

TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2010

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Abstract.—This 20th report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by members of the Committee in 2010. The FOSRC critically reviews submitted reports of rare birds in Florida, including potential new records for the state, and whether exotic species meet criteria to be considered established. Submissions are requested for species or distinctive subspecies that are believed to be first-time vagrants in Florida or that are listed as review species or subspecies on the Official State List, published on-line in the Florida Ornithological Society's (FOS) website (<http://www.fosbirds.org/official-florida-state-bird-list>). FOSRC review species or subspecies (=Review List) are mostly those taxa on the Official State List for which the FOSRC has previously reviewed and accepted 10 or fewer reports (but see below). 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 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 meetings, and a growing gallery of photographs of rare birds in Florida evaluated by the FOSRC.

This report details the evaluations of 49 submissions, involving 35 species and one subspecies. Of the 42 new reports, received from September 2009 through July 2010, 33 were reviewed and accepted, six were not accepted, and three were tabled pending further consideration of available evidence and specimen examination. Of the six submissions not accepted, one (Mute Swan) was not accepted because it could not be determined if the individual originated from feral populations in Florida that are not considered established, or was a vagrant from established populations to the north, and five submissions were not accepted because the identification had not been firmly established. In addition, the committee resolved four reports that had been tabled pending further information or were otherwise previously unresolved: Red-necked Grebe (FOSRC #09-711) was not accepted; White-tipped Dove (FOSRC #09-751) was not accepted to either the genus (*Leptotila*) or species level; "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (FOSRC #09-754) was not accepted; and Tricolored Munia (FOSRC #09-762) was not accepted. We considered the latter species correctly identified, but could not determine if the birds photographed originated from established populations in Cuba or from birds escaped from captivity in Florida. Three submissions that were unresolved at our August 2009 meeting remained unresolved in our 2010 deliberations: a report of a Razorbill from Indian River Co. (FOSRC #09-713); the Broad-billed Hummingbird submission from Alachua Co. from 2004, initially a report, but with photographs added in 2010 (FOSRC #05-530); and the Yellow-faced Grassquit photographed in Monroe Co. in 2009 (FOSRC #09-735).

Thus, overall, the committee evaluated or reevaluated a total of 49 submissions at its 2010 meeting, accepting 33 of them (67%), not accepting 10 of them (20%), and tabling

the rest. The current acceptance rate is close to the rate of 71.8 percent in the period from 2001-2009 (267 of 372 submissions accepted). The percentage of new submissions that include a specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence supporting the submission (79%) continued to be high, as mentioned in previous reports (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007, Kratter 2008, Kratter 2010a,b). For the 33 new submissions that were accepted, all but three (91%) were accompanied by specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence. Of the 10 submissions not accepted, four (40%) were accompanied by specimen or photographic/video/audio 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 firmly believes that well-substantiated 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 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 videos, and audio recordings). Two species were added to this list in the 16th Report (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), four species were added in the 17th report (Kratter 2008), two species were added in the 18th report (Kratter 2010a), and a genus and four species were added in the 19th report (Kratter 2010b) to bring the State total to 508 species. For 2010, we added two species: Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*, FOSRC #2010-788), and Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*, FOSRC #2010-807). These additions bring the total number of species on the State List to 510.

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC, including descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and committee comments, is archived in the Ornithology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and is available for public access. 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. Starting 1 January 2012, secretarial duties of the FOSRC switch to Jon Greenlaw (jgreenlaw@earthlink.net).

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during 2010 when the reports discussed here were evaluated. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure were: Sally Jue (2010), Andrew W. Kratter (2011), Bruce Anderson (2012), Mark Berney (2013), John Murphy (2014), Jon Greenlaw (2015), and Ed Kwater (2016). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members on the FOSRC and their addresses.

