

**FOS Records Committee**  
**Minutes 15 August 2009 Meeting**  
Andrew Kratter

The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee met at the Archbold Biological Station on Saturday, 15 August 2009. Members and their year of term expiration on the FOSRC were: Bill Pranty (2009), Sally Jue (2010), Andy Kratter (2011), Bruce Anderson (2012), Mark Berney (2013), John Murphy (2014), and Jon Greenlaw (2015).

1. Meeting convened at 08:00, chaired by Andy Kratter, Secretary.
2. Minutes of the February 2009 meeting at the Florida Museum of Natural History, were reviewed, edited, and then accepted as revised.
3. Previously Unresolved Records (bold if accepted): Contributors Angel and Mariel Abreu (AMA), Mary Acken (MA), Carole Adams (CA), Bruce Anderson (BA), Lyn Atherton (LA), Tricia Auffhammer, Barry Ault (BAu), Danny Bales (DB), Andy Bankert (AB), Fred Bassett (FB), Pat Bazany (PBz), Anne Bellenger, Mark Berney (MBe), Paul Bithorn (PB), Greg Bossart (GB), John Boyd, III (JB), Michael Brothers (MBr), Pat Burns (PB), Jim Cavanagh (JC), Brian Cole, Julie Cooke, Linda and Buck Cooper (LBC), Cameron Cox, Rich Demler (RD), Robin Diaz (RD), Stephen Dinsmore, Bob Duncan (BD), Lucy Duncan (LD), Pierre DuCharme (PD), Tom Dunkerton (TD), Jim Eager (JE), Carl Edwards (CEd), Charlie Ewell, Linda Felker (LF), Dan Forster, David Freeland, Robert Fortin (RF), Lindsay Galland, Murray Gardler (MG), Barbara Gay (BG), Reinhard Geisler (RG), Carl Goodrich (CG), David Goodwin (DG), Mitchell Harris (MH), Linda Hensly, John Hintermister, Bruce Horn (BH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Laura Johannsen (LJ), Paul Johnson (PJ), David Johnston (DJ), Dean Jue (DJu), Dorothy Kaufmann (DK), Ken and Barbara Keskinen (KBK), Andrew W. Kratter (AWK), Robert Landry (RL), Doris Leary (DL), Karin Lebo, Patrick Leary (PL), Garrett Legates (GL), Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LMa), Linda Melching (LMe), Janet Millard, Trey Mitchell (TM), John Murphy (JM), Laure Neish (LN), Chris Newton (CN), Robert Norton (RN), Earl Orf Jan Osborn (JO), Judd Patterson (JP), Bonnie Ponwith, Bill Pranty (BP), Tom Riggs (TR), Dotty Robbins (DR), Alexa Roche (AR), Kerry Ross (KR), Lesley Royce (LR), Fran Rutkovsky (FR), Jim Shea, Dale Taylor, Ralph Todd, Roberto Torres (RT), Ken Tracy (KT), Doug Wassemer, Bob Wallace (BW), Leo Weigant (LW), Mickey Wheeler (MW), Arthur Wilson (AW), Andy Wraithmell (AWr), Casper Zuyderduyn (CZ))

FOSRC 85-075. Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii*. This controversial bird was found and photographed 30 March 1977 at Lake Washington, west of Melbourne, (Brevard Co.). The record, described in Barber (1985), was accepted by the FOSRC in 1985 the same year. Five photographs and a written analysis, which included transcribed opinions of S. D. Ripley and R. F. Pasquier from the National Museum of Natural History, H. M. Stevenson from Florida, and N. K. Johnson and S. F. Bailey from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, were originally submitted to the FOSRC. The original correspondence from the experts, however, is not in the FOSRC file. In addition, Barber and Dan Heathcote, who also saw the Brevard Co. bird, visited the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP), to study warbler specimens. The identification as a Bachman's Warbler is particularly intriguing, because the last accepted record of this probably extinct species was in 1962 in South Carolina. In their warbler monograph, Dunn and Garrett (1997) questioned the identification as a Bachman's Warbler (as had others in Internet posts). Dunn and Garrett (1997) concluded that this was likely a female "Golden" Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia* in *petechia* group), which is resident in mangroves in southernmost Florida (subsp. *gundlachii*) and throughout most of the Caribbean. However, they did not provide reasons for their conclusion. Interestingly, Yellow Warbler was never considered by either the original

observers or the consulted experts. With the recent question of the identity of this bird, the FOSRC decided to re-assess the submission. At the August 2008 meeting, the Committee had digital copies of the original photos, a digital photograph posted to the Internet of three Bachman Warbler specimens from VIREO (Visual Resources of Ornithology), and specimens of Golden Yellow Warblers and North American (*aestiva* group) Yellow Warblers from the FLMNH and Archbold Biological Station. The photographs of the 1977 bird, none of which was very sharp, show a very drab, pale brownish warbler, whitish below with a band of pale yellow across the chest, no wingbars, indistinct yellow edges on the remiges and perhaps on some coverts. The primary extension appears short. The bill seems to have a slightly curved maxilla. The plumage matches that of some Bachman's Warblers, but may also approach that of some female Golden Warblers, although none of the specimens or photographs we examined shows such drab plumage in a spring female. The primary extension of Bachman's Warbler appears long in the VIREO photographs, but the angle of the photographs does not permit an accurate assessment of this character. Unlike Yellow Warblers of the *aestiva* group, Golden Yellow Warblers have a short primary extension (FLMNH specimens). The bill of the Brevard Co. bird does not appear to be as decurved as that of typical Bachman's Warblers, but the observers thought it matched a female specimen at the ANSP. The Committee felt that it needed more comparative material to overturn a prior FOSRC decision and voted to table the vote at the August 2008 meeting.

