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Tenth Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 1992

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RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fla. Field Nat. 22(1): 17-23, 1994.

Tenth Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 1992.—The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) critically reviews all written sight reports and specimen and/or photographic records (including audio recordings) submitted to it to determine the validity of these reports. The Committee's findings are published annually in the *Florida Field Naturalist*. Details for 13 reports were received in 1992; 12 were accepted, and one was not. Two remained in "still under consideration" status from 1991, awaiting additional documentation and/or discussion (Cuban Emerald, *Chlorostilbon ricordii*, catalog no. 91-228; Brown-chested Martin, *Phaeoprogne tapera*, catalog no. 91-248). No new species were added to the official Florida list and the total number of verified species remained at 461 (see Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

The Committee members and the expiration date of their terms were as follows: Bruce H. Anderson (1996), Lyn S. Atherton (1995), Jocelyn L. Baker (Secretary; 1993), Wally George (1992), and William B. Robertson, Jr. (1994).

Following this account is a list of rare and unusual species that the Committee has deemed sufficiently rare or difficult to identify to suggest FOSRC evaluation (Appendix 1). Any species on this list should be documented by the observer when reported. All observers are encouraged to submit these reports to the FOSRC, including those intended for publication in the *Florida Field Naturalist*, *American Birds*, or another publication.

While in the field, the observer should write a detailed description of all body parts, including bill, legs, and feet, noting sizes, shapes and colors. Although a specimen or photograph and vocal recording are optimal, a drawing/sketch of the bird and vocal descriptions are beneficial. Behavioral traits and the habitat should be detailed. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form available from the Secretary. In addition to uniformity, the report form provides the Committee and the observer with a guideline to those factors used by the FOSRC for its evaluation. Completed forms, with any other supporting materials, should be submitted to the Secretary.

An accepted report required the unanimous vote of the five Committee members. When a report is accepted, it gains status on the official Florida state list (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). A species or race new to the state is given full status only when its natural occurrence is probable, and there is a supporting specimen or photograph (and for some species, audio recording); otherwise, it is given hypothetical status. When a report is not accepted, it does not necessarily mean that the species or form was not correctly identified. Sometimes a sighting is too brief or the written account lacks sufficient details to eliminate all possibilities. The Committee will reconsider a report if additional information is submitted that the Committee believes could alter a previous decision. All documentation is deposited in the FOS Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

The FOSRC was established in 1981. Published reports of unusual sightings that have not been submitted to the Committee (either before or since 1981) have been given varying degrees of scrutiny by the various editors. Recently, Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) and Stevenson and Anderson (in press) have evaluated many of the more unusual sightings not evaluated by the Committee. At this time the FOSRC has not made any commitment to review reports that have not been submitted to it.

Each species that appears in this report is listed according to the AOU (1983) check-list and its supplements through 1991. The number of published reports (including verifiable records) through 1992, for each species or race is given after the species name; these numbers follow Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) unless otherwise stated. Each account

includes the initials of the contributor(s) for accepted reports only, the FOSRC catalog number for the report, and abbreviations for any supporting materials. Following the account of each species is a listing of catalog numbers for other reports that have been considered previously by the FOSRC.

The following are abbreviations used in this report: *AB* (*American Birds*); *AFN* (*Audubon Field Notes*); *FFN* (*Florida Field Naturalist*); *FN* (*Florida Naturalist*); *NWR* (national wildlife refuge); *P* (photo); *S* (specimen); *SP* (state park); *S&A* (Stevenson & Anderson in press); *TTRS* (Tall Timbers Research Station); *UMRC* (Univ. of Miami Research Collection); *V* (video). Also, the contributors noted below are identified in the report by their initials.

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to Walter Kingsley Taylor for his helpful suggestions with earlier drafts of this manuscript, and to Tom Webber who maintains and provides access to the FOS Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Contributors to this report are Brooks H. Atherton, Lyn S. Atherton, Michael J. Austin, James Bangma, James E. Cavanagh, Wally George, Katie Gersher, Christopher B. Goquen, Paul I. Holt, Larry Hopkins, Bruce D. Neville, Edward Slaney, Jeff P. Smith, P. William Smith, and Noel Wamer.