Contributors to this report (all submitters are acknowledged below, but only those reports that are accepted include initials of the submitter): Angel and Mariel Abreu, Bruce Anderson (BA), Jim & Emily Barr (JEB), Fred Bassett, Zach Bentley (ZB), Mark Berney (MBe), Joseph Bonislawsky, Michael Brothers (MBr), Bob Carroll, Jim Cavanagh, Brian Cole, Donald Coody, Chris Costers, David DeReamus, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Tom Dunkerton, Charlie Ewell, Teresa Fiorillo, David Freeland, Murray Gardler, Bernice and Larry Gilley, Doug Gochfeld, Carl Goodrich, Jon Greenlaw, Mitchell Harris, Linda Hensley, John Hintermister, Peter H. Homann, Andy Kratter, Charlene Leonard, Karin Lebo, Judy Lyle, Katie MacMillen, Mike Manetz, Chris Mason, Tony

Menart (TMe), Trey Mitchell, Rick Mills, John Murphy, Barrett Pierce, Marcus Ponce, Bill Pranty (BPr), Gallus Quigley, Peter A. Quincy, Maria Rodriguez, Lesley Royce, Fran Rutkovsky, Leann Streeper, Andrew Thornton, Ralph Todd, Alex Vinokur, Bob Wallace, and Doug Wassmer.

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—During 2010, the FOSRC met once, on 31 July 2010 at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. At this meeting, FOSRC member Sally Jue reached the end of her term on the committee. Sally's vacancy was filled by Michael Brothers, who is new to the FOSRC.

Formats and terminology.—The following accounts report on all actions undertaken by the committee during 2010, and provide information on the history of the rare species in Florida covered in the accepted reports.

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. Before 2010, 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. Starting in 2010, FOSRC numbers associated with each submission will use a four digit prefix (e.g., 2010) instead of a two digit prefix. 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, 2008); 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", which can mean both hatching summer and second calendar 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. For species with five or fewer acceptable records or FOSRC accepted reports, we provide details of previous occurrences in Florida.

Abbreviations used in this report are: FLMNH, Florida Museum of Natural History; nm = nautical miles, NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; UCF, University of Central Florida; UF, University of Florida (an acronym applied to catalog numbers of specimens in the FLMNH collection); and subsp. and spp., singular and plural for subspecies.

ACCEPTED SUBMISSIONS

CACKLING GOOSE, *Branta hutchinsii*.

2010-793. (JM, JB). This bird was found by Danny Bales on 28 January 2009 at St. Marks NWR (Wakulla Co.). It was photographed by several people the same day.

Florida has three previous accepted records: a December 1956 specimen from Wakulla Co. (FOSRC #05-560, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006); one photographed in Brevard

Co. that was present December 2002-February 2003 (FOSRC #06-601; Kratter 2008); and one photographed in Okaloosa Co. in December 2005 (FOSRC #06-596; Kratter 2010a).

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*.

2010-790. (LR). This female was found and photographed 8 January 2010 at Huguenot Memorial Park in Jacksonville (Duval Co.).

Previously, there were four records from Florida, one specimen (TTRS 3216) from Leon Co. in December 1953, and photographs from Wakulla Co. (1975), Hillsborough Co. (1980), and Pasco Co. in April 2009 (FOSRC #09-727, Kratter 2010b).

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*.

2010-787. (DF, MBe). This adult male was found 22 December 2009 at the Viera Wetlands (Brevard Co.) by Donna Faylo; it was photographed and seen by many during its stay to 6 February 2010.

The FOSRC has accepted six previous submissions (5 photographs, 1 report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) listed eleven documented records (7 photographs, 4 specimens) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*.

2010-809. (ZB). This bird was caught on a fishing hook on 5 July 2010 near the Western Dry Rocks, 13 nm SW of Key West (Monroe Co.). A photograph was taken while the bird was being held. The very pale head suggests a young bird.

The only previous submission accepted by the FOSRC was one photographed in Pinellas Co. in May 2000 (FOSRC #00-420; Bowman 2000). Two other records have not been reviewed by the FOSRC: a specimen from Monroe Co. in May 1992 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), and a bird "recognizably" photographed in Wakulla Co. in July 1982 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). A bird observed in Palm Beach Co. in January 1995 (FOSRC #95-326; Anderson 1996) was accepted to genus only (*Diomedea* at the time), as the description did not exclude some subspecies of the Shy Albatross (*T. cauta*; Anderson 1996).

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*.

2010-798. (MG, BW). This bird was photographed in flight during a pelagic trip, 14 nm east of Ponce de Leon Inlet (Volusia Co.) on 1 February 2010.

Of the 16 previously accepted records for Florida (11 specimens, 2 photographed, 3 reports), all but one (FOSRC #97-374 in Escambia Co.) were from the Atlantic Coast.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.