At the February 2009 meeting, comparative photographs from several angles were available of Bachman's Warblers in the National Museum of Natural History collection, as well as comments from Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett stating their reasons for considering the bird in the photographs to be a Golden Yellow Warbler. Discussion at our meeting focused on the plumage and structural characters (all noted above), the migratory habits of both Golden Yellow and Bachman's warblers, the higher standards for both discounting a previous decision of the Committee, and for establishing the presence of a bird thought to be extinct earlier. The vote was unresolved (3 votes to accept as Bachman's Warbler, 4 votes to not accept).

For the August 2009 meeting FOSRC member Mark Berney compiled additional photographs of hand-held and wild *gundlachii* Yellow Warblers. We first voted to re-open this submission, because we were unclear how the rules operated at our previous meeting; the vote to reopen passed 6-1. Five or more votes to reopen puts the submission back into circulation and nullifies the previous decision.

The photographs of *gundlachii* Yellow Warblers show an individual from the same season (21 February) in near identical plumage to the bird in this submission, as well as handheld shots of another drab bird in fall (5 October 2003). Both *gundlachii* individuals are overall pale gray, with the primaries, tertials, and wing coverts edged paler. Bachman's Warblers show plainer wings, especially on the tertials (Pyle 1997). The 21 February bird has spots of yellow in the face, on the sides of the upper breast and rump, very close to the pattern on the Lake Washington bird. The Lake Washington bird appears to be molting some wing coverts; second-year Yellow Warblers replace 3-10 wing coverts in their pre-alternate molt, whereas Bachman's Warblers do not replace wing coverts during their limited pre-alternate molt (Pyle 1997). The dorsal view of the rectrices of the Lake Washington bird shows pale edges to the outer webs; the ventral view of the rectrices is not very sharp, and does not show any pattern. Yellow Warblers have pale edges to outer webs, and largely yellow inner webs; Bachman's Warblers lack pale edging to the outer webs and have white spots inner webs on the inner webs of r5-6 (females). The FOSRC voted to overturn the previous decision and did not accept that the photographs represented a Bachman's Warbler. The one dissenting vote felt that we should view all the evidence available at the time of the original FOSRC decision (we did not have access to the specimens in the ANSP).

REOPEN SUBMISSION: 6 reopen, 1 not reopen.

NOT ACCEPT: 1 accept (as Bachman's Warbler), 6 not accept.

FOSRC 09-713. Razorbill, *Alca torda*. 12 December 2008. Indian River Co., Sebastian Inlet State Park. This bird was first seen on a beach, and then it walked into the water and swam off. The FOSRC form includes a very brief description of the bird, mentioning size (two feet in length), a penguin like black bill with a white circle around it, black upperparts and white underparts. At the February 2009 meeting votes to not accept were based on the too brief description and on size, which as reported was too large; votes to accept mentioned that the bill pattern is unique to Razorbill. The February 2009 vote was not resolved (2 accept, 5 not accept). No new information was available for the August meeting. At this meeting, the justifications for votes to accept and not accept were similar to those in February, and, not surprisingly, the submission remained unresolved.

NOT RESOLVED: 3 accept, 4 not accept.

#### 4. New Business

**FOSRC 09-721. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*** (MBe, AWK, MBr). This first-cycle gull was photographed by Mark Berney at Daytona Beach Shore, Volusia Co., on 8 February 2009. At our meeting we were unable to determine if one (FOSRC 09-766) of three Iceland Gulls submitted by Andrew Kratter and Michael Brothers from the same location on 2 March 2009 was a different bird, so it was lumped under this submission.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-722. Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus***. (LMe). This adult was described from an observation at Ponte Vedra Beach, ca. 1 mi. south of the northern boundary of Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns Co.) on 11 February 2009. The one dissenting vote felt the description did not exclude all other “black-headed” gulls or ones with aberrant soft-part coloring.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-723. Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii***. (PBz). This first-winter male was observed 15 December 2008 behind a golf course on Plantation Lane in Crystal River (Citrus Co.).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-724. Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena***. (MA). This second-year male was found and photographed 14 February 2009 on Mead Drive in Oviedo, (Seminole Co.).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-725. California Gull, *Larus californica***. (MBr, AWK). This individual first-cycle gull, first found and photographed by Michael Brothers on 20 February at Daytona Beach Shores was easily distinguished as it had a deformed maxilla. It was last seen 2 March 2009. It was with the immense gull flock (>10,000 birds) that roosts in late afternoon at Daytona Beach Shores.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-726. Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri***. (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 2 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. The one dissenting vote was concerned about possible intergradation with Kumlien's Iceland Gull, especially the overly pink base to the bill, the pale and unpatterned scapulars, the white edges to the tertials (not just the tips), and the lack of dark “hook-backs” on the tips of the primaries.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-727. Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*.** (KT, BP, JG). This female, found by Ken Tracey in a group of several Red-breasted Mergansers (*M. serrator*) at Gulf Harbors and Beacon Square developments, New Port Richey (Pasco Co.), was present 3 April and 6 May 2009. Photographs of both species together showed the slightly larger size, more massive bill with the more distally positioned nares, rich brown head, distinct contrast between head and gray breast, and distinct white throat that are diagnostic for Common Merganser  
ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

