

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2007**

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**Abstract.**—In 2007, the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee reached decisions on 43 submissions involving 32 species, one species pair, and one subspecies. Twenty-five of the submissions were accepted, 13 were not accepted, four were tabled pending further consideration or resolution of requests for more information, and one report was not assessed because it is not recognized as specifically distinct. Among the 18 species endorsed by the committee, four were new for Florida based on specimens, photographs, or videotapes. The occurrence history of the rare species represented by accepted reports is reviewed in the species accounts. Species new to Florida are Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), supported by photographs; Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), supported by photographs; Loggerhead Kingbird (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus*), supported by photographs and audio recordings; and White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), supported by photographs and videotape. These four additions bring Florida's State List to 501 species.

This 17th report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by members of the Committee in 2007. It is dedicated to Glen Woolfenden, who not only served two terms on the Committee, but more importantly was the coauthor of *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List* (Robertson & Woolfenden 1992), which furnished the baseline list ("State List") of Florida's avifauna used by the FOSRC. In 1998, when the FOSRC adopted Robertson & Woolfenden (1992), the list stood at 461 species. Published reports of the FOSRC and taxonomic changes have pushed the State List mostly upwards since. In 2007, the State List topped 500 species; the milestone provided by a White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) in March (see below). Glen lived to see the Florida list reach 500 species, but died in June before he could participate in "officially" adding the species to the State List at our August meeting. Florida becomes just the fifth state in the United States and the first state east of the Mississippi to top 500 species (the others being California, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico (totals current as of end of 2006; see <http://www.americanbirding.org/bigday/2006listreport.pdf>).

The FOSRC critically reviews submitted reports of rare or unusual birds in Florida, as well as potential new records for the state. Submissions are accepted only for species that are believed to be first-time vagrants in Florida, or that appear on the current Species Review List of the Birds of Florida, published on-line in the Florida Ornithological Society's (FOS) website (<http://www.fosbirds.org/RecordCommittee/FOSRC.php>). This list is reviewed and updated periodically and consists mostly of species on the Official State List of the Birds of Florida for which the FOSRC has previously reviewed and accepted 10 or fewer reports. In a few cases, species or distinctive subspecies are included in the Review List when Committee members seek further information on their status in the state. The FOSRC web pages (see above) also include the Official State List, the Rules and Procedures that govern the activities of the committee, a reporting form for the direct on-line submission of reports to the FOSRC, the names and addresses of current committee members, reports to the FOS Board on the proceedings of all recent

FOSRC meeting, and a growing gallery of photographs of rare birds in Florida processed by the FOSRC.

This report details the evaluations of 39 new submissions, involving 32 species, one species pair, and one subspecies. Of the 39 reports, received between September 2006 and July 2007, 23 were reviewed and accepted, 12 were not accepted, and four were tabled pending further consideration of available evidence and specimen examination. In addition, the committee resolved three reports that had been tabled pending further information or were otherwise previously unresolved: Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*, 06-601, accepted), Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*, 06-608, not accepted), and Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*, 06-594, accepted). The committee decided not to assess a fourth tabled report, of a “European” Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus argentatus* or *L. a. argenteus* 06-604), partly because of its taxonomic status, and also because definitive identification criteria have not been established.

Thus, overall, the committee evaluated or reevaluated a total of 43 reports at its 2007 meetings, accepting 25 of them (58%), not accepting 13 of them (30%), and tabling the rest for reconsideration. The current acceptance rate is somewhat below the average rate of 76 percent in the post-2000 period. The percentage of submissions that have specimen or photographs/video evidence supporting the submission (67%) continued to be high, as mentioned in the 16th Report (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007). For the 25 submissions that were accepted, all but one (96%) had specimen or photograph/video evidence. Of the 13 submissions not accepted, only three (23%) had specimen or photograph/video evidence. The Committee feels that more sight reports would be accepted if the descriptions were more complete, and if the submitters presented more thorough analyses of how the species was separated from similar species. The Committee feels strongly that well documented sight reports are an important part of documenting rare birds in Florida.

Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) reviewed the history of the Official State List of the Birds of Florida and provided an updated list (Appendix 1) for the period ending 31 December 2005. This list comprised a total of 495 species, all of which are based on independently verifiable evidence (specimens, photographs or videotapes, and audio-recordings). Two species were added to this list in the 16<sup>th</sup> Report (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), to bring the total to 497 species. For 2007, we added four species: Hammond’s Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi* 06-615) supported by photographs; Loggerhead Kingbird (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus* 07-632), supported by photographs and videotape; White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba* 07-634), supported by photographs and videotape; and Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus* 07-637), supported by photographs. These additions bring the total number of species on the State List to 501. All four of the added species also now appear on the Review List. The committee did not remove any species from the Review List in 2007. Cassin’s Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) was reinstated to the Review List after it was found that one submission (06-593) represented the same individual that had been found previously that winter and accepted by the FOSRC (05-581), and thus did not meet the criterion of 10 acceptable records to be removed from the Review List. Although some species have surpassed 10 acceptable records, particularly Iceland Gull after the five records accepted in this report, the Committee feels that for any species where identification is difficult (e.g., gulls), we should continue to keep species on the Review List.

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC, including descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and committee comments, is archived in the Ornithology Department at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and is available for public access. All observers are encouraged to submit reports on Review listed species, and on species potentially new to the State List. Ideally, observers should record details of plumage, shape, size, behavior, and other pertinent information, in a timely fashion in the field. Reports to the Committee should

provide all pertinent forms of documentation, including a written description of observations, in the original submission. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form available from the Secretary or on-line in the FOSRC web-pages (see link above). In addition to uniformity, the report form provides the Committee and the observer with guidelines to those criteria used by the FOSRC for its evaluation. Completed forms should be submitted to the Secretary of the FOSRC, Andrew W. Kratter (address above), email at [kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu).

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during 2007 when the reports discussed here were evaluated. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure were Fred E. Lohrer (2007), Mickey C. Wheeler (2008), Bill Pranty (2009), Sally Jue (2010), Andrew W. Kratter (2011), Glen E. Woolfenden (deceased), Bruce Anderson (2012), and Mark Berney (2013). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members on the FOSRC and their addresses.

