

**TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE
FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2017-2018**

ANDREW W. KRATTER

*Florida Museum of Natural History, 1659 Museum Road,
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611*

Abstract.—The Records Committee of the Florida Ornithological Society met at the Florida Museum of Natural History on 22 July 2018. We reviewed 76 new reports; in addition, two submissions tabled at our previous meeting were reviewed, one submission unresolved from our previous meeting was reviewed, and two previously decided submissions were reopened. Of the 81 total reports we reviewed at the meeting, 62 were documented by still photographs or video (several of these also had audio documentation), three were documented solely by audio recordings, and 11 were documented by specimens deposited in museum collections. The other six were sight reports with varying amounts of written documentation. Of these 81 reports, 66 (80.2%) were accepted (one of them a species triplet), nine were not accepted (11.1%), two were tabled (2.0%), and six were unresolved (7.4%). The submissions include five species that would have been new additions to the Official List of Florida bird species if accepted (Stygian Owl, House Crow, Brown-chested Martin, Caribbean/Sinaloa Martin), but only one of these was accepted: Stygian Owl. The Official State List remains at 525 species, however, because Thayer's Gull was removed following actions of the American Ornithological Society's North American Classification Committee. The submission of a *Progne* martin was accepted to a three-species group (Caribbean, Sinaloa, or Cuban Martin); Caribbean and Sinaloa have not been recorded previously in Florida, and the only Cuban Martin record dates back to the 1890s.

This twenty-eighth report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by the Committee for the submission year ending in July 2018. Committee activity and operations are guided by our "Rules and Procedures," available from the author. The FOSRC routinely evaluates reports of review-listed rare species (20 or fewer accepted records or reports over the previous ten years) and reports of species occurring for the first (known) time in the state. On occasion, when we receive a recommendation, we also consider whether an exotic species meets our criteria for establishment in Florida. Reference here to "the Committee" refers to FOSRC.

The FOSRC met at the Florida Museum of Natural History on 22 July 2018. We reviewed 76 new reports; in addition, two submissions tabled at our previous meeting were reviewed, one submission unresolved from our previous meeting was reviewed, and two previously

decided submissions were reopened. Documentation supporting the 81 total submissions included photographs and video (62 submissions, several of these also had audio documentation), audio recordings (3 submissions), and specimens deposited in museum collections (11 submissions). The other six submissions were sight reports with varying amounts of written documentation. Of these 81 reports, 65 (80.2%) were accepted (one to a species triplet), nine were not accepted (11.1%), two were tabled (2.0%), and six were unresolved (7.4%). Not surprisingly, the rate of acceptance was much lower for submissions that lacked supporting photographic/audio/specimen evidence (0% accepted, 17% unresolved) than for those with such evidence (83.8% accepted, 6.4 % not accepted, 9.7 % unresolved or tabled). Part of this is attributable to misidentifications or poorly detailed reports submitted by beginning birders.

The submissions included five species that would have been new additions to the Official List of Florida bird species, but only one of these was accepted: Stygian Owl, bringing the State List to 526 species. One of these potentially new State records was accepted to a species triad that included two species not previously recorded in Florida (Caribbean Martin and Sinaloa Martin) and one that has been recorded only once, in 1895 (Cuban Martin; Banks 2000, Greenlaw et al. 2014). The votes for two other potentially new state records (Brown-chested Martin and House Crow) were unresolved. The other submission (Barrow's Goldeneye), representing a potentially new addition to the Official State List, was not accepted. The identification of the latter species was accepted, but the Committee felt that the provenance of this specimen had too incomplete a paper trail to be certain that it was collected in Florida.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during the 2016-2017 reporting year. The members and their year of term expiration on the FOSRC are: Rafael Galvez (2018), David Goodwin (2019), Andy Kratter (2020), Mark Berney (2021), Elliot Schunke (2022), Michelle Davis (2023), and John Murphy (2024). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members of the FOSRC and their addresses.

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—The FOSRC met once during 2018, on 22 July at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. Rafael Galvez reached the end of his term this year on the Committee and cycled off. Michael Brothers, who served on the FOSRC from 2010-2017, was selected to replace Rafael in February 2019. During the 2017-2018 period of this report, the FOSRC website was completely overhauled

and a new entry form has been created to submit reports, which has been functioning well. Although the Committee still does not receive submissions for some records or reports of Review List species that are posted to online sites (e.g., various Facebook pages) or to eBird, the percentage of those that are being submitted has increased this year (see Kratter 2018b).

Formats and terminology.—We followed the current nomenclature and sequence that are used in the American Ornithological Society (formerly American Ornithologists' Union) check-list (AOU 1998) and its supplements through July 2018 (<http://checklist.aou.org/>) in the species accounts. The lumping of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) into Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) by the AOU (Chesser et al. 2017) resulted in the loss of one species from the Official List, but the subspecies remains on our Review List. Within accounts with more than one submission on a species, each report is introduced sequentially by catalog number. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the committee on accepted reports (see list below). We employ the terminology for age of birds outlined by Kratter (2012). We normally do not review subspecies, but we have accepted submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be reevaluated by the AOU in the future. Our use of the words "report" and "record" to describe occurrences of species in Florida follow Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), a distinction that has been followed by subsequent major reviews of the Florida avifauna, and by the Field Observation Committee of the FOS. Individual occurrences that are independently verifiable (specimen, diagnostic photograph, or an audio or video file) are characterized as "records", and if not verifiable as "reports." Accepted reports are special only in the sense that the non-verifiable documentation is deemed to be fully supportive of the identification and the circumstances do not warrant special consideration. In past practice, the Committee has accepted only records (i.e., with verifiable evidence) for addition of a species to the Florida List. After that initial hurdle has been met, reports are considered on the basis of their merits based on available physical evidence and circumstance (provenance not an issue). For each species, I provide a review of the status of the species in Florida chiefly based on FOSRC data or through the end of 2016, as specified.

Abbreviations used here in the species accounts are AOU (American Ornithologists' Union), FLMNH (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville), FOSRC (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee), NP (National Park), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), and SP (State Park).

Submitters of reports: Daphne Asphell, Steve Backes, Mark Berney (MBe), Wes Biggs (WB), Jeff Bouton (JB), Michael Brothers (MBr) Chris Brown (CB), Jerry and Brenda Calloway (JBC), Norman & Rowena Carter (NRC), Will Chatfield-Taylor, Kevin Dailey (KD), Michelle Davis (MD), Rangel Diaz (RaD), Robin Diaz (RoD); Lucy Duncan (LD), Lee Dunn (LDu), Jim Eager (JM), Gil Ewing, Carmen Ferreiro (CFe), Christopher Ferro, Charlie Fischer (CFi), Noah Frade (NF), Mario Garcia (MG), Reinhard Geisler (RG), Jerry Gibson (JG), Colin Gjervold (CGj), Carl Goodrich (CGo), David Goodwin (DG), Mitchell Harris, Claire Herzog (CH), Paul Hueber (PH), Edward Kelly, Andy Kratter (AK), Alex Lamoreaux (AL), Maureen Leong-Kee (MLK), Larry Manfredi (LM), David McQuade, Yve Morrell (YM), Don Morrow, John Murphy (JM), Roy Netherton (RN); Mike Ostrowski (MO), Robin Potvin, Bruce Purdy, Brian Rapoza (BR), Thomas Rohtsalu (TR), Shane Runyon (SR), Kim Savides (KS), Elliot Schunke (ES), David Simpson (DS), Michael Vasi (MV), Rich Ward (RW), Audrey Whitlock (AW), David Winkler, and Suzanne Zuckerman (SZ).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED

BRANT, *Branta bernicla*

2018-1284 (RN). This pale-bellied Brant was found and photographed on 29 November 2017, on South Ocean Drive in Jensen Beach (St. Lucie County).