ACCEPTED REPORTS

PACIFIC LOON, *Gavia pacifica*: 17 reports, 3 not accepted (S&A). A lone bird in basic plumage, observed 30 Nov 1991, from the St. George Island Causeway, was the first accepted report from Franklin Co. (LSA, BHA, LH; 92-253; P, V). A second observation of this species, at St. George Island SP, on 24 May 1992, also involved a loon in basic plumage (BDN; 92-261). These observations may have involved different individuals since the November bird exhibited a distinctive "chin strap," a character not noted on the one described in May. The absence of any white markings at the waterline, including on the flanks, was used to distinguish these loons from the similarly marked Arctic Loon, *G. arctica*, a species as yet unconfirmed from the eastern U.S. The sighting of a Pacific Loon at Siesta Key (Sarasota Co.), 1-8 Jan 1992, was published indicating that a description was sent to the FOSRC (*FFN* 29:82), but no details of this report were received by the Secretary through the date of this writing (previously accepted, 83-048, 84-060, 87-110, 88-160, 90-215; previously not accepted, 90-225).

BROWN PELICAN, *Pelecanus occidentalis*: In March 1991, inland and freshwater breeding in Florida was confirmed when 3 nests were located in an Australian Pine, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, on a spoil pile in Lake Okeechobee (Glades Co.); presumably these nests fledged a total of only one young in July (not two young as reported in *FFN* 20:25). Again, in 1992, nesting was observed near the same location; 7 or 8 of the 14 nests had fledged young (JPS, CBG; 92-260; P). Prior to the 1980s, inland sightings of this species were irregular and most often involved lone birds; during that decade sightings throughout the inland Peninsula increased, as did the coastal population of pelicans. By the late 1980s, the Brown Pelican was a year round resident at Lake Okeechobee (*FFN* 21:29-33; P).

ROSS' GOOSE, *Chen rossii*: 2 records. An adult was described as it was observed resting on elevated pavement between two ponds, and occasionally flying with the Snow Geese, *C. caerulescens*, with which it associated, at the Tram Road sewage treatment facility, near Tallahassee (Leon Co.), on 10 Dec 1991 (JC, NW; 92-252; P). This was the same location where the first confirmed Florida report was made on 22 Dec 1987 (88-133). An earlier report in Jan 1981, in Taylor Co. (*AB* 35:293), apparently pertained to a small Snow Goose or a *C. rossii* x *C. caerulescens* hybrid (S&A). The vertical feather pattern noted at the base of the bill of the 1991 bird indicates that this individual was likely not a hybrid.

COMMON EIDER, *Somateria mollissima*: 14 reports, not all have been evaluated (S&A).

First observed 6 Jul 1992, a first-year male remained near the Eau Gallie Causeway (Brevard Co.; ES; 92-262; P), until 8 Aug when it was reported dead (AB 47 : 84-85); the report did not indicate whether the carcass was saved. There were two previous reports for Brevard Co.: 23 Nov 1972 through Aug 1973 (AB 27:46, 28:42), and 29 Dec 1984, published without details (AB 39:571). A fourth report for that county was of two eiders seen at Port Canaveral, from late Nov 1992 through 3 Jan 1993 (AB 47:84-85, 250); details of these observations were not submitted to the FOSRC (previously accepted, 82-014).

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*: 15 reports, not all have been evaluated (S&A). One in alternate plumage was seen east of the Dry Tortugas (Monroe Co.), on 25 Apr 1992 (PIH; 92-264). There are two other reports from the vicinity of the Dry Tortugas: 8 Aug 1978 (FFN 7:28, P), and 27 Apr 1985 (85-081). Two other 1992 reports were published, each without details, and neither was submitted to the FOSRC: 22 Aug, near Yankeetown (Levy Co.), and 28 Nov through early December, Port Canaveral (Brevard Co.; AB 47:85; previously accepted, 81-007).

ARCTIC TERN, *Sterna paradisaea*: 22 reports; not all have been evaluated. One in alternate plumage was observed about 24 km northeast of the Dry Tortugas (Monroe Co.), on 27 Apr 1992 (PIH; 92-263). There were 4 previous observations for the Keys: near Upper Matecumbe Key, on 8 May 1977 (AB 31:990), 9 May 1979 (AB 33:763), and 13 May 1991 (91-229), and the Dry Tortugas, on 5 May 1989 (90-211; P). Most spring sightings occur within a very brief period from late Apr to early May. There was another 1992 report of this species, published without details, and not submitted to the FOSRC: Cape Canaveral (Brevard Co.), on 21 May 1992 (FFN 20:117).

KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon chrysia*: about 15 reports since extirpated as a resident at Key West during the mid-to-late 1800s; not all have been evaluated (S&A). One found at Hugh Taylor SP (Broward Co.), on 12 April 1992 (WG; 92-258), was last seen on 17 May 1992 (AB 46:414;P). Two other 1992 reports (both from Palm Beach Co.) were published without details, and neither was submitted to the FOSRC: Fla. Atlantic University, in April (FFN 20:117), and Boca Raton, 15-16 May (AB 46:414). There were two previous reports for Broward Co., and one for Palm Beach Co.: Ft. Lauderdale, on 17 Feb 1966 (S, UMR 7467); Hillsboro Beach, on 19 Oct 1964 (FN 38:65); and Lake Worth, in spring 1966 (FN 39:154; P; previously accepted, 87-114, 90-207, 91-246).

