve Tier 1 for federally listed species;
 - Use Tier 2 for state listed species, because the state is committed to write management plans for these species;
 - Assign Tier 3 for species that appear on other lists of bird species that should receive conservation priority; and
 - Create a Tier 4 for harvested species that would receive lower priority, because these species, in theory, are managed, although what management and monitoring occurs for rails and woodcock is an open question. By definition, all four tiers identify species that are in “greatest conservation need.”
- 4) The need to “...take a habitat-based approach within the State Wildlife Action Plan” (page 1) is strongly emphasized, but no discussion of habitats is provided in the SGCN supporting document. The list of 6 habitats specified in the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) request for proposals does not have a list of bird species associated with each habitat. It would be helpful to know how the SGCN list is to be used given the emphasis on habitat. Along these lines, we feel that a better balance needs to be made between focusing on habitats versus single species. For instance, the needs of bird species that depend on multiple habitats and their landscape configuration might be overlooked in a narrow focus on high priority habitats. Populations of many SGCN species are fragmented, depressed below secure levels, and suffering from diminished demographic performance. There is no reason to believe that securing suitable habitat alone will ensure long-term protection of these species. Furthermore, in many cases, we understand only the broadest features of habitat suitability for imperiled species. Acquiring and managing lands with reference only to these broad features may not meet the needs of the associated SGCNs.

We supplement these questions and comments with an offer to meet with FWC staff if we can be of service in this important process of periodic review of the SGCN list or any other bird-related aspects of the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Sincerely,
R. Todd Engstrom
Chairman, Florida Ornithological Society Conservation Committee

**Small Grants Program for Scientist-Directed Volunteer Research
Draft 2/23/11**

At a time when public understanding of how science works is increasingly important, the Florida Ornithological Society has a distinguished history of involving amateurs in scientific endeavors (e.g., the collaboration between Ted Below and Glen Woolfenden). Article 1 Section 2 of the By-laws of the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) reads:

“The purposes and objectives [of the FOS] shall be to engage in pursuits that advance ornithology in Florida; to facilitate research and education about birds in the wild; to unite amateurs and professionals in the study of birds in the wild; and to publish a scientific journal, and other publications, relevant to the members' common interests.”

In order to engage the membership and promote the purposes and objectives of the FOS, we propose that FOS initiate a series of small, focused, scientist-directed research projects that unite amateur and professionals to conduct research on birds in Florida. Short-term, achievable, research projects that involve volunteers would be designed and implemented by professional scientists, who will then compile the resulting data and formulate reports summarizing results and conclusions. Results of these projects could be published in the FOS journal, the Florida Field Naturalist (FFN). Efforts should be made to enlist FOS members, potential members, and young people (of all ages), who have an interest in Florida birds, to help with these research projects.

FOS would benefit from these studies by (1) increasing our knowledge of Florida birds; (2) providing stimulating activities for our membership, which has the potential to increase membership; (3) developing a volunteer base for research project support for professionals, including scientists in academic institutions, non-profit research stations, and state agencies; (4) generate studies that would be eligible for publication in the FFN; and (5) making participation in FOS more attractive to busy professionals who would benefit from the recognition for outreach, publications, and potential volunteer support for their own studies or those of their students.

Some, but not all of the projects, will need funding to reimburse the professional scientists for their leadership of volunteers and compilation of study survey results. It might be possible to bundle a number of these projects into a single proposal under the unifying goal of furthering the goal of science education for the general public. Possible sources of funding include the Florida State Wildlife Grants (SWG), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and even the National Science Foundation.

Ideas for projects include:

- Eastern bluebird phenology and climate change monitoring (Katie Sieving): Utilizing the enthusiasm and organizational outreach of the Florida Bluebird Society, and new

recruits, we will hold training workshops in early spring at the Ordway Swisher Preserve to begin establishing a statewide protocol for monitoring bluebird nest boxes. Two main goals will be (1) to standardize the placement of box trails in several habitats at similar densities across the latitudinal gradient in Florida for broad spatial comparisons of nesting phenology and productivity responses. (2) Once the spatial arrangement is established/understood then we will begin annual monitoring to assess the relative importance of spatial versus temporal climate changes in determining bluebird population demography. In training workshops, nest box set-up, monitoring, data collection protocols and reporting will be covered. Representatives of the National Phenology Network will be invited to help involve volunteers in instilling a statewide interest in studying climate change through bluebird monitoring.