FOSRC 09-728. Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Pranty (2000) documented the initial population growth of this exotic species in Florida. It is native to much of the tropical and subtropical Old World, outside of Africa. In Florida, some pairs kept at an aviculturist's yard near Pembroke Pines (Broward Co.) began breeding and spreading in the mid 1990s. By 1998, Pranty documented nesting and a minimal population of 84 individuals. In interviews with local residents, Pranty determined that the population was discovered ca. December 1996. By 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) had determined that the population had grown so large that it could present threats to native wildlife and plant communities. They and the South Florida Water Management District began a program to eradicate the swamphen by targeted hunting, mostly in Water Conservation Areas of south Florida. By March 2009 they had shot over 3100 swamphens, but there appeared to be little impact on the population, which was estimated to be 2000-3000 extant birds. In 2009 the FFWCC considered the eradication effort a failure and terminated the program. Swamphens have been noted north to Lake and Brevard cos.

Appendix A of the FOSRC's Rules and Procedures delimits criteria that a population must meet for an exotic species to be considered established in Florida, and thus added to the Official State List. The population must meet 1) the Persistence Criterion, which states that a stable or increasing population of that species has persisted continuously in one or more areas for at least 15 years, and 2) at least one or both of these additional criteria:

- a. An exotic species that has exhibited rapid population growth by widely evident natural reproduction, accompanied by evidence of extensive range expansion within (and perhaps beyond) Florida, may be deemed "established." The example of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Florida during the late 20th century provides a model application of this rule (Population Growth and Range Expansion criteria), even though the origin of this species in the state may be in doubt. See 3b for publication requirement.
- b. An exotic species for which there is acceptable evidence that successful nesting (fledged young) is a characteristic of one or more local populations of several hundred individuals, that this nesting activity is recruiting young adults into the population(s), that (if applicable) the population(s) have exhibited resilience in the face of major perturbations such as hurricanes or habitat disruptions, and that there is little or no evidence that ongoing releases play a significant role in population maintenance, may be deemed "established," but only after such evidence as is available has been published in at least one scientific source (e.g., peer-reviewed journal, technical book), or after this evidence has been amassed by a Committee member or some other interested individual and reviewed by the Committee. In the last instance, a detailed analysis of the issue must be published in a suitable scientific source if a judgment of Establishment is rendered by the Committee. Furthermore, by extension, the requirement for publication applies to species considered "established" under section 3a as well.

The Committee felt that the population of Purple Swamphens in Florida probably met both criteria 2a and 2b, but did not meet the Persistence Criteria, because an increasing population had only been present since 1996 (13 years). We felt that there was little doubt that the population would meet the Persistence Criteria in the next few years.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-729. White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatalis*.** (LD, DK, Kratter and Kaufmann 2010).

This bird hit a window on a beachside condominium on 9 April 2009 at Navarre Beach, (Escambia Co.) and was brought alive to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. The bird was photographed and regained health at the WSNWF, and was released 26 May at Perdido Key (Escambia Co.) by Dorothy Kaufmann. The bird rose and circled three times before disappearing from sight. The black and white patterned plumage is unique among the swifts north of Mexico. White-tipped Swift (*A. montivagus*) of the Andes is somewhat similar, but lacks the intrusion of white down the central underparts and males have white tail tips. This is the first State record.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-730. Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*.** (LJ). This bird was found and photographed 10 October 2008 at the Pine Lakes Golf Community, Jacksonville (Duval Co.)

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-731. White-eared Hummingbird, *Hylocharis leucotis*.** (CS). In August 2004, Cecilia Strickland took photographs of a hummingbird at her residence in Panama City (Bay Co.). The bird remained unidentified for several years, until the photographs were shown to hummingbird bander Fred Bassett, who tentatively identified it as a female White-eared Hummingbird and urged the observers to submit the photographs to the FOSRC. The photographs show a bright green-backed hummingbird with white underparts at a feeder. A very bright white post-ocular stripe curved around the black auriculars. The sides of the throat and upper flanks are spotted with green. The bill is not visible in either photograph. No other hummingbird combines these characteristics. The closest candidate is Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomia melanogenys*) of the eastern Andes (a most unlikely vagrant to Florida), which has more evenly distributed and smaller spots below and is duller green above. This is the first State record.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-732. Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*.** This shrike, found and photographed 27 December 2007 at Merritt Island NWR (Brevard Co.), had a large bill with a prominent hook. Although the bill hook is more pronounced in Northern Shrike than in the common Loggerhead Shrike (*L. ludovicianus*), all other features of this bird fit the latter. In particular, the bill is not long enough, the black of the lores is too extensive and continues onto the forehead, and the outer rectrices show no black basally. In addition, almost all Northern Shrike records from south of their usual wintering distribution are of hatch-year/second year birds. No previous records of Northern Shrike exist for Florida

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-733. Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*.** 28 March 2009. Big Cypress National Preserve, Kirby Storter Roadside Park, Collier Co. Sight report Robert Fortin. We decided to assess the male and female separately because females are much more difficult to separate from Indigo Bunting (*P. cyanea*). The birds were seen together at quite a distance.

