

***Lanius ludovicianus miamensis* Bishop, a Valid Race from Southern Florida.**—When A. H. Howell wrote his "Florida Bird Life" in 1932, he recorded only *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus* for Florida, with a general distribution throughout the state. In the 1954 edition revised by A. Sprunt, however, three specimens of the more northern subspecies (*L. l. migrans* Palmer) are recorded: one from near Lake City (November 23, 1941), one from north of Okeechobee (March 3, 1936), and one from Merritt Island (March 7, 1936).

However, in 1933, L. B. Bishop described as new a resident subspecies from southern Florida, *L. l. miamensis*, with type locality Cutler, Dade Co. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 46: 203, 1933). In making a routine check of the type and the series which Bishop used in naming this race, which are in the Chicago Natural History Museum, I found that *miamensis* is a valid race with a limited range in southern Florida, and that, being paler than *L. l. ludovicianus*, it could be confused with *L. l. migrans*.

*L. l. miamensis* Bishop differs from *L. l. ludovicianus* in being paler above; in having the narrow whitish area on the forehead joining the white superciliary lines more distinct; in having more and clearer white in the scapulars; in having, on the average, wider white tips to the inner secondaries; and in being a clearer white below. In size it is slightly smaller than some populations of *L. l. ludovicianus*.

It differs from *L. l. migrans* in being very slightly paler above; in having the whitish area on the forehead more distinct; in the greater extent of clearer white in the scapulars; in having wider white tips to the inner secondaries; and in being whiter below. In addition it is slightly smaller, the bill averages larger, and the tail is proportionately longer, averaging about the same as the wing rather than distinctly shorter.

The measurements in millimeters of Dade County (topotypical and near topotypical) birds are as follows:

Wing:	males (5), 93–95 (av. 94.2)	females (6), 91–97 (av. 93.8)
Tail:	males (4), 95–99 (av. 96.7)	females (5), 90–97 (av. 93)
Culmen:	males (5), 15–16.5 (av. 15.9)	females (5), 15–16.5 (av. 16.1)

*Comparative measurements.*—The wing is measured flattened and straightened against the ruler; the tail is measured from the insertion of the central tail feathers to the tip of the longest; the exposed culmen is measured with dividers. The measurements given are averages in millimeters.

*L. l. migrans*

Maine, Connecticut, and Illinois:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
10 males	98.8	93.7	14.6
5 females	99	92	14.7

*L. l. ludovicianus*

Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana:

5 males	98.1	96.4	14.7
7 females	96.7	94.7	14.8

Northern Florida:

6 males	98.5	96.1	15.6
9 females	97.6	97.4	15.3

## Florida:

## Putnam County

7 males	97.5	96.5	16
7 females	95.5	95.1	15

## Indian River Area

7 males	98.1	98.1	15.9
5 females	96.6	95.4	15.6

## Western Central Florida

4 males	98	100	15.2
3 females	97	96.6	15.1

*L. l. miamensis*

## Florida:

## Fort Meyers Area

2 males	97	99.5	16.25
2 females	96	97.5	15.5
3 sex?	96.3	98.6	15.8

## Dade and Palm Beach Counties

2 males	94.5	97	15.7
7 females	94	93.5	15.8

*Range*.—Southern Florida, north to Jupiter and Fort Meyers area.

*Remarks*.—The color difference between *ludovicianus* and *migrans* is not great, as Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., 50, pt. 3: 243, 1904) has pointed out, and in regard to color the southeast Florida birds are more different from *ludovicianus* than is *migrans*. The proportions of *miamensis* are more similar to those of *ludovicianus*, but the tail is still longer, and in the Dade County area the smaller size of the birds is not accompanied by a smaller bill; the length of the bill is about the same as that of the larger north Florida birds. Ridgway (*loc. cit.*) has already recorded that the Florida *ludovicianus* has a slightly larger bill than examples of the same race from farther north.