Myiodynastes species: 2 reports; however until a specimen, recognizable photograph, or vocal recording is obtained, this genus remains in hypothetical status. A bird believed to be either a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *M. luteiventris* or a Streaked Flycatcher, *M. maculatus* was observed at St. Marks NWR (Wakulla Co.), on 12 Oct 1991; two observers, each having previous field experience with both species, were unable to agree as to the bird's specific identification (NW, BDN; 92-256). Although the descriptions accord well with a member of this genus, the details are inconclusive for an identification to species by the Committee. The only previous report was an observation made on the Upper Arsnicker Keys (Dade Co.), on 25 Oct 1960, of a *Myiodynastes* species called a probable Sulphur-bellied (AFN 15:32). This species has been found as close to Florida as Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; there is no confirmed sighting of the Streaked Flycatcher in the U.S.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*: 3 or 4 acceptable reports (S&A).- Two observers submitted details of presumably the same bird seen near Homestead (Dade Co.), on 7 and 27 Mar 1992 (PWS, JB; 92-255); this kingbird was last reported on 16 Apr 1992 (AB 46:414), but apparently was never photographed. Another report was published of a Cassin's observed near Ft. Walton Beach (Okaloosa Co.), on May 1992 (FFN 20:117). Although this report was not submitted to the committee, details have been deposited in the FOS Archives; if correctly identified, could this have been the Homestead bird returning to the western U.S.? (previously accepted, 85-074, 89-175).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus savanna*: 12 reports, 11 credible (S&A). One flycatcher described, with a tail "approx. 2" longer than nearby mockingbird," was observed at Loxahatchee NWR (Palm Beach Co.), 13-14 Jul 1992; although photos and a video were purportedly taken, neither was submitted to the committee (KG; 92-259; the Committee was later notified that the photos did not turn out). A first for Palm Beach Co., this flycatcher was thoroughly described and all of the field marks necessary to identify this species were noted; however, the description did not specify whether a nuchal collar was present. This white collar which separates the black cap from the gray back is a field mark used to distinguish those migratory South American birds which more commonly find their way to the U.S., from those that lack this collar and are largely resident in Mexico and Central America (previously accepted, 83-039, 84-068, 86-191, 90-210).

STRIPE-HEADED Tanager, *Spindalis zena*: 37 reports (S&A). A description of a male tanager, seen in Goulds (Dade Co.), 26 Feb 1992 (MJA; 92-254), undoubtedly referred to a bird that was first reported there 3 Jan 1992 (AB 46:256-7, P), and was last observed at that same location on 3 Mar 1992, (AB 46:415). About 15 reports have come from Dade Co (previously accepted, 83-043, 83-058, 88-149, 91-221).

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon montana*: 8 reports, 5 credible (S&A). A dove, identified as this species, was observed on Grassy Key (Monroe Co.), on 9 Apr 1992 (92-257). The Committee did not accept this report due to the incomplete description of the bird, and the descriptions of the habitat and behavior, neither of which is typical of this species. All credible reports of this species have come from the Keys; the last was at the Dry Tortugas, on 15 Dec 1977 (TTRS P-168-9; previously not accepted, 90-213).

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APPENDIX 1

LIST OF SPECIES TO BE REVIEWED BY THE
FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE

The following is a list of species that should be documented when seen, and a report submitted to the FOSRC for review. These species are rare or irregular (e.g., Least Grebe, Bananaquit), difficult to identify or not easily separated from other more regularly occurring species (e.g., female-plumaged Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds; Manx and Audubon's shearwaters), or inadequately documented in the past so that the actual status is poorly understood (e.g., Common Merganser). All of these species appear in the main list of verified species for Florida in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). In addition, documentation should be submitted to the Committee for any species observed in Florida, believed to have occurred naturally, but not listed in the main list of that publication.