2018-1299 (KD, TR). Another pale-bellied Brant was found 12 March 2017 on "Sister's Creek" in the Intracoastal Waterway of Duval County (30.396193, -81.456309). It was present until 14 March.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Of the ten occurrences listed on eBird between July 2007 and July 2018, including the two above, five were documented, including two in the winter of 2016-17 (Kratter 2018). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular rare migrant and winter resident coastally. Both of these pertain to the expected north Atlantic gray-bellied subspecies, although one of last year's birds was a "Black" Brant.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*

2018-1336 (MBr). This probable female was photographed in the surf at the 2600 block of S. Atlantic Avenue in Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia County) on 3 January 2018.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. One report (2016-1149, Alachua County November 2011) was accepted by the FOSRC in 2016, and a videotaped group of 18 (2017-1197, Wakulla County, December 2016) was accepted in 2017. Records on eBird indicate that this species is a rare but regular winter visitor in north Florida, but most submissions lack documentation. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an occasional to rare migrant and winter resident in the Panhandle and north peninsula.

HARLEQUIN DUCK, *Histrionicus histrionicus*

2018-1321 (JM). This hen-plumaged bird was present and photographed at the Alligator Point Marina (Franklin County) from 24-26 November 2017.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Two records were accepted last year (2017-1222, March 2017 in Indian River County, and 2017-1243 May 2017 Nassau County). The latter bird was present through May 2018 (eBird). For the period July 2007 through July 2018 eBird lists six occurrences for Florida, including the two above; all but one of these were documented. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular rare migrant and winter resident coastally.

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus marganser*

2018-1262. This hen-plumaged bird was photographed during the Pasco Christmas Bird Count at Seven Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (Pasco County) on 28 December 2016.

This is the tenth Common Merganser accepted by the FOSRC; all of these have been since 2009 and the tenth was an “old” undated specimen from Pasco County. Records have mostly come from the Gulf Coast (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Citrus, Pasco, Lee counties) and twice along the Atlantic coast (Duval and Volusia County). The increase of occurrence in Florida is in agreement with some regional increases in populations in North America (Pearce et al. 2015).

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*

2018-1327 (WB). On 2 May 2018, Deborah Ruth Buterbaugh found this female floating in mangroves on Saddlebunch Keys near Key West (Monroe County). The weak bird was brought to the Key West Wildlife Center, but it died overnight. The carcass was secured by Wes Biggs, and then brought to the Florida Museum of Natural History, where it was prepared as study skin, partial skeleton, and spread wing (UF 52700). The enlarged ovary and thickened oviduct of this female indicated possible recent or near-future breeding (though it had no recently ruptured follicles or even enlarged ova), but the habitat where it was found was clearly not suitable for breeding. The hemorrhaging of the shoulder and neck indicate it may have hit a wire while flying.

This is the tenth Masked Duck accepted by the FOSRC. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it a rare visitor, but it was apparently more regular from 1955 to the mid-1980s. Breeding has been suspected previously in Florida (Bowman 1995), but never substantiated (Anderson 1996).

INCA DOVE, *Columbina inca*

2018-1272 (JBC, LD). This bird was present and photographed at Ft. Pickens Gulf Islands National Seashore (Escambia Co.) from 12-14 September 2018.

This bird continues the upsurge of Inca Dove populations in northern Florida (Kratzer 2018). The first Inca Dove in Florida was photographed in September 2011 in Franklin County (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Five additional records in north Florida have been accepted since: birds photographed in October 2011 and May 2017 in Santa Rosa County, one photographed in February 2012 in Duval County, and birds photographed in May 2015 and June 2017 in Escambia County.

ZENAI DA DOVE, *Zenaida aurita*

2018-1332 (AL, BR, LM). This dove was discovered visiting puddles on dirt tracks west of the Miami Executive Airport on SW 120th Street (Miami-Dade County) on 8 July 2018 by Alex Lamoreaux. It was seen and photographed by dozens of birders during its stay (at least through August 2018).

Previous occurrences include seven records from Monroe County in the Florida Keys (Windley Key Feb-Apr 1996; Sugarloaf Key November 2001; Key Largo June 1988, May 2002, and June 2009; Bahia Honda Feb. 2010; and Long Key February-May 2016); and one accepted report from Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County in October 2004 (Smith and Smith 1998). Two undated pre-1900 specimens from Florida have not been assessed by the FOSRC, but were accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1994) and Greenlaw et al. (2014).

VAUX'S SWIFT, *Chaetura vauxi*

2018-1288 (AK). For the third straight winter, a flock of swifts night-roosted in the chimney of Dauer Hall on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville (Alachua County). They were first detected on 27 November 2017 and the flock of

five stayed at least until March 2018. They were also frequently seen at nearby Sweetwater Wetlands Park, where Chris Rasmussen was able to take a series of excellent photographs, which showed the extensive pale rump, distinguishing these birds from Chimney Swift (*C. pelagica*). Like the birds last winter, this flock was hardly ever vocal, and no recordings were obtained. In winter 2015-16, when up to 16 birds were roosting, several diagnostic recordings were made.

Aside from the previous records of flocks at the same locale (#2016-1108, #2017-1229), six were recorded in Gainesville in 1993 (Webber and Collins 1993), and a single bird in Apalachicola (Franklin County) was captured and measured in January 1996 and December 1997 (McNair and Lewis 1997, 1998). The latter locale had a flock of as many as 49 birds the previous winter (November 1994 to 21 April 1995); audio recordings from this flock were also positively identified as Vaux's (McNair and Lewis 1997). Florida still lacks any documentation that Chimney Swifts winter in the state, and until documentation is forthcoming it should be assumed that wintering *Chaetura* swifts in Florida are Vaux's.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cyanthus latirostris*

2018-1303 (JO). This male was photographed on Nez Perce Trail in Tallahassee (Leon County) on 3 January 2018. It was present from 1 January to 4 February.

This is the eighth accepted Florida record, all since 2004. Singles previously appeared in Escambia County, (#2004-549, September 2004), Duval County (#2008-663, January 2008), Calhoun County (#2008-660, January 2008), Seminole County (#2011-841, January-February 2011), Franklin County (#2011-864, September 2011), Leon County (#2013-949, January-February 2013), and Collier County (#2016-1166, February 2016).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, *Limosa haemastica*

2018-1322 (JM). This bird was present and photographed from 25-30 April 2018 at wetlands on Gulf Avenue in Carabelle (Franklin County; 29.84727, -84.65153)

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. One record was accepted last year (2017-1246, May, Wakulla County). In the ten-year period up to this meeting (2008-2018), eBird lists ten occurrences, six records (St. Johns County in June 2016, and five from Wakulla County, including this and last year: Sep 2011, May 2015, and the above) and four sight reports (September 2011 and August 2012 in Palm Beach County, September 2010 in St. Johns County, and August 2011 in Duval County). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare to uncommon transient. From recent records (1-2 per year at most) it seems better categorized as "very rare to rare."