**Male:** The brief description mentions the turquoise blue color with the back a little darker, cinnamon breast, white belly, white bars on wings, and sparrow-like bill. The dissenting vote felt the bird was too distant to rule out other passerines.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

**Female:** the very brief description mentions that the bird was brownish with bars on wings, the back was a little darker, and it was same size as male. Male Lazuli Buntings often associate with Indigo Buntings in Florida, and the brief description does not provide enough detail to differentiate the two, especially the color and extent of the wingbars and the shape of the bill.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-734. Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*.** (LMA, CEEd, TE, PB). This adult was present and photographed 7-12 February 2009 at Cutler Wetlands at the corner of S.W. 223rd St. and S.W. 97th Avenue in Cutler Bay, (Miami-Dade Co.).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-735. Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivacea*.** This male was present and photographed 20-26 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor on Key West (Monroe Co.). The photographs show a Yellow-faced Grassquit of the nominate West Indian subspecies. It is believed that the Mexican and northern Central American subspecies are far more common in captivity than the West Indian subspecies, which has led the FOSRC to previously accept individuals of the latter. It was recently brought to the Committee's attention that several shipments of Yellow-faced Grassquits (subspecies not listed) have been confiscated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service in Miami, with an origin listed as Cuba, whereas no confiscated birds are listed as originating in Mexico or Central America. In one instance, nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits were confiscated by the USFWS in the Bahamas from a passenger flying from Cuba and attempting to bring the bird to the United States (Restall and White 2003). Also, a free-flying Yellow-faced Grassquit was reported from Miami recently; however, after the meeting it was revealed that it was of the *pusilla* subspecies from Mexico, which is less likely to occur in as a vagrant in Florida. The dissenting four votes felt that a captive provenance of this bird could not be ruled out.

NOT RESOLVED: 3 accept, 4 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-736. Loggerhead Kingbird, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*.** (CG, LM). Carl Goodrich found and photographed this bird on 12 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor on Key West (Monroe Co.); it was present until 20 April. The bird has patches of leucistic (white) feathers in the crown, secondaries, and rectrices. This record quickly followed the first and second records from Florida: the first, also at Fort Zachary Taylor, in March 2007 (FOSRC 07-632; Kratter 2008) and the second in March 2008 at the Dry Tortugas (Monroe Co). This species has had a convoluted history on the Official List. Birds photographed in the 1970s were accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), but Smith et al. (2000) reviewed these records and concluded that none established the species for the State. The FOSRC subsequently voted to remove the species from the list in 2003 (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and it was not reinstated until the appearance of the Key West bird in 2007.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-737. Kirtland's Warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandii*.** (KBK). This color-banded bird was found and photographed 24 April 2009 at Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa (Brevard Co.). It was not seen thereafter. This male was banded on the breeding grounds in Oscoda County, Michigan, in summer 2008.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-738. Greater Sand-Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*.** (CA, LR, DL, BW, JB, AMA) . This bird, a first state record and only the second ever in the Western Hemisphere, was found by Carole Adams, Lesley Royce, and Doris Leary on 14 May 2009 at Huguenot Memorial Park (Duval Co.) and was seen by hundreds of observers through 19 May (Adams et al., in press). This after-second-year male was in near full alternate plumage. The excellent photographs show the long legs and long bill that are useful for differentiating Greater Sand-Plover from the similar Lesser Sand-Plover (*C. mongolus*). In addition, the white wing stripe extends farther into the primaries in Greater, and the feet project beyond the tail in flight.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-739. “Common” Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca crecca*.** (RL) The brief description of this male, found 15 February 2009 at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co., included the horizontal white stripe above the wing at rest and the lack of the vertical white stripe at the sides of the breast. A dissenting vote felt further details, especially the white outlines to the face pattern and the differently patterned flanks, were needed to insure that the bird was not a hybrid Common x American Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*).

Vote to add to review species: 7 yes, 0 no.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-740. Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.** (AWK). 22 March – 24 May 2009. Ormond-By-The-Sea, Volusia Co. Photographs by Andrew Kratter. This bird was one of three light morph Northern Fulmars that were found beached in Volusia Co. from 22-24 March (see 09-741 and 09-744 below). The birds were brought to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet for rehabilitation, but only this individual survived. It was released on a pelagic trip out of Ponce Inlet on 24 May.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-741. Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.** (AWK). 24 March 2009. New Smyrna Beach, Volusia Co. Specimen (UF 47000). See 09-740.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-742. South Polar/Great/Brown Skua, *Stercorarius maccormicki/skua/antarcticus*.** (AWK, RN, TR). This bird was seen near first light on a pelagic trip on 24 May 2009, ca. 25 mi. southeast of Ponce Inlet (Volusia Co.). The observers remarked on the large size, extensive white wing patches, short tail and wide wings that separate skuas from jaegers (in the American sense), especially from dark morph Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*). The comments varied somewhat on plumage color, which is important for separating South Polar Skua from Great Skua (*S. skua*), which may have resulted from different lighting conditions as the bird moved across the observers' views. Brown Skuas (*S. antarcticus*) are thought to occur (see Hess 2004) but have not been confirmed in the North Atlantic Ocean; they would be difficult to differentiate from South Polar Skua. The initial FOSRC vote to species (South Polar Skua) was unresolved. With that vote, the assenting members agreed to vote the submission as a Skua species (South Polar, Great, or Brown) and accepted it as such.

