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Records of the panther in Highlands County, Florida.—Occurrence of the panther (*Felis concolor*) was documented at two localities in Highlands County in south-central Florida in August and October 1987. On 12 August, tracks and an associated scat were found on the Archbold Biological Station (ABS) 12 km S of Lake Placid (Sec. 30, T28S, R30E). The tracks were discovered at 2000 h EST in an area of interspersed scrubby flatwoods, typical flatwoods, and seasonal ponds (see Abrahamson et al. 1984 for a description of these habitats). The scat was still warm and had a strong odor when found, indicating that the cat had passed by only a few minutes before. Light rain was occurring at the time, and it had rained hard several hours earlier. The tracks crossed a narrow 4-wheel drive sand road and were visible for a short distance on both sides of the road. The scat was deposited in the road on top of a mound of sand pushed up by vehicle tires. Measurements (mm) of heel pad length and width, respectively, of six tracks were: 45x60, 36x55, 40x44, 40x55, 44x55, 52x55 (means = 43x54). The fresh scat was 905 mm in length and 30 mm in maximum diameter. It was composed of hair and bone fragments of hog (*Sus scrofa*).

On 13 October, panther tracks were discovered by Robert Scarborough and Dale Durrance on the Scarborough Ranch 13 km SE of Lake Placid in an area about 1.6 km N of S.R. 70 and 1.6 km E of S.R. 29 (NE corner Sec. 36, T37S, R30E, SW corner Sec. 30, T37S, R31E). The site is approximately 13 km NE of the ABS locality. The tracks were found about 1400 h. Some were superimposed on vehicle tracks that had been made about 1600 h the previous day, indicating that they were less than 24 h old. Tracks, presumably of the same individual, were observed in four locations within an area of about 11 ha and separated by a maximum distance of approximately 1 km. One set of more than 100 tracks extended about 0.5 km along a sand road bordered by dense cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) hammock, swamp forest, and improved pasture. A second set occurred on another road in similar habitats about 0.4 km away. Several tracks were located in a cabbage palm-live oak hammock with sparse understory and almost no ground cover. At the fourth site, in open pasture 0.3 km from the hammock, about 25 tracks occurred along a narrow, sandy cow path on a low berm between two drainage ditches. Heel pad length and width of seven tracks from three of the four sites were: 42x64, 50x64, 47x57, 45x55, 40x55, 45x52, 45x50 (means = 45x57).

The size of the tracks on the ABS and Scarborough Ranch indicates that the animal in each case was probably a male, as the heel pad of adult males is >50 mm in width (D. S.

Maehr, pers. comm.). The proximity of the two localities, the relatively short time interval between the two records, and the lack of a significant difference (*t*-test, $P > 0.05$) between means of heel pad width from the two sites suggest that the same individual was involved. The tracks at each locality are documented with photographs and casts. The latter are deposited in the Wildlife Research Laboratory of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the ABS reference collection.

The tracks and scat reported here constitute the first confirmed records of the panther in Highlands County in recent years. Panthers were apparently common in the county during the late 1800's and early 1900's (DeVane 1978) and were recorded occasionally up to 1941 (Rand and Host 1941). Previous unconfirmed records on the ABS include reports of tracks on three occasions between 1931 and 1941 (Rand and Host 1942) and sightings in 1947, 1973, and 1983. We also have obtained reports of six sightings adjacent to or within 5 km of the ABS from 1976 through August 1987. A sighting by D. Whitaker (pers. comm.) of a panther just off ABS property about 2.6 km SSE of the track site occurred the day (13 August) after the tracks were found. Panthers also have been recorded on the Scarborough Ranch on at least two occasions in recent years. F. Yusko (pers. comm.) saw one move from the shoulder of S.R. 70 into the ranch in late afternoon on 9 October 1974, and on 8 November 1979 B. Scarborough (pers. comm.) observed a panther at a distance of not more than 3-4 m while working cattle on horseback in an area of thick vegetation about 0.8 km from where the tracks were found in the pasture. In addition, we have records of 12 sightings in the near vicinity (<5 km) of the ranch between 1967 and 1985. A report in 1974 and one in 1985 were of an adult accompanied by two young. Besides these reports from or near the two localities where tracks were documented, we have recorded 32 sightings, including 8 within the last 5 years, in the southern part of Highlands County (south of S.R. 66 and U.S. 98) from 1970 to the present. These and the other records noted above include only sightings by competent observers or accompanied by sufficient details to give the report reasonable credibility (status categories II and III of Layne and McCauley 1977). The numbers and persistence of reported sightings over the years, together with the present confirmed tracks, suggest the existence of resident panthers in Highlands County, particularly in the extensive ranchlands off the more heavily-developed Lake Wales Ridge. In addition to their large expanses of suitable habitat and sparse human population, these ranches support good populations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), feral hogs, raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), nine-banded armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), and other potential panther prey species.

The ABS and Scarborough Ranch localities are approximately 21 and 29 km, respectively, from Palmdale, Glades County, where a male panther (estimated age 2-3 yr, Roelke et al. 1985) was killed by a vehicle on U.S. 27 in 1983 and where sign has been found in the nearby Fisheating Creek area of Lykes Brothers Ranch between 1980 and 1985 (Roboski 1985). An adult female (estimated age 9-10 yr, Roelke et al. 1985) also was treed by dogs in the latter area in 1973 (Nowak and McBride 1974). Since suitable habitat is continuous between them, the Glades County and Highlands County areas are probably part of a single panther population unit. Suitable panther habitat also is broadly continuous between the Glades-Highlands county area and the Big Cypress-Everglades region which contains the most consistently documented and intensively surveyed panther population in the state (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1986). Thus movement of panthers between south and south-central Florida may be expected to occur. Such a movement from Collier County to Highlands County (126 km) has been documented for a black bear (*Ursus americanus*) by Maehr et al. (1988).

Addendum: Additional tracks, assumed to be of the same individual, were observed on five occasions between 12 December 1987 and 10 January 1988 at three locations along the edge of the Lake Wales Ridge about 6 km E of the ABS and 4 to 11 km S of Scarborough

Ranch. On 30 January 1988, the panther, a young adult male, was captured and radio-collared by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's panther research team.

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The Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare but regular fall migrant in extreme northwest Florida.—The Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) is a flycatcher of taiga, subalpine coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, breeding from Alaska to the Canadian Maritime Provinces and from Baja California to Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina (AOU 1983). The flycatcher's status in Florida is rare. Sprunt (1954) considered it hardly more than accidental with only five records for the entire state prior to 1954. This bird continues to be a very rare migrant through peninsular Florida as indicated by its omission from the fieldcard of "Florida Birds" published by the Florida Audubon Society in 1976.