

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2012

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Abstract—The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee had its annual summer meeting in Gainesville on 18 August 2012. As Old Business, the Committee revisited three unresolved reports, determined that the Purple Swamphen met all the requirements for establishment in Florida, resolved a Tabled report, and finished its review of five exotic species that were proposed for disestablishment. The Committee critically examined the rules for disestablishment and found that the vague language in our “Rules and Procedures” did not apply to the five species under review, or to any other established species on the Florida birdlist. We agreed that for these species, and in the future, the rule of “natural extirpation” would uniformly apply. This conforms to what happens on other bird records committees (e.g. ABA). Under New Business, we re-evaluated two old reports due to an issue of verifiability of an only record based on photographic evidence. Twenty routine, well-documented reports were sent out for email voting during the spring before the summer meeting. All were approved. Twenty-seven new reports required evaluation at the meeting: 20 were accepted, 6 not accepted, and 1 was tabled pending more information. Two species were added to the Official Florida Bird List: Purple Swamphen and Inca Dove, bringing the state list to 512 species.

The twenty-second report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by the committee for the submission year ending in 2012. The FOSRC critically assesses reports of rare birds in Florida, including potential new records for the state, and evaluates the status of exotic species that may become established. Establishment criteria, last updated in 2004, are specified in the Committee’s Rules and Procedures, which are published on the Florida Ornithological Society’s website at <http://www.fosbirds.org/>. 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 (<http://www.fosbirds.org/official-florida-state-bird-list>). FOSRC review species or subspecies (= Review List) are mostly taxa on the Official State List for which the FOSRC have previously reviewed and accepted 10 or fewer reports (but exceptions may be made to obtain more information on the occurrence of selected taxa in Florida). The Rules and Procedures govern the Committee’s activities. The website (see above) includes a form that permits direct on-line submission of reports to the FOSRC, the names and addresses of current committee members, and reports to the FOS Board on the proceedings of all recent FOSRC meetings.

This report concerns the evaluations of 55 submissions (new and unresolved or tabled) involving 42 species, two subspecies, and three species-pairs. Of the 47 new submissions received from June 2011 through August 2012, 20 reports deemed to be uncontroversial, were submitted to Committee members in the April–June period for e-mail votes; all were accepted. Twenty-seven others were processed at our annual summer meeting in Gainesville. Of these, 20 were reviewed and accepted and six were not accepted after review. Of the non-accepted reports, issues were identifications not firmly established or uncertain provenance. One of the new reports was tabled. In addition, five tabled or un-resolved reports carried-over from earlier meetings for several reasons (Kratter 2012)

were re-visited this year: Purple Swamphen (FOSRC 2011-839) and Bicknell's Thrush (FOSRC 2011-861) were accepted, the first as an established exotic species representing a new species to the Florida bird list, and the second based on new measurement information provided by the bander. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (FOSRC 2009-774) and Greater Ani (FOSRC 2011-832) were not accepted because of ambiguous descriptive information or uncertain provenance, respectively. One continuing report on the Tricolored Munia (FOSRC 2010-820) remained unresolved. Thus, overall among 50 new and previously unresolved or tabled reports that were finalized, 42 were accepted (84%) and 8 (16%) were not accepted (for a comparison to recent reports, see Kratter 2012). The high acceptance rate reflects the good quality of documentation in most reports, nearly all of which included one or more photographs. Finally, votes to re-open three old reports previously resolved were accepted based on new information on the cases: a previously rejected specimen record (FOSRC [20]02-469) on the Common Merganser was accepted; an early report of breeding Virginia Rail in Florida (FOSRC [19]84-066) that had been accepted was overturned (photographs alone were not verifiable as this species); and a new report on a Rough-legged Hawk in Lake Co., which had not been accepted based on an earlier report, was re-considered and left unresolved.

In March 2011, the Committee received three proposals to review the status and potentially delist three established, exotic species (Budgerigar, White-winged Parakeet, and Red-whiskered Bulbul) on the Florida bird list. Later, the Committee added two other exotic species (Muscovy Duck and Spot-breasted Oriole). Our rules and procedures specify that a year-long review and public comment period must ensue before final decisions on these five species were possible. During the period between this meeting and the last one, the Secretary compiled information on the current and historic status and distribution of these species. At the June meeting this year, we reviewed the information and the criteria for disestablishment in our rules and procedures. The criteria did not provide explicit guidelines for delisting species that were already regarded as established in Florida. The assumption of the proposals was that because the five species were never vetted explicitly and individually by the Committee (but were vetted either by Robertson and Woolfenden [1992] or by the American Birding Association before them), the prevailing rules and procedures for disestablishment should be applied retrospectively to the species under consideration. However, the five species had been 'grandfathered' onto the Florida bird list in 1992 when Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) completed their critical evaluation of the list, which was accepted by the FOSRC as its baseline (Anderson and Baker 1994), to which it would review and add new species as evidence dictated. The Committee revisited the ambiguous disestablishment provision in our rules and procedures and agreed that the simplest criterion, that natural extirpation of an exotic species – previously deemed to be established – within its Florida range, should be the new standard for disestablishment. The Committee voted to continue the status quo for the five species, thus retaining them on the Official Florida Bird List (see below).

Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) were the last to publish an updated Official State List of the Birds of Florida for the period ending 31 December 2005, for a total of 495 species. Kratter (2012) further updated the list through 30 Jun 2011, when it stood at 512. This year (2012), the FOSRC accepted Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) as established in Florida, and the Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*), a southwestern vagrant, as new on the Florida list, raising the species total in the state to 514. All of these are based on independently verifiable evidence (specimens, photographs or videotapes, and audio-recordings).