- Assessing the importance of winter titmouse flocks for winter visitor migrants (Katie Sieving): This project will test the hypothesis that winter visitor species that migrate into Florida in the non-breeding season (e.g., blue-headed vireos, brown creepers, black and white warblers) rely on winter flocks organized around tufted titmice for safety and or efficient food finding. Using playback and other field methods we will assess the composition of winter aggregations of forest birds in different habitats and determine how tightly associated the winter visitors are with the regular flocking species. Emerging findings from many north temperate areas indicate that parids (chickadees and titmice) provide essential information about local resources and dangers (predators) that are critical for migratory birds, and that the visitors are attracted to parids. Volunteers can learn the techniques in training sessions held in early winter at the University of Florida Ordway-Swisher Biological Station and then continue to collect data using the same protocols where they live. Training workshops will provide the opportunity to educate birders about the ethics, and ecological costs to birds, of using playback methods.
- Monitoring the US population of Short-tailed Hawks with winter surveys in south Florida (Ken Meyer): With no more than 200 breeding pairs, Short-tailed Hawks are one of the rarest birds in the US. Essentially all of this population resides year-round in Florida. Until recently, the lack of information precluded consideration for federal listing. Although unsuccessful, recent attempts to elevate this species protective status based on newly acquired data will soon be renewed. A cost-effective monitoring plan will be a fundamental element in any resulting conservation strategy. Tests of potential monitoring concluded that roadside (versus helicopter and boat) counts in the Florida Keys and southern Everglades, where Short-tailed Hawks are concentrated during November and December, would provide the most statistically rigorous and least expensive approach to tracking the status of this vulnerable species. Such a project will be an excellent application of volunteer effort by committed birders with reasonable levels of training, which would be provided along with reimbursement of travel expenses. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about development of effective survey methods, to observe a wide range of wintering bird species, and to contribute to an important program for tracking population trends of for a species of high national and state priority.
- Monitoring birds on the Wacissa River: Seven Florida bird species that are currently on the state list of imperiled species forage or nest on the Wacissa River (wood stork *Mycteria americana*, limpkin *Aramus guarauna*, little blue heron *Egretta caerulea*,

osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, snowy egret *Egretta thula*, tri-colored heron *Egretta tricolor*, and white ibis *Eudocimus albus*). Historically, the Wacissa River also provided habitat for the presumably extinct ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*). An additional 15-20 bird species that occur on the Wacissa are on the draft state list of species of conservation concern. The Wacissa is one of the few spring-fed rivers in north Florida that still have populations of limpkins. Given the interest in the Nestle Corporation for removing water from the Wacissa River for commercial sale, FOS members could provide valuable baseline information about bird species of conservation concern, especially the limpkin. We would like to enlist members of FOS, Florida Audubon, and other interested individuals to conduct basic counts and locations (GPS) of these bird species and to collect basic water quality data, snail abundance and abundance of exotic aquatic vegetation in the area. This would be accomplished in bi-weekly canoe surveys during the breeding season of the bird species.

- County-wide surveys of red-headed woodpeckers or some other species of interest (e.g., screech owl). (This project was initiated by John Ogden, formerly of the Audubon Society of Florida.)
- Migrant bird use of “urban oases.” (Also initiated by John Ogden.)
- River surveys of nesting Prothonotary and Parula warblers (Ann Paul)
- Osprey nest platform surveys, productivity (Ann Paul)
- Estuary surveys for nesting Prairie Warblers (Ann Paul)

Appendix 3. Full report of the Editorial Advisory Board.

FOS Editorial Committee Report to the FOS Board of Directors for the Spring 2011 Meeting in Odessa, Florida

23 February 2011

Katie Sieving, Jerry Jackson, Fred Lohrer (ex officio), and Todd Engstrom (chairman)
According to Article VI, Section 4 of the FOS bylaws, the responsibilities of the Editorial Committee are to advise the President, Board of Directors, and Editors regarding FOS publications and to serve as the search committee for candidates for FFN editor or Special Publications editor.

The committee has started an email discussion over the past few months about the future of the *Florida Field Naturalist* (FFN). We addressed the “big picture” issue of how FFN compares to and fits in with other state and regional outlets for scientific publications (*The Florida Scientist*, *The Southeastern Naturalist*), and if we should consider joining forces with other southeastern state ornithological societies to create a regional bird journal. We also touched on specific ways that we can work to improve the content and quality of articles in FFN and raise its visibility and access, and the critical importance to create the ability to search for and obtain FFN publications via the internet.

The following is a synopsis of our discussion. The Editorial Committee would like to ask the Board for guidance on what steps it should take, if any.

Content/Quality

1. Start an editorial section and invite Florida birders and ornithologists and others to send in pieces regarding the past, current and future of ornithology in FL.
2. Prominently print that FFN is "a peer-reviewed journal" on the inside cover of the journal.
3. Clarify whether FFN will publish articles on other taxa than birds. Currently, it is stated in FFN that it covers “other vertebrates,” but we’ve never pushed this hard. Fred Lohrer commented that: *“It was Glen's idea to keep the editorial door open to non-avian vertebrate mss. in case we ever needed articles "to fill an issue," and to subtly remind the members of FOS that they are halfway to being vertebrate-types (His pedagogical impulses). And, there were few other outlets for Florida vertebrate mss., especially field notes. And, maybe we wanted to create a large publication niche for the FFN. Perhaps we should be more open about recruiting, and accepting non-avian publications, but beware of a backlash from the extreme birders. AND, why not butterflies and dragonflies, as so many birders have now begin to look at other diurnal, flying animals. Still, this is one way to compete, successfully, with Southeastern Naturalist.”*
4. Solicit research articles from FFWCC, FWS, and non-profits such as TNC. FFWCC and FWS often receive reports that should be published rather than remain as gray literature. TNC encourages its staff to publish, and we could foster that by encouraging submission of avian-related studies.
5. Revise the Field Observations sections. Currently, Bruce Anderson and Andy Bankert write the Florida section of "North American Birds" and Bill Pranty writes the Field Observations for FFN. How can we differentiate these two products (FFN Field Observations and NAB Florida) and make FFN a novel contribution? Would it be possible to create a database using carefully edited eBird records and write articles summarizing the data?

Visibility/Accessibility/Timeliness

1. Make FFN electronically searchable (e.g., SORA). Along this line, perhaps we could make a recommendation to the Ornithological Council to have a goal of making all the journals of the state ornithological societies searchable. Fred Lohrer commented: *“I think Bill Pranty tried to get FFN under the SORA umbrella, but there were technical, or administrative, difficulties. I heard that Univ. NM Library no longer hosts SORA on its servers, and that SORA is now hosted in Princeton (at what new cost?). Nonetheless, this is an important thing to do to make FFN more visible, and perhaps we may have to spend some \$\$ to accomplish this. We should consider approaching the Ornithological Council -- or to OSNA? It is not clear to me who is the guiding administrator of SORA now; maybe Blair Wolfe, or the COS Publications Committee?”*
2. Create an entry on FFN in Wikipedia that would have a link to the source for PDFs of FFN articles.
3. Advertise FFN in Natural History Network and other outlets.
4. Pair FFN publications with press releases
5. Measure citation power of FFN.

Radical Idea

In reviewing the Birdnet website (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/stateperiod.html>), we note that 47 states support ornithological societies; some of these societies are run by the Audubon society for that state (e.g., Arkansas). Sixteen states don't have any ornithological journals at all. Some western states (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, and Nevada) joined forces to form Western Field Ornithologists (<http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/>) and jointly publish *Western Birds*. Similarly, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia publish the DOS (DelMarVa Ornithological Society) Newsletter.

Maybe FOS should consider pooling resources with other southeastern state ornithological societies to publish a journal and retain our newsletter for state information. This may be heretical considering that the FFN Bylaws Article I, Section 2 states that one of the purposes of the Society is "to publish a scientific journal," but some of the ornithological societies in the Southeast are teetering (e.g., the Oriole).

Fred Lohrer commented: *“I have thought of this many times, over the years. Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas, all seem more closely knit, culturally, and traditionally, than with Florida, perhaps because we are an appendix to the continent. BUT, just last year in Tallahassee (ask Ann Redmond!) the native plant societies of the SE began taking together, maybe especially for conservation issues. I do think this is important to explore. A business model would take some work, but the most important step would be to recruit the right editor, who would reach out to all the other state societies to recruit authors, and to build confidence in the regional-bird-journal idea. Yes, *Western Birds* is a successful, and vigorous model. The Western Field Ornithologists seem to blend high-powered birders with field-oriented scientists. We do get *Western Birds* at the Station's library. The Carolina Bird Club sometimes seemed to me a vigorous model, especially when Eloise Potter was editor of the *Chat*, but I have lost touch with the situation in the Carolinas.”*

Appendix 4. Full report provided by Rick West, Breeding Bird Atlas Committee

Quantitative method (Miniroute) for trial year of BBA II

We will evaluate the miniroute method for gathering relative abundance data during the trial year of BBA II, 2011. This is a published, tried method used twice by Maryland and also by Tennessee and Delaware atlases. It is based on the BBS method. The results will generate topo maps of abundance. For Florida we will aim for one route in one block in most USGS quads in Florida. This will allow us to generate topo maps, and leave a legacy of up to 1000 15-stop routes dispersed throughout the state. Short Method Summary: Use the BBS method for 15 stops in one Atlas block, takes only 75 minutes. Miniroutes vs. the Atlas. These are separate, overlapping projects. They compete for your time. Species identified during the miniroutes count as species for the Atlas, but the results are reported separately and will be analyzed separately. Running an initial miniroute when you start a new block is an efficient way to find about two-thirds of the species in a short period and may add one or two species to the Atlas results. A miniroute is recommended as a way for rapid Atlasing by experienced observers.