Contributors to this report: Mary Acken (MA), Lyn Atherton (LA), Danny Bales (DBa), Andy Bankert (AB), Mark Berney (MB), Devin Boslin (DBo), Laura Catterton (LC), Steve Chalmers (SC), Michelle Davis (MD), Robin Diaz (RD), Bob Duncan (BD), Lucy Duncan (LD), David Faintich (DFa), David Freeland (DFr), Jill Gaetzi (JGa), Colin Gjervold (CGj), Carl Goodrich (CGo), Jeff Gordon (JGo), Jon Greenlaw (JGr), Stephen Gross (SG), Ron Hamburger (RH), Dean Jue (DJ), Andrew W. Kratter (AK), Edson Leite (EL), Larry Manfredi (LM), John Murphy (JM), Bill Pranty (BP), Chris Rasmussen (CR), Fran Rutkovsky (FR), Ron Smith (RS), Paul Sykes (PS), Bob Wallace (BW), Mickey Wheeler (MWh), and Margie Wilkinson (MWi).

#### COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

*Committee news.*—During 2007, the FOSRC met twice, on 28 January at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, and on 5 August at Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid. When Committee member Glen Woolfenden passed away in June 2007, the Committee voted to elect Bruce Anderson, who had formerly served on the Committee as member and Secretary (1992-1996), to finish Glen's term. At the August meeting, FOSRC member Fred Lohrer reached his term limit of seven years on the committee. After serving a full term, a member can not be re-nominated to serve again until one or more years have passed. Fred's vacancy was filled by John Murphy of Alligator Point.

*Formats and terminology.*—The following accounts report on all actions undertaken by the committee during 2007, and provide information on the history of the rare species in Florida covered in the accepted reports. Additional information on the quality of the evidence available to the committee and on identification issues may be found in the FOS board reports submitted during 2007 and available on-line (see above website).

We follow current nomenclature and sequence in the species accounts that follow (AOU 1998 and subsequent supplements). Within accounts, reports on more than one submission on a species are introduced sequentially by the date of receipt. The code (in parentheses) associated with each submitted report to the committee (e.g., 06-601) is the catalog number for the sighting or specimen report that is logged into an electronic catalog as it is received, and refers to year (06-) followed by sequential number (-601), beginning with the first entry in the catalog. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the committee (see list above). Our terminology for age largely follows the calendar-based system outlined in Pyle (1997); however we use "cycles" for gulls, as found in Olsen and Larsson (2004). We may use terms such as "first fall" or "first winter", but we use "first year" instead of the ambiguous term "first summer" (= second calendar

summer, including the hatching summer). We normally do not review subspecies, but on occasion we accept submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be revisited by the American Ornithologists' Union. Our use of the words "report" and "record" to describe occurrences of species in Florida follows Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) and the Field Observation Committee reports. For each species, the number of records and reports previously accepted by the FOSRC is detailed. In addition, records with specimens or photographic evidence prior to establishment of the FOSRC (1983) are also included.

Abbreviations used in this report are: FOC, Field Observations Committee (reports prepared by B. Pranty since 1992 and published in *FFN*; the convention "FOC [year]" signifies a species occurrence reported in a FOC report and year of publication); NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; CLC, Check-list Committee; NP, National Park; UF, University of Florida (an acronym applied to catalog numbers of specimens in the FLMNH collection); SP, state park; and subsp. and spp., singular and plural for subspecies.

#### ACCEPTED SUBMISSIONS

CAKCLING GOOSE, *Branta hutchinsii* (06-601; AB, SC) A small-bodied, small-billed, white-cheeked goose observed by several birders from 4 January-1 March 2003 in Barefoot Bay, south of Palm Bay, in Brevard County. At the August 2006 meeting only a single photo was available, in which the small goose had its head slightly turned away from the photographer. The report was tabled pending a request for other photographs that provided a lateral view of the head. Since then, about 20 new photos were submitted, which gave numerous views of head and bill proportions and comparisons with a much larger Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*). The photos show not only a direct size comparison, but also that the much smaller goose has a comparatively much smaller bill, a nearly vertical forehead (compared to the larger goose's sloping forehead), shorter neck, and pale edges to wing coverts. These field marks are diagnostic for Richardson's Cackling Goose (*B. h. hutchinsii*), the expected race in the southeastern United States. There is only one previously accepted record (a December 1956 specimen from Wakulla Co.) of this recently recognized species (Banks et al. 2004) for Florida.

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus* (06-617; DFr, AB). Two birds, most likely females, were observed 6 November-29 December 2006 at Viera Wetlands, Brevard Co. The first bird was found by Beverly Campbell on 6 November and extensively seen and photographed over the next few weeks. The second bird was observed 12-19 December. On 12 December, an observer posted to a list-serve that the visitor register a few days back had indicated that two birds were seen. Photographs of both birds together were eventually obtained. The Committee decided to treat these sightings as a single submission. The photographs show small ducks, with large bills, large flattened heads, short necks, two dark stripes through the face separated by narrow pale stripes, dark crowns, and backs mottled brown and buff. These marks are diagnostic for female Masked Duck. The FOSRC has accepted three previous reports (2 photos, 1 sight report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list 11 records (7 photos and 4 specimens) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus* (07-624; AWK). An apparent female was found beached in Cocoa Beach, Brevard Co., on 12 July 2005 and taken to the Florida Wildlife Hospital in Melbourne, where it died the same day. The specimen (UF 45637) was necropsied at the UF School of Veterinary medicine, and then prepared at the FLMNH as a skin, spread wing, and partial skeleton. The almost wholly white under-

tail coverts, larger size, and longer bill separate it from the similar Audubon's Shearwater (*P. lherminieri*). The FOSRC has accepted seven previous reports (2 specimens, 2 photos, 3 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list six specimens that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus* (07-620; AWK). A subadult male was found beached in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co., on 19 March 2006 and brought to Folke Peterson Wildlife Center in West Palm Beach, where it died the same day. The specimen (UF 45217) was prepared as a skin, spread wing, and partial skeleton. The bird did not have enlarged testes, so was probably not yet of breeding age. The specimen clearly shows black greater primary coverts, a heavily barred back and lesser wing coverts, fairly long central tails streamers, a deep, reddish-orange bill, and the black mask wrapping around the nape. The FOSRC has accepted five previous reports (1 specimen, 3 photos, 1 sight report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list two specimens that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (07-637; CGo). First Florida record. This bird was found and photographed by Carl Goodrich at Boca Chica, Monroe Co., on 13 April 2007; it was not seen subsequently. The photographs show two cormorants perched on rocks, ca. 25 m apart. The bird on the left is clearly a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*), with a bright orange throat, large size, thick neck, and long thick bill. The bird to the right appears noticeably smaller and has a proportionately narrower neck and thinner bill; its tail appears long, but this is difficult to determine. This bird has a dark gular pouch, narrowly edged in white. The white tapers to a point behind the bill and under the eye. These features identify the bird as a Neotropic Cormorant. The nearest populations of Neotropic Cormorant are in Cuba and the Bahamas (A.O.U. 1998), although it is also possible that the bird originated from populations in the western Gulf of Mexico, which extend northeast to southwest Louisiana (A.O.U. 1998).