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC is archived in the Ornithology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and is available to interested students of Florida birds. Observers of review-listed species in Florida, and birds that may be new to the State List, should submit reports to the FOSRC, preferably using the online form (<http://www.fosbirds.org/content/fos-bird->

records-species-documentation) or otherwise in a typed format that follows the form. The online form provides a standardized format and uniform guidelines that highlight the information that is ideally needed to fully evaluate a report. In particular for those observers submitting photographs or videotape with their reports, the correspondent also should describe what was seen of the bird; our experience is that not all photographs show what needs to be seen about birds that can be confused with similar species. So an observer should tell us in as much detail as possible what was observed using binoculars. The link above delivers a report directly to the Secretary of the Committee. If an observer sends in a written or typed report by mail, it should be addressed to Jon S. Greenlaw, 10503 Mistflower Lane, Tampa, Florida, or sent electronically as an email attachment to the address <jgreenlaw@earthlink.net >.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during the 2011-12 reporting year. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure were: Bruce Anderson (2012), Mark Berney (2013), John Murphy (2014), Jon Greenlaw (2015), Ed Kwater (2016), Michael Brothers (2017), and Rafael Galvez (2018). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members of the FOSRC and their addresses.

Submitters (all submitters are acknowledged below, but only those reports that are accepted include the initials of the submitter): Bruce Anderson (BA), José Francisco Barros (JFB), Fred Bassett (FB), Mark Berney (MBe), Ardith Bondi (AB), John Boyd (JB), Michael Brothers (MBr), Cecil Brown (CB), Brenda & Jerry Calloway (B&JC), Ryan Colburn (RC), Fred Dietrich (FD), Bob & Lucy Duncan (B&LD), Tony & Phyllis Frank (T&PF), Carl Goodrich (CG), Jon Greenlaw (JG), Richard Greenspun (RG), Alex Harper (AH), Mitchell Harris (MH), Adam Kent (AKe), John Killian (JK), Alan Knothe (AKn), Andy Kratter (AKr), Ed Kwater (EK), Larry Manfredi (LM), John Mangold (JMa), Stephen Mann (SMa), Sean McCool (SMc), Vince McGrath (VM), Paul Miller (PM), Trey Mitchell (TM), John Murphy (JMu), Valeri Ponzio (VP), Bill Pranty (BP), Diane Reed (DR), Maria Rodriguez (MR), Paul Rowe (PR), Carlos José Sanchez (CJS), Elliot Schunke (ES), Gayle Sheets (GS), Kim Stringer (KS), Sue Tavaglione (ST), Russ Titus (RTi), Roberto Torres (RTo), Bob Wallace (BW), Renee Wilson (RW), and Andy Wraithmell (AW).

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—During 2012, the FOSRC met once on 18 August 2012 at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. At this meeting, Jon Greenlaw began a term of managing Secretary following the end of Andrew W. Kratter's term. Rafael Galvez (Homestead) filled Andy's vacancy as he began a new term with his tenure limit in 2018. After this meeting, Bruce Anderson reached his term limit, and David Goodwin (Brandon) was nominated and approved to fill his vacancy beginning in 2013. His term limit will end in 2019.

Change in committee Rules and Procedures.—Five exotic species (see above) were reviewed for potential disestablishment at this meeting, following announcement of the review process at the June 2011 meeting over a year ago (required under section 5b of our Rules and Procedures). Because the rules for disestablishment in section 4 were vague and would be difficult to apply to the five cases for different reasons, the Committee chose to adopt a simple rule for disestablishment that has been used elsewhere. We call this the "natural extirpation" rule. Bruce Anderson offered the motion. After a second, we discussed this issue and subsequently unanimously approved a change in section 4 of the Rules and Procedures as follows: to replace the preamble of section 4 (see next) and delete the ensuing subsections "a" and "b." Section 4 should read:

4. Criteria for Disestablishment: A species designated as an Established Exotic on the State List shall be considered disestablished if the following applies: the Committee determines that the exotic species, which was previously deemed to have been established as a viable population within a definable range in Florida, has become naturally extirpated in that range.

Formats and terminology.—We follow the current nomenclature and sequence that are used in the American Ornithologists' Union check-list (AOU 1998) and its supplements (<http://checklist.aou.org/>) in the species accounts. Within accounts, reports on more than one submission on a species are introduced sequentially by the date of receipt. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the committee (see list above). We follow the terminology for age of birds outlined by Kratter (2012). We normally do not review subspecies, but on occasion we accept submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be reevaluated by the AOU. Our use of the words "report" and "record" to describe occurrences of species in Florida follows Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), Stevenson and Anderson (1994), and Greenlaw et al. 2014. For each species, we provide the number of records and sight reports previously accepted by the FOSRC as context for a current accepted report. In addition, for species with five or fewer records, we provide details on the number of records of a species in Florida before the FOSRC was established in 1983. "FWC" is an abbreviation for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

REVIEW OF SOME ESTABLISHED EXOTIC SPECIES

The FOSRC is mandated to evaluate the status of exotic species that have been introduced to Florida either accidentally as escapes or as releases locally, and to determine when such species become established as self-sustaining, freely breeding populations. The committee has formalized criteria for evaluating the issues of establishment and disestablishment. The matter of potential disestablishment arose in 2010 in relation to five species that had been grandfathered onto the State List when the FOSRC accepted the list of verified species in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) as its base list (see Rules and Procedures, section 3 of preamble). As noted previously, the committee concluded that all five species should remain on the list until such time as they may be extirpated naturally within their respective ranges in the state (see above). I provide here a synoptic review of the current status of these five species in Florida, and include the results of an unpublished survey, organized by Carlos Sanchez (Miami), and report to the committee of three of the five species in the greater Miami area during the one-year evaluation period that preceded our vote at the June 2011 meeting.