RUFF, *Calidris pugnax*

2018-1266 (NF). This bird was found and photographed by Noah Frade on 11 August 2017 at the Six Mile Bend Sod Fields (Palm Beach County).

2018-1267 (KD). Kevin Dailey discovered this bird and obtained distant but diagnostic photographs on 25 August 2017 at the restricted-access Dayson Basin of the Marine Corps Safety Facility in Jacksonville (Duval County).

2018-1290 (AK). This female was found by Dale Bonk at Sweetwater Wetlands Park (SWP; Alachua County) on 30 December 2017. It was seen for a few weeks and then refound, with the male below, at the Home Depot retention pond in northwest Gainesville, about five km from SWP. Careful examination of patterns of wear in the wing coverts and scapulars indicated that it was the same bird as at SWP. On

1 May Mike Manetz saw and photographed a female at SWP, which may have been the same bird, but extensive molt in the interim made comparisons impossible.

2018-1291 (AK). On 15 January 2018, Jen Donsky discovered a second Ruff in Gainesville, at the Home Depot retention pond. The bright red legs and direct comparison with the above bird indicated that this was a male. It was present until 21 January.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Three records were accepted in 2016 (Kratter 2018a) and one in 2017 (Kratter 2018b). Including these records from the past three years, over the 10 years prior through 2018, eBird lists 16 records for Florida and four reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a regular rare migrant and winter visitor.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Stercorarius maccormicki*

2018-1268 (KS, JB, RG). This apparent worn juvenile was found by Kim Savides at Tiger Tail Beach (Collier County), on 25 August 2018. It was seen by many during its stay until 30 August. Though South Polar is the only skua species that has been documented for Florida, Brown Skua (*S. antarcticus*) and Great Skua (*S. skua*) are also possible and present difficult identification problems. The molt and wear pattern indicate a bird originating in South Polar region. The relatively small bill and pale plumage indicate *maccormicki*.

The South Polar Skua is considered a casual vagrant to Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014) with only five accepted records (#1984-024, Brevard County, September 1982; #1998-394, Volusia County, November 1998; #1998-395 Nassau County, October 1998; #2000-414, Palm Beach County, December 1998; #2014-1026, specimen from Palm Beach County, May 2014) and two sight reports (#1994-319, Volusia County, October 1994; #2009-742, May 2009, Volusia County, the latter accepted to skua species). The species is much more regular off North Carolina (eBird records), where pelagic trips are much more frequent.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER, *Stercorarius longicaudus*

2017-1247 (DM). This second-year bird, photographed off Lee County in the Gulf of Mexico (26°15' 40.2" N, 82°58' 05.2" W) on 27 May 2017, was originally not accepted at our 2017 meeting, because the Committee felt that molt in the outer primaries was obscuring diagnostic patterns of primary shafts and that the extent of white on the ventral side of the primaries was more extensive than typical for Long-tailed. After our meeting, the original observer showed the images to several other skilled jaeger observers on the Pacific Coast, where all three jaeger species are more plentiful, and they concluded that it was a Long-tailed. DM petitioned the Committee to reconsider, and the Committee voted to reopen the submission for this meeting. Expert opinions were obtained from three people familiar with all three species of jaegers. All supported identification of Long-tailed Jaeger, based on overall proportions (long hind end), plumage features (especially paleness of the head), and short thick bill. The Committee concurred with these opinions.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. A single record was accepted in 2016 and four records were accepted in 2017. In the 10 years prior to this meeting, eBird lists 10 records for Florida and four reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare to rare transient and apparent winter visitor.

THICK-BILLED, Murre *Uria lomvia*

2018-1294 (AK). This hatch-year male washed ashore in Ormond by the Sea (Volusia County) on 20 November 2017. It was brought to the Marine Science Center and died the same day. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH and prepared as a skin/partial skeleton (UF 52465). The bill is deep basally but

relatively short. The quite similar Common Murre (*U. aalge*), which has not been documented from Florida but has occurred in the Atlantic south to South Carolina, has a longer bill with a less deep base.

This is the fifth accepted record for Florida; singles were found in Palm Beach County in December 1992 (#2010-419, specimen), Brevard County in November 2008 (#2008-706, specimen), another in Palm Beach County in November 2009 (#2009-719, specimen), and birds photographed in December 2012 in Duval County (#2012-926) and Nassau County (#2012-928).

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*

2018-1331 (AK). This adult female washed ashore in Daytona Beach (Volusia County) on 28 January 2018 and was brought to the Marine Science Center, where it died on 1 February. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH and prepared as a study skin (UF 52693).

For most of the past ten years, Florida has averaged about 1 Razorbill record per year (FOSRC records). Most of these have been birds that have washed up on beaches and brought to wildlife rehabilitation hospitals on the north Atlantic Coast south to Brevard County. However, the winter of 2012-13 saw a huge influx likely involving 1000s of these alcids, with many birds reaching the Gulf Coast, all the way northwest to Pensacola, with one bird making it to Louisiana.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla*

2018-1298 (AK). This first-cycle male was found close to shore by a fisherman on Lower Matecumbe Key, mile Marker 74.5 (Monroe County) on 29 November 2017. It was brought to the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center where it died on 8 January 2018. The bird was donated to the FLMNH, where a skin, partial skeleton, and spread wing specimen was prepared (UF 52528).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the ten-year period prior to this meeting, eBird lists seven documented records and 11 sight reports. These 18 occurrences are along the Florida Peninsula on both the Gulf coast (two) and Atlantic coast (16). Greenlaw et al (2014) considered it a rare migrant and winter resident.

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*

2018-1281 (MO). This adult was found and photographed by Mike Ostrowski at Siesta Key (Sarasota County) on 4 November 2017.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Two records and two sight reports were accepted in 2017. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it an irregular, rare fall and occasional spring visitor. It also appears to be an occasional winter visitor, as indicated by the Brevard/Indian River County occurrence in 2017 (Kratte 2018b) and two sight reports in January from Volusia County (eBird), as well as an occasional summer visitor (Kratte 2018b).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

2018-1287 (AK). This first-cycle bird was found by Matt Johnstone at St. Marks NWR Levee Trail, on 5 December 2017. The partially consumed carcass was found by Michael Vasi on 8 December in the same area and donated to the FLMNH, where a partial skeleton and two spread wings were preserved (UF 52422).

2018-1292 (CB). This adult was photographed by Chris Brown on 25 January 2018 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa (Brevard County). It was present there until 15 February 2018.

This species is a very rare winter transient and winter visitor to the state (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Including these two records, the FOSRC has accepted 14 records and one sight report. The report from Wakulla County is only the second record from the Panhandle.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*

2018-1333 (MBr). On 12 February 2018, Michael Brothers found and photographed this second-cycle bird in the huge gull congregation at Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia County).

