

are considerably less active than in the fall, we doubt that hunger motivated the movements.

The movements of this bear are difficult to explain, but we believe that extensive habitat alteration may have been a contributing factor. In the 3.5 years between the time of her initial capture and her recapture in Lynn Haven, about 9.5 km² of habitat was clearcut in the area that we assume to have been her home range. Habitat alterations, perhaps combined with human disturbance in the fall of 1989, may have encouraged the movement we observed.

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Florida Bird Records in *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes* 1947-1989—Robert W. Loftin, Glen E. Woolfenden, and Janet A. Woolfenden, 1991. Gainesville, Florida Ornithological Society, Special Publication No. 4. 99 p.—In 1978, Margaret C. Bowman published the first Special Publication of the Florida Ornithological Society: "Species Index to Florida Birds Records in *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*, vol. 1-30, 1947-1976," provided the researcher convenient access to the rich body of information contained in those publications. For the uninitiated, *American Birds*, like its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes*, publishes seasonal records of unusual bird occurrences and noteworthy trends in avian populations or distributions.

The present work, hereafter "Florida Bird Records," is an update of Bowman's volume, covering 13 more years and adding a two letter geographic (usually county) code for all entries. Covering some 500 species, most mentioned dozens of times through the 42 years involved, the index represents a staggering amount of work. Aside from brief Introduction and Methods sections, the book consists entirely of species names followed by an often lengthy list of volume and page references, each with geographic code. Thus, the entire entry for one species is:

Razorbill *Alca torda*: 21:410(BV); 30:828(S), 830(FR); 31:324(BV); 33:170(BW); 34:132(FR,ES); 40:102(SL); 41:274(DA).

While there is a huge amount of information buried in these codes, it certainly is not something to sit down with on a winter's night! Most birders will have little, if any, use for this work; better to wait for the annotated list of Florida birds soon to be published by William B. Robertson, Jr. and Glen E. Woolfenden to synthesize and evaluate the records contained herein. Only ornithologists contemplating serious research on Florida's birds will find Florida Bird Records a necessity, but, for them, it will be priceless. Some years ago

I wrote a summary of the distribution of pelagic birds in the Northern Gulf of Mexico, and Bowman's work saved me many hours of hand-searching old issues of *American Birds*, a messy proposition since coverage of Florida's birdlife is spread between the *American Birds* Florida and Central Southern regions. The present work would have been even more helpful; the county codes allow easy differentiation of Gulf of Mexico reports from Atlantic ones.

For a work of this type, the two key characters are accuracy and ease of use. As a test of the former, I checked Florida Bird Records against my own card file for a sample 35 records of a dozen species of seabirds in the mid-1980's. Each was flawlessly included in Florida Bird Records, even those published in *American Birds* out of correct taxonomic sequence. While there may be errors lurking in any work of this sort, I conclude that they must be few, indeed, in Florida Bird Records. I did receive a notice from one of the authors pointing out that the two-letter code for Marion County is incorrectly rendered in an introductory table.

As printed-on-paper indices go, Florida Bird Records is not hard to use, though a state map indicating county boundaries would be welcome. Layout and type style are sensible enough. The authors' methods are adequately described in the Introduction. The section labelled Methods might better be called "aggravating problems we had to deal with." Surely, though, the authors deserve a couple of pages to let off steam about difficulties and frustrations they had to surmount, and the section is of use in understanding the nature of decisions they had to make.

Nonetheless, this publication would be more useful if accompanied by a computer disk, written using one of many widely available and not especially difficult-to-use database programs, such as dBASE III. In fact, one can be virtually certain that the book was prepared using some such database. If Florida Bird Records were in such a machine-readable format, searching for records of, say, warblers from extreme southern Florida would only require asking the computer to display records where the common name includes "warbler," and the county code is DA, BW, or CO (*ie.* Dade, Broward, or Collier). Perhaps such a disk could be included as an option with the forthcoming Robertson and Woolfenden annotated list. In the meantime, academic and museum libraries, and a tiny handful of personal libraries will find the printed version essential, and a bargain at \$8.00.—**Charles D. Duncan**, Institute for Field Ornithology, University of Maine at Machias, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, Maine 04654.