BUDGERIGAR, *Melopsittacus undulatus*

FOSRC 2011-843. This parrot was listed by the ABA Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC; A.B.A. *Checklist: Birds of Continental United States and Canada*, first supplement to first edition) in 1975, thus formalizing the view that it was established in Florida where the only known free-living population in the ABA area then resided. This decision was accepted by the authors of recent treatments of the state's avifauna (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Greenlaw et al. 2014). Thus, the Budgerigar was accepted on the Official Bird List of Florida when the FOSRC chose the list of verified species in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) as its baseline. In the late 1970s, the species numbered in the thousands along the central Gulf coast (Pranty 2001, Pranty and Garrett 2003, Greenlaw et al. 2014). Its current range is in two residential subdivisions in southwestern Hernando Co. and northwestern Pasco Co. (20 birds on two Christmas Bird Counts, 2012-13, and three individuals on these same CBCs,

2013-14 [B. Pranty, in litt.]). Thus, it appears that the Budgerigar may become extirpated soon from its range in the region.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET, *Brotogeris versicolurus*

FOSRC 2011-844. This parakeet was placed on the list of birds of continental United States and Canada in 1982 by the ABA-CLC (*A.B.A. Checklist*, second edition) on the basis of its acceptance as established in Florida under the name “Canary-winged Parakeet” (*B. versicolurus*). The Canary-winged Parakeet taxon was split into two species in the late 1990s (AOU 1997), which resulted in the name-carrying species (White-winged Parakeet) being retained on the Florida list by default, while the newly named species, Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*), is not on the list. The species is declining in its limited range in Florida, and appears to be mainly found now in central and northeastern sections of metropolitan Miami-Dade Co., and perhaps in adjoining sections of Broward Co. (Greenlaw et al., 2014; C. Sanchez, in litt.). In contrast, the populations of *B. chiriri* in the Miami area may be increasing (Smith and Smith 1993, Pranty and Voren 2003, Greenlaw et al. 2014).

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL, *Pycnonotus jocosus*

FOSRC 2011-847. This bulbul, the only member of its family (Pycnonotidae) now in North America, was listed by the ABA-CLC in 1975 when it was included in the first edition of the *A.B.A. Checklist* on the basis of a small population in southeastern Florida (Carleton and Owre 1975). Pranty (2010) provided a recent review of the species, while short summary accounts are in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), Stevenson and Anderson (1994), and Greenlaw et al. (2014). Currently, the core distribution of this species is in South Miami, Kendall, and Pinecrest. A survey in 2011 of selected neighborhood blocks in greater Miami found 91 birds in these areas, including one flock of 18 individuals (C. Sanchez, in litt.). Sanchez wrote: “Since the time of [the survey], birds have also been confirmed breeding as far north and west as 102nd Avenue and Sunset Drive. Although the overall population is not large, it seems to be stable.”

MUSCOVY DUCK, *Cairina moschata*

FOSRC 2012-906. This duck was accepted onto their verified list of Florida’s birds by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). It was then moved to the Official List of Florida Birds when the FOSRC adopted the verified list in this critical review as its baseline. It was established in the state by escaped or released domestic stock, augmented perhaps by the introduction of a small contingent of wild-caught birds from Venezuela (Hutt 1967, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Stevenson and Anderson (1994) did not accept the species on their main species list. They implied that after all the years these ducks have been present in settled districts of Florida, they mostly continued to be escapes. They concluded that “there seems to be no established wild (wary) population in Florida despite the release of many over the years.” However, Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) noted that “free-flying, vigorously reproducing duck populations dominated by individuals that resemble *C. moschata* are now almost ubiquitous on Florida’s suburban waters” throughout the state (FWC 2003). Greenlaw et al. (2014) consider this species to be established. The species has become the anatid counterpart in Florida of feral Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*).

SPOT-BREASTED ORIOLE, *Icterus pectoralis*

FOSRC 2012-907. This oriole was placed on the list of birds as an established exotic species for the continental United States and Canada in 1975 by the ABA-

CLC in its *A.B.A. Checklist*, first edition. Pranty (2004a) and Greenlaw et al. (2014) provide reviews of the status and distribution of the species in Florida. The species is still widely present in its recent core range from Broward Co. to Coral Gables, Kendall, and Pinecrest south of Miami, Miami-Dade Co., but its numbers are low (C. Sanchez, in litt.) and occurrences are very local. Reports in the eBird.org database (Cornell University, <http://ebird.org/map/>) for 2012–April 2013 extend from Fort Lauderdale south to Pinecrest. It may continue to occur north into Palm Beach Co. (Greenlaw et al., 2014). After a retrenchment from its peaks numbers and range in the mid-1970s (Pranty 2002, Pranty and Nelson 2010), it may be struggling to hold its own.

OLD SUBMISSIONS REVISITED

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*

FOSRC [20]02-469 (BP). The committee re-opened this report based on updated information on an old specimen of a male shot by Jacob Foxbower in Pasco County, in the mid-twentieth century. The report was originally unresolved and finally not accepted (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006) by the committee because of uncertain provenance and ambiguous details on its history. B. Pranty (pers. comm.) had seen the specimen (in son Charles Foxbower's possession at the time), photographed it, and had interviewed the son. Pranty supplied a copy of the photograph to the committee, but later he provided additional information on the specimen and the collecting event recalled by the son, who remembered the time when his father brought the bird home. The year "1968" was written on the bottom of the mount base, the year that specimen was shot at Fillman Bayou in northwestern Pasco County. Jacob Foxbower was a local hunter/taxidermist who often hunted waterfowl at this locality. The petition to re-open was accepted and the updated report was approved based on the additional historical details on the bird and information on its provenance.

VIRGINIA RAIL, *Rallus limicola*

FOSRC [19]84-066. The committee re-opened this report after a preliminary critical review of the only purported record of breeding of this species in Florida—which this report had established—raised a question about the identification of the rail species involved. The observations were made on 15 June 1984 in Hickory Mound Impoundment Wildlife Management Area, Taylor Co., which is a brackish, subcoastal location where Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*) are prevalent (http://www.wildflorida.com/places/PAN_Hickory_Mound.php).