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* (06-594; BW). A single second-winter bird, sex unknown, observed and photographed at the Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Volusia Co., 11 February 2006. This report was originally tabled August 2006 (see Greenlaw and Kratter 2007). The original file was found to contain a photograph of a second individual from the same locale and date and there was some question at the time of the August meeting as to which individual the documentation report applied. Parts of the description did not seem to aptly describe either individual, which were both well-photographed. In January 2007, Bob Wallace submitted additional forms and photos that indicated that three Iceland-type gulls were present in February-March 2006 at the landfill. The nearly white, presumably second-winter, bird kept the original FOSRC number, while the two other gulls were given new numbers (07-621 and 07-622). The small dove-like head and delicate mostly dark bill, pale plumage, long wings, pale gray new feathers in the mantle, and dusky centers to primaries confirm the identification as *L. g. kumlieni*, the expected race in Florida. The FOSRC has accepted four previous reports (all supported by photos); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list four records (1 specimen and 3 photos) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* (07-621; BW). A first-cycle bird photographed at the Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co., on 12 February 2006. A photograph of this bird was originally submitted as part of 06-594 (see above), but proved to be a first-cycle bird (probably male given the relatively large bill), whereas the bird in 06-594 is a much paler second-cycle bird. Additional photographs were submitted for the second round of discussion. The long-primary extension, pale brown wing tips, small head and bill, pale tail, and checkered pale brown and white wing coverts are diagnostic for *L. g. kumlieni*, the expected race in Florida. The FOSRC has accepted five previous reports (all supported by photos, including the one above); in

addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list four records (1 specimen and 3 photos) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* (07-622; BW). This probable second-cycle bird was photographed at the Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co., on 4 March 2006. After Bob Wallace was notified that his record was not accepted, he replied that the tail and primary patterns, though dark, fell outside the range of Thayer's Gull and were within the range of "Kumlien's" Gull. With the recent publication of Howell and Dunn (2007) and further considerations of the photographs along with reference to Olsen and Larsson (2004), we reopened this record for consideration at the August meeting. This bird, quite dark for a second-cycle Kumlien's, shows extensive white barring in the rectrices, white primary edges gradually blending with darker centers, and white marbling in the dark centers of the tertials typical of a dark Iceland "Kumlien's" Gull. The FOSRC has accepted six previous reports (all supported by photos, including the two above); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list four records (1 specimen and 3 photos) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* (07-623; LC). A first- (perhaps second-) cycle bird of unknown sex photographed at the Perdido Landfill, Cantonment, Escambia Co., on 13 January 2007. A very similar bird was seen the previous day earlier in southeastern Alabama (L. Duncan, in litt.). The long primary projection, small head and bill, and pale plumage are diagnostic for Iceland Gull. The wholly dark bill and the pale plumage suggests a first-cycle bird of the nominate subsp.; however, this subsp. is not known to occur south of Canada (Howell and Dunn 2007) and the palest winged first-cycle *L. g. kumlieni* may not be separable from *L. g. glaucooides* (Howell and Dunn 2007). The FOSRC has accepted seven previous reports (all supported by photos, including the three above); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list four records (1 specimen and 3 photos) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* (07-643; BW). A second-cycle bird photographed at Ponce Inlet, Volusia Co., on April 2007. This is a very bleached, nearly all white gull, a bit bigger than a nearby adult Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*). The bird shows typical proportions of an Iceland or Thayer's Gull, with a small bill, round head, long body, and long primary extension. The all-white primaries fit Iceland Gull. A few pale gray feathers in the mantle and the pink base to the bill suggest a second-cycle individual. Although the bill seems bulky for some Iceland Gulls, the worn head plumage may make the head appear smaller, and thus the bill larger. The FOSRC has accepted eight previous reports (all supported by photos, including the 4 above); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list four records (1 specimen and 3 photos) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax hammondii* (06-615; BW, LA). First State record. This unknown sex/unknown age bird was found at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas Co., on the afternoon of 30 October 2006, but was not identified or documented until the next day, when several birders saw it, and several photographs were taken by Lyn Atherton and Bob Wallace. The excellent series of photos show a small, very short-billed *Empidonax*, with greenish back, whitish throat, broken white eyering expanding slightly behind the eye, relatively long primary projection with long "step between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> visible primaries, and mostly dark mandible. Calls were described as a high-pitched "peep" or "peek." This combination of characters rule out similar *Empidonax* species.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax hammondii* (07-627; JGo, DBa, AB). This bird was found at the Hal Scott Regional Preserve, Orange Co., by Jeff Gordon on 28 January 2007. It remained at least until 2 March 2007 and was seen by many observers. Although no vocalizations were described or recorded, the extraordinarily high-resolu-



tion photographs allowed the Committee to determine identification through a suite of field-marks. In particular, the bird showed: an olive back with a slightly more grayish head; a whitish throat; a small bill with straight, not convex, sides; a near complete whitish eyering, that flared somewhat behind the eye; the primary tips on the perched birds showed a large gap between pp 6-7 instead of a more equal gaps between the exposed pp; and emargination of p6. This is the second record for Florida; the other was found the previous fall (06-615, see above).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii* (07-640; EL). This bird was seen by two people and photographed at Mahogany Hammock, Everglades NP, Miami-Dade Co., on 8 May 2007. The observers heard no vocalizations, which are the only reliable means for differentiating Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds in the field (Sibley 2000); the species also differ by wing formula and bill length (Pyle 1997). The photographs show a large-billed, yellow-bellied kingbird, with a dark mask, a white throat, and an unmarked, notched tail. The plumage and bill proportions are consistent with both Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds, although the large bill is a better fit for Tropical Kingbird (Pyle 1997). The Committee unanimously accepted the record as a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, but did not accept it as a Tropical Kingbird. There are five accepted records with photographs plus one accepted sight report of Tropical Kingbird for Florida; there are three FOSRC accepted records (with photographs) of Couch's Kingbird in Florida, but none have been supported by recordings of vocalizations. Couch's Kingbird was thus not included by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) on their list of Verified Species, and thus the species is not on the Official State List of the Birds of Florida as compiled by the FOSRC.

LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* (07-632; CGo, MB, LM, AB, RH, MWi, DBo, PS, JGr). First State and continental record. This bird was found by Carl Goodrich at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic SP, Key West, Monroe Co., on 8 March 2007 and remained until 26 March 2007. Observers submitted 16 photos, a CD including audio/video, FOSRC forms from seven observers, field notes from two observers, and detailed descriptions and analyses of subspecies. The photographs (see also cover of *North American Birds*, 2007, vol. 61, issue 3) clearly show a white-bellied, dark-backed kingbird, with a long relatively narrow bill. The long bill, big head, and short wings eliminate Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*). The entire head is black, contrasting with the dark brown mantle, unlike the Gray Kingbird (*T. dominicensis*). The rather spike-like bill is less wide and deep, and less arched, than that of Giant Kingbird (*T. cubensis*). Vocalizations obtained of the Key West bird were also diagnostic for Loggerhead Kingbird. The Committee, using J. S. Greenlaw's analysis of geographic variation in the species (in litt.), determined that the bird probably originated from the population on mainland Cuba (*T. c. caudifasciatus*) or Isle of Youth (*T. c. flavescens*), as the subsp. from the Bahamas (*T. c. bahamensis*) is more yellow below, those from Puerto Rico (*T. c. taylori*) and Hispaniola (*T. c. gabbii*) do not have a pale tail tip, the subsp. from the Cayman Islands (*T. c. caymanensis*) is more olive backed, and the subsp. from Jamaica (*T. c. jamaicensis*) has a darker back and more distinct white tail tip. The subsp. from Isle of Pines differs from the Cuban subsp. by its subtly more olive back and more yellow underwing linings.

This species has had a convoluted history on the Official State List of Florida. A bird photographed at Islamorada, Monroe Co., December 1971-January 1972 was accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), as were three other photographs in the 1970s. Bond considered the first bird to represent a Giant Kingbird (in litt., cited from Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Smith et al. (2000) reviewed the records of the Loggerhead Kingbird from Florida, and it determined that none conclusively established the species for the State. The FOSRC removed Loggerhead Kingbird from the list in

2003 (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), as did the ABA-CLC in 2002 and the AOU-CLC in 2002 (Banks et al. 2002).

**THICK-BILLED VIREO**, *Vireo crassirostris* (06-613; CR, JGa, SG). This bird of unknown age or sex was seen over the course of several hours by a handful of birders at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas Co., on 12 October 2006. This is the first report of Thick-billed Vireo in Florida from outside southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. The Committee received three written reports (FOSRC forms), but no photographs were taken. Photographs taken the following day attributed to this individual on birding list-serves (e.g., Florida Birds and BrdBrains) were shown to be hatch-year White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*), which have dark eyes. The Committee felt that the details provided on two other forms ruled out White-eyed Vireo, noting the facial pattern (yellow lores, broken white eyering), the buffy yellow breast, the thick and deep bill, and the dark eyes. The one vote to not accept represented a member's view that such a unique report should be documented by verifiable evidence. Descriptions of vocalizations, included in only one of the forms, were not detailed enough to differentiate the prolonged scold notes of Thick-billed, from the much shorter scolds of White-eyed. The FOSRC has accepted eight previous reports (3 photos, 2 audio recordings, 3 sight reports).

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR**, *Oenanthe oenanthe* (07-614; AB, MWh). This hatch-year bird, of unknown sex, was found by Sonny Bass on Research Road, Everglades NP, Miami-Dade Co. on 13 September 2006. Over the next 10 days (until 23 September) it was seen by 100s of observers, with many photographs posted to birding list-serves 13-23 September 2006. The Committee, however, received only two FOSRC forms with photos, one from an FOSRC committee member. Another committee member had video footage, which is added to the submitted material. The photograph and video showed diagnostic field-marks, including its long legs and wings, upright posture, brownish color, long white supercilium, buffy breast, buff-edged secondaries and tertials, and white upper- and undertail coverts and tail base. These marks collectively rule out other migratory members of *Oenanthe* (Desert Wheatear, *O. deserti*, and Isabelline Wheatear, *O. isabellina*), none of which have ever strayed to the New World. The FOSRC has accepted three previous reports (1 photo, 2 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list two records (one supported by a specimen, the other by a photo) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR**, *Oenanthe oenanthe* (06-618; CGj). This bird, a female probably in its first year, was found by Syd Crawford at Honeymoon Island SP, Pinellas Co., on 25 September 2006. It was seen by two birders; the Committee received a FOSRC form and photographs from one observer. It was not seen subsequently. This bird was found just two days after the bird in the previous account (06-614; see above) was last seen in the Everglades, and in roughly the same plumage. However, the Committee felt that given the record number of wheatears reported this fall in northeast North America (ca. 43) and that Honeymoon Island is in the wrong direction from the Everglades for a fall (=south-bound) migrant, these were likely different birds. The photographs showed diagnostic field-marks of Northern Wheatear, including its long legs and wings, upright posture, brownish color, long white supercilium, buffy breast, buff edged secondaries and tertials, and white upper- and undertail coverts. The FOSRC has accepted four previous reports (2 photos, including the one above, and 2 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list two records (one supported by a specimen, the other by a photo) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH**, *Catharus bicknelli* (07-641; MD, RD). Eight photographs and one FOSRC form were submitted for this record, which consisted of two birds that were mist-netted and measured at Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade Co., on 12 May 2007. The lower mandible of each bird was extensively yellow (> half



the length) in both birds, characteristic of Bicknell's Thrush. The wing chords of both individuals (89.5 mm in one, 87.6 mm in the other) were below the range reported for Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*, 93-109 mm; Pyle 1997). A third bird may have been present the same day, as the song of Bicknell's Thrush was heard at the same locale some distance from where the other two were caught (M. Wheeler, pers. comm.). Only two previous Florida records of Bicknell's Thrush have been reviewed by the FOSRC; both birds were mist-netted in Key Largo (Monroe Co.), also in the spring (8 and 11 May 2004; Bowman and Greenlaw 2006). In addition, there are four specimens from Florida that have not undergone FOSRC review (Woollfenden and Greenlaw 2005).

