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Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List.—William B. Robertson, Jr., and Glen E. Woolfenden. 1992. Special Publication No. 6, Florida Ornithological Society, Gainesville. 260 pages, 1 figure, 1 table, and 3 appendices.—This long-planned and long-awaited book was worth the wait. Species accounts in any check-list should summarize abundance, seasonality, and distribution within the region, and this goal has been thoroughly accomplished by Robertson and Woolfenden in crisp, telegraphic prose. The accounts vary from a few lines, e.g., House Wren: "Winter resident (Sep-May), fairly common to common throughout, except uncommon in the Keys," to nearly a page, e.g., Whooping Crane, evidence for which needs lengthy presentation. Most brief statements, the format for which is explained in the introduction, are entirely adequate.

The authors express commendable conservatism in their list of "verified" species, excluding those for which there is no specimen or photograph no matter how many presumably accurate sight reports exist. Although often disregarded in recent state bird books, the citing of specimens to document records of geographic or seasonal rarities is of great value. The concept of "verifiable" is clearly defined, with records being supported by specimens or photos and reports otherwise. Some birders will take issue with this, and many state lists are full of species represented only by sight records. But fifty years from now, who will know which birders were to be believed and what criteria bird-record committees used to make such decisions? The proliferation of "reports" with the increase in birding activity in Florida has led to a situation in which 14% of the species on the total list are "unverified," compared with 7% in 1976 and 3% in 1932.

The book has no illustrations, although the Sooty Tern and Scrub Jay on the cover are nice touches, reflecting significant research by the authors. In addition, I would have welcomed a look at the photographs, at least those of high quality, that document the occurrence of many of the rare birds of Florida. Perhaps they are intended for some other publication.

It is with mixed feelings that I review a book about the avifauna of a state that was my home from 1951-1964, knowing of the massive environmental changes that have taken place in the quarter-century since I left. Three categories of change are as one would have predicted: the decline of some, often larger and/or specialized, species; the increase of some species, typically those favored by habitat alteration and human provisioning; and the apparent increase in some rarely observed species, most likely caused by the great increase of observers and improvement of identification skills. The proliferation of records of pelagic species, Eurasian shorebirds, and especially West Indian species surely belongs in the third category.

Robertson and Woolfenden briefly (pp. 15-18) summarize these changes, which they rightfully emphasize (in our rapidly changing world, all bird books should do so). In a state beleaguered by environmental problems, it is startling to learn that 65 species have reportedly expanded their breeding ranges recently, while only about 30 species have had these ranges reduced. Similarly, 31 species of transients or winter visitors have increased, while 20 have decreased. Can we conclude from this that birds are becoming more diverse and/or common in Florida? We need an analysis of breeding bird surveys and Christmas bird counts in the state to make some sense of this—at least to distinguish abundance from diversity. For better or worse, Florida is probably ahead of the rest of North America, with no better place to study the effects of ". . . wholesale alteration and mixing of habitats with consequences to the avifauna that we have only begun to realize."

On top of the changes in the native avifauna, 63 species of parrots have been seen in "the wild" in Florida. The authors consider only three of them established, although eight others included in a "probably unestablished" list seem to me to be established Florida

birds from their text accounts, and it will be surprising if more species do not become residents, considering how many are flying around in the suburban jungle of southern Florida. The fate of these populations—and the many other species of other families that have escaped—should be followed carefully, as they are of both economic and biological importance.

This book is desirable for all libraries, personal and institutional, and essential for anyone who wishes to comprehend the avian scene in Florida. Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, so I should add that my colleagues and I are considering exactly such a book for Washington.—**Dennis R. Paulson**, Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA 98416.

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