Virginia Rails regularly breed south to southern Ohio, western Virginia, northern Georgia, and coastal North Carolina in the eastern United States (AOU 1998). Scattered records are accepted in the Piedmont of Georgia and one near the coast (Chatham Co.). Other possible breeding reports also were in the Piedmont, all quite far north of the Florida border (Beaton et al. 2003). The southernmost confirmed breeding location mapped in the Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas (Schneider et al. 2010) is in Bibb Co. on the edge of the coastal plain ecoregion, but still well north of Florida. The photographs of the adult that accompanied the brood of chicks in Florida was judged to be of a Clapper Rail. Thus, the committee accepted the view that the verifiable evidence did not support the original conclusion of a breeding record for the Virginia Rail in Florida. Two outside reviewers also examined the photographs and independently identified the adult rail as a Clapper Rail. The result of this review is that Florida stands without a confirmed record of breeding by the Virginia Rail.

NEW SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED

KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis*

FOSRC 2011-876 (RC, AW, B&LD). A first-year male was discovered on 21 December 2011 off Pensacola Beach, Santa Rosa County, and remained in the vicinity until 26 December when it was found dead in Pensacola Bay, Escambia County. The carcass was delivered to the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) where it was preserved as a specimen (UF 48940).

Only three other specimens are known from Florida waters (1961-1975) and a record based on a published photograph of a bird in Pinellas County in 1973 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). This report, which added a fourth specimen in the state, was only the first record accepted by the committee.

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*

FOSRC 2012-905 (CG). A single duck was found and photographed on 10 March 2012 at Key West Botanical Gardens on Stock Island, Monroe County. The bird, an adult male, remained there until at least 19 October.

The committee accepted eight previous reports (7 records based on photographs, and one sight report). Three earlier specimens (1955-1976) and two other birds verified by archived photographs (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) bring the total to 12 records and one accepted report before the present duck was found.

NORTHERN FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis*

FOSRC 2011-881 (AKr). A male of unknown age was found alive on the beach on 20 November 2011 in Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, and brought to a wildlife hospital in Melbourne, where it died on 29 November. The bird was saved as a specimen (UF 48956) at the FLMNH, where it was examined by the committee.

This is the seventh record (all photographed or preserved as specimens) of this species for Florida. The first in 2005 was found on Satellite Beach, Brevard County, on 19 April.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*

FOSRC 2012-892 (MBr). Two shearwaters together, photographed on 5 February 2012, were of this species. They were about 12-15 mi (19-24 km) off Nassau County, somewhere between the county line shared with Duval County and Georgia.

The species is known in Florida from 17 reports, 14 of which are based on specimens or photographs (Greenlaw et al. 2014). The FOSRC has processed 12 of these reports (including nine of the records).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

FOSRC 2011-883 (MBe, AB, JB). One bird, later determined to be an adult, was initially discovered and photographed on 23 January 2012 by AB at Wakodahatchee Wetlands on Jog Road, Delray Beach, Palm Beach County. M. Berney visited the cormorant breeding colony in the wetlands on 5 February, and on 9 other dates ending on 31 March, to seek information on the status of this cormorant and to obtain other photographs. It developed that three adult Neotropic Cormorants, each individually identifiable in photographs, were present in the colony, including the one originally discovered there. One of the other Neotropic Cormorants, first seen on 4 February, was identified as a female when it was observed during coition with a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*) in the colony. The original bird paired with a Double-crested Cormorant and possibly reared a single presumptive hybrid. Two other Neotropic-like cormorants found in the cormorant colony may have been hybrids or aberrant Double-crested

Cormorants (M. Berney, unpublished report to FOSRC). Breeding of this species in the colony remained unconfirmed, but evidence was suggestive of such an event – the first such evidence obtained in a breeding cormorant colony in Florida. Three individuals in the colony were accepted as this species.

This species was first discovered in Florida on 13 April 2007 in the lower Florida Keys, Monroe County. Since then, two other individuals were found in Monroe County, one in Brevard County, one inland in Orange County, and one in Wakulla County in the eastern panhandle. These observations, together with the three known individuals in the breeding cormorant colony in Palm Beach County, suggest that range expansion to Florida, perhaps from the Bahamas or Cuba, may be underway (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

PURPLE SWAMPHEN, *Porphyrio porphyrio*

FOSRC 2011-839. This is the third year that the committee has entertained a motion to consider the Purple Swamphen as established in Florida. The first motion in 2009 (FOSRC 2009-728) was not accepted because the species did not meet the Persistence Criterion of 15 years (Kratter 2010). The FWC undertook an eradication program that lasted from 2006-08 and formally ended without success in early 2009 (B. Pranty, in litt.), but the committee decided to wait before considering the species' establishment status. This year (2011-12), after the effort by the FWC to eradicate the species failed (Hardin et al. 2011), and with evidence that the species continues to thrive and perhaps even spread (Pranty in litt.), the committee approved the motion to consider the species as established in Florida, thus adding it to the Official Florida State Bird List (see above).

The Purple Swamphen is thought to have been present in Florida since about December 1996 in Pembroke Pines, Broward County (Pranty 2012). Three Florida specimens represent *P. p. poliocephalus*, a gray-headed race native to India and Sri Lanka east to the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra (Kratter et al. 2002, Pranty 2012). Its core breeding range in Florida as now understood includes some marshes in Broward, Hendry, and Palm Beach counties. By 2011, apparent non-breeding occurrences extended from northern Miami-Dade County and Collier County north to Lake and Orange counties, covering an estimated 35,000 km² (Pranty 2012). The American Birding Association acted in 2013 to add the species to their *ABA Checklist*, an event marked by a review in the pages of *Birding* on its biology and history in Florida (Pranty 2013).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica*

FOSRC 2012-890 (T&PF). A single bird discovered on 3 February 2012, and subsequently seen by others through at least 10 February, was on the flats near the Flamingo Visitor Center, Everglades National Park, Monroe County. An individual of this species, apparently representing the Asian population, *L. l. baueri*, was found at the same locality in April 2010 (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

Six reports (five supported by photographs), four of which were considered and accepted by the FOSRC, are known from Florida through 2012. The first record in Florida was of a bird that wintered at Port Canaveral, Brevard County, from early October 1970 to late April 1971 (Cruikshank 1980, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*

FOSRC 2012-891 (MBr). A single adult found on the beach with other gulls on 26 January 2012 and seen again on 31 January was at Daytona Beach Shores near Frank Rendon Park, Volusia County.