09-776. (CM, TMe, JL). This adult, present from 7 September 2009 to 21 March 2010 at St. Marks NWR, was seen by many observers and photographed.

2010-786. (TD, DF). This breeding-plumaged adult was found and photographed 30 November 2009 by Tom Dunkerton at the Viera Wetlands. It was present until 2 December 2009.

These two records represent the fifth and sixth records for Florida, with all since 2007. The previous records were three from Monroe Co. in 2007 and 2009 (two separate birds, though one is possibly the same individual as in 2007), and one from Orange Co. in 2009 (Kratter 2008, Pranty et al. 2010, Kratter 2010b).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica*.

2010-803. (DG, BW). This first-spring female was found and photographed by Doug

Gochfeld on 28 April 2010 at Flamingo, Everglades National Park (Monroe Co.). The excellent documentation shows the bird standing among Marbled Godwits (*L. fedoa*) and Willets (*Tringa semipalmata*). The bird is from the Alaska/eastern Russian *baueri* group of subspecies.

Florida has only three prior records: one photographed in Brevard Co., present from October 1970-April 1971 (McKey 1971, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992); one in Franklin Co. in September 1984 (FOSRC #84-067; Powell 1986), and another in Pinellas Co. during the winter of 1985-86 (FOSRC #86-099; Dowling 1989).

SURFBIRD, *Aphriza virgata*.

2010-802. (BW). This bird was observed and photographed along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline, southwest of Shell Mound near Cedar Key in Levy Co. on 14 March 2010.

Florida previously had two accepted records: one photographed in Lee Co. in October 2001 (FOSRC #02-476; Bowman 2004) and one photographed in Volusia Co. in April 2005 (FOSRC #05-566; Bowman and Greenlaw 2006). Two additional records – one photographed in Escambia Co. on March 1968 and one photographed in Lee Co. in February 1978 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992)—have not been assessed by the FOSRC.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*.

2010-812. (MH). This adult was present and photographed at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa (Brevard Co.) from 12-19 February 2010. It is probably the same adult California Gull observed by David Freeland and Carl Goodrich on 29 January 2010.

The FOSRC has previously accepted seven submissions: a report from Pinellas Co. in 1983 (Powell 1986), one photographed in Franklin Co. in 1998 (Bowman 2000), one photographed in April 2006 in Levy Co. (Kratte 2008), one photographed in Brevard in 2009 (Kratte 2010b), one photographed in Volusia Co. in January-February 2008 (Kratte 2010a), and two separate ones photographed there in January-March 2009 (Kratte 2010b). The State's first record, photographed in Pinellas Co. in April 1978, has not been assessed by the FOSRC but was accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992).

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*.

09-772. (MBr). This first-cycle bird was present and photographed 12-25 January 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia Co.). It is more strongly patterned than a Thayer's Gull accepted (#09-726; Kratte 2010b) at the same locality from 2 March 2009.

2010-789. (MG). This first-cycle bird was found and photographed on 18 December at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa.

The 13 previously documented or accepted reports of Thayer's Gull in Florida include one specimen and six records with photographs from before 1984 (and not reviewed by the FOSRC; Stevenson and Anderson 1994) and six birds subsequently accepted by the FOSRC (Kratte 2010a).

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*.

2010-810. (AK). This after-second-year female was found dead at Cocoa Beach (Brevard Co.) by Margie Mitchell on 2 February 2010. The specimen was sent to the FLMNH (UF 47787).

This rare winter visitor to both coasts of peninsular Florida was previously known from Florida on the basis of one photographed in Brevard Co. in 1967 (Robertson and

Woolfenden 1992), 12 specimens (Stevenson and Anderson 1994; Pranty 1993, 1996; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), and one report from Volusia Co. (Kratter 2010a).

ANCIENT MURRELET, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*.

2010-788. (MBr, AK). This hatch-year male, a first state record (Kratter and Brothers 2010), was found on a boat ramp at Ponce Inlet (Volusia Co.) on 15 December 2009 and brought to the Marine Science Center. It died overnight and the specimen was sent to the FLMNH (UF 47280).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN, *Fratercula arctica*.

2010-792. (PQ, AK). This adult was found dead on the beach at Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge (Martin Co.) on 29 January 2010 by Peter Quincy. The specimen (UF 47309) was sent to the FLMNH.