2018-1334 (MBr). On 16 February Michael Brothers found and photographed this first-cycle bird in the huge gull congregation at Daytona Beach Shores. It was present until 20 February.

The FOSRC has previously accepted 14 records of California Gull; nine of these were from the large gull concentrations in Volusia County.

ELEGANT TERN, *Thalasseus elegans*

2018-1265 (MLK). These two birds were found and photographed by Maureen Leong-Kee on 23 June 2017 at Santa Rosa Beach (Walton County). Both birds have long, slightly decurved orange bills, which appear to be less bulky than that of Royal Tern (*T. maximus*). One bird is close to breeding plumage with an all-black cap; the other bird has a white forehead. One dissenting Committee member felt that the wings were thicker than would be found in Elegant, and the bill lacked sufficient down-curve.

2018-1278 (CGj, CH). This tern was found on 15 October 2017 at Siesta Key (Sarasota County), where Elegant Terns, "Cayenne" Sandwich Terns (*T. s. eurygnatha*), and assumed hybrids, between Elegant and Sandwich Terns (*T. s. acuftavidus*) have been found off and on for the past several years. The all-orange bill has a very slight dark streak running between the bill plates, possibly indicating hybridization, but the long slightly down-curved and thin profile bill, along with the scruffy crest on the nape, and size (slightly larger than Sandwich Terns) indicate an Elegant Tern.

The FOSRC has previously accepted nine submissions of Elegant Terns in Florida; eight of these were clustered on the Gulf Coast between Pinellas and Lee counties; the exception was in the Florida Keys (April 2015 at Pigeon Key, Monroe County). The above record is the first from the Panhandle.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

2018-1335 (MB). An unnamed fisherman took photographs of this bird from his boat as he fished about nine miles east of Ponce de Leon Inlet (Volusia County, 29° 09.927 N; 80° 41.655 W) on 26 December 2017. He sent the photos to Michael Brothers for identification.

This is the fifth record of Yellow-nosed Albatross accepted by the FOSRC; all previous records were off the Gulf Coast of Florida. Reports of albatrosses off of Palm Beach County in 1995 (FOSRC #1995-326) and Collier County, on 16 December 2015 (#2016-1109) were accepted to albatross species (Greenlaw et al. 2014; Kratter 2018a). The Black-browed Albatross (*T. melanophris*) has occurred several times in the north Atlantic and could potentially occur in Florida.

NORTHERN FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis*

2018-1277 (PH). On 3 October 2017, Paul Hueber photographed this pale morph from shore at Tom Renick Park in Ormond Beach (Volusia County). This bird was one of several that were photographed and submitted to eBird, but not to the FOSRC, between 3-5 October.

2018-1293 (AK). This pale morph, a juvenile female, was found by J. Gross on 12 November 2017 wrapped in monofilament and weak on Bethune Beach, New Smyrna Beach (Volusia County). It was brought to the Marine Science Center

where it died 17 November. The specimen was given to the FLMNH and prepared as a complete skeleton (UF 52461).

2018-1297 (AK). This pale morph, another juvenile female, was found beached at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 3 December 2017 and brought to the Florida Wildlife Hospital where it died the same day. It had a broken tarso-metatarsus. The bird was given to the FLMNH and prepared as a skin, partial skeleton, and spread-wing (UF 52504).

Accepted Northern Fulmar records for Florida now total twelve birds, all since 2006 (Kratler and Small 2007). All previous ones have been found washed up on beaches from St. Johns County south to Palm Beach County. One bird (#FOSRC 2009-740) was found alive, rehabilitated, and later released at sea during a pelagic trip (Kratler 2010).

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*

2018-1296 (AK). This bird, an immature female, washed ashore alive on 30 June 2017 in Cocoa Beach (Brevard County). It was brought to the Florida Wildlife Hospital, but died there the same day. The bird was given to the FLMNH and prepared as a study skin (UF 52276). The bird had an injury to the distal humerus.

The FOSRC has now accepted 16 submissions, 15 from Florida's Atlantic coast (Nassau County south to Miami-Dade County), and one from the western Panhandle. Five earlier specimens (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) have not been assessed by the FOSRC. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it a rare winter visitor. The above bird indicates that nonbreeding young Manx Shearwaters may occasionally occur in the summer in Florida.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

2017-1259 (MBe). Mark Berney photographed this adult at T. Y. (Topeekegee Yugnee) Park, 3300 N. Park Road in Hollywood (Broward County). This bird was originally found by Allison Schefflow on 4 February 2017 and was present until 25 February. It may be the same bird that wintered at this park in 2015-16 (#2016-1142, Kratler 2018a).

The Neotropic Cormorant was first found in Florida in April 2007 (FOSRC #2007-672; Greenlaw and Kratler 2007). In January 2012 it was found breeding at Wakodahatchee Wetlands (Palm Beach County) and multiple individuals have nested there since. Some of the 25 records accepted by the FOSRC represent the same individuals returning to breed there (see Kratler 2018a).

GREAT CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

2018-1329 (AK). This juvenile female was found emaciated and weak on Marathon Key (Monroe County) on 10 March 2018. It was brought to Marathon Wild Bird Center and died there the following day. The specimen was given to the FLMNH and prepared as study skin and partial skeleton (UF 52686).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016; one report was accepted at our 2017 meeting (#2017-1167, January 2016 in Pinellas County). Of the 13 reports and records in the past 10 years that eBird lists for Florida, ten have photographic documentation.

STYGIAN OWL, *Asio stygius*

2018-1328 (MH). On 2 June 2018, Mark Hedden was checking out a commotion of mobbing Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) and discovered a roosting owl in the trees of his Key West neighborhood at Seminary Street and Whalton Street (Monroe County, 24.551969, -81.789823). His photographs show a stocky dark owl with prominent, closely set, ear tufts, yellow eyes, a dark gray facial disk, nearly

solid dark brown back with some buff feather edges, creamy underparts heavily streaked with coarse dark streaks and prominent transverse bars on flanks. This is the first record of Stygian Owl for Florida.

The Stygian Owl is a scarce resident in the Greater Antilles (Cuba and Hispaniola) and Neotropics (north to southern Tamaulipas, Mexico). It has twice been found in southeastern Texas (Wright and Wright 1997; Lockwood and Freeman 2014). Birds in the Greater Antilles (*A. s. siguapa* on Cuba, and *A. s. noctipetens* on Hispaniola, although the latter is usually subsumed within *siguapa*) are paler than South American subspecies (König and Weick 2008) and have been reported to have different vocalizations that may merit recognition as a separate species from the Neotropic populations. The bird in Key West was silent.

“CUBAN” AMERICAN KESTREL, *Falco sparverius sparveroides*

2018-1263 (RoD). On 16 June 2017, Robin Diaz photographed a pair (male and female) of very pale American Kestrels on Virginia Key, (25.74225, -80.15083, Miami-Dade County). The photographs clearly show both birds with nearly unmarked underparts, reduced malar marks, and white nape spots; these marks are diagnostic for the subspecies of American Kestrel from Cuba and the Bahamas (*F. s. sparveroides*).