About 18 reports of this species are known in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014), and only seven previous reports, six supported by photographs, were accepted

by the FOSRC. Most early reports were not reviewed by the records committee. The first accepted record for the state concerned a bird photographed in 1998 in Franklin County (McNair 2000). Earlier photographic records were not accepted by Greenlaw et al. (2014) because of questionable identification.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*

FOSRC 2012-903 (MBr). A gull of this species in its first plumage cycle was discovered and photographed on 9 March 2012 in Daytona Beach Shores near Frank Rendon Park, Volusia County.

Since 1983, including this record, the species is known in Florida from ten records based on a specimen and photographs and three additional sight reports (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Greenlaw et al. 2014).

ELEGANT TERN, *Thalasseus elegans*

FOSRC 2012-909 (RG). A single tern of this species was encountered and photographed in flight on 24 May 2012 on Longboat Key, Sarasota, Sarasota County. The bird appeared to be in its first cycle as it still retained a small patch of orange on its foot on otherwise black legs and feet, and exhibited a small, subapical secondary bar. The primaries were fresh, but primary 9 (P9) seemed slightly shorter than P10, suggesting that these flight feathers were nearing the end of their prolonged first basic (formative) molt (Pyle 2008). Dr. Enrique Velarde, an avian biologist who studies Elegant Terns in Baja California, examined the photograph and affirmed its identification. She saw no evidence of hybridization. An Elegant Tern, perhaps the same individual, was relocated and photographed on 4 October and on 22 October 2012 on Siesta Beach, Sarasota County, about 7 miles (11 km) SSE of Longboat Key (S. Wilson, in litt.). The photograph of the Longboat Key bird taken in May was published with the incorrect date of 25 May and at the incorrect location of North Lido Beach (North American Birds 66:572, 2013; fide S. Wilson, in litt.).

This is only the second record for Florida. The first appeared in Pinellas County in the fall, 1999, as a subadult, nonbreeding bird (Pranty 2000, Kwater 2001), remaining until spring, 2004 (Shoch and Howell 2013). During this time the bird paired and bred with a Sandwich Tern in May 2002 (Paul et al. 2003), and was seen copulating with a Sandwich Tern in spring, 2004 (Pranty 2004b). Shoch and Howell (2013) reviewed the occurrences of vagrant "orange-billed terns" (*Thalasseus*) in eastern North America. Records have been increasing in recent years.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*

FOSRC 2011-880 (AKr). A hatch-year female was found on 16 December 2011 and taken to a rehabilitation clinic in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County. The exact location of discovery was not known. The bird became UF 48995 at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, where the FOSRC examined it.

INCA DOVE, *Columbina inca*

FOSRC 2011-869 (JMu, JC, MBr). A single individual was observed on 10 September 2011 along East Gulf Beach Drive on St. George Island, Franklin County. Photographs documented this first occurrence of the species in Florida.

FOSRC 2011-866 (B&LD, AH). A single bird was found and photographed on 9 October 2011 in the Peake's Point gated community, Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County. A group of contour feathers missing on the left side of the undertail coverts on this bird, and apparently the same group of missing feathers on the Franklin County bird, suggested the possibility the two doves were the same individual.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cynanthus latirostris*

FOSRC 2011-864 (FB, FD). An adult male was captured, measured, and photographed on 25 September 2011 at feeders in a residential yard in Eastpoint, Franklin County. The bird was last seen the following day.

The first record of this species in Florida was in September 2004 in Escambia County. Since then, four additional records have been accepted in the state by the FOSRC.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus platycercus*

FOSRC 2011-875 (FB). A hatch-year male was banded, measured, and photographed on 29 November 2011 at feeders in a residential yard on Gunter Road, Pensacola, Escambia County.

The first record of this species in Florida was in January 2000 in Wakulla County. A total of seven records, including the current record, and one sight report has been accepted by the FOSRC to August 2012. Except for the first record in Florida, all other occurrences were in the western panhandle from Escambia County to Walton County.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus sasin*

FOSRC 2011-862 (FB). A second-year male captured, measured, photographed, and banded on 17 January 2011 at a residence in Brooksville, Hernando County. Rectrix 5 measured 2.2 mm wide, and molt was in progress with fresh green feathers appearing on the back.

Since it was first verified in Florida in October 1996, 11 records, including this bird, have been affirmed by the FOSRC in Florida. The Brooksville bird is only the third peninsular record (south to Polk County), while four were in the western (Escambia and Okaloosa counties) and four were in the eastern panhandle (Leon County).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii*

FOSRC 2011-863 (AKe, BP, VP, BW). This *Empidonax*, a migrant stopover in Florida, was discovered at Earl P. Powers Park on the south shore of Newnans Lake, Alachua County, on 18 September 2011. It was singing and calling and remained at the edge of bulrush stands and low shrubs bordering the lake until 24 September at least.

This species is among the least well-known migrants in Florida because it can easily be confused with the similar Alder Flycatcher (*E. alnorum*). Both species are on the review list as needing information on their status in Florida based on field recordings of diagnostic songs and calls. An audible song was recorded and is archived in FOSRC files at the Florida Museum of Natural History. This is the first audio-record of the species in the state since the species was review-listed.

SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*

FOSRC 2011-878 (B&JC). A single bird discovered on 1 October 2011, was later seen the same day by several other birders, but not on the following day, at Fort Pickens, Pensacola Beach, Escambia County. The bird was verified by a photograph.