The pale color characteristic of *miamensis* is most evident in the birds of Dade and Palm Beach counties, where it is correlated with smallest size. The Fort Meyers area birds are slightly darker and slightly larger, but are best included under *miamensis*.

The birds of Indian River, Putnam County, the Gainesville area, and the Tampa area (Anclote) are intermediate. Some specimens are almost as pale as the Dade County *miamensis*, while others are more like the darker north Florida birds. In general, however, these birds are best included with *ludovicianus*.

North Florida birds, from the Santa Rosa area and Amelia Island, are similar to those of Louisiana and Carolina in depth of general color; they have more white in the scapulars and a larger bill, but the difference is not great.

When Bishop described *miamensis*, he compared it with *excubitorides*. Although their ranges do not overlap, the two races are very similar; *miamensis*, however, has less white in the lower rump and upper tail coverts, and the topotypical birds are smaller. Some specimens from the area of intergradation between *migrans* and *excubitorides* are very similar to *miamensis*. However, the small size and the heavy

bill of the Dade County birds should permit positive identification of the southeastern Florida birds.

Though the possibility of migrants from farther north reaching Florida cannot be ignored, the observed characters and their geographical distribution, and the fact that many specimens were taken in February and March when the breeding season is well started (and a few during the summer), support the generally held view that the species is sedentary in Florida. Any identification of the pale northern *migrans*, as a winter visitor, must take into account the existence of the small pale south Florida birds with larger bills and longer tails.

Florida specimens examined, 72, as follows.

*L. l. ludovicianus*

Northern Florida 30: Santa Rosa, 3; Mary Esther, 4; Amelia Island, 5; Gainesville, 2; Starke, 1; New River, 1; Putnam County, 14.

Central Florida 20: Indian River area, 12 (Wilson, 7; City Point, 1; Eau Gallie, 3; Enterprise, 1); Tampa area, 8 (Grove City, 1; Anclote, 7).

*L. l. miamensis*

Southern Florida 22: Fort Meyers area, 9 (Punta Rassa, 6; Pine Island, 3); Palm Beach County, 2 (West Jupiter, 1; Lake Worth, 1); Dade County, 11.

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**The Bahaman Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor vicinus*) on the Florida Keys.**—It was after sundown on June 13, 1949, that my brother Wray H. Nicholson and I heard a new and strange bird-call on Stock Island, at Key West, Florida. The calls came from the salt flats several hundred yards away, and we felt sure this could only be the note of the Cuban Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor gundlachi*), which had been reported by Earle Greene, who obtained an adult and one young-of-the-year on August 11, 1942.

Upon reaching the spot, we found a nighthawk flying and diving, uttering notes quite unlike those of any other bird known to us. These calls were three-syllabled and sounded to us like "Kick-a-dic," uttered over and over again.

After a quick search of the mud-caked salt flat, Wray flushed the female from her "nest" containing a single, very heavily incubated egg. The egg was collected and later nicely preserved. We thought we had taken the first actual nest and egg of a Cuban Nighthawk ever to have been found in the United States.

We also heard another male of the same species, calling as it flew about 400 yards to the west, and in searching for a nest of this second pair, we flushed another female, but found no nest. We also heard the calls of a Florida Nighthawk (*C. m. chapmani*), as it flew about nearby. It was uttering the calls ("Beap-Beap-Beap") that are so familiar to us, and I assumed that it was the Florida form. I make this cautious comment advisedly, since on the following day, June 14, we flushed the male "Cuban" nighthawk (the mate of the female whose nest we found) from its perch in a low mangrove tree, and just before alighting on a branch of another mangrove tree, it uttered one distinct "Beap" note identical to the call that is commonly used by *C. m. chapmani*. At no time did I hear this "Beap" note uttered by any of the other three "Cuban" nighthawks while flying and diving above the nesting territory, or while perching. Of the various birds that we saw and heard on the Keys, this was the only one that we judged to be in truth a Florida Nighthawk. Unfortunately, we did not make a search for a possible nest. As we spent four days on the Keys, we can only conclude that at least during the 1949 breeding season it was quite rare.