2018-1264 (RoD). On 10 September 2011 Robin Diaz photographed a very pale American Kestrel male at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Virginia Key (Miami-Dade County). This bird was completely unmarked below, with a slight buff blush on the breast, had a reduced malar mark and white nape spots.

The Cuban subspecies of American Kestrel is common on Cuba, the Isle of Youth, and in the southern Bahamas. The first documented record of this subspecies in Florida was accepted last year (#2017-1213, January 2017 from Miami-Dade County). Previous reports (e.g., Bailey (1925) lacked verifiable evidence (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

CUBAN PEWEE, *Contopus caribaeus*

2018-1300 (RW). On 18 March 2018 Rich Ward found and photographed this flycatcher at Fort Zachary Taylor SP (Monroe County).

There have been only seven previous Cuban Pewees accepted by the FOSRC: a bird photographed in March 1995 in Palm Beach County; a sight report from Monroe County in February 2001; a bird audio-recorded in Palm Beach County in November 1999; one audio-recorded and photographed in Miami-Dade County in September 2010, and three others photographed in Miami-Dade County in March 2016, April 2017, and May 2017. The species is resident in the Bahamas and on Cuba.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*

2018-1269 (ES). Elliot Schunke audio-recorded this bird at Tall Timbers Research Station (Leon County) on 30 August 2017. It was giving its diagnostic “pip” notes.

2018-1273 (ES, JO). Elliot Schunke and Jeff O’Connell audio-recorded and JO photographed this bird at Crowder Road Landing boat ramp (Leon County) on 15 September 2017. It was giving its diagnostic “pip” notes.

2018-1315 (CFi). Charlie Fischer audio-recorded this bird at Hillsborough River SP, Dead River Road Entrance (Hillsborough County) on 29 September 2017. It was giving its diagnostic “pip” notes.

Although Alder Flycatchers are regular migrants through Florida in the fall (Greenlaw et al. 2014, eBird records), the FOSRC has kept the species on the review list because of difficulties of identification in the genus *Empidonax*, especially in discriminating Alder from the less common Willow Flycatcher (see

below). The FOSRC has now accepted 22 submissions, one from spring and 21 from fall, since it began to solicit submissions of this species in 2008.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii*

2018-1270 (ES, JO). Elliot Schunke and Jeff O'Connell audio-recorded this bird at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park (Leon County) on 26 August 2017. It was delivering its diagnostic "whit" notes.

2018-1295 (AK). This hatch-year female was found injured by A. Segebart in Holiday Park, Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County) on 6 September 2018. It was brought to the South Florida Wildlife Center, but died there the next day. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH, where a study skin and partial skeleton were prepared (UF 52154). Measurements of the specimen were diagnostic for Willow Flycatcher, using criteria in Pyle (1997).

Judging by the frequency of documented records on eBird, the Willow Flycatcher appears to be less common than Alder Flycatcher in Florida. The FOSRC has accepted six previous submissions (one spring, one mid-June, and four fall) since it began to solicit submissions of this species in 2008.

LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus sagrae*

018-1313 (AW). This bird was photographed and audio-recorded by Audrey Whitlock on 14 May 2018 at the Key Largo Hammock State Botanical Site (Monroe County).

This species, found in the Bahamas and on Cuba, was added to the Review List in 2016. Two records were accepted last year (#2017-1189, November 2016 in Miami-Dade County, and 2017-1233, April 2017 in Monroe County). Over the ten-year period (2008-2018) prior to this meeting, eBird lists 24 occurrences in Florida (20 with still photographs or video, including the three listed above) and four sight reports with details. Although this rate of occurrence is slightly higher than the criterion for removal from the Review List, the Committee feels that it is important to keep vagrants from the West Indies, such as La Sagra's Flycatcher, on the Review List, especially because Florida is the only state in the ABA Area where they are found. With one exception, all records are from southeast Florida (the Keys north to Palm Beach County); the exception was one in Manatee County in April 2013.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

2018-1314 (JBC). This bird was photographed by Brenda Calloway at Ft. Pickens (Escambia County) on 18 September 2015.

2018-1317 (RaD). Rangel Diaz photographed this bird on 17 September 2015 at A. D. "Doug" Barnes Park (Miami-Dade County).

Both of these submissions were "lost" when we had trouble receiving posts from the local server. They were "recovered" when checking for missed submissions on the server in 2015. The FOSRC has now accepted 17 submissions of this species. All were recorded between mid-September and mid-November. This highly migratory species breeds from the mountains of Arizona and New Mexico south through Mexico to northern Central America, and winters in southern Central and South America.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*

2018-1289 (JO). This kingbird was photographed and audio-recorded by Jeff O'Connell at Junwin Court Pond (Leon County) on 15 January 2018. It was found on 14 January and stayed until 20 January. It was found by Don Morrow and Jake Hartung.

All previous Florida records have been from central Florida (Hillsborough and Flagler counties) south, where individuals have often returned for several winters to the same area. These include birds from 1999-2007 at Lake Apopka (Orange County), from 2006-2014 at Stormwater Treatment Areas 5-6 (Hendry

County), and from 2013-2016 in Flagler County. Other records in the past ten years include birds in Jacksonville (Duval County) in 2008, and possibly several near Homestead (Miami-Dade County) in winter 2013-2014.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus savana*

2018-1286 (NRC). On 29 November 2017, an adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found and photographed by Norman & Rowena Carter on Scrubpens Road in Lorida (Highlands County).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Two birds were accepted by the FOSRC in 2017; three birds were accepted in 2016. Over the past 10 years, eBird lists least 19 records for Florida (including those above) and six reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) list it as an “almost regular, very rare visitor.” Records are scattered throughout the year.

THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*

2018-1280 (RoD, MV). On 23 October, Michael Vasi found and photographed this vireo along the nature trail at Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP (Miami-Dade County). It was present until 9 November.

2018-1318 (MG). On 23 May 2018, Mario Garcia found and photographed this bird at Oleta River SP (Miami-Dade County).

2018-1330 (MD). On the morning of 23 October 2018, a Thick-billed Vireo was mist-netted, photographed, and banded at the banding area of Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Miami-Dade, quite near the area where #2018-1280 (above) was photographed a few hours later. The bird above, however, did not have a band, and thus was a different individual.

The FOSRC has now accepted 19 submissions of Thick-billed Vireo. All except one have been in the four southeast Florida counties (Palm Beach 1, Broward 4, Miami-Dade 11, and Monroe 3); the exception was one in Pinellas County in October 2006 (#06-613, Kratter 2008). Dates of occurrence are from August to May. This Caribbean species is resident in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, *Vireo flavoviridis*

2018-1312 (JG). This vireo, present 8-9 May 2017, graced Ft. Desoto Park (Pinellas County) and was photographed by Jerry Gibson and a few others.

This is the 14th submission of Yellow-green Vireo accepted by the FOSRC; there is also a specimen from May 1958 in Santa Rosa County. Four of the records are from the western Panhandle, three are from Pinellas County, one from Brevard County (Kratter 2018b), and seven are from south Florida and the Keys (Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties). All records are from May to November.