FOSRC 2012-893 (BP). This bird was observed and photographed on 11 February 2012 along Ranch Road east of Astatula, Lake County. It was first reported at this location on 29 October 2011. A Say's Phoebe has been at this site for the last

five winters, including this one, an occurrence that is likely to involve the same individual exhibiting winter philopatry.

FOSRC 2012-897 (AKn). This single bird was found on 2 October 2011 on the lighthouse grounds at Cape San Blas, Gulf County. The bird was verified by a photograph.

Previously, FOSRC has affirmed three sight reports and six photographic records in Florida. The species was first verified in Florida in Orange County in November 1975 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*

FOSRC 2012-899 (DR). A single yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* flycatcher that remained silent was found and photographed on 27 June 2012 at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve near St. Augustine, St. Johns County. Couch's Kingbird has never been documented in Florida, while Tropical Kingbird has been identified by voice and accepted by FOSRC over a dozen times through August 2012. Recently, an average of about one unidentified kingbird per year representing this combination is reported in the state.

THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*

FOSRC 2011-867 (CJS, LM). This single bird was observed and photographed on 6 August 2011 at Matheson Hammock Park, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County. It remained until at least 16 August.

FOSRC 2012-902 (LM). Another single bird was found and photographed on 26 October 2011 at Greynolds Park, Miami, Miami-Dade County. The details of the report were provided online (<http://tropicalaudubon.org/tasboard/messages/59930.html>) and the identification, based on the photograph, was initially confirmed by L. Manfredi (Miami). The vireo was not seen again.

FOSRC 2012-911 (RTi). This individual was found and photographed on 7 May 2012 at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County. It was last reported on 9 May.

Although first reported in Florida in 1961 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), the species did not become listed officially until two occurrences (Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties) were verifiably documented in 1989 and 1990 (Smith et al. 1990, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Since then, FOSRC has accepted 11 additional reports (eight records) of the vireo, including the three listed here. All the occurrences, apart from one wandering individual found on the Gulf coast in Pinellas County in October 2006, were on the southeast coast from Palm Beach County to northern Monroe County opposite the species' nearest likely sources in the Bahamas.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, *Vireo flavoviridis*

FOSRC 2011-868 (MBr, RT0). This single bird was found on 7 October 2011 at Matheson Hammock Park, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County. Photographs documented the discovery. The bird continued at the location until 12 October, and was not reported afterward (<http://tropicalaudubon.org/tasboard/>).

The Yellow-green Vireo was first discovered in Florida and is represented by a specimen taken near Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County in May 1958 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The FOSRC has previously accepted 10 reports (three records) since 1984. Accepted reports are from the western panhandle, the southeastern coast, and Pinellas County (Greenlaw et al. 2014). The species normally migrates south from its breeding range in Middle America to winter in South America.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH, *Catharus bicknelli*

FOSRC 2011-861 (PM). This bird was mist-netted, measured, and banded at Kissimmee Prairie State Park, Okeechobee County, on 9 October 2010. Measurements of wing chord and relative primary lengths (primary one [P1] versus P8 and P6 versus P8) provided critical details that affirmed the diagnosis of this species.

The early history of occurrence based on a critical review was provided by Woolfenden and Greenlaw (2005). A total of 11 records is known from Florida through the end of 2012 (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

VARIED THRUSH, *Ixoreus naevius*

FOSRC 2012-889 (RW). This thrush appeared at a home in Golden Gate Estates near Naples, Collier County, on 23 April 2012, when it was photographed. The bird was not seen again.

FOSRC 2012-894 (CB). This sighting was of a single bird found on 20 October 2011 at Fort Pickens, Escambia County. The description of this distinctive bird provided sufficient details of color and pattern to affirm the species.

First verified in Florida in Palm Beach County in October 1977 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), these two reports constitute the sixth and seventh accepted for Florida. Five records and two accepted sight reports extend known occurrences to four other counties in the state: Escambia, Bay, Pinellas, and Collier.

SAGE THRASHER, *Oreoscoptes montanus*

FOSRC 2011-877 (KS, JMu). This single bird was discovered and photographed on 11 November 2011 near the eastern end of Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park, Franklin County. It remained to at least 14 November when it was photographed again. The bird was found in mixed scrub and herbaceous habitat on coastal dunes in the park.

The species was first verified in Florida by a specimen obtained in January 1969, with a photographic record following in late March 1976 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Accumulated occurrences (now five records) come from Escambia, Franklin, Taylor, and Gilchrist counties in the panhandle and northwestern peninsular Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga kirtlandii*

FOSRC 2011-870 (RTo, MBe, LM). A single bird, likely a male, was observed and photographed on 20 and 21 October 2011 in Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve, Wilton Manors, Broward County.

Of about 20 or 21 reports of this species in Florida, only 6 are records (one specimen, five photographs including the present bird) (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Two other sight reports were accepted by the FOSRC, but most of the early reports were not evaluated. All except the Pinellas County record are from the east-central and southeast coasts of Florida (Volusia to Palm Beach counties) opposite the wintering grounds of the species in the Bahamas. These accepted occurrences represent both spring and fall migratory movements.

"AUDUBON'S" WARBLER, *Setophaga coronata* [auduboni group]

FOSRC 2011-865 (GS). One adult in non-breeding plumage was discovered on 23 October near the Sanibel Lighthouse, Point Ybel, Sanibel, Lee County. Photographs showed a full yellow throat, and observers heard its distinctive call as it foraged on the ground in coastal strand habitat.

About eight published but unverified reports were known from Florida by the early 1990s (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Because warblers from western

populations of the *S. coronata* complex are field-diagnosable and are poorly known in the state, the western group was placed on the Review List in 2006 for the purpose of gathering information on its status in Florida. Five records (including the present bird) based on photographs or video and two accepted sight reports (earliest in 1988, Dry Tortugas) constitute the total number of “Audubon’s” Warblers in the FOSRC inventory. Smith (2011) mentioned another record based on a photograph by L. Atherton, not seen by FOSRC, in Fort De Soto Park in May 1988.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus*

FOSRC 2011-872 (AKr, JK). This bird was found and photographed on 4 December 2011 along US-441 in Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Alachua County. It remained until 7 December.