2010-795. (BA). This second-year bird was found dead on a beach at Patrick Air Force Station (28° 13.065' N, 80° 35.858' W; Brevard Co.) on 4 February 2010 by Teresa Fiorillo and Keitha Datillo-Bain. The specimen (UCF 2447) was sent to UCF.

Previously the FOSRC had accepted two submissions: one observed in Martin Co. in December 1986 (FOSRC #87-120; Baker 1991), and a specimen from St. Johns Co. in December 2004 (FOSRC #05-558; Bowman and Greenlaw 2006).

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*.

09-777. (BPr). This female specimen at Archbold Biological Station (ABS, GEW 5781) was found injured or sick 8 December 1992 at Cassia (Lake Co.); it died three days later at the Center for Birds of Prey.

Previously Florida has five accepted reports of this species: a specimen from Monroe Co., in 1898 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), a videotaped bird from Highlands Co. (FOSRC #94-290; Anderson 1996), a report from Highlands Co (FOSRC #95-330; Anderson 1996), one photographed in April 2003 in Monroe Co. (FOSRC #03-503; Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and one found injured in Santa Rosa Co. in November 2007 and released after rehabilitation (FOSRC #07-654; Kratter 2010a).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus platycercus*.

2010-791. (FB). This after-hatch-year female was present from 19 December 2009 to 23 March 2010 at a residence in Fort Walton Beach (Okaloosa Co.). It was captured, photographed, and banded by Fred Bassett.

The FOSRC had previously accepted five records of Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Florida, all since 2000 and all from the Panhandle; one from Wakulla Co. (FOSRC #00-409; Bowman 2000), one from Okaloosa Co. (FOSRC #08-663; Kratter 2010), and three from Escambia Co. (FOSRC #01-434, 02-470, 04-532; Bowman 2004, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006).

SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*.

2010-783. (LS, GQ). The winter of 2009-2010 was the third consecutive winter that what was probably the same Say's Phoebe wintered along Ranch Road in Astatula (Lake Co.: FOSRC #2010-785, below, and FOSRC #07-656, Kratter 2010a). It was observed and photographed from 29 October 2009-20 February 2010.

2010-784. (CC). This bird was found and photographed 4 January 2010 at Fort Walton Beach (Okaloosa Co.); it was present until 23 March 2010.

2010-785. (LS). This was the second winter that what was probably the same Say's Phoebe wintered along Ranch Road in Astatula (FOSRC #2010-783 above and FOSRC

#07-656). The bird was present and photographed between 18 November 2008 and 22 February 2009.

Prior to these records, the FOSRC had accepted four previous reports of this species: one observed in Franklin Co. in October 1988 (FOSRC #88-158; Baker 1991); one photographed in Hamilton Co. in January 1998 (FOSRC #98-382; Bowman 2000); one photographed in Escambia Co. in October 2003 (FOSRC #03-520; Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and the Lake Co. record in 2007 mentioned above.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*.

2010-813. (MBe). The Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area (“The Annex”) in Miami-Dade Co. is a regular locale for observing *Empidonax* flycatchers during fall migration. On 29 August 2009, Mark Berney made audio recordings of at least three different vocalizing Alder Flycatchers. One bird gave a slurred short song, and two others were giving agitated squeaky calls.

2010-806. (MM). This singing bird was heard but not seen by a birder experienced with the songs of both Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher on 25 April 2010 in Gainesville (Alachua Co.). The song was described as: “a scratchy, sneezy, two-syllabled song, freee-BEER. The first syllable up-slurred, the second syllable shorter, more emphatic, and about a musical fifth higher than the end of the first syllable.”

In 2006 the FOSRC added Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher to the FOSRC review list because the status of these extremely similar species, which were formerly lumped as Traill’s Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), is very unclear in Florida (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006). Prior to these two submissions, the FOSRC had accepted two fall records of Alder Flycatcher, both audio-taped from Miami-Dade Co. (Kratte 2010a); no Willow Flycatcher submissions have been received.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*.

2010-811. (JEB). This bird was videotaped at the Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (Hendry Co.) on 6 March 2010. The videotape includes audio recordings of the distinctive twittering vocalizations that distinguish Tropical Kingbird from Couch’s Kingbird (*T. couchii*).

This is the eleventh accepted record of Tropical Kingbird in Florida; nine of these are supported by photographs and recordings and/or descriptions of vocalizations, the other is an accepted report. In addition, four accepted records (three photos and one report, see Kratte 2010b) exist of birds that were either Tropical Kingbird or Couch’s Kingbird (*T. couchii*).