**WHITE WAGTAIL, *Motacilla alba* (07-634; DFa, BP).** This bird, the first State record, was documented with video, photographs, and FOSRC forms. It was discovered at Moon Lake Park, Pasco Co., on 18 May 2007 by David Faintich and two other birders from Missouri, who were able to videotape the bird, and alerted local birders to its presence; it was seen through 22 March 2007. A paper describing the record was published in the *Florida Field Naturalist* (Pranty 2007). The photographs and video clearly show a White Wagtail. The bird is in first alternate plumage, and identifiable to subspecies *M. a. alba*, based on its gray back, black chin and throat, lack of a black eye-line, sharply contrasting paler gray back, and expansive white in the head (Alström and Mild 2003, Pranty 2007). The eastern form of *alba* ("dukhunensis," often considered a separate subspecies) can be ruled out by its broader white wing-bars that sometimes form a wing-panel (Alström and Mild 2003). Thus, the Moon Lake Park White Wagtail was of the western form of *alba*, which breeds in Iceland, Greenland, and across continental Europe, and winters from continental Europe to northern Africa (Alström and Mild 2003, Pranty 2007).

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii* (07-642; LA).** This record is based on photographs taken by Lyn Atherton, (archived at: <http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/brdbrain.html>); no FOSRC form was submitted. The bird was found at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas Co., on 10 May 2005 by John Hintermister and others and was not seen on subsequent days. The photographs show a bulky *Dendroica* warbler, with a gray head, white eye crescents, black-striped gray back, indistinct white-edged wing coverts, yellow underparts streaked black laterally, and white vent diagnostic for Kirtland's Warbler. The lack of black in the face, gray head and face, and suffusion of brown in the back indicate an after-second-year female (Dunn and Garrett 1997). The FOSRC has accepted three previous reports (1 photo and 2 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list a specimen that has not been evaluated by the FOSRC. All five of these reports have been coastal.

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii* (07-648; RS).** This bird was found at Sebastian Inlet SP, Indian River Co., by David Simpson late on 10 May, and seen by several other birders on 11-12 May, when photographed by Ron Smith (photos archived at: <http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/brdbrain.html>). No FOSRC form has been received. The one photograph shows a large-bodied *Dendroica* warbler, with a gray head with indistinct dark streaks, white eye crescents, indistinct white-edged wing coverts, and yellow underparts streaked black laterally. The lack of black in the face and gray head and face indicate an after-second-year female (Dunn and Garrett 1997). The FOSRC has accepted four previous reports (2 photos, including the one above, and 2 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list a specimen that has not been evaluated by the FOSRC. All six of these reports have been coastal.

**SPOTTED TOWHEE, *Pipilo maculatus* (07-633; JM, AB).** Six photos and two FOSRC forms were submitted for this second State record. The bird was found by John Murphy in his yard at Alligator Point, Franklin Co., on 10 March 2007, and subsequently seen through 24 April by dozens of observers. The photographs are di-

agnostic, showing a “Rufous-sided” Towhee, with obvious white markings on the back, scapulars, and wing coverts. The extent of white spotting indicates that this is one of the interior ssp. group of Spotted Towhee (Pyle 1997), though it would be difficult to identify the sex or subs. within this group without a specimen. The most likely subs. in Florida is *P. m. arcticus*, the northernmost and most migratory of the interior group of ssp. (Pyle 1997); the previous record in Florida was a specimen of *P. m. arcticus*, collected 14 December 1967 in Franklin Co. (Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena* (07-636; MA). Two photographs and one FOSRC form were submitted for this record. The bird was found by Mary Acken in her yard at 2624 Westminster Terrace, Oviedo, Seminole Co. on 4 April 2007 and seen the following day. The two photographs show an alternate-plumage male, with pale blue head and back, dull orange chest, white belly, and large bright white edges to the greater and median wing coverts, creating two distinct wing bars. The brown suffusion to the upperparts indicates that the bird is in its second calendar year (Pyle 1997). The FOSRC has accepted five reports: the first was photographed in March-April 1977 in Sharpes (Brevard Co.), the second was photographed in March 1991 in Ponte Vedra Beach (St. John Co.), the third was photographed March-April 2001 in Ft. Pierce (St. Lucie Co.), and the fourth was photographed in April 2002 at Fort De Soto (Pinellas Co.). Two sight reports have also been accepted by the FOSRC (March 1991 in Alachua Co. and December 1991 in Palm Beach Co.).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella neglecta* (07-625; BD, LD, BW). This singing bird was found and photographed by Bob Duncan along Pelt Road, west of SR 97 in Escambia Co., on 19 February; it was seen through 21 February and also photographed by Bob Wallace. Three FOSRC forms along with one series of photographs were submitted. Descriptions of the vocalizations include the richer more complex vocalizations typical of Western Meadowlark (but Eastern Meadowlark, *S. magna*, can apparently learn the wrong song, Sibley 2000). The photographs show the paler back, whiter flanks, washed-out facial pattern, and yellow malar diagnostic for Western. The species was previously known from Florida from four specimens, all taken before 1980 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994), which the FOSRC has not evaluated.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii* (07-628; FR, MB, DJ). A FOSRC form and photographs were submitted for this record, which visited Fran Rutkovsky's yard at 3210 Brookforest Dr., Tallahassee, Leon Co., from 19 December 2006 to 13 April 2007. This bird, an after-hatch-year/after-second-year female, was visiting the same feeder as had a hatch-year/second-year female the previous year (06-607, accepted, Greenlaw and Kratter 2005). Although there is a strong probability that this is the same bird as in winter 2005-2006, the Committee decided to treat the record as new. The pale yellow throat and supercilium lacked the orange tones found in after-hatch-year/after-second-year female Baltimore Orioles (*I. galbula*, Pyle 1997). The saw-tooth pattern of white edges to the median upperwing coverts also indicates Bullock's Oriole. This is the seventh confirmed record of Bullock's Oriole for Florida (Pranty et al. 2005, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

#### REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser* (06-619). 18 December 2006. Merritt Island NWR, Brevard Co. This was a report of a brief sighting of a fly-by male in alternate plumage. A FOSRC form was submitted by one of the three observers. The Committee was skeptical because the field marks provided (e.g., color of underwing coverts, bill

depth) seemed more detailed than possible under the viewing conditions. A few characters, such as the head color, were not noted or provided. As there has not been a verifiable record of this species in Florida since 1980 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994), the Committee felt that a sight report would have to be extremely persuasive to be accepted.

**YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS**, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (07-630). 10 June 2004. 6 miles south of Pensacola Beach, Escambia Co. The Committee received a written description of this bird from a single observer. This bird was seen for ca. 15 minutes at close range (ca. 10 feet) from a fishing boat, but without binoculars. The bird was only briefly described, and some characters, particularly “the upper mandible was yellow,” the “black tail band,” and the “undersides of the wing were white with black trailing edge” do not fit any albatross. It was felt by some committee members that the observer may have meant that the culmen ridge was yellow, that the entire tail was dark, and that the leading edge of the underwing was also edged black. As more than three years had passed since the observation, we felt that the observation could not be accepted as presented. There are three previously accepted records of Yellow-nosed Albatross for Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). In addition, a sight report off Lake Worth Pier, Palm Beach Co., in January 1995 was accepted to genus only (*Diomedea* sp., *sensu lato*, including all members of the family).

**RED-NECKED GREBE**, *Podiceps grisegena* (07-631). 4 February 2007. Joe’s Bayou, Destin, Okaloosa Co. We received a FOSRC form for this report from a single observer. The description was very brief, mainly comparing a few field-marks to Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*) and Eared Grebe (*P. nigricollis*). The description mentioned larger size (than Horned Grebe), the dark neck and sides of face, and “light” bill. The description did not describe the bird otherwise, or even mention how the bird was determined to be a grebe. Most importantly, the description does not mention the pale crescent at the rear of the face of a Red-necked Grebe, or distinguish the bird from a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). There are only two previously accepted reports of Red-necked Grebe for Florida, one photographed in Gulf Breeze (Santa Rosa Co.), December 2000, and a sight report, also from Gulf Breeze, in January 2001.

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD**, *Phaethon aethereus* (06-608). 3 July 2006. About 8 mi. southeast of Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade Co. The documentation record for this subadult contained four photographs, a written description and analysis, a provocative evaluation of discriminating field-marks that separate young Red-billed and White-tailed (*P. lepturus*) tropicbirds, and remarks from online commentators. The submission was tabled at the August 2006 meeting so that specimens could be examined. At the January 2007 meeting, we used the reference collection at the FLMNH to examine the characters purported to diagnose this individual as a Red-billed Tropicbird from the photographs provided, particularly the degree to which the black primary upperwing coverts can be seen from ventral views, the size of the bill, and the pattern of black and white on the outer primaries. We felt that the overcast skies when the photographs were taken did not provide ample back-lighting to distinguish whether the upper primary coverts were dark or white. With the ventral angle of the photographs, we could not adequately gauge the depth of the bill. Close examination of the sharpest wing photograph in the set (#1525, left wing), as both a positive and negative image, showed a narrow whitish tip to primaries 8-9, with primaries 6-7 more broadly tipped white, contrary to a statement in the report that it had “all black primary tips.” With a series of Red-billed ( $n = 4$ ) and White-tailed ( $n = 15$ ), including spread wings from each, we found that both species have white tips to primaries 8-9 when fresh (juvenile White-tailed more), but that on many individuals of both species, the white tends to wear off, leaving black tips to primaries 8-9. Therefore, none of these characters unambiguously identifies this individual as Red-billed Tropicbird. The FOSRC has ac-

cepted five previous reports (1 specimen, 3 photos, 1 sight report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list two specimens that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri* (07-644). 11 January 2007. Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co. Seven photographs and a FOSRC form were submitted for this well documented record. The photographs show the typical proportions and plumage of a first-cycle Iceland or Thayer's Gull, with a small all-black bill, round head, long body, and long primary extension. The primaries are largely dark grayish brown suggesting Thayer's Gull. However, the tail band is not solid, with paler areas within in the brown, a pale subterminal band, and extensive white barring in the outer rectrices. In addition, the tertials have white marbling within the dark centers, the dark secondaries do not show a strong contrast with the greater coverts (thus, no well defined "secondary bar"), and the dark centers of the outer primaries blend gradually into the white primary edges instead of a sharply dark and white contrast. These four features all point to some introgression of "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull into this otherwise typical Thayer's Gull. The Committee felt that this bird was most likely a hybrid of Kumlien's and Thayer's Gull, a known hybrid combination (Olsen and Larsson 2004, Howell and Dunn 2007). There are only 10 previous reports of Thayer's Gull in Florida, one specimen and six records with photographs from before 1984 (and not reviewed by the FOSRC), but only three birds accepted by the FOSRC since: a bird photographed in March 1985 in Broward Co., a sight report from Broward Co. in January 1999, and a bird photographed in November 2001 in Pinellas Co.

WHITE-WINGED TERN, *Chlidonias leucopterus* (07-638). 27 April 2007. Campbell Lake, Topsail Hill Preserve SP, Santa Rosa Beach, Walton Co. A single FOSRC form was submitted for this report, a first for Florida. The bird was seen by two observers, from ca. 100 m in 10× binoculars for 15 minutes. The flight behavior seems appropriate for the genus *Chlidonias*, and the field-marks noted suggest White-winged Tern. However, the Committee felt that the distance involved was too great to allow confirmation of the identification. This species occurs casually along the coast of northeastern North America (A.O.U. 1998), with records as far south as South Carolina ([http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/checklist\\_of\\_South\\_Carolina\\_birds.html](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/checklist_of_South_Carolina_birds.html)).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Stercorarius macormicki* (07-639). 25 May 2007. New Smyrna Beach, Volusia Co. Three photographs and a FOSRC form were submitted of this bird, seen by a single observer. Two of the photographs show a very dark *Stercorarius* skua/jaeger standing over a Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) that it apparently had killed; the third photograph shows the bird flying away from the observer. Although the photographs show extensive white at the base of all the primaries, consistent with South Polar Skua or Brown Skua (*S. chilensis*), none adequately show wing width or tail length, features that are diagnostic for separating skuas from jaegers. Some Committee members felt that photos could not eliminate a dark-type Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*), based on brown mottling in body and nape, and bicolored legs. Other Committee members thought that the bird appeared to have a larger bill and more white in the primaries than jaegers, and was probably a skua. However, separating dark Brown and South Polar skuas is very difficult (Olsen and Larsson 1997), and the photographs do not lend enough detail to make an identification. The FOSRC has previously accepted four records of South Polar Skua with photographs (31 October 1993 in Brevard Co., 9 November 1998 in Volusia Co., 10 October 1998 in Nassau Co., and 12 December 2000 in Palm Beach Co.) and two sight reports (5 September 1982 and 28 October 1994, both in Brevard Co.).