FOSRC 2011-873 (BA, AKn). A second towhee of this species was found and photographed on 15 December 2011 along Parrish Still Road, Vernon, Washington County.

FOSRC 2011-874 (SMc). A third bird was discovered on 20 November 2011 at a residence about 4 mi (6 km) southwest of Crawfordville, Wakulla Co. It stayed to the next day.

FOSRC 2012-884 (JG, PR, ST, SMA). A fourth individual was found on 10 December 2011 at Possum Branch Preserve, Safety Harbor, Pinellas County. This bird, and possibly a second one that was later reported but never verified, wintered at the preserve. The last sighting was on 19 March 2012. Photographs provided confirmation of occurrence and identity of at least one of the two birds reported.

FOSRC 2012-885 (ES). A fifth individual was discovered on 21 February 2012 at Tall Timbers Research Station north of Tallahassee, Leon County. It was last seen on 13 March after apparently wintering at the site. It too was photographed to verify its occurrence and identification.

FOSRC 2012-904 (JMa). A sixth Green-tailed Towhee of 2011-12 winter season was found and photographed on 10 March 2012 at Circle B Bar Reserve, Lakeland, Polk County. It was seen again by two observers on 11 March, but not afterwards.

Six Green-tailed Towhees in one season is unprecedented in Florida. Previously, four records were tallied in the state since the first in 1990. No evidence exists of a broader, unusual influx of this species during the winter of 2011-12 in adjoining or nearby states in the Southeast. Only Georgia reported a single bird for its second state record (LeGrand et al. 2012).

SPOTTED TOWHEE, *Pipilo maculatus*

FOSRC 2011-879 (B& LD, AH). A single female that stayed two days was discovered and photographed on 13 January 2012 at the end of the Santa Rosa Peninsula in Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County. This bird was only the third record from Florida, all from the panhandle.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, *Spizella arborea*

FOSRC 2012-888 (MH). A single bird appeared on 10 April 2012 at a residence on Bellwood Street, Titusville, Brevard County. Photographs documented its occurrence and identity.

This is only the third record for Florida beginning with the first in Wakulla County in April 1988. Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) reviewed early, unverified reports in Florida.

LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*

FOSRC 2012-887 (ES). A single bird, believed to be an adult male, was discovered on 21 February 2012 on Tall Timbers Research Station, Leon County. It was photographed during the period of its stay until 16 March.

Previously, FOSRC processed three earlier records (earliest, 1985) and has accepted a sighting report. Robertson and Woolfenden (1962) documented a specimen, representing the first record for Florida, and two photographic records before 1985, bringing the current total in the state to seven records and one accepted report.

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*

FOSRC 2012-887 (VM). A single first-year male appeared at a residence on Hibiscus Drive, South Fort Myers, Lee County, on 1 April 2012. It was photographed during its stay at a feeding station until 21 April.

Eight photographic records and four additional sight reports have been accepted by the FOSRC previously. Also, an early record (1977) based on photographs was accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*

FOSRC 2011-871 (JMu, RS). A single adult male was discovered and photographed on 15 October 2011 at the Youth Camp, Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park, Franklin County.

This constitutes the eleventh record of this oriole in Florida. Twelve records and five sight reports have been accepted in the state through the end of 2012 (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

WESTERN GREBE/CLARK'S GREBE, *Aechmophorus occidentalis/A. clarkii*

FOSRC 2012-900. This bird was observed on 2 December 2011 in the bay off Gulf Shores National Seashore between Okaloosa Island and Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County. Although the identification may have been correct, the written description did not provide sufficient details to be certain about the identification.

THAYER'S GULL/ICELAND ("KUMLIEN'S") GULL, *Larus thayeri/L. glaucoides kumlieni*

FOSRC 2012-908. A single unusual gull was observed on 6 December 2011 at the Santa Rosa County Central Landfill, Milton, Santa Rosa County. While it seemed possible that the species may have been a Thayer's Gull, the description did not mention key field marks needed to identify either species. The reported size as equal to that of a Herring Gull also was an issue. The identity of the gull could not be affirmed given the evidence that was available.

GREATER ANI, *Crotophaga major*

FOSRC 2011-832. A single bird of this species was photographed at Crandon Park Gardens, Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, on 16 December 2010. Although initially misidentified as a Groove-billed Ani (*C. sulcirostris*), its pale iris, long bill, and extensive iridescent plumage supported the identification of *C. major*. Of the three species in *Crotophaga*, this is a tropical bird that occurs mostly in South America north to Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Caribbean lowlands of Panama (AOU 1998). It was recently discovered in Costa Rica (Sandoval et al. 2010), and has had a few instances of possible long-distance vagrancy in the Caribbean region. Two were collected in southern Tamaulipas, Mexico, in 1959

(Olson 1978, Howell and Webb 1995), but subsequent searches in the area failed to confirm any other records for the region. Single birds showed up recently in Aruba and the U.S. Virgin Islands (<http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/neotropical/news/>). Long-distance vagrancy is well known for the other two species of ani (especially in Groove-billed Ani, which has reached California, Canada, and southern Florida from its normal range from southern Texas south through the tropical Americas to Argentina). Anis are not popular in the pet trade. No anis of any species are listed in ISIS, the international database of captive and zoo animals. However, an internet search found a request by an aviculturist in Florida to buy captive Greater Anis, and the species was listed on a California-based website that sells captive birds, although the latter did not have any for sale at the time. At its 2011 meeting, FOSRC registered the view that the provenance of the species was unresolved.

