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Second Florida Breeding Record of the Ruddy Duck

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FIELD NOTES

Fourth record of the Arctic Loon from Florida. — On 12 April 1976 a sick loon found on the Gulf shore at Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, was taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. It was identified as an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) by Marie Hughes, and after its death the same day frozen by Ralph Heath, Director. In August, Hopkins learned of the existence of the bird and brought it to Woolfenden who corroborated the identification and prepared it as a study skin (G. E. W. 5024) now housed at the University of South Florida.

Only 3 previous records of the Arctic Loon exist for Florida (Kittleson 1976, Fla. Field Nat. 4: 17). These include two specimens from the Gulf side of Florida, one of which was a dead bird found in April. The Arctic Loon is difficult to distinguish in the field from the Common Loon (*G. immer*), which is common along the east shore of the Gulf of Mexico in winter and during migration. Though certainly rare, the Arctic Loon may be more regular in the Gulf than presently realized. If true, this suggests that some individuals fly overland to and from central and western Canada, a fact as yet unestablished (Palmer 1962, Handbook of North American birds, Vol 1; De Sante 1976, Amer. Birds 30: 685).

The specimen, a male (testes 6 × 2 mm), weighed 1.5 kg and had no fat. Measurements critical for species identification include bill from feathers 56 mm and tarsus 76 mm. The bird was undergoing simultaneous wing molt, with all primaries new and short enough that their greater underwing coverts extend beyond them. A few new feathers of the Definitive Alternate or Alternate II plumage are scattered over the back and mantle. — Larry Hopkins, 538 Garland Street N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33703 and Glen E. Woolfenden, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

Second Florida breeding record of the Ruddy Duck. — On 29 May 1976 we discovered 5 Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in water at the bottom of a deep, abandoned rock quarry about 3 km N of Live Oak, Columbia County, Florida, at the junction of highways U. S. 29 and I-10. As we studied the ducks we realized the group included 2 birds in the typical alternate plumage of the male and 3 in female plumage. We noted that 2 of the latter were scarcely two thirds the size of the remaining ducks and of nearby American Coots (*Fulica americana*). They also differed slightly in color from the presumed adult female Ruddy Duck.

The 2 smaller ducks stayed close to, and occasionally disappeared into, a large stand of cattails (*Typhus* sp.). The adult female remained within several m of them, whereas the males ranged from about 30 to 50 m away. Whenever a male moved closer to the other ducks, the adult female lowered her head, stretched out her neck, and swam rapidly toward him. Based on size and behavior, we feel certain that the smaller birds were young of the year. We found no way to approach these birds closely enough to determine whether they were capable of flight.

Although small numbers of Ruddy Ducks probably summer in Florida every year, only one previous unequivocal record of breeding has been published. Mrs. H. E. Robinson and Mrs. John Stone saw a female with 6 young near Mayport, Duval County, on 2 June 1964 (Stevenson 1964, Aud. Field Notes 18: 503). This identification was later corroborated by Samuel A. Grimes. Ruddies were also suspected of breeding near Lakeland, Polk County, in the summer of 1970, where a pair "seemed to have a nest" (Ogden 1970, Aud. Field Notes 24: 675). — Gail E. Menk, 1128 Ocala Road, Apt. G-5, Tallahassee, Florida 32304, and Henry M. Stevenson, Tall Timbers Research Station, Route 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

Bathing in captive Sandhill Cranes. — Patterns of behavior, such as bathing, are often useful as taxonomic tools (Simmons 1964, Feather Maintenance. Pp. 278-279 in A new Dictionary of Birds [A. L. Thomson, Ed.]. New York, McGraw Hill Book Co.). To my knowledge, no detailed account of bathing behavior for Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) has been published. Walkinshaw briefly describes bathing in the Sandhill Crane (Walkinshaw 1949, The Sandhill Cranes, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Cranbrook Ins. of Sci. Bull. 29: 39-40) and the Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) (Walkinshaw 1973, Cranes of the World, New York, Winchester Press, p. 200), and gives more details of bathing in a semi-captive Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) (Walkinshaw *ibid.* p. 176). In view of this lack of detail, it seems appropriate to describe the bathing sequence as observed in captive Florida Sandhill Cranes (*G. c. pratensis*).

During December and January 1974, 8 two-year old Florida Sandhill Cranes were observed bathing on several occasions. These birds had been raised from eggs by personnel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, and subsequently returned to Florida for attempted reintroduction. The birds were kept at our facilities on the edge of Paynes Prairie, Alachua County, Florida, in pens containing a concrete pool large enough to permit 3 or 4 individuals to bathe simultaneously. Cranes were in-