

## A RECENT WINTER RECORD OF SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*) IN FLORIDA

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Publications in this journal have documented first winter records in Florida of seven species of Neotropical birds that breed in or migrate through the state (e.g., Bowman et al. 1995; Doyle 2002; Pranty et al. 2005, 2008 and references therein). In this note we document a winter occurrence of Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) that seems to represent the second winter record in Florida.

*Discovery and description.*—On 14 January 2010, Larry Manfredi (in litt.) discovered a Swainson's Thrush along Gumbo Limbo Trail in Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida. He showed the bird to others but could not obtain photographic evidence to document the occurrence. One month later, on 15 February 2010, Sanchez refound the Swainson's Thrush and obtained one photograph (Fig. 1). Except for pale rusty wing panels, the bird was uniformly olive above, with no contrast between the back, rump, and uppertail. The head was olive with a pale buffy face, lores, chin, and throat; whitish eyering; and dark malar stripe. The irides were black. The upper mandible appeared entirely dark, while the lower mandible was pale orange basally and dark distally. The underparts were photographed in profile, but the whitish breast and gray belly, both with dark mottling, are visible. The legs and feet were pale pink. Many pale-tipped juvenal feathers were retained on the scapulars; otherwise, the plumage appeared fresh with no wear. No vocalizations were heard.

Pranty sent Sanchez's photograph to two ornithologists who authored a series of articles on the identification of *Hylocichla* and *Catharus* thrushes (Lane and Jaramillo 2000). A. Jaramillo (in litt.) felt that the bird "look[ed] good" for a first-basic Swainson's Thrush. His only concern was the rusty wing panel, which suggested a Hermit Thrush (*C. guttatus*), but that species would also display a rusty tail. Furthermore, the "warm wash on the eyering and throat/malar" of the bird is "100% Swainson's" Thrush rather than Hermit Thrush (A. Jaramillo in litt.). D. Lane (in litt.) agreed that the bird was "indeed a Swainson's Thrush . . . in a most unusual plumage: [with] many retained juvenile scapulars. Since it didn't molt into full first-basic plumage, it may be defective."

*Discussion.*—The five (Lane and Jaramillo 2000) or six (Mack and Yong 2000) subspecies of Swainson's Thrush are divided into "olive-backed" and "russet-backed" groups that differ in plumage, morphology, breeding and wintering ranges, and vocalizations. Swainson's Thrushes breed across most of central and southern Alaska and Canada and in mountainous areas of the lower 48 states, south to California, New Mexico, Michigan, and West Virginia (Mack and Yong 2000) or Virginia (AOU 1998, Lane and Jaramillo 2000). They winter regularly from central Mexico to Bolivia and northwestern Argentina, and are said to winter casually in California, Texas, and along the Gulf Coast (AOU 1998, Mack and Yong 2000). Taxonomy among the "olive-backed" group is ambiguous. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) stated that Florida specimens represented the two eastern subspecies, *C. u. clarescens* and (especially) *C. u. swainsoni*, but Mack and Yong (2000) considered *clarescens* to be a junior synonym of *swainsoni*. Also, Mack and Yong