RED-LEGGED THRUSH, *Turdus plumbeus*.

2010-807. (MP, BPr [photographs of habitat only]). This bird was found and photographed by Marcus Ponce at the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary (Brevard Co.) on 31 May 2010.

This is the first accepted record for Florida and the United States (Anderson and Ponce 2010). The subspecies represented, *T. p. plumbeus*, occurs in the northern Bahamas. The species has no recent history of being kept in captivity in Florida or elsewhere in the United States.

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata auduboni* group.

2010-800. (PH). This adult male in alternate plumage was captured, banded, and photographed on 10 April 1994 at 117 Ridgeland Road in Tallahassee (Leon Co.).

2010-808. (AV). This bird was observed a few times from 14-26 December 2008 on Clay Island at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (Lake Co.). The description included the distinctive call note, face pattern, and yellow throat mixed with white in the chin.

The FOSRC has accepted three previous reports: one observed in Monroe Co. in April 1988 (FOSRC #88-143; Dowling 1989); one photographed in Monroe Co. in April 2008 (FOSRC #08-687; Kratter 2010a); and one photographed September 2006 in Pinellas Co. (FOSRC #06-592; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis tolmiei*.

2010-804. (DC). This adult male was photographed at the visitor parking lot of Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Palm Beach Co.) on 20 April 2010.

The FOSRC has accepted five previous submissions: birds photographed in Lee Co. in April 1998 (FOSRC #98-385, Bowman 2000) and Pinellas Co. in April 2008 (FOSRC #08-682; Kratter 2010a), and reports from Broward Co. in February-March 2002 (FOSRC #02-464, Bowman 2004), and Miami-Dade Co. in April 2001 (FOSRC #02-487, Bowman 2004) and September 2005 (FOSRC #06-588, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus*.

09-779. (RD, LD, BW, BLG). This bird was found by Lucy Duncan at Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore (Escambia Co.) on 1 November 2009; it was seen by many and photographed during its stay through 12 March 2010.

The two previous accepted records in Florida include one videotaped in Polk Co. January 1990 (FOSRC #90-185; Baker 1991, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) and one photographed in Pinellas Co. in February 2003 (FOSRC #03-511; Bowman 2006).

LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*.

09-773. (JM) This after-hatch-year male, in pre-basic molt, was found and photographed on 29 August 2009 at Alligator Point (Franklin Co.).

Previously verified records or accepted reports in Florida of this species include a specimen from Miami-Dade Co., in September 1968, birds photographed in Okaloosa Co. in September 1967, in Orange Co. in April - May 1977, in Franklin Co., February-March 1985 and September 2008 (FOSRC 08-698; Kratter 2010b), and a report from Wakulla Co. in September 1990 (Baker 1991, Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*.

2010-797. (BPr, JG). This male, probably after-second-year, was observed and photographed visiting a feeder in a yard at the north end of Lake Thonotosassa (Hillsborough Co.) from 12-17 February 2010.

Eleven records and reports have been previously accepted by the FOSRC (Kratter 2010b).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella neglecta*.

09-780. (RD). This bird was observed on 14 November 2009 at Peake's Point subdivision in Gulf Breeze (Santa Rosa Co.). The malar area was described as yellow, and the vocalizations were described as a "low chuck", which is distinctive for Western Meadowlark.

Since a number of records and observations before 1980 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994), the FOSRC has accepted only one record, a bird photographed in Escambia Co. in January 2007 (FOSRC #07-625; Kratter 2008).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*.

2010-814. (FR, JC). For the fifth consecutive winter a female returned to a yard at 3210 Brookforest Drive in Tallahassee; it was present and photographed 3 January-4 April 2010.

There were nine previously confirmed records of Bullock's Oriole for Florida (Pranty et al. 2005, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007, Kratter 2010b), although five of these likely refer to the same individual.

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

MUTE SWAN, *Cygnus olor*.