CARIBBEAN/CUBAN/SINALOAN MARTIN, *Progne dominicensis/cryptoleucos/sinaloae*

2016-1147 (CG, LD). This interesting martin was photographed in good detail on 29 April 2016 at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historical Park (Monroe County). Caribbean Martin and Sinaloa Martin have not been previously recorded in Florida or the ABA Area; Cuban Martin is known from three or four 1895 specimens from Key West (Greenlaw et al. 2014). This presumed female has a gray throat distinctly cut off from gleaming white underparts. The flanks are smudged pale gray. The undertail coverts are completely unmarked. The tail has a rather long, deep fork. The unmarked undertail and distinct cutoff between throat and breast may be outside the range exhibited by female Purple Martins (*P. subis*), although that species is highly variable. The plumage pattern is similar to most

depictions of female Caribbean Martin, which breeds throughout the Greater and Lesser Antilles, aside from Cuba. Although female Cuban Martins are usually described as having less distinct border between the white belly and dark flanks than Caribbean Martin, letters provided by the submitter stated that they can be unmarked white below and very difficult to differentiate from Caribbean Martin.

The submission was tabled at our 2106 meeting to gather more information on plumages of *Progne* martins. At the 2017 meeting, we voted not to consider Sinaloa Martin (*P. sinaloae*), an endemic breeder in northwest Mexico with unknown wintering quarters; this species is extremely poorly known. The male is very similar to Caribbean Martin, but the female plumage is almost unknown. Although it seems far less likely for a Sinaloa Martin to show up in Florida than Caribbean or Cuban Martin, a number of species found in that part of Mexico have been recorded in Florida (White-eared Hummingbird, *Hylocharis leucotis*; Broad-billed Hummingbird; Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher; etc.). Kratter took images of specimens of Cuban Martins at the United States National Museum. These females, like other depictions and online images (at the time of the 2017 meeting), showed a much less contrasting cut off between the gray throat and white underparts. The dark smudges on the flanks are also more extensive in Cuban Martins than the bird in question. The Committee felt that this bird, though most similar to female Caribbean Martin, was possibly in the range of variation shown by Purple Martins, and a first state record requires a stronger sense of assurance. We voted at the 2017 meeting not to accept.

The observers were notified of the decision and responded that they felt the plumage was outside the range of variation in female Purple Martins, and second-year male Purple Martin could be eliminated by lack of dark feathers in the throat. I moved that we reopen the file and the Committee agreed by vote to reopen. We returned to considering all three species (Cuban, Caribbean, and Sinaloa). Recent photographs uploaded to eBird, did show some female Cuban Martins having nearly pure white underparts with strongly contrasting dark throat, and thus are very difficult to distinguish from female Caribbean Martin. The few images available online of Sinaloa Martin, and descriptions in the literature indicate that it is very similar to Caribbean/Cuban Martin as well. After considering all available sources, the Committee felt that female Purple Martin could be excluded, and we voted to accept to the three-species grouping.

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus gundlachi*

2018-1305 (JE). This bird was present from 7-22 August 2017 at Playalinda Beach on Canaveral National Seashore (Brevard County). Found by Mitchell Harris, it was seen and photographed by dozens of birders.

2018-1308 (SZ). This bird was also seen and photographed by dozens of birders during its stay from 30 April to 19 May 2018 at the Lantana Nature Preserve (Palm Beach County).

2018-1309 (RaD). Rangel Diaz found and photographed this bird at the Deering Estate in Miami (Miami-Dade County) on 20 April 2018. It was not seen afterwards.

2018-1310 (NF). Noah Frade found and photographed this bird at Gulfstream Shores on Key Largo (Monroe County) on 7 May 2018. It was present until 1 June and seen by many birders.

2018-1324 (AK). This bird was found with a spinal fracture at Lighthouse Point (Broward County) on 25 April 2017, and brought to the South Florida Wildlife Center in Ft. Lauderdale. It was euthanized 27 April and donated to the FLMNH, where it was prepared as a skin and partial skeleton (UF 51993).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Two Bahama Mockingbird submissions were accepted in 2016 (Kratter 2018a) and one was accepted in

2017 (Kratter 2018b). Over the 10 years prior to 2016, eBird has 19 documented occurrences (including these records) and 3 sight reports for Florida. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a nearly regular, very rare to rare visitor. Most records are from the southeastern coast and Keys, but the species has been found as far north as Brevard County on the Atlantic coast, and Pinellas County on the Gulf of Mexico. The species is found in The Bahamas and scattered in the Great Antilles, usually on the immediate coast or on smaller islands peripheral to the main islands.

WESTERN SPINDALIS, *Spindalis zena*

2018-1261 (MV, RaD). A male and female were photographed at Long Pine Key in Everglades NP (Miami-Dade County), and present from 10 July-8 August 2018.

This species, resident in the Bahamas and Cuba, was added to the Review List in 2016. One record was accepted by the FOSRC in 2016 and three were accepted in 2017, although 15 or so were reported to eBird that year (Kratter 2018b). Greenlaw et al (2014) listed it as a regular visitor, with one breeding record (summer 2009 in Miami-Dade County). In the ten years prior to 2018, of the 24 or so shown on eBird, 17 were documented by photographs. All records are from southeast Florida (Indian River, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties) and the Keys (Monroe County).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*

2018-1323 (JM). This stunning adult male was found and photographed by John Murphy at Alligator Point (Franklin County, 29.90715, -84.35775) during its stay from 25-26 April 2018.

The FOSRC has accepted 22 previous submissions. Most were in the Panhandle (14) or north peninsula (3). The others are from Monroe County (3) and Osceola County (1). Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it an irregular very rare to rare migrant and winter visitor.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis tolmiei*

2018-1282 (RG). This bird, present 11-12 November 2017 in Freedom Park in Naples (Collier County), was photographed by Reinhard Geisler.

2018-1325 (SR). On 2 June 2018, during the unsuccessful pursuit of the Stygian Owl in Key West (see above), a MacGillivray's Warbler was found at Charles "Sonny" McCoy Indigenous Park (Monroe County).

The FOSRC has now accepted ten submissions of MacGillivray's Warbler. All except one have been from south Florida (Lee, Collier, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties; the exception was in April 2008 in Pinellas County (2008-682). Greenlaw et al (2014) considered it an irregular, very-rare winter visitor.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga kirtlandii*

2018-1279 (DS). On 24 October 2018, David Simpson found and photographed this bird at Sebastian Inlet SP (Indian River Co., 27.856174, -80.449886).

This record increases the total of accepted submission of Kirtland's Warbler to 14. A specimen from Palm Beach County in April 1896 has not been assessed by the Committee (Greenlaw et al 2014). Of these 15 verified or accepted occurrences, 11 are from the spring (19 April-10 May) three are from the fall (16, 20, and 24 October), with one winter record in Miami-Dade in February (#2017-1216, Kratter 2018b). This species breeds in the upper Midwest (mainly Michigan) and winters mainly in the Bahamas.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga townsendi*

2018-1301 (YM). During its stay from 29 March -5 April 2018, Yve Morrell photographed this bird at 769 Grouper Trail in Key Largo (Monroe County).