Block selection. One block, usually the SE block on the topo sheet, is selected. This was the primary target block on the first atlas and will be repeated on BBA II. Please do not select a block because it has nicer roads or better birds. The systematic selection of the SE block ensures a near-random sample.

Route selection. Usually a 7 mile route can be fitted into a populated 3 x 3.5 mile block. Ideally the route should be continuous and reach all four quarters of the block. Mark the route before you start.

Stop location. Place stops at exactly 0.5 mile intervals by your odometer. That ensures a random sample and makes the run faster. If you have a GPS, provide that data for each stop.

Dates, time and weather. Run the routes between May 25 and July 5, shifted up to 15 days in south Florida. Take data from sun rise (not first light) to sunrise plus 2.5 hours. Include only the birds detected during the 3-minute stop. Don't take data if wind, rain or noise prevents getting an adequate sample. Stop taking data when it becomes excessively hot so that it depresses singing. It is OK do parts of the miniroute on different days, but carefully record the dates for all your data – use two reports.

During the run. Record only the species you detect during the 3-minute period. Unlike the BBS, concentrate on species diversity, checking off species as you detect them. After the 3-minute stop record from memory how many individuals of each species you detected, if more than one. Estimate flock sizes. During the 3-minute period don't record breeding evidence, but you can record breeding evidence and new species for the Atlas block between stops as long as you finish before it is too hot.

Required skill. You must be able to hear and identify almost all bird vocalizations in your block. If you are not in practice from running BBS routes, experience shows you should make a practice run near home.

BBS data. We can combine up to 5 stops of BBS data into the miniroute, if taken during the specified time period. After the second year we can supply this information to you before your start.

Problems: No GPS. We will still take the miniroute data. Make your data more valuable by the following procedure: Rigidly adhere to the 0.5 mile intervals by your odometer. "Fix" the starting point at an intersection, creek or other point that can be seen on a digital map and also exactly mark the ending point or a stop over 10 stops from the start. Or submit a carefully marked map. We'll plot the locations.

Problems: Insufficient stops. If you do not squeeze 15 stops into your miniroute, consider one to the following strategies to top up the data. 1) Make additional stops at different locations on a different date. 2) Make one or more stops down a side road off your main route. 3) Make one or more stops in an adjacent block in similar habitat, being sure the data are identified as coming from a different block. Count them for the Atlas in the block where they occur. 4) Place one or more stops off road and away from hearing from your other stops. 5) Make one or more stops by boat. Some boat BBS routes are being run on rivers. 6) As a last resort, take 75 minutes of bird numbers on foot, like a Christmas Bird Count. (Please see Transect counts, below). 7) We will settle for less than 15 stops. If you do not complete 15 stops, please send us what you did complete. Some data are better than no data.

Problems: Habitat bias. Roadside counts are always biased against wetland bird species, because engineers build roads on dry ground. Maryland suggested, to partly offset this bias, that one stop be deliberately placed by the wettest stream crossing or other wetland habitat. I do that either by starting at the wetland, or backing off several half-mile lengths to start my miniroute so that one stop is at a good wetland site. You are encouraged to do this.

2) Other habitat bias. You may realize after you have done most of your point counts, that one distinctive habitat type in your block has been missed. You may, at your discretion, seek out and place the final stop(s) in such a neglected habitat type(s) if you think it may comprise as much as 10% of the habitat in the block.

Transect data (like a Christmas Bird Count). Some areas, like the Everglades, islands, and large private land holdings where we can't drive, will be impossible to cover by a miniroute. In these cases, conduct a walking count. Transect counts are similar in many ways to point counts and can be analyzed with similar statistical protocols. Both reflect the mix of species present. The trick for us will be to take a sample size that will substitute for the 15-point miniroute sample -- if one could have been run. Very roughly, a 75 minute transect covering roughly 2 miles of farm roads, trails or field edges will yield about the same sample size as a 15-point miniroute. In rough areas, just do your

best to get a timed count of about an hour. Two or more transects can be combined. While walking this transect, concentrate on numbers and species rather than breeding evidence. Don't add numbers or transect time while you are walking back, but new species and breeding evidence can be gathered for the Atlas. Walk for 75 minutes, stopping frequently to look or listen better when you encounter a bird you don't immediately recognize. Walk briskly between stops so as to continuously encounter new birds, covering roughly 2 miles per hour. Keep species and numbers seen and heard; avoid double counting. Submit the totals along with your counting time to the nearest minute (estimated) and the location and a description of the route. If you are slogging through bogs or bushwhacking, just do your best for about an hour. Since this is a different protocol, it will introduce added variance; so use this method only as a last resort.

Data entry. The Patuxant site is investigating adding the miniroutes to the Atlas data entry protocol, so that the data will be read over into the accumulated data for the Atlas block. The 2nd Maryland/DC Atlas used a separate data file. So I may have to handle these data myself.