ACCEPT to **Skua (South Polar/Great/Brown) species**: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-743. Red-billed Tropicbird, *Phaethon aethereus*.** (LMA, RT). This subadult or adult was photographed offshore (in 400' water) on 23 May 2009 about 5 mi. off Elliot Key (Miami-Dade Co.). There were eleven previously accepted reports (four specimens, six photos, one sight report) for this species in Florida.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-744. Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.** (BA). 22-24 March 2009. New Smyrna Beach, Volusia Co. Specimen (UCF 2438). See 09-740.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-745. Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.** (RD, BH). This bird was found in weakened condition at mile marker 100 on Key Largo (Monroe Co.) on 5 June 2008 and brought to the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center (FKWBC) for rehabilitation at Tavernier, Plantation Key. A photograph of the bird appeared in Winter 2008 edition of *Footprints*, the newsletter of the Center. The bird gained its strength and was released there 12 June.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-746. Zenaida Dove, *Zenaida aurita*.** (LM). This bird was found and photographed 4 June 2009 by Larry Manfredi on Marseilles St., Upper Key Largo, two miles northeast of US Route 1 along C-905 (Monroe Co.); it was present until 7 June 2009.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-747. Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.** (BP, BA). Photographs and FOSRC forms from Bill Pranty and Bruce Anderson. This bird was found by Harry Robinson perched among Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*) on 5 June 2009 on a dike along Lake Apopka, south of Hooper Farms Road, Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (Orange Co.). It was present until 12 June.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

FOSRC 09-748. Lesser Sand-Plover, *Charadrius mongolus*. A group of visiting birders reported three review species (09-748,-749,-750) on 22 January 2009 from their trip around Pinellas Co. The descriptions in all three submissions were cursory and did not definitely exclude far more common species. This sight report documented two individuals on 22 January 2009 at Honeymoon Island State Park (Pinellas Co.). The Committee felt that the birds observed were almost certainly Wilson's Plover (*C. wilsonia*); winter plumages illustrated in many field guides do not show the range of variation, and many do not show that the breast band may be broken. This was the character that led the observer to conclude that they were not Wilson's Plovers.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

FOSRC 09-749. Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*. The brief description in this sight report from St. Petersburg mentioned a smaller bill and grayer plumage than Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), but the Pied-billed Grebes vary in these characters with age, season, molt, and wear of plumage. The observer admitted that eye-color and bill shape were not noted. In addition, Eared Grebe was not considered.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

FOSRC 09-750. Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*. In the submission, a sight report from Lake Maggiore Park (Pinellas Co.) on 22 January 2009, the observer admits that he was "not real good with hawks." The observer states "plain face, size [about size of Red-shouldered or Swainson's Hawk], and combination of black belly with light breast only fit Rough-legged Hawk;" however, this could describe a small Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) with a well-formed belly band as well.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

FOSRC 09-751. White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*. On 3 May 2009, this bird was flushed from the ground and seen in flight across a pond by two observers at Indigenous Park on Key West (Monroe Co.). The observer mentioned shape (chunkier and shorter-winged than our typical doves), a squared tail "like a Zenaida Dove", the white-tipped outer two or three rectrices, and that it was "all brown, darker than Mourning, White-winged, or [Eurasian] Collared-Doves." It was submitted as a "probable White-tipped Dove" so we assessed it both as a White-tipped and as *Leptotila* sp. The Committee voted to not accept to species; we felt that there was not enough detail to preclude Caribbean Dove (*L. jamaicensis*), which has an introduced population on New Providence in the Bahamas. Caribbean Dove has not been recorded in Florida, although the proximity of New Providence makes it a possible stray.

The vote to *Leptotila* sp. was not resolved. The dissenting votes to accept to genus felt that not enough detail was provided. Both White-tipped Dove and Caribbean Dove show a paler forehead that should contrast markedly with the rest of the plumage. The bright cinnamon underwing coverts of both species were not mentioned.