This species, a medium-distance migrant in western North America, was added to the Review List in 2016. Greenlaw et al. (2014) stated that it is irregular, very rare winter visitor. It was not reported in 2016-2017.

BANANAQUIT, *Coereba flaveola*

2018-1306 (AW, PM). On 8 April, Phyllis Mansfield found and photographed this bird, which stayed until 14 April at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach (Brevard County 28.336313, -80.609272). It was photographed by Audrey Whitlock on the following day.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Four records were accepted in 2017, although seven different Bananaquits reported in Florida that year (eBird). Greenlaw et al (2014) listed it as an irregular casual to very rare winter visitor. In the ten years prior to 2018, eBird lists 13 records, 10 of which were documented by photographs. All previous Florida records are from southeast Florida and the Keys.

BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris bicolor*

2018-1260 (CFe, RaD). Carmen Ferreira found and photographed a male at Long Pine Key, Everglades NP (Miami-Dade County) on 9 July 2016. It was seen by several birders during its stay until 20 August.

The FOSRC has accepted six previous records, all from southeast Florida (one each from Broward and Palm Beach counties, two each from Miami-Dade and Monroe counties). There are also three older specimen records from Miami-Dade County (Greenlaw et al. 2014). It is considered a casual winter visitor by Greenlaw et al. (2014).

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, *Bucephala islandica*

2017-1173. This unusual record of a drake Barrow's Goldeneye was found in the freezer of a hunter from central Florida, who had recently passed away. The tag with the bird said that it had been shot at Crystal River (Citrus County) on 13 January 1998. The specimen was prepared as a mount by a local taxidermist. The submission was tabled at our 2017 meeting, but efforts to reach the taxidermist since failed. Barrow's Goldeneye has not been recorded previously in Florida, and the nearest records are from southern Virginia (eBird, AOU 1998). The Committee felt that a first state record should have a more complete paper trail. As we were unable to talk to the hunter (deceased) or even the taxidermist who prepared it, we were unable to assess the validity of the data on the tag.

ZENAIDA DOVE, *Zenaida aurita*

2018-1274. This sight report is from 15 September 2017 at Pelican Island NWR (Indian River County). The description was quite brief, and the form did not include any behavior. Thus, we did not know if the field marks described were from seeing the bird in flight, or at rest. Although the tail was well described, the diagnostic white trailing edge to the secondaries was seen only "partially." The Committee felt that with such a good view of the tail, the white secondary patch should have been more visible.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, *Calidris acuminata*

2018-1271. This juvenile shorebird was photographed on 31 August 2017 at Headquarters Pond at St. Marks NWR (Wakulla County). It has rather short

yellowish legs, a short, slightly down-curved bill, pale brown scalloping on the sides of the breast with otherwise white underparts, and dark-centered back- and scapular feathers with bright rufous and white edges. The cap is brown, streaked black, setting off a wide, whitish supercilium. Although the bird was described as “larger and a little heavier than the associated Least Sandpipers,” no other birds are within the frame of the photographs. The Committee felt that this is likely a juvenile Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper would have longer legs, a more robust body with longer neck, a more solid rufous cap, and a more even buffy wash across the throat and breast.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is known from only two records and two sight reports in Florida: one collected in Miami-Dade in October 1967 (Ogden 1968, Robertson and Woolfenden 1994); one photographed in Monroe County in September 2016 (#2017-1186, Kratter 2018b); a sight report from Orange County in August 1973 (Greenlaw et al. 2014, not assessed by the FOSRC); and a sight report in Leon County in September 1995 (FOSRC 96-354; Bowman 2000). The species breeds in the Russian Arctic, and winters largely in Australia, southeast Asia, India, and islands in the south Pacific Ocean. It is regular on the Pacific Coast of North America, but very rare in eastern North America.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*

2018-1285. This subadult bird was photographed, both in flight and perched on the beach, west of the pier in Destin (Okaloosa County) on 29 October 2017. The photographs show a quite pale-backed gull with large black wedges in the outer primaries, a small mirror on p10, dark primary coverts, a mostly white tail with a faint dark subterminal band, a yellowish bill, with a dark markings on both upper and low mandibles adjacent to a pale tip, and finely gray streaked head and nape. Although the bird is reminiscent of a third-cycle California Gull in many regards, the Committee felt that this is a second-cycle winter Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*). A California Gull would have paler gray back, heavier dusky marking on the hind neck, a larger mirror on p. 10 and a small one on p. 9, and a heavier bill with the culmen being straighter (Howell and Dunn 2007).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

2018-1316. This bird was photographed in Dry Tortugas NP (Monroe County), 16 miles northeast of Garden Key, on 23 April 2014. Although the observer thought the bird was small and long-tailed, the Committee felt that the bird was a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*), based on the orangish (instead of dark) supra-loral region, straight (instead of v-shaped) edge to the rear border of the gular pouch, and lack of pale feathers outlining the gular pouch.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*

2018-1275. The observer submitted a description of the bird and its vocalizations, from an observation at the Palm Bay Public Library (Brevard County) on 18 September 2017. For species in the “Traill’s” flycatcher complex, the Committee has decided to review only those that include audio recordings of the vocalizations. As a result we chose not to accept this submission.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, *Contopus sordidulus*

2018-1283. This silent bird was photographed at Dry Tortugas NP (Monroe County) on 15 November 2017. Identification of silent wood-pewees is notoriously difficult. Although the bird in this submission has some marks that favor Western (nearly all-dark lower mandible, upper wingbar much paler than lower, darker plumage, more vested look across breast), all of these are quite subjective and

variable according to light and exposure in photographs. The Committee felt that the bird photographed was not beyond the range of variation exhibited by Eastern Wood-Pewee (*C. virens*).

Florida has had only two previously accepted records of Western Wood-Pewee: a bird audio-recorded in Highlands County in June 1995 (#1995-342; Anderson 1996), and one photographed and heard by several observers in Hillsborough County in October 2014 (#2015-1059; Greenlaw 2016b).

BAHAMA SWALLOW, *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*

2016-1123. On 20 March 2016 a kayaker observed a swallow pass overhead on the Commodore Creek Kayak Trail (Lee County). The description, although including key features of Bahama Swallow, was based on a 2-3 second observation. Features of the face were not seen, and the description does not exclude Mangrove Swallow (*T. albilinea*), which has previously occurred in Florida. The Committee felt that given the range extension (Bahama Swallow has never been seen outside coastal SE Florida) and rarity, a longer observation with better details was necessary. The votes on this submission at the 2016 and 2017 meeting were unresolved.

2018-1304. This bird was observed in Diamond Court Village in Vero Beach (Indian River County) on 2 April 2018. The rather brief description notes the metallic blue back and “v-shaped” tail, but neglects to mention the length of the tail, or the distinctive white underwing coverts of Bahama Swallow.