2010-799. This adult was photographed on Mizzell Road in St. Augustine Beach (St. Johns Co.) on 14 February 2010. Mute Swans are not resident in the area, and it was presumed by the observer that this bird was a migrant from established populations in the northeastern United States. The Committee had no doubt that the identification was correct. The established population of Mute Swans currently reaches south to North Carolina, with a small population established in South Carolina as well. Although this population does not show much migratory movement, it has shown the capacity to expand into new areas. Clouding the issue, however, is a growing population in Florida that is not considered established. This population probably includes some recruits from wild breeding but likely includes escaped birds from captivity as well. Mute Swans have been reported frequently north to Brevard Co. in recent years. The Committee felt that the bird in St. Johns Co. was more likely from the non-established population in Florida rather than the established population to the north.

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*.

2010-796. A flock of eight males was observed flying over Matanzas Inlet (St. Johns Co.) on 2 February 2010. The description of the birds, seen mainly from underneath, included lanky merganser shape, dark heads, white necks and underparts, and white secondaries contrasting with dark primaries. The Committee felt this report unusual, because all previously accepted records of Common Mergansers in Florida have been solitary females or young males. The description lacked details of the birds' upper surface, including the white wing coverts and scapular patches. The Committee felt that other duck species, for instance a flock of female Red-breasted Mergansers (*M. serrator*) or male Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) had not been definitely excluded.

RED-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps grisegena*.

09-711. This bird was found and photographed 7 January 2009 at Bunche Beach (Lee Co.). This submission was initially withdrawn by the observer (visiting from overseas) after photographs of what was thought to be the same bird were posted on the internet, which showed a definite Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*). However, on his return home, the original observer looked more carefully at his photographs and thought that they depicted a different bird. The submission was reopened at the August 2009 meeting, but the vote was unresolved (3 to accept, 4 not to accept). The original observer's three photographs are all rather distant and show a grebe swimming alone. The bird is mostly dark gray with a white cheek patch, a flat head, and a rather long bill; in one photo the bill looks vaguely tinged yellowish. The forehead is quite sloping and the head flat and squared off toward the back. The bill length and head shape vary among the photographs, perhaps because of diving

behavior. After studying specimens of both species and photos on the internet, the Committee felt that the bill length, shape, and the bird's face pattern were not correct for Red-necked Grebe, but were within the range of Horned Grebe.

There are only three previously accepted reports of Red-necked Grebe for Florida, all from the western Panhandle: one photographed in Santa Rosa Co. in December 2000 (FOSRC #01-437, Bowman 2004) a report, also from Santa Rosa Co, in January 2001 (FOSRC #01-442, Bowman 2004), and a report from February 2008 in Escambia Co. (FOSRC #08-675, Kratter 2010a).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis*.

2010-801. This hatch-year bird was photographed on Thomas Drive in Panama City Beach (Bay Co.) on 18 March 2010. The hawk is consuming a Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*). The bird, an obvious *Accipiter* sp., is brown above, streaked below, with a long banded tail. Its large size and faint supercilium are reminiscent of a Northern Goshawk, but other characters point to Cooper's Hawk (*A. cooperii*). The underparts are lightly streaked from the upper breast to the upper belly; the undertail coverts and lower belly are unmarked. Northern Goshawks have heavier streaks that continue through the undertail coverts. The dark tail bands are even across the tail, whereas the bands on Northern Goshawks are arched across each feather, resulting in wavy pattern of dark and light bands. The Committee felt that the bird was likely an immature female Cooper's Hawk, which can show a faint supercilium.

The only record of this species in Florida that is currently verifiable is a partial skeleton of one salvaged in Pinellas Co. in November 1927 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*.

2010-782. This adult was observed in a field with other gulls from ca. 200 m away on 13 December 2009 in East Palatka (Putnam Co.). The description included very pale overall color, bright red bill and feet, and a clean white head with possibly a small smudge near the eye. The bird was not described in flight. Although this brief description is indicative of a Black-headed Gull, some other gulls cannot be ruled out, including Gray-headed Gull (*C. cirrocephalus*), Slender-billed Gull (*C. genei*), or perhaps, Silver Gull (*C. novaehollandiae*, sometimes kept at zoos). Aberrant Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) with red bills and feet and paler mantles are annually seen in Florida. Adult Black-headed Gulls tend to have darker markings on the face that reach the crown.

There were nine previously documented records and one accepted report for Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992; Kratter 2010b).

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE, *Leptotila verreauxi*.