The issue was revisited in at the FOSRC's 2012 meeting with a different outcome. Although one dissenting person argued that the Florida bird was part of a developing pattern of natural vagrancy in the Caribbean, other members were persuaded that uncertainty of provenance was an overriding feature of its occurrence in Florida, given where it was found, the Miami avicultural connection, and the apparent tattered ends of its tail feathers. The issue of potential natural vagrancy awaits support from further occurrences of the species in the Caribbean well outside its native range.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT, *Streptoprocne zonaris*

FOSRC 2012-901. A large swift came in off the Gulf of Mexico and flew over the head of the observer on the beach less than 0.5 mi (0.8 km) west of Sanibel Lighthouse, Lee County, on 24 April 2012. The description was ambiguous on the shape and location of white on the head or body, and the flight behavior raised questions, but otherwise this intriguing bird may have been correctly identified. The bird passed quickly over the observer's head and disappeared inland. Considering how unusual this species would be in Florida, the committee felt that an acceptable report should be verified by one or more photographs.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

FOSRC 2009-774. Two birds were seen and heard on 12 September 2009 at the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area ("The Annex"), Miami-Dade County. Later the same day, the birds were heard vocalizing by a different observer, but they were not seen. An evaluation of the report left the identification unresolved at the 2010 meeting. No new material was available at the 2011 meeting, so the matter was left still unresolved. Dissenting voters had issues with the brief description of the birds, which failed to eliminate similar looking Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*), Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*), or Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*). Others on the committee felt that the description of the vocalizations, which one observer mentioned as "like a rubber toy," coupled with the brief description of the bird, effectively eliminated these other species.

The committee members were agreed on the scantiness of the description that was provided. Enough doubts arose from the ambiguity of the descriptive evidence to be concerned whether Streaked Flycatcher was eliminated. Some calls of the Streaked and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers can be similar. The birds were likely to be Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, but the evidence was insufficient to support this identification with confidence.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, *Myadestes townsendi*

FOSRC 2012-898. A single bird was observed on 5 March 2012 in a residential yard on NW 77th Street, Gainesville, Alachua County. Identification was based on an incomplete description. It is likely that the bird was a Townsend's Solitaire, but the inexperienced observer apparently did not notice the white eyering or white in the outer tail feathers. The wing pattern was mentioned as atypical, but it was not described. Missing information and some ambiguity in the description that was provided left some doubt on the identification.

CUBAN BULLFINCH, *Melopyrrha nigra*

FOSRC 2012-895. A male bullfinch was discovered in a residential yard on 24 October 2011, when it was photographed, along suburban SW 60th Avenue, South Miami, Miami-Dade County. The bird was seen daily at this location until 26 October when it disappeared for several days. It was encountered again on 1 November at the same site where it stayed at least through 9 November. Photographs verified the identification, but its provenance was uncertain. The species is fairly common in the local, illicit pet trade in Miami (L. Manfredi, in litt.).

CUBAN GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris canorus*

FOSRC 2012-910. A single bird was re-located and videotaped on 7 August 2012 in Matheson Hammock Park, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County. It had been found originally on 23 June 2012 at the same location by other observers, who photographed it. The identification was never in doubt, but the provenance of the bird was uncertain. This grassquit is commonly kept in captivity in the Miami area, an issue that has kept the species off the official Florida birdlist.

SUBMISSIONS NOT RESOLVED

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*

FOSRC 2011-835. This hawk was initially observed on 14 December 2010 in Emerald Marsh Conservation Area, Lake County. The report provided inadequate descriptive details on plumage and behavior, so the committee's assessment was "not accepted" at its June 2011 meeting. Later we learned from the Secretary that a second report had been inadvertently overlooked in the file; he recommended that the committee reopen the file to consider that report at its next meeting. The second report by another observer was based on observations made on 2 February 2011, also in Emerald Marsh. This file was re-opened and our earlier decision to not accept was reconsidered at the August 2012 meeting on the assumption that the single individuals seen nearly two months apart were of the same bird. Again, most members felt the second report also supplied incomplete details, but the result this time was an unresolved decision.

"CAYENNE" TERN, *Thalasseus (sandvicensis) eurygnathus*

FOSRC 2012-912. A single, unusual, "yellow-billed" tern was found and photographed on 10 August 2012 on the Gulf side of Longboat Key, about 2-3 mi [3-5 km] north of New Pass, Sarasota County. The bird was associating with Sandwich Terns (*T. sandvicensis*) on the beach; first thought suggested a possible "Cayenne" Tern from the southern Caribbean or South America. This taxon is poorly known, and its taxonomic status is uncertain. The bill was largely yellow distally, but exhibited a subtle orange tone at its base. The legs were entirely black, unlike many "Cayenne" Terns, which often show orange or blotched, black

and orange legs. Body size was similar to Sandwich Terns standing near it in photographs. Because the report came in just before the meeting, the committee was unprepared to evaluate the report without due consideration of the literature, so the report was tabled.

TRICOLORED MUNIA, *Lonchura malacca*

FOSRC 2010-820. A single individual of this species was discovered at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe County, on an unspecified date in April 2003. It was later found dead, and the carcass was photographed but not preserved. The report was not submitted until October 2010. As happened in an earlier report of another Tricolored Munia seen at the same location in 2009 (Kratzer 2012), the issue was how to distinguish free-flying, natural vagrants from established populations in Cuba from wandering individuals escaped from captivity in the cage bird mecca of south Florida. Those members favoring the former view felt that the isolated location of the Dry Tortugas from the rest of Florida, but near an established source in Cuba, made natural vagrancy more likely. Dissenters argued that provenance could not be determined with enough certainty. The current report remained unresolved.

This report constituted the third known occurrence of Tricolored Munia at Fort Jefferson (1999, 2003, 2009). If other records of the species continue to come from the Dry Tortugas, and none from the immediate Miami area, as is presently the case, then the weight of a developing pattern may shift the viewpoint in favor of natural vagrancy in the future.

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