NOT RESOLVED (to genus): 4 accept, 3 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-752. Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*.** (MBe, AW). This bird was present and photographed 24 January -13 February 2004 on Wainwright Drive, east of Sunnyland Station (Hendry Co.).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-753. Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michahellis*.** This first cycle gull was found and photographed 20 February 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa (Brevard Co.). The five photographs show a rather dark first cycle gull, in a rather advanced state of molt. All scapular and back feathers, as well as many wing coverts have been replaced with first basic plumage. The bird is perched among Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and appears larger, but not as large as a Herring Gull would appear. The major difficulty is separating Yellow-legged from Lesser black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*). Although the advanced molt points toward Yellow-legged, some Lesser Black-backed Gulls can be this advanced in molt in late February (Olson and Larsson 2004). A Yellow-legged gull should appear at least as large as a Herring Gull, and many show a much thicker bill than the bird submitted. Although structurally this bird lacks the characteristic elongated shape of Lesser Black-backed, shape is quite variable in both species. A good view of the tail would help immensely, but no shots of a spread tail were submitted, and the view of the closed tail appears to show that the outer rectrices are mainly black; the observer, however, described that the black subterminal bar was widest centrally, fitting Yellow-legged Gull. Overall, the Committee felt that the bird could not be conclusively differentiated from a Lesser Black-backed Gull.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-754. "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata* [audubonii group].** This bird was seen by two observers on 13 December 2008 at the Southwest Regional Library Wetlands in Pembroke Pines (Broward Co.). The brief description did not include characters other than those that could differentiate "Audubon's" from Myrtle Warbler. These include a yellow throat, yellow crown, broad white wing patch, uniformly colored cheeks, and lack of a white supercilium. The vote was not resolved; the two votes to not accept thought that an Audubon's Warbler should not to show a broad white wing patch in basic plumage, and that it seemed that an alternate-plumaged male had been described.

NOT RESOLVED: 5 accept, 2 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-755. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*.** (MH). This pale first-cycle gull was found and photographed 3 February 2009 at the Cocoa, Central Disposal Facility.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-756. California Gull, *Larus californicus*.** (MH). This basic adult was found and photographed 27 March 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-757. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*.** (MH). This pale first-cycle gull, found and photographed 13 March 2009 at the Cocoa, Central Disposal Facility, was slightly larger and long winged, with a somewhat blockier head and slightly thicker and longer bill than the Iceland Gull seen earlier at the same locale (09-755).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-758. Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*.** The one submitted photograph, taken 6 March 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa, shows a first-cycle gull standing among Laughing and

Ring-billed gulls. This bird is slightly larger than those species, with long wings, a somewhat rounded head, and a small black bill, tinged pinkish basally. The visible primaries are brown, with pale areas on some of the outer webs. The inner webs of the primaries, most of the tertials, and tail cannot be seen. The coverts, scapulars and back are pale brown mottled white. Many in the Committee thought that the size and pale plumage were more similar to a Kumlien's Iceland Gull than to Thayer's, or possibly represented a hybrid between the two.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

FOSRC 09-759. Thick-billed Vireo, *Vireo crassirostris*. This bird was observed 9 April 2009 at Everglades City (Collier Co.). The description in this sight report mentioned yellow lores, solid yellow underparts, and a distinct, less wheezy song. However, the description lacked mention of a key character to separate Thick-billed Vireo from White-eyed Vireo, namely the broken white eye-ring, which contrasts markedly with the yellow lores. The dark iris was also not mentioned. The underparts of most Thick-billed Vireos from Florida are not as solidly yellow as shown in some field guides. The description did not exclude Yucatan Vireo (*V. magister*).

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-760. Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*.** (JM). This bird was found and photographed 14 June 2009 at Hickory Mound WMA (Taylor Co.) The bird did not vocalize, thus it could not be identified beyond the species pair Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, although bill length would indicate Tropical Kingbird.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-761. "Vega" Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus vegae*.** (MBr, AJ). This basic-plumaged adult was found by Michael Brothers on 12 January 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. Present through 25 February 2009, it was extensively photographed and written analyses from several gull experts were submitted as well. This is the first verified record for Florida and eastern North America for this somewhat distinctive subspecies from the northwestern Pacific Ocean. Another Vega Gull, reported from Maryland in February 2009, has yet to be evaluated by the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (P. Davis in litt.). The gull in Daytona had a dark iris and, in comparison to nearby American Herring Gulls (*L. a smithsonianus*), a noticeably darker gray back and wings, a broader white secondary "skirt," and a different patterns to the wings tips. All of the above differences closely match the characters of the *vegae* subspecies of Herring Gull, which is found in eastern Asia and occasionally western Alaska and the Pacific Coast of North America. Many authorities consider it to be distinct at the species level, although the American Ornithologists' Union has not split *vegae* from *argentatus* (Banks et al. 2008). The identification was supported by analyses from several gull experts, including a Korean very familiar with *vegae*.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

FOSRC 09-762. Tricolored Munia, *Lonchura mallacca*. Two adults were photographed on 7 July 2009 on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas National park (Monroe Co.). This species, native to southeast Asia, has established exotic populations on Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (AOU 1998); and Cuba (Raffaella et al 1998, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000). The identification of the two birds on the Dry Tortugas was not disputed. The species has apparently established populations on Cuba and Jamaica by colonizing from Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, and thus is capable of overwater flights. The bird appears to be popular in the pet-bird trade in the United States. If accepted, this would be the first accepted record for Florida and ABA area. The four dissenting votes felt that the birds may have escaped from captivity and flew to the Dry Tortugas. Also plausible is that birds may have been smuggled from Cuba and set free at sea or near the Dry Tortugas. If accepted, this would represent the first State and ABA-area records.