09-751. On 3 May 2009, this bird was flushed from the ground and seen in flight across a pond by two observers at Indigenous Park on Key West (Monroe Co.). It was submitted as a "probable White-tipped Dove" so we assessed it both as a White-tipped Dove and as *Leptotila* sp. at the August 2009 meeting (Kratter 2010b). At this meeting the Committee voted to not accept to species; we felt that there was not enough detail to preclude Caribbean Dove (*L. jamaicensis*), which has an introduced population on New Providence in the Bahamas. Caribbean Dove has not been recorded in Florida, although the proximity of New Providence makes it a possible stray. The vote at that meeting to accept the record as *Leptotila* sp. was not resolved (4 to accept, 3 not to accept). Those voting not to accept to genus felt that not enough detail was provided. Both White-tipped Dove and Caribbean Dove show a paler forehead that should contrast markedly

with the rest of the plumage. The bright cinnamon underwing coverts of both species were not mentioned. For the July 2010 meeting, a description was submitted by the second observer. The observer stated that he had a good view of the upper surface of the bird, which was “uniformly brown on top from wing tip to wing tip and from head to tail except the tail which was white tipped.” However, both *verreauxi* and *jamaicensis* show a paler forecrown. Although other features, such as overall shape, tail pattern, and tail shape indicate a *Leptotila* sp., the Committee felt that the overall description was inconsistent with this identification.

Florida has had only two records, both from the Dry Tortugas (Monroe Co.); one in April 1995 (FOSRC #95-337; Bowman 2000) and one in April 2003 (FOSRC #03-504; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*.

2010-805. This singing bird was observed 25 April 2010 at San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park (Alachua Co.); the description compares it with Acadian Flycatcher (*E. virescens*). The two-note song was described as harsher than Acadian. However, Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) and Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*) also give two-note songs that are harsher than Acadian. The brief description of the plumage could pertain to either Least, Willow, or Alder Flycatcher.

ROSE-THROATED BECARD, *Pachyramphus aglaiae*.

09-781. This bird, observed at Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve (Pasco Co.) on 4 December 2009 during a rain storm, was described as having a burgundy or maroon bib, “dove” gray back, sooty head, and a phoebe-like bill. It was sallying from an open perch on a teeter-totter to the ground for insects. Although the description is vaguely like a male Rose-throated Becard, the deep wide bills of becards are not much like that of a phoebe. Becards tend to forage within the canopy, sallying for insects or fruit; they rarely if ever sally to the ground. The behavior seems much more like an Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and if wet, a male may appear to have gray or black upperparts. In the United States, this species occurs only along the Mexican border in southern Texas and southern Arizona (AOU 1998).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata* [auduboni group].

09-754. This bird was seen by two observers on 13 December 2008 at the Southwest Regional Library Wetlands in Pembroke Pines (Broward Co.). The vote at the August 2009 meeting was unresolved (5 to accept, 2 not to accept). In addition to the face pattern and yellow throat, which indicated Audubon’s Warbler, the brief description included a “broad white wing patch,” which is characteristic of Audubon’s Warbler in alternate plumage. In basic plumage, the wings coverts are edged white, resulting in two wingbars. The Committee felt that this inconsistency called the identification into question.

TRICOLORED MUNIA, *Lonchura malacca*.

09-762. Two adults were photographed on 7 July 2009 on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas National Park (Monroe Co.). The vote at our August 2009 meeting was unresolved (3 to accept, 4 not to accept; Kratter 2010b). The identification of the two birds on the Dry Tortugas was not disputed, but the provenance of the birds is in question. The species is present in the pet-bird trade in the United States. The Tricolored Munia, native to southeast Asia, has established exotic populations on Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (AOU 1998) and on Cuba (Raffaele et al. 1998, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000). The species has apparently established populations on Cuba

and Jamaica by colonizing from Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, which indicates that it is capable of overwater dispersal. The photographs are not clear enough to assess cage wear or abnormal bill or toe nail growth resulting from captivity. The Committee felt that evidence available for either captive origin or for a natural vagrant from established populations was equivocal.

UNRESOLVED SUBMISSIONS

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Stercorarius maccormicki*.

09-775. This bird was observed from shore for ca. 20 minutes as it harassed terns 400+ m offshore on 10 September 2009, at Playalinda Beach (Brevard Co.). Dissenting voters felt that skua and dark Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*) identification is a difficult task at that distance, and observations corroborated with photographs are perhaps essential. The two voting to accept felt that the experienced observer's description, including the hefty build, broad wings, and short tail characteristic of a skua sp., coupled with the blond collar, adequately described South Polar Skua.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*.