LEAST GREBE, *Tachybaptus dominicus*
 WESTERN GREBE, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
 YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS, *Diomedea chlororhynchos*
 BLACK-CAPPED PETREL, *Pterodroma hasitata*
 MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*
 BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL, *Oceanodroma castro*
 RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*
 RED-FOOTED BOOBY, *Sula sula*
 SCARLET IBIS, *Eudocimus ruber*
 WHITE-FACED IBIS, *Plegadis chihi*
 ROSS' GOOSE, *Chen rossii*
 WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL, *Anas bahamensis*
 KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis*
 COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*
 MASKED DUCK, *Oxyura dominica*
 NORTHERN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis*
 FERRUGINOUS HAWK, *Buteo regalis*
 WHOOPING CRANE, *Grus americana*
 MOUNTAIN PLOVER, *Charadrius montanus*
 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa limosa*
 BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica*
 SURFBIRD, *Aphriza virgata*
 SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, *Calidris acuminata*
 CURLEW SANDPIPER, *Calidris ferruginea*
 LONG-TAILED JAEGER, *Stercorarius longicaudus*
 LITTLE GULL, *Larus minutus*
 COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus rudibundus*
 BAND-TAILED GULL, *Larus belcheri*
 THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*
 ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucoides*
 SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*
 RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*
 MARBLED MURRELET, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*
 ATLANTIC PUFFIN, *Fraterecula arctica*
 SCALY-NAPED PIGEON, *Columba squamosa*
 BAND-TAILED PIGEON, *Columba fasciata*

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

ZENAIDA DOVE, *Zenaida aurita*
 KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon chrysis*
 RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon montana*
 FLAMMULATED OWL, *Otus flammeolus*
 LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*
 NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, *Aegolius acadicus*
 LESSER NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
 WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT, *Streptoprocne zonaris*
 ANTILLEAN PALM SWIFT, *Tachornis phoenicobia*
 BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, *Amazilia yucatanensis*
 BAHAMA WOODSTAR, *Calliphlox evelynae*
 BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*
 ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Calypte anna*
 CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD, *Stellula calliope*
 RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus rufus*
 GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes aurifrons*
 IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, *Campephilus principalis*
 YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax flaviventris*
 ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*
 WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii*
 BLACK PHOEBE, *Sayornis nigricans*
 SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*
 ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
 LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus sagrae*
 VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER, *Empidonomus varius*
 CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*
 LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*
 FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus savana*
 HORNED LARK, *Eremophila alpestris*
 CUBAN MARTIN, *Progne cryptoleuca*
 SOUTHERN MARTIN, *Progne elegans*
 BAHAMA SWALLOW, *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*
 ROCK WREN, *Salpinctes obsoletus*
 BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes bewickii*
 NORTHERN WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
 VARIED THRUSH, *Ixoreus naevius*
 BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus gundlachi*
 SAGE THRASHER, *Oreoscoptes montanus*
 CURVE-BILLED THRASHER, *Toxostoma curvirostre*
 SPRAGUE'S PIPIT, *Anthus spragueii*
 THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*
 BELL'S VIREO, *Vireo bellii*
 WARBLING VIREO, *Vireo gilvus*
 YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, *Vireo flavoviridis*
 BACHMAN'S WARBLER, *Vermivora bachmanii*
 TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica townsendi*
 GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER, *Dendroica chrysoparia*
 KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii*
 BANANAQUIT, *Coereba flaveola*

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*
 GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus*
 YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivacea*
 BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris bicolor*
 BLACK-THROATED SPARROW, *Amphispiza bilineata*
 LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*
 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*
 HARRIS' SPARROW, *Zonotrichia querula*
 LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus*
 CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, *Calcarius ornatus*
 TAWNY-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD, *Agelaius humeralis*
 WESTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella neglecta*
 RED CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Fla. Field Nat. 22(1): 23-28, 1994.

Summer Report: June - July 1993.—The observations listed here are based on rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds as reported to the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Field Observations Committee (FOC). As these reports are not formally reviewed prior to publication, they may be considered tentative.

Reports of rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds are welcomed for inclusion in future issues of this section. Reports should be listed in the following format: the species name; the number of individuals seen; the age and sex of the bird(s) if determined (too often, this information is lacking in species that can be easily aged and/or sexed); the color morph (not "phase") if applicable; the location (including county); the date; the observer(s); and the significance of the report, if not obvious. Observers should send details of extremely rare species to the FOS Records Committee (FOSRC), c/o Bruce Anderson, Secretary, 2917 Scarlet Road, Winter Park, Florida 32792. A photocopy of all rarity forms submitted to the FOSRC also should be forwarded to the State Compiler of this report.

Reporting periods for the FOC report are winter (December-February), spring (March-May), summer (June-July), and fall (August-November). The deadline for the submission of reports to regional compilers, whose names and addresses appear at the end of this report, is two weeks after the close of each period. Observers living in the western Panhandle and southern Florida, areas without regional compilers, may send their reports directly to the State Compiler within one month after the close of the period. Lengthy reports should be submitted on computer disk in a WordPerfect or ASCII file using the format listed above.

Following the examples set by *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List* (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, FOS Spec. Pub. No. 6) and *The Birdlife of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson in press), observations based solely on sightings are considered "reports," while only those supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio tapes, or specimens) are called "records."