NOT RESOLVED: 3 accept, 4 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-763. Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*.** (TM, RT). This bird, in mostly worn plumage, was found and photographed 18 July 2009 at the corner of SW 316th Street and SW 112th Ave, Homestead (Miami-Dade Co.), about 8 km from where two Tropical Kingbirds wintered in 2008-2009 (FOSRC #08-704 and 705, above). The calls were described as twittering. It would be very difficult to determine if the bird under review here is one of these same individuals. It is likely that the kingbird could have returned to breed in Mexico and returned by July to Florida.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-764. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*.** (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 2 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. The dark markings on the scapulars and tertials on this otherwise pale gull are more distinct than that shown by the other Iceland Gulls at this locale in this year (FOSRC #09-721).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-765. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*.** (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 2 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. This gull had generally darker plumage than 09-721 and 09-764.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

FOSRC 09-766. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*. This first cycle bird was photographed 2 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. At our meeting we were unable to determine if this Iceland Gull was a different individual than the one submitted from same location on 8 February 2009 (09-721), so it is lumped under that submission.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-767. Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*.** (BP). Woolfenden and Banks (2004) provided details and photographs of this specimen (GEW 5950 at Archbold Biological Station), which was found dead 17 November 2002 in Panama City (Bay Co.).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-768. Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*.** (AWK). This bird was collected and prepared by an unknown person, and then sent in the 1880s to Theodore Jasper in Ohio, who was accumulating specimens to illustrate a book on North American Birds. The oldest tag on the specimen is Jasper's (#553), who identified the bird correctly, and gave a collection date of 23 May 1882 and a locality of Tampa, Hillsborough Co. Jasper's collection includes a number of birds collected in Tampa in the 1870s and 80s. At some late point, the Jasper collection was given to the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity, where the identification was changed to Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*). Bill Whan, who is researching Jasper, thought Jasper's identification was correct. He forwarded photographs of the specimen to the FOSRC. The specimen was then borrowed for examination.

The bird is an obvious *Tringa* sandpiper, as indicated by the long, rather straight, and needle-like bill, the long legs, and the gray and white plumage. The only *Tringa* sandpipers that are as large are the Willet (*T. semipalmata*) and the Greater Yellowlegs. Spotted or Nordmann's Greenshank (*T. guttifer*), a poorly known shorebird of eastern Asia, is somewhat smaller, has proportionately shorter legs, and unpatterned underwing coverts. Compared to Greater Yellowlegs, the back and wing coverts of the greenshank are quite plain and almost completely lack white; the bird thus lacks the checkered appearance of the yellowlegs. The most noticeable difference is the white rump that extends up the back in the Common Greenshank. The largely white outer three

pairs of rectrices of the specimen are quite different than Greater Yellowlegs, which has barring on both webs of on all rectrices. The flanks of the specimen have a few dark sparse spots. The throat and chin of the specimen have fine dark streaks, whereas this area is unstreaked white on the Greater Yellowlegs. The length of the tarsometatarsus of Common Greenshank averages somewhat shorter than Greater Yellowlegs with a wide range of overlap; the tarsus of the specimen however, is below the range given for Greater Yellowlegs in Pyle (2009).

This is the first record for Florida and one of very few in the Western Hemisphere outside Alaska and the Pacific Coast. In eastern North America it is known only from a few records from Atlantic Canada (AOU 1998). A sight report from New York in August 1962 is considered hypothetical (Bull 1985). In addition, one was photographed in May 2009 in Barbados (Norton et al. 2010). Audubon purportedly collected three Common Greenshanks at Key West in May 1832. The specimens, illustrated by Audubon, have not been located, and the species was considered not documented for Florida by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). For the specimen from Tampa, a dissenting vote by the FOSRC felt that there was no direct evidence linking the specimen to the Tampa collecting locale, and that trade and some cases of fraud of specimens at that time cast doubt on the authenticity of the label data.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-769.** California Gull, *Larus californicus*. This first winter bird, found 5 December 2008 at Daytona Beach Shores, was not photographed. The description fit California Gull, and indicated that it was in largely juvenal plumage, as expected of a California Gull at this season. It did not have an aberrant bill like the California Gull photographed at the same locale in February and March (FOSRC #09-725). However, another first-cycle California Gull was discovered (and photographed) at the same locale in March (FOSRC #09-770). It was further along in molt than the bird seen in December, as would be expected. The Committee felt that the December bird could well have been the same individual as the one in March, so this submission was subsumed under FOSRC #09-770.

NOT ACCEPT: 0 accept, 7 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-770. California Gull, *Larus californicus*.** (MBr). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 25 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. It lacked the aberrant bill tip of FOSRC #09-725. A first cycle California Gull observed but not photographed in December 2008 at the same locale may have been the same individual (see account below).

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

**FOSRC 09-771. Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*.** (MBr). This first-cycle gull was found 21 January 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. It was more distinctly patterned than the other three Kumlien's Iceland Gulls at this locale this winter (FOSRC # 09-721, 764, 765) and had a larger bill.

ACCEPT: 7 accept, 0 not accept.

