

**A RECORD OF ORANGE BISHOP (*Euplectes franciscanus*)
FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

JOHANSET ORIHUELA
15921 SW 44th St., Miami, Florida 33185

E-mail: Paleonycteris@gmail.com

The Orange Bishop (*Euplectes franciscanus*) is a non-migratory ploceid from sub-Saharan Africa, with a native range extending from east Senegal to central Kenya (Barlow and Warcher 2006). Ploceids have black conical bills, and orange, red, or yellow plumage contrasting with black (Craig 1980, 1992; Barlow and Warcher 2006). Species of the genus *Euplectes* have been widely introduced in other parts of the world such as Australia, Japan, Portugal, Hawaii, Bermuda, and Spain, because of accidental cage-bird escapes, and less frequent intentional releases (AOU 1998, Sol 2001, Christidis and Boles 2008, Pranty in prep.).

In the New World, populations of the Orange Bishop are known from the West Indian islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico (Moreno 1997, Lithner 2001, Raffaele et al. 2003). In North America, it was introduced in California during the 1970s, only recently spreading to Phoenix, Arizona, and Houston, Texas (AOU 1998, Gatz 2001, Roberson 2002, Witmer et al. 2007, HAS 2008). In Florida, reports are from Lee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Sarasota, Seminole, and Wakulla counties (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Pranty 1995, Pranty in prep.).

Here I report the sighting of an Orange Bishop from southwestern Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida. This adult male in alternate plumage (Fig. 1) was photographed 16 October 1999, a day after the passage of Hurricane Irene. The black cap and face, and orange chin and throat distinguished it from the similar Red Bishop *E. oryx*, which has a black chin and throat (Barlow and Warcher 2006). This constitutes the 10th record of an Orange Bishop in Florida (Pranty in prep.).



Figure 1. A male Orange Bishop (*Euplectes franciscanus*) photographed in Miami-Dade County, South Florida, during the 1999 hurricane season. Note the characteristic orange plumage reaching the chin. Photograph by Johanset Orihuela.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Bill Pranty, Adrián Tejedor, Tom Webber, Bruce Anderson, Scott Robinson, and Tamara Castaño for their support and for critically reviewing earlier drafts and providing constructive suggestions.

LITERATURE CITED

- AOU [AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION]. 1998. The Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- BARLOW, C., AND T. WARCHER. 2006. A Field Guide to the Birds of Gambia and Senegal. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.
- CHRISTIDIS, L., AND W. BOLES. 2008. Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria.
- CRAIG, A. J. K. 1980. Behavior and evolution in the genus *Euplectes*. *Journal of Ornithology* 121:144-161.
- CRAIG, A. J. K. 1992. The identification of *Euplectes* species in non-breeding plumage. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 112:102-108.
- GATZ, T. A. 2001. Orange Bishops breeding in Phoenix, Arizona. *Western Birds* 32:81-82.
- HAS [HOUSTON AUDUBON SOCIETY]. 2009. Orange Bishop *in* Species Accounts. <<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/833/MenuGroup/Profiles.htm>>. Accessed 13 May 2009.
- LITHNER, S. 2001. A birding trip to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. *El Pitorre* 14:11-19.
- MORENO, J. A. 1997. Review of the subspecies status and origin of introduced finches in Puerto Rico. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 33:233-238.
- PRANTY, B. 1995. Field observations winter report: December 1994-February 1995. *Florida Field Naturalist* 23:77-86.
- PRANTY, B. In prep. The unestablished exotic avifauna of Florida. Appendix B *in* The Robertson and Woolfenden Annotated Checklist of Florida Birds (J. S. Greenlaw and R. Bowman, Eds.).
- RAFFAELE, H., J. WILEY, O. GARRIDO, A. KEITH, AND J. RAFFAELE. 2003. Birds of the West Indies. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- ROBERSON, D. 2002. *Monterey Birds*, 2nd ed. Peninsula Audubon Society, Monterey, California.
- ROBERTSON, W. B., JR., AND G. E. WOOLFENDEN. 1992. Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List. Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication No. 6, Gainesville.
- SOL, D. 2001. El problema de la introducción de aves exóticas. *La Garcilla, Revista de la Sociedad Española de Ornitología* 111:15.
- WITMER, G. W., P. W. BURKE, W. C. PITT, AND M. L. AVERY. 2007. Management of invasive vertebrates in the United States: An overview. Pages 127-137 *in* Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species: Proceedings of an International Symposium (G. W. Witmer, W. C. Pitt, and J. A. Fagerstone, Eds.). USDA/APHIS/WS, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado.