

Fla. Field Nat. 8(2): 50, 1980

Second Florida specimen of the Razorbill.—There are three previous records of the Razorbill (*Alca torde*) for Florida. The species was first recorded for the state when an immature bird was picked up alive on South Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, on 1 January 1967 (Cruickshank 1967, Fla. Nat. 40: 48-49); the bird was banded and released on 7 January and remained near the release point at least until 22 January. The second record, the first for the Gulf coast, was an immature sighted at St. George Island, Franklin County, on 11 April 1976 (Patterson and Menk 1977, Fla. Field Nat. 5: 18-19); the bird was seen only for the one day. The third record and first Florida specimen is a bird found “dying” at Fort Lauderdale Beach, Broward County, on 2 November 1978 (Edscorn 1979, Amer. Birds, 33: 169-171). The specimen, also an immature, is No. 3360 in the collections of the Tall Timbers Research Station.

On 18 May 1979 Marianne Garrigues and J. D. Scott discovered a dead immature Razorbill on Santa Rosa Island, near Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida. Ms. Garrigues brought the bird to Texas where it was prepared at Texas A&M University at Galveston, then sent to me. This Razorbill, a male, has now been deposited at Tall Timbers Research Station (No. 3658). The bird is the second specimen and spring record for Florida, and the first specimen for the Gulf of Mexico coast. It is interesting that all four Florida records are of immatures.

I express my appreciation to Garrigues and Scott for recognizing the value of the bird, to S. Ray for preparing the specimen, and to H. M. Stevenson for providing information on the three previous Florida records.—KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Texas Wildlife Cooperative Collections, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.*

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The origin of White-winged Doves breeding in south Florida.—There has been some confusion over the origin of the initial stock of White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) breeding in southern Florida. The recent increases in number and distribution in the region, and the capture, transportation and release of numbers of these birds into central Florida by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) prompt me to present the facts surrounding the introduction of breeding stock in Florida before misstatements become ingrained in the literature.

Notes on the releases of aviary stock by Frank M. Williams near Homestead, Dade County, Florida, in 1959 by Fisk (1968), Ogden (1970), and Owre (1973) indicate that Williams' original stock of Whitewings included birds from Venezuela and Mexico. However, *Zenaida asiatica* does not occur in the wild in Venezuela, and Stevenson (1976), in discussing these references, said “. . . importation ‘from Venezuela’ seems in error.” The range of this species in South America is restricted to arid coastal areas of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile (Meyer de Schauensee 1970).

I asked Williams for a description of his larger Venezuelan “whitewings”, and his reply fitted that of the Bare-eyed Pigeon (*Columba corensis*) that ranges in arid coastal areas of Venezuela and Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee 1970). Its native Spanish name is *paloma ala blanca*, or white-winged dove, and this similarity of common name has been the source of the confusion. Spanish-speaking people in Mexico and other Latin American countries where the races of *Z. asiatica* are native, also call these birds *paloma ala blanca*. The larger and more tropical Bare-eyed Pigeon did not breed successfully in Williams' aviary and they were not released.