

EDITORIAL

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE
FLORIDA FIELD NATURALIST

The *Florida Field Naturalist* is a quarterly publication of the Florida Ornithological Society. It is a refereed journal abstracted in the *Zoological Record*, *Biological Abstracts*, *Auk-Ibis* Current literature supplement, *Wild-life Review*, Recent literature of mammalogy, and *Herpetological Review*. The *Florida Field Naturalist* welcomes manuscripts containing the results of biological field studies and observations of vertebrates, especially birds, in and near Florida, the Bahamas, and nearby Antilles.

In preparing a manuscript for submission consult the information below and follow the conventions in recent issues of the journal. Submit manuscripts for publication to the editor. Each paper is reviewed by technical authorities who advise the editor on its acceptability. Manuscripts should be typed on one side of 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper. Do not use erasable bond. Type everything double-spaced, including titles, addresses, literature, and tables. Leave at least one-inch margins all around to allow room for editorial notes and instructions to the printer. Type tables on separate sheets using space efficiently. Inclusion of pertinent photographs is encouraged. They should be glossy black-and-white prints of high contrast and sharpness about the same size as they will appear in print. Diagrams and line drawings should be in black India ink. Use transfer lettering (available at stationery stores) or mechanical lettering. In choosing lettering, consider that, in final published size, characters should be no smaller than 1.5 mm high. For further ideas on preparing illustrations, consult the editor or recent issues of the *Florida Field Naturalist* and other ornithological journals.

Titles should be short and descriptive, and the body of the article concise. Follow the form and style of a recent issue of the *Florida Field Naturalist*. Major articles, six to 20 typed pages, should when appropriate be divided into sections for introduction, methods, results, discussion, summary, acknowledgments, and literature. All articles must have a summary. Notes, of one to six typed pages, may be divided into sections if desirable and also must end with a summary sentence or paragraph.

All references should be cited in the text and listed in a "literature cited" section. In the text, citations with one or two authors should indicate authors and year of publication, e.g. (Howell 1932). If there are more than two authors list the first followed by "et al.", e.g. (Blair et al. 1968). Indicate specific pages of longer works, e.g. (Howell 1932: 50). If there are five or fewer references they should be cited only in the text using an expanded format, e.g. (Howell 1932, Florida bird life, New York, Coward McCann) or (Cruikshank 1974, Fla. Field Nat. 2: 1-3).

Express all measurements in the metric system. If desired the equivalent value in the English system may be added in parentheses. Use abbreviations for measurement units in text when they follow a quantity (12 km, 6 h). Spell out numbers less than 10 unless they are followed by a measurement unit (six birds but 6 cm). Use the 24-hour time system (07 00 or 16 45) and the military date system (4 July 1976).

Capitalize the English name of birds, and follow the first mention of a species by its scientific name, underlined, in parentheses. Scientific and common names of vertebrates must follow these sources: for birds use American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds (sixth edition), see Supplement to the Auk Vol. 99, No. 3, 1982; for reptiles and amphibians use Collins et al. (1982), Standard common and current scientific names for North American amphibians and reptiles (second edition), Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Herpetological Circular 12; for fishes use Robins et al. (1980), a list of common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada (fourth edition), American Fisheries Society Special Publ. No. 12. For other animals and plants cite the sources used, in the methods section.

The *Florida Field Naturalist* encourages the submission of reports on the changing distribution and occurrence of rare species in its geographic area. All records of occurrences of birds in Florida submitted for publication are reviewed for acceptability by the Records Committee of the Florida Ornithological Society. Prior or simultaneous submission of a record to the committee on its standard form will decrease the time and expense required to consider it for publication. Notices of a record in *American Birds*, newsletters, or Records Committee reports do not preclude submission of a paper with additional details to the *Florida Field Naturalist*, but previous notices should be cited. All reports must contain the time, place (including county), circumstances, and documentation of the observation sufficient to assure proper identification was made. Specimens and photographs should be deposited in a scientific collection. Give their accession numbers in text. The Florida State Museum is the official depository for the Florida Ornithological Society. Citations of other pertinent records, a summary of overall status of the species, and a discussion of relevant biological factors should be part of most reports. Distribution notes are encouraged from observers who have not previously written such reports. If presubmission assistance with distribution notes is desired, contact the associate editor (for distribution reports), who can provide advice on the desirability of submission, information included, format of presentation, and composition of the note prior to submission for the editor's consideration.

The *Florida Field Naturalist* especially encourages submission of behavioral notes and the results of scientific field studies. Notes on behavior need not be the first published report but should take into consideration previously published information. Consideration should also be given to interpreting the biological, ecological, or evolutionary significance of the behavior reported. Field studies must conform to standard scientific criteria for study design, analysis, and interpretation. Hypotheses should be clearly stated and data should be subjected to statistical testing where appropriate. Presubmission advice on the writing of scientific studies can be sought from the associate editor (for scientific reports).

The *Florida Field Naturalist* publishes reviews of books, monographs, and other material of interest to its readers. Materials to be considered for review should be sent to the associate editor (for reviews). Unsolicited reviews may also be submitted to the associate editor (for reviews). An annotated list of scientific articles referring to Florida birds is published annually. Authors wishing to have papers included in this feature should send reprints to the associate editor (for reviews).