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The Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Rare but Regular Fall Migrant in Extreme Northwest Florida

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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.

Table 1. Summary of sightings of Olive-sided Flycatchers in extreme northwest Florida.

Date	Location	Number	Source/observers
7 Oct 1945	Gulf Breeze	1	Weston 1965
24 Oct 1956	Pensacola	1	Weston 1965
24 Oct 1957	Pensacola	1	Weston 1965
18 Aug 1963	18 mi. n. of Pensacola	1	Weston 1965
23 Aug 1966	Pensacola	2	James and Shugart 1967
26 Aug 1969	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan
25 Aug 1971	Gulf Breeze	2	Purrington 1972
29 Aug 1976	Gulf Breeze	2	Robert and Lucy Duncan, Susan and Steven Liston, photos.
14 and 16 Oct 1976	Pensacola	1	C. W. and Tudy Milmore
21 Aug 1977	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert and Lucy Duncan Stephen and Barbara Stedman
8 Sept 1977	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan
15 Aug 1979	Gulf Breeze	1	Purrington 1980
14 Sept 1980	Gulf Breeze	1	Lucy and Robert Duncan
15 and 18 Aug 1982	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan et al.
18 Aug 1983	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan
19 and 22 Aug 1984	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan et al.
19 Aug 1985	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert, Lucy and Scot Duncan
18 and 24 Aug 1986	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan
6 and 7 Sept 1986	Gulf Breeze	1	Robert A. Duncan
19 and 20 Aug 1987	Gulf Breeze	1	Scot Duncan, James Pfeiffer, Ann and Dan Forster

The status of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the extreme western panhandle, however, is considerably more than accidental with 20 records since 1945, 10 of which have occurred in the past 12 years. A summary of those records are contained in Table 1. Fourteen of these 20 occurrences have been at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, and 13 have been during August (Table 1). The bird has arrived on four occasions on 18 August and four occasions on 19 August. Its earliest date of arrival has been 15 August, its latest date 24 October.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher has been observed by many individuals and there has been much speculation in recent years as to whether the same bird returns to the area year after year. During the 1970's, this was a tall amateur radio antenna atop a house near the end of Fairpoint Drive. After the house was demolished, subsequent arrivals began using dead twigs on the crest of a living oak (*Quercus* sp.) at the end of Fairpoint Drive. This location is about 200 m E of its former perch. Birds can usually be found by 0800 h on the day of arrival and often remain on or near the perch until sunset. From this perch it has a wide vista for catching insects as it is close to the highway and it can often be seen making wide forays in pursuit of prey. In some years the flycatcher has lingered for two days. Observers who hope to find the species in subsequent years should consider the third and fourth weeks of August as optimum time for searching, with particular emphasis on 18 and 19 August. These dates have been reinforced by an observation of the species on 22 August 1987 by Phil Tetlow (pers. comm.) in Marianna, Jackson County.

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Florida Field Naturalist 16: 72-74, 1988.

Intense aggression by male Boat-tailed Grackles.—Competition between males for access to females in a polygynous or lek-breeding species may determine seasonal reproductive fitness. Interactions between males also may affect their survival and consequently their total lifetime fitness. Here we report on an incident of extreme aggression between two male Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*) that had the potential to endanger the lives of both.

At 1050 h on 15 March 1987 we observed two male grackles fighting in the shallow water of a borrow pit pond in northeastern Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. They sat together half-submerged in the shallow water, presumably with their feet grasping each other's legs or lower body. One grackle had only its neck and head above water; the other had its shoulders above the surface as well. Both birds held their bills up as in Head-up Display (Selander and Giller 1961). Several times one grackle leaned toward the other, who leaned away. After about five minutes of sitting relatively still, the upper male jumped and flapped its wings, resulting in the second male being completely submerged. The second grackle was held under water approximately 10 seconds, and after surfacing was immediately submerged again. At this time other male and female grackles approached the fighting pair, and one or more males pecked the upper male as it pecked the lower male. At 1106 h the pair moved into shallower water. The upper male continued to peck the head of the second and plucked feathers. While the feathers were being plucked, the second male did not move, even though its bill was in the water. At 1110 h, still together, the pair fluttered into thick cattails and out of our sight. Distress calls were heard, and the two birds apparently had moved out of the water. At 1115 h they moved into the open again, separated, then grappled again. At 1116 h they separated, and the apparent winner flew away to a display perch. The apparent loser flicked its tail up repeatedly and walked under the cover of some brush. It then flew away from the marsh at 1121 h.

The males were locked together in the open for at least 25 minutes, and were in the water for at least 20 minutes. Both being exposed and immersed provided substantial risks for both grackles. Air and water temperatures, although not recorded, were cool and could have resulted in hypothermia. Undoubtedly the combination of trauma and chilling in water resulted in severe physical stress for at least the loser. In addition, by remaining in the open and not vigilant both grackles put themselves at risk of predation. Soaking of their plumage would have decreased maneuverability and increased vulnerability to predation. KJM observed a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) in the area later that same day, and MLD had observed a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) hunting over the marsh one week earlier.