5. Reopen old files

**FOSRC 82-020. Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*.** This record, which Smith and Woolfenden (1995) proclaimed was "beset with irregularities," was originally submitted as a sight report and not accepted by the FOSRC. It was found 21 September 1982 at St. George Island, (Franklin Co.). At the time, however, it was not revealed that the bird was collected (LSU 136610; photographs in FOSRC archives). Smith and Woolfenden (1995) concluded that it was likely collected in Florida. The photographs of the mummified specimen show the bird next to a Northern Wheatear collected in Louisiana. The St. George Island specimen is a close match, showing similar size and structure (long wings, short tail), with buff underparts, black wings with buff edges to coverts and remiges, white rump, and black tail with white bases to the outer rectrices. The vote to reopen was unanimous. The submission was accepted. One dissenting vote

felt that the many irregularities in the specimen's history rendered the locality and date data suspect.

VOTE TO REOPEN, 7 yes, 0 no.

ACCEPT: 6 accept, 1 not accept.

FOSRC 05-536. Broad-billed Hummingbird, *Cynanthus latirostris*. This female, found on 20 December 2003 in Gainesville (Alachua Co), was originally submitted as a sight report in 2005 but was not accepted. At the time, it would have been a first for Florida, and the FOSRC felt that better documentation was required. In February 2009, two photographs of a female hummingbird taken the following day were submitted to the FOSRC.

The vote to reopen was 5-2, which allowed for recirculation. The dissenting votes felt that the new photographs were not of high enough quality to overturn the previous decision. Because the FOSRC has accepted three Broad-billed Hummingbirds since this sight report (FOSRC #04-549, 08-660, 08-664), we could also relax the criterion, held by all current members, that only records with irrefutable evidence (e.g., photographs, specimens, diagnostic sound recordings) could be used to add a species to the Official List.

The new photographs are quite distant and not very sharp. FORSC members Kratter and Murphy were also present on 21 December. Kratter reported that there was much confusion regarding the sighting of hummingbirds that day. A female Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was known to have been present for a few days; however, not known was that a female Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) was also present, and this bird was photographed by Kratter and probably others thinking that it could be the Broad-billed Hummingbird. The Calliope Hummingbird was later banded by Fred Basset. Murphy was certain he saw a Broad-billed Hummingbird. The vote was not resolved. The five dissenting votes felt that the new photographs were not diagnostic. In addition, the three FOSRC forms submitted originally differ on some characters, including presence or absence of white in the tail and in color of the underparts.

VOTE TO REOPEN, 5 yes, 2 no.

NOT REOSLVED: 2 accept, 5 not accept.

FOSRC 09-711 Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisigena*. This bird was found and photographed 7 January 2009 at Bunche Beach, (Lee Co). This submission was withdrawn by the observer (visiting from overseas) after photographs of what was thought to be the same bird were posted on the internet, which showed a definite Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*). However, on his return home, the original observer looked more carefully at his photographs and thought that his depicted a different bird. He submitted these to the Committee and asked to reopen the submission (vote 7-0 to reopen). The original observer's three photographs are all rather distant and show a grebe swimming alone. The photographs show a mostly dark gray grebe with a white cheek patch, a flat head, and a rather long bill; in one photo the bill looks vaguely tinged yellowish. The forehead is quite sloping and the head flat and squared off toward the back. The bill length and head shape vary among the photographs, perhaps because of diving behavior.

VOTE TO REOPEN, 7 yes, 0 no.

NOT REOSLVED: 2 accept, 5 not accept.

6. Remove from review list

Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*. With the six submissions accepted at this meeting, the Committee accepted seven records in 2009 and four records in 2008, with 25 overall documented occurrences in Florida (one specimen, 24 photographed individuals). Although we have been reluctant to remove species from the review list (because the previous threshold of ten accepted records is far lower than many other states), the number of recent records indicates that this species occurs annually in small numbers.

VOTE TO REMOVE, 7 yes, 0 no.

7. Progress on changes to Rules and Procedures  
At the January 2008 meeting, four proposals were put forth to change Rules and Procedures. Although the Committee voted to pursue these changes, we did not have the language scripted to implement the changes. Although we agreed in February 2009 to have new Rules ready by the August 2009 meeting, the quantity of submissions in the past six months resulted in no action. We decided that by the next meeting the authors of the proposals (Kratter and Anderson) should write out the necessary revisions to the language of the Rules and Procedures for consideration.
8. E-mail voting  
The recent increase in submissions has made it difficult to accomplish any other business aside from assessing submissions (see above). As a result, we are considering a move toward voting for some submissions by email. For this meeting, eleven submissions were sent out by email to test-run an email voting procedure. This procedure went smoothly. According to our Rules and Procedures, we currently have to meet in person to make a final decision on a vote, which was carried out for this meeting. Kratter agreed to work on changes to the Rules and Procedures so that we may have final decisions rendered by email. A goal of increasing email voting is to return to having a single annual meeting of the Committee during which we could have time to deal with Committee business other than submissions of reports and records.
9. New member  
Bill Pranty's shortened term expired in 2009. He could not commit to serve a full seven-year term at this time. Ed Kwater was nominated by Bill Pranty to replace himself. Ed was approved unanimously by Committee and the nomination goes to the FOS President for approval.

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