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A Recent Mountain Plover Specimen from Florida

A putative American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was collected by my son, James, along the causeway to St. George Island (Franklin County) on 6 December 1973. The specimen remained in a freezer for months, after which Noel Wamer and I examined it more carefully and discovered that it was a Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). It proved to be a male, and the narrow lighter edges of the dorsal contour feathers suggested a first-year bird. The specimen is number 2821 in the collection of the Tall Timbers Research Station.

Howell (1932) cited only three records of the Mountain Plover in Florida, all of which were supported by specimens. The earliest, collected from a flock of about 6 at Key West on 1 December 1870 by C. J. Maynard, is number 62907 in the Field Museum, Chicago (E. R. Blake, pers. comm.). The most recent record, one collected by R. J. Longstreet at Daytona Beach on 17 December 1927, was deposited in a museum there until at least 1932 (Howell, *op. cit.*). There is no reason to doubt the authenticity of these two records, but it is unfortunate that the 2 collected by R. W. Williams on "James Island" (= St. James Island?) in late July 1901 "have since been accidentally destroyed" (Howell *op. cit.*), as the date is anomalous. This plover is rarely recorded so early even in Texas — at the eastern edge of its usual range. In the Dallas area, Pulich (1961) had no record earlier than September, and Williams (1962) knew of no fall occurrences. In the Corpus Christi area, where the species occurs more frequently, Hagar and Packard (1952) indicated one record in late July, but no others until mid-August. Thus the presence of 2 individuals in Florida in late July must be considered unlikely.

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- Henry M. Stevenson, Dept. of Biological Science, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, Fla. 32306.