09-713. This bird was observed 12 December 2008 at Sebastian Inlet State Park (Indian River Co.). Votes at the meetings on February 2009 (2 to accept, 5 not to accept) and August 2009 (3 to accept, 4 not to accept) were not resolved (Kratter 2010b). No new information was available for the July 2010 meeting. Not surprisingly, the submission remained unresolved.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cynanthus latirostris*.

04-536. This female, found on 20 December 2003 in Gainesville, was originally submitted as a report in 2005 and was not accepted. At the time, it would have been a first for Florida, and the FOSRC felt that better documentation was required. In February 2009, two photographs of a female hummingbird taken the following day were submitted to the FOSRC. The submission was reopened in August 2009. The vote at that meeting was not resolved (2 to accept, 5 not to accept). In July 2010, a description by another observer was added to the file.

Because the FOSRC has accepted three Broad-billed Hummingbirds since this report (FOSRC #04-549, #08-660, #08-664; see Kratter 2010a), the Committee felt that we could relax the unofficial criterion, held by all current members, that only records with irrefutable evidence (e.g., photographs, specimens, diagnostic sound recordings) could be used to add a species to the Florida State List.

The main topic of conversation was whether photographs and descriptions all pertained to the same bird. Other hummingbirds present at the same time included a Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) and a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Committee members were unanimous in their view that the photographs were likely not a Broad-billed Hummingbird. The written descriptions varied on whether the tail had white tips, the color of the underparts, and whether the bill had a red base. The recently submitted report did include this last characteristic, which is distinctive for Broad-billed Hummingbird, but the other reports stated that the bill was all black. An important discussion ensued on whether one description can trump the other descriptions, which may have pertained to other species. The vote was not resolved. The two dissenting voters felt that the body of evidence was contradictory, and even the best description lacked some key field marks.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*.

09-778. This female specimen (ABS 1001) lacks a location other than “Florida,” and has no date. It was prepared by B. Marks, possibly from the Field Museum of Natural History, and has modern data and label. Dorothy Kaufmann (in litt.), director of the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida in Pensacola, has a record of sending a Long-eared Owl to Glen Woolfenden at ABS in January 1997; the only other Long-eared Owl specimen at ABS is the above bird. The two dissenting voters felt that we should wait to accept until we had better details on locality.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*.

09-774. Two birds were seen and heard on 12 September 2009 at the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area (“The Annex”); later that afternoon, the birds were heard vocalizing by a different observer, but not seen. Most dissenting voters had issues with the brief description of the birds, which failed to eliminate the similar looking Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*), Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*), or Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*). Some squeaky vocalizations of Alder Flycatchers (*Empidonax alnorum*), which were present at the same time, are roughly similar to those of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. The three voting to accept felt that the description of the vocalizations, which one observer mentioned as “like a rubber toy,” coupled with the brief description, was suitable to eliminate these other species.

The FOSRC has previously accepted six submissions: five documented by photographs, from either Miami-Dade Co. (four) or Pinellas Co. (one), and one sight report from Franklin Co. (Kratter 2010a).

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivaceus*.

09-735. This male was present and photographed 20-26 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor on Key West (Monroe Co.). The vote at the August 2009 meeting was unresolved (Kratter 2010b). The Committee agreed that the photographs show a Yellow-faced Grassquit of the nominate West Indian subspecies, but the provenance of individuals of this species is Florida is debatable. It was believed that the Mexican and northern Central American subspecies are far more common in captivity than the West Indian subspecies, which has led the FOSRC previously to accept individuals of the latter (see Smith et al. 1991, Anderson 1996, Bowman 2004). However, this difference may no longer be valid. Several shipments of Yellow-faced Grassquits (subspecies not listed) have been confiscated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service in Miami, with an origin listed as Cuba, whereas no confiscated birds are listed as originating in Mexico or Central America. In one instance, nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits were confiscated by the USFWS in the Bahamas from a passenger flying from Cuba and attempting to bring the birds into the United States (Norton and White 2001). Aviculturists breed and sell nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits in the United States, using the name “Cuban Olive Finch.” Nonetheless, the bird shows no sign of cage wear and was in an area known for natural vagrants from Cuba. The dissenting four voters felt that a captive provenance of this bird could not be ruled out.

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