ZENAIDA DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura* (07-635). 23 March 2007. Long Key SP, Long Key, Monroe Co. A FOSRC form was submitted by a single observer for this report; another ob-

server saw the bird but did not submit a report. This was a brief observation (30-45 seconds), and the resulting description is incomplete. In particular, the description mentions a "small white patch on wing" without describing its shape or location. It described the tail as "shorter and more squared off than a Mourning Dove" but did not describe any pattern or color to the tail. The bird was flushed, according to the report, thus the pale gray tail corners should have been visible. The description was too incomplete to substantiate identification. There are five substantiated records for Florida (two specimens before 1900, and three photographs, 1962-63, 1988, 2002), all from the Keys. In addition, three sight reports have been accepted by the FOSRC (1997, 2001, 2004), two from Monroe Co., and one from Key Biscayne in Miami-Dade Co. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list three older sight reports that have not been reviewed by the FOSRC.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, *Campephilus principalis* (06-610). 21 May 2005-26 April 2006. Choctawhatchee River, Washington/Bay/Walton Cos. A population of unknown size has been reported from the lower Choctawhatchee River by a team of investigators from Auburn University. There have been several sightings but no photographs, some interesting recordings of "kent" calls and of double-rap drums, and photographs taken of cavities and bark scaling. These observations were made on the heels of the much-publicized "rediscovery" of the species in Arkansas (Fitzpatrick et al. 2005). The last specimen taken in Florida was in 1925, and there is one record of a feather found in a cavity in 1968 that was identified as an Ivory-billed Woodpecker inner secondary by Alexander Wetmore. Despite several subsequent Florida sight reports of varying credibility, Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) considered the species extinct. Controversy surrounds the actual source of some recently made audio recordings purported to be drumming sounds and vocalizations of the Ivory-billed; recordings obtained without actually observing the source of these sounds, such as those made by the Choctawhatchee investigators, have not been proven to have been made by this woodpecker. Our Committee felt that given the lack of definitive evidence of this species' occurrence on the Choctawhatchee River, the species is best considered still extinct in Florida.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum* (06-611). 21 September 2006. Matheson Hammock, Miami-Dade Co. The FOSRC has solicited reports of this species and Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) because their status in the state is insufficiently known given their extreme similarity. Unfortunately, Web sites for the Official State List of the birds of Florida and the Official Species Review List of the Birds of Florida differ in their wording as to what sort of evidence is required for documentation. The official State list specifies: "For the two species in *Empidonax* indicated by \*\*, observers should report only sightings to the FOSRC that document vocalizations on tape or video," whereas, the List of Review Species states: "provide vocal documentation." This report consisted of an FOSRC form, which detailed the vocalizations of the individual consistent with Alder Flycatcher, but no video/audio-tape documentation. The Committee members agreed that we would review only records with video or tape documentation that include vocalizations. We therefore decided that this report provided insufficient documentation.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii* (06-616). 29 October 2006. Lake Kissimmee SP, Polk Co. This was a single-observer report. The observer submitted an FOSRC form. The bird, identified as an adult male, was seen at quite a distance (ca. 50 m) with bright mid-day skies. There was concern that the report described a spring-plumaged male, with a blue-gray back, whereas all ages of Kirtland's Warblers in the fall should have a brownish wash on the back (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Pyle 1997). The report described that the bird had no discernible wingbars; however, fresh-plumaged Kirtland's Warblers in the fall should have grayish-white edges to the wing coverts. The FOSRC has accepted five reports (3 photos,



including the two above, and 2 sight reports); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list a specimen that has not been evaluated by the FOSRC. All six of these accepted records have been coastal.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Oporornis tolmiei* (06-612). 4 October 2006. A. D. Barnes Park, Miami-Dade Co. This was a written description from a brief sighting (15-20 seconds) of a female. The age was noted as adult, but it was noted at the FOSRC meeting that the observer had submitted it earlier as a hatch-year. Female MacGillivray's Warbler is difficult to differentiate from Mourning Warbler (*O. philadelphia*), which is rare but regular in Florida. Some field marks noted strongly suggested MacGillivray's Warbler, particularly the "easily visible and quite obvious" eye crescents. Mourning Warbler can show eye crescents as well (Garrett and Dunn 1997), but they are usually not as prominent. The description was not as firm about the color of the throat (generally pale yellow in Mourning and pale grayish white in MacGillivray's), noting "no yellow on the throat that I could see." Another key field-mark for differentiating from Mourning, the length of the undertail coverts (Dunn and Garrett 1997), was not noted. Because the observer had no previous experience with MacGillivray's, the Committee felt it was difficult to assess the prominence of the eye crescents. The FOSRC has accepted four reports (one photo, three sight reports) of MacGillivray's Warbler.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera* (07-626). Specimen (EVER 45219, UF 45638; spread wing, skeleton, photos of whole carcass). 10 January 2007. Long Pine Key, ENP, Monroe Co. This desiccated specimen was found in a parking lot in a picnic area by a tour leader. It was saved and eventually sent to the FLMNH. Attempts to rehydrate it and make a study skin were unsuccessful, but a wing and the skeleton were salvaged. A series of photos of the carcass was taken, including with comparable species (the Hispaniolan endemic *L. megaplaga* and the northern *L. leucoptera*). *Loxia megaplaga* was recently split from *L. leucoptera* by the AOU Check-list Committee (Banks et al. 2003). Measurements (from P. W. Smith 1997, and in litt.; author of the paper that helped split *megaplaga*) ruled out *megaplaga*. *Loxia megaplaga* has a much longer (exposed culmen 16.9-17.2 mm vs. 12.96-14.1 mm; ENP bird = 14.8 mm) and wider bill (6.1-7.3 mm vs 4.8-6.0 mm; ENP = 4.9 mm) than *leucoptera*, more like some ssp. of Red Crossbill (*L. curvirostra*). In addition, the white tips to the greater secondary coverts, which form the lower wingbar, are much less extensive on *megaplaga* (average 3.4 mm vs. 9.8 mm). These white tips in the ENP bird are about 8 mm. The Committee was unanimous in agreeing with the identification as a White-winged Crossbill (*L. leucoptera*), but were also unanimous in believing that the bird was killed outside of Florida, and transported by vehicle to south Florida. The bird had been dead for quite some time (days at least) and probably super-dried on the grill of a car/RV. The bird had moderate stores of subcutaneous fat, indicating that it had been feeding in an area supplied with its preferred food just before it died. And it was found in a parking lot of a tourist destination. All of this points to it being killed somewhere far to the north of Florida and transported by vehicle to ENP. There are no previous records for this species from Florida.

