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## Wintering of the Northern Waterthrush in North Florida

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Fig. 1. Short-eared Owl photographed inside Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Florida, on 21 June 1978 by Barbara C. Kittleson.

Stevenson (pers. comm.) sighted an individual near Lakeport, Glades Co.) and the first record for the Dry Tortugas.

A few hours after capture the owl cast a pellet containing the remains of a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) chick. We suspect that our bird had been present on Bush Key for some time, subsisting on the abundant tern chicks. Short-eared Owls in their normal breeding range have been reported to specialize occasionally on tern colonies (Bent 1938, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. 170, p. 175). We transported the owl back to the mainland and on 5 July released it unbanded at the South Florida Research Center, Everglades National Park.—WAYNE HOFFMAN, *Biology Department, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620*, WILLIAM B. ROBERTSON, JR., *South Florida Research Center, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida 33030*, and PAIGE C. PATTS, *South Florida Research Center, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida 33030*.

**Wintering of the Northern Waterthrush in north Florida.**—On 21 December 1978, Gail Menk reported that a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) he saw in early November at a sewage effluent southwest of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, near the junction of state roads 263 and 373, was still at that location. He and I went to the spot on 27 December and collected the bird (TTRS No. 3631), a female weighing 15.9g, with no fat and an unossified skull. Contents of its stomach included a small terrestrial snail (*Zonitoides arboreus*, Family Zonitidae), an unidentified leech and numerous unidentified insect remains. The only previous north Florida winter record of this waterthrush is one at a Florida State University dairy pond on 10 December 1948 and 11 February 1949 (Stevenson 1949), a site only 3.5 km northeast of the location of the collected specimen.

The A. O. U. Check-list (1957: 507) referred to the wintering of the Northern Waterthrush in the United States as "casual," citing winter locations for Texas, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Howell (1932: 413), however, cited specimens collected at Punta Rassa (Lee Co.) on 7 February 1886, and Key West (Monroe Co.) on 5, 6 and 11 March 1890. The birds collected in March, however, may have been early migrants, as I collected one, 6 March 1971, on St. George Island (Franklin Co.) where it had not wintered. The most northerly winter sight record

was at Clearwater (Pinellas Co.) in February 1880 (Howell 1932), but recently the species has been reported on Christmas Bird Counts north to Sanford (Seminole Co.) and Titusville (Brevard Co.). Just outside Florida there are sight records of wintering Northern Waterthrushes at Savannah, Georgia, 26 December 1931 (Burleigh 1958: 550) and Fort Morgan, Alabama, 12 February 1973 (Imhof 1976: 360).

All previously collected specimens cited above (Florida, South Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania) have been referred to *S. n. notabilis*, the mid-continental race with a more grayish back and whiter underparts than the nominate race. Our specimen matches those of *S. n. notabilis* in the Tall Timbers collection, but Mengel (1965: 423) casts doubt on the validity of these two races.

Manuel Pescador, of Florida A. & M. University, and William Heard, of Florida State University, kindly examined the stomach contents of the bird I collected, and Robert L. Crawford prepared the study skin.

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- HENRY M. STEVENSON, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312.

**A Cardinal at the Dry Tortugas, Florida.**—Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) are widespread in North America (Gruson 1976, Checklist of the World's birds, London, William Collins Sons and Co., p. 155) and are considered nonmigratory (Bent 1968, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, p. 15). Howell (1932, Florida bird life, Tallahassee, Fla. Dept. Game Fresh Water Fish, p. 437) gives its southern range as extending through the Florida Keys to the Marquesas Keys but indicates that the species is rare in Key West and states, "A Cardinal struck Sombrero Key Light, September 10, 1884—an unusual occurrence for a nonmigratory bird (Merriam 1885, p. 61)". Sprunt (1954, Florida bird life, New York, Coward-McCann Inc. p. 450) states, "It has since been recorded even from Tortugas: Gabrielson saw one there, March 29, 1948." This is the only published record of a Cardinal at the Dry Tortugas (W. B. Robertson, Jr., pers. comm.).

On 6 April 1978 at 0700, in the parade ground of Fort Jefferson, Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, I observed a female Cardinal working through the trees. The bird was also observed on the 6th and 8th by members of the tern-banding party (W. B. Robertson, Jr., et al.). The bird was not reported again and was not seen in June by the tern-banding party. I thank William B. Robertson, Jr., for his comments on this note.—THEODORE H. BELOW, 3697 North Road, Naples, Florida 33942.

**Pine Siskins in the Florida Keys.**—The Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) winters irregularly to north Florida, and rarely to south Florida (Sprunt 1954, Florida bird life, New York, Coward-McCann, Inc.). The last irruption of siskins reaching peninsular Florida occurred during the winter of 1969-70. In that season Stevenson (1970, Amer. Birds 24:497) noted large numbers seen near St. Petersburg (Pinellas Co.) and West Palm Beach (Palm Beach Co.), and listed several other reports from peninsular Florida. Southernmost reports were two sightings from Everglades Na-