Six previous submissions have been accepted by the FOSRC, all from Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys. In addition, three other records (two specimens and one photographed) from Miami-Dade County have not been evaluated by the FOSRC (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

SUBMISSIONS UNRESOLVED

ELEGANT TERN, *Thalasseus elegans*

2018-1319. This tern was photographed just north of the lighthouse at St. Marks NWR (Wakulla County) on 29 May 2018. The rather distant photo shows a perched tern, with a long slender orange bill, a shaggy rear crest, black reaching the eye, and a white forehead. It is much larger than the adjacent tern also perched on a piling, likely a Forster’s Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). The vote—four to accept, three not to accept—was unresolved. Those voting not to accept were concerned that the bill shape is difficult to discern at that distance, the black of the crest does not reach above the eye, and that the bird may be too large in comparison with the nearby *Sterna* tern.

“CAYENNE” TERN, *Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnatha*

2018-1276. This tern was photographed on Siesta Key (Sarasota County) on 17 September 2017. It was seen and photographed a number of times by other observers as well for the next month. “Cayenne” Tern is the subspecies of Sandwich Tern that breeds in the Caribbean and South America, and has a mostly or wholly yellow bill. This individual has also been submitted to eBird as an Elegant Tern. The bird appears similar or slightly larger than adjacent Sandwich Terns, with a long dull greenish yellow bill, which is noticeably decurved. There is a bit of black in the nares and a small smudge of black along the lower mandible. The black from the somewhat shaggy rear crest continues forward around the eye. Unsurprisingly, the vote was unresolved. Two accepted it as a Cayenne Tern, three voters proposed that it may be

an Elegant Tern, and two voters questioned whether it may be an Elegant x Cabot's Sandwich Tern hybrid.

The FOSRC has previously accepted two records of Cayenne Tern, both from Sarasota County: August 2012 (#2012-912, Greenlaw 2016b) and October 2016 (#2016-1102, Kratter 2018a).

PACIFIC LOON, *Gavia pacifica*

2018-1307. This northbound migrant was photographed at Siesta Key (Sarasota County) on 8 April 2018. The photographs are very distant and show a non-breeding loon in flight, dark above, and white below. The flanks are distinctly dark and contrast sharply with the white belly. Details of the neck and bill are difficult to assess, although the bill appears small. In one photograph the head and neck are straight; in the other the head is slightly drooping. Two voters felt that the flank pattern eliminated Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*), but the other five thought that a certain identification could not be reached given the quality of the photographs.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016 and one record was accepted at our 2017 meeting (#2017-1238, three in Escambia County in March-April 2017). In the 10 years prior to that meeting (2007-2017), eBird lists 18 or so occurrences for Florida; 11 of these were in Escambia County; the others were in Okaloosa (two), Franklin, Alachua (two), Levy, Brevard, and Martin. Only five of the 18 were documented by photographs, the others were sight reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare winter visitor.

HOUSE CROW, *Corvus splendens*

2018-1320. The House Crow is resident in the Indian Subcontinent and southeast Asia. Populations have become established at several seaports across the globe, almost certainly arising from birds that arrived by riding cargo ships from their native range. House Crows have been present south of Tampa Bay in Manatee County (six birds from 2009-10a) and Sarasota County (up to four birds since at least 2001) (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Beginning in late April 2018, a House Crow in Nokomis Beach (Sarasota County) paired with a Fish Crow and nested. This bird is possibly one of the same birds present since 2001. Like other House Crows away from their native range, these birds in Florida are thought to be or have derived from birds that rode ships to deep-water ports, such as the port of Manatee.

The identification of the birds has not been questioned. According to the bylaws of the FOSRC, the individual must represent a "natural appearance", which is defined as:

The reasonably plausible appearance of a species from its home range without the intentional intervention of man. A bird which passively rides a ship or other men-made conveyance shall be considered to have occurred naturally if it is not confined or restrained at all during its passage, and if its survival en route is not based upon significant human intervention such as continual provision of food and water actually consumed. Natural Appearance need not (indeed, usually cannot) be proven; it need only be reasonably plausible based upon the biology of the species and any other known relevant factors including the circumstances of its appearance.

Thus the bylaws allow species to be added to the Official List that may have been transported here on ships, under certain conditions. One of the main products brought to the port of Manatee is tropical fruit, (<http://www.portmanatee.com/about-us/port-facts/>) and it seems feasible that crows could easily survive on long ocean crossings on a ship laden with tropical fruit. The question is whether this access to fruit should be considered "continual provisioning" and whether the

birds may have been “confined” in a hold or other compartment. The FOSRC vote was unresolved. Three members voting to accept considered that the definition of natural appearance had been met; four voting not to accept deemed that the appearance of House Crows in Florida was not natural because crows could not survive a long sea-crossing without provisioning.

No state or provincial Committee in the ABA area has added House Crows. They have been considered by the ABA Checklist Committee. It should be noted that other records committees may have varying definitions of natural appearance and may or may not allow some degree of ship assistance.

BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN, *Progne chalybea*

2017-1251. The single photograph of this bird, flying over the St. Johns River where it is crossed by SR 50 in Orange County on 8 June 2017, shows a rather robust hirundinid, brown above and white below with a brown chest band. The bird is apparently molting some rectrices. The bird is either a Brown-chested Martin, which would be a first record for Florida, or a Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). The observer was quite sure that the bird was far larger than a Bank Swallow, but it is impossible to judge size in the photograph provided. In addition, the photograph is not very sharp, and details of important diagnostic features, such as length of the undertail coverts versus the tail, and the size of the bill are difficult to assess. In addition, the bird is at an odd posture for a flying martin, with the wings swept back, and it is difficult to see if it has the broad wings diagnostic of martins. The bill appears to be larger than in Bank Swallow, but the bird is flying away from the camera, and the Committee found some on-line photographs of Bank Swallows in similar posture that exaggerated the size of the bill. An expert on Neotropical birds felt that this one photograph was not conclusive enough to accept as a first state record. The four voting not to accept felt that a first state record needed to be better documented. We tabled this submission in 2017 to see if other photographs were available.

The Brown-chested Martin is a Neotropical species that occurs from Costa Rica south through South America, east of the Andes to central Argentina. Southern populations (*P. t. fusca*) are austral migrants, migrating in the austral winter north to the Amazon and northern South America. The nine or so records from North America, including Mexico, are assumed to be austral migrants.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga kirtlandii*

2018-1311. This bird was observed by two birders on 7 May 2018 at Ocean Bay Riverside Park in St. Lucie County. Their descriptions, which included the gray head, back, white eye arcs, yellow breast, white undertail, indistinct wingbars, and tail pumping behavior, were complete enough for five votes to accept. The two Committee members voting not to accept were concerned with an anomalous character for Kirtland's, a distinct malar, and the lack of description of the tail. The resulting vote was thus unresolved.

SUBMISSIONS TABLED

HOODED ORIOLE, *Icterus cucullatus*

2018-1326. This female oriole, present from 20 January to 9 February 2018 in Valrico (Hillsborough County) was photographed visiting feeders. The bird has a rather long bill and somewhat graduated tail, indicating that it could be a Hooded Oriole, instead of the much more expected Orchard Oriole (*I. cucullatus*). Both identifications were supported in posts to online discussions about its identity.

The Committee felt that it would be best to send the photographs to western birders who are more familiar with variation in Hooded Oriole.

Two records have been accepted previously in Florida, both from Santa Rosa County: a male October 2002 (#2002-494, Bowman 2006) and another male January 2011 (#2011-834, Kratter 2012).

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