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## Florida's Fabulous Waterbirds: Their Stories

Florida Field Naturalist

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If the journal will please nearly everyone interested in birds, should we all rush to subscribe? It is expensive: \$25 a year when a comparably-formatted journal, National Wildlife, gives two more issues and many more pages for only \$10.50 a year. And there are so many journals aimed at bird watchers these days. Part of the \$25 goes to support the work of the laboratory, however, and that is a worthy effort. Also, membership provides discounts on purchases from the Lab's bookstore. Thus, The Living Bird Quarterly, even though a quality publication, would have to be placed down a few notches on my priority list for serious Florida birders, certainly no higher than third (below Florida Field Naturalist and American Birds). It can be highly recommended, however, as a pleasing yet authoritative introduction to the fascinating biology of birds for those wishing to progress beyond the listing stage.—**Robert L. Crawford**, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 47-48, 1984.

**Florida's fabulous waterbirds: their stories.**—Winston Williams. 1983. National Art Services, Inc., P.O. Box 24339, Tampa, Florida 33623. 243 color photographs, pages not numbered. \$7.95 paperback.—The clean, sharp reproduction, and excellent color of the photographs are a marvel of printing. Moreover many of the shots show difficult but very successful stopping of action. The most conspicuous and interesting of Florida's waterbirds are included, making it a fine book for Floridians with a casual interest in birds as well as visitors to our state who wish to know what species they see. The photographs are exciting enough to arouse the interest of children and may stimulate them to continue bird watching.

There are some errors in the text. A Sandwich Tern is labeled Common Tern. The text states the tern is in summer plumage though it is in winter plumage. Discussion of gulls is so simplified as to be misleading. Bonaparte's Gull, regular in Florida in winter, as well as several uncommon visitors, are smaller than the Laughing Gull. The bodies of our adult gulls are white (though they may have streaks or spots on the head in winter) and all have conspicuous mantles that vary according to the species from pale gray to blackish.

There is no comparable book about Florida waterbirds, and it deserves success. Bird photographers will want a copy because the photographs are so beautiful and because it challenges them to reach for higher excellence in their own work.—**Helen G. Cruickshank**, 1925 South Indian River Rd., Rockledge, Florida 32955.

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