#### REPORTS NOT RESOLVED

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL, *Larus michahellis* (07-645). 5 March 2007. Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co. Nine photographs, an FOSRC form, and opinions from two European gull experts were submitted for this well documented record, and a potential first State record. This is a first-cycle bird, appearing in plumage to be similar to a first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*),

but differing in proportions (larger bodied, deeper chested) and particularly in its large thick bill. One expert was "95% certain" that this was a Yellow-legged Gull from one of the Atlantic populations (either *L. m. atlantis* or *L. m. michahellis*, depending on taxonomy); the only problem he had with the bird was a bit too much black barring in the rectrices. The other expert stated that "there is no question that your bird is *atlantis*." One problem in assessing this record is that immature plumages of Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*), which has been a suspected combination in northeastern North America, are not known (Howell and Dunn 2007), and would presumably look like this individual. However, one Committee member felt that the bulky bill was too large to be from this hybrid combination. Another problem is that proportions of the posterior part of the bird are difficult to assess given the angle of the photographs. Overall, the Committee felt that a first State record had to be unambiguous, so we have decided to seek further expert opinion on this individual, as well as request if there are more photographs.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus* (07-646). 18 April 2007. Cedar Key, Levy Co. A photograph and a brief written description were submitted for this record. The photograph submitted appears to be a low-resolution scan, with the adult bird at a distance. Although proportions and mantle color appear to be correct for an adult California Gull, details of the bill, iris and leg color, and any pattern in the wingtips cannot be seen in the photograph submitted. The Committee felt it could better assess the record if a higher resolution scan or the original photograph could be submitted. The observer was contacted to see if he could send the original.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans* (07-629). 10 February 2007. East side of SR 437, across from Hooper Farm and Hooper's Landscape Nursery Inc., 2828 Hooper's Farm Road, Apopka, Orange Co. We received a FOSRC form for this report. Although Cassin's Kingbirds have been reported annually in recent years at the Lake Apopka kingbird roost (B. H. Anderson, pers. comm.), this is the first report submitted since winter 2002-2003 (03-516, accepted, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006) and thus is treated as a new submission. The submitted form is rather brief and somewhat unclear about describing the throat, a field-mark critical for identifying Cassin's Kingbird. Committee member Bruce Anderson also saw this bird and knows that some photographs of it exist. Thus, the Committee felt that it was appropriate to request photographs, and wait to assess the record.

CARIBBEAN MARTIN, *Progne dominicensis* (07-647). 29 March 2007. Fort Zachary Taylor Historic SP, Key West, Monroe Co. Seven photographs, a FOSRC form, comparative photos of museum specimens, and detailed analyses were submitted for this record, which is a potential first State and ABA record. This bird was photographed but could not be located subsequently. The photographs show a male *Progne* martin, with a rather deep tail fork and a white to off-white belly sharply demarcated from the purple chest and dark sides. The uppersides are dark, glossed purple. We could not detect, for certain, any streaking in the white underparts, although the resolution may be a bit too low to properly assess. A photograph of the bird's sides shows what appear to be brownish flanks. The purple in the photographs appears to be blotchy, interspersed with brown, indicating a second-year bird. The comparative material included photographs of flying Caribbean Martins in Puerto Rico, as well as museum specimens of the following species: Purple Martin (*P. subis*), Cuban Martin (*P. cryptoleuca*), Gray-breasted Martin (*P. chalybea*), Caribbean Martin (*P. dominicensis*), and Sinaloa Martin (*P. sinaloae*). We did not find any photographs or specimens of male martins that matched this bird's plumage, in particular the not-quite white underparts and the brownish flanks. It appears that second-year martins are quite rare in collections. Gray-breasted Martin can be eliminated because it never shows a purple throat in

any plumage. Male second-year Purple Martins should show thin dark streaks on the underparts. Sinaloa and Cuban Martins are rare in collections, and their second-year male plumages appear to be undescribed. The Committee felt that to assess this record adequately, it would need more comparative material of all *Progne* species, particularly second-year males. The Committee will request material from natural history museums.

#### NO ACTION

“EUROPEAN” HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus* subsp. (06-604). A second-cycle bird observed by multiple birders and photographed by two people at the Tomoka (=Volusia County) Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co., 11 February to 6 March 2006. Documentation included a single written synopsis of the European taxa, *L. argentatus* sspp. (two sspp., *L. a. argentatus* [north-central Europe, Finland to Germany] and *L. a. argenteus* [western Europe, from southern Scandinavia, British Isles, south to the Iberian Peninsula]), *L. [cachinnans] michahellis* (Yellow-legged Gull, southwestern Europe, and Mediterranean and Black sea basins), and the American *L. a. smithsonianus* (northern North America). In addition, 14 superb photographs of the bird on the ground and in flight, showing all potential field characters, and submitted comments from several European and American gull aficionados completed the body of information available. Not included in the written description and evaluation by the lead observer, but mentioned by one commentator, was *L. c. cachinnans* (Caspian Gull). The outside commentators disagreed among themselves on the ID of the Florida bird, although the leading gull authority, Klaus M. Olsen, senior author of the new book on gulls, supported the “European” Herring Gull ID. Olsen and Larsson (2004) have split the herring gulls on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The British Ornithologists’ Union followed this decision. Because our Committee in August had little direct experience with the European gull taxa, the vagrancy record of the “European” Herring Gull taxa in the Americas was not well known, and considering the potential complexity of the issues relating to gull identification involving species in Europe and North America, the Committee expressed a desire to go slow, and thus tabled the record. At the January meeting, we had two additional references (Lonergan and Mullarney 2004, Golley and Elliot 1994) and Mark Berney provided recent photographs of winter “European” Herring Gulls from Ireland, including several second-winter birds. “European” Herring Gulls are apparently now occurring annually in Newfoundland (B. Mactavish pers. comm.), so a record in Florida is not out of the question. Nonetheless, most record committees have not dealt with this issue, presumably because “American” and “European” Herring Gulls are still considered conspecific by the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU 1998). Although some characters, especially the amount of white in the tail, strongly indicated that this bird was a European Herring Gull, we think that our present knowledge of variability in second-winter *smithsonianus* is still rudimentary and feel that this bird cannot, with certainty, be identified as either “American” or “European.” We therefore chose not to vote on the report, taking into consideration that the taxon is not yet considered a species in North America.

#### REPORT IN ERROR

CASSIN’S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans* (06-593). A single bird along Sweat Loop Road, Hillsborough Co., 6 February 2006, was initially treated as an individual

different from the bird (05-581) observed and photographed in the precise spot (but identified as being “between Balm and Wimauma roads”), 18-20 December 2005. Both submissions were accepted by the FOSRC (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), but B. Pranty pointed out that these observations represented the same individual, and thus 06-593 is now subsumed under 05-581.

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