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Sixteenth Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 2006

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SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2006

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Abstract.—The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee reached decisions on 38 reports involving 22 species and two distinctive subspecies. Twenty-seven of the reports were accepted, seven not accepted, and four were tabled pending further consideration or resolution of requests for more information. Among the 27 reports endorsed by the Committee, 18 are based on specimens, photographs, or videotapes. The occurrence history of the rare species represented by accepted reports is reviewed in the species accounts. Species new to the Florida list are Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), based on a specimen, and Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), supported by photographs. These two additions bring the Florida list to 497 species.

The 16th report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) constitutes an annual report for 2006. The FOSRC critically reviews submitted reports of rare or unusual birds in Florida, as well as potential new records for the state. Submissions are accepted only for species that are believed to be first-time vagrants in Florida, or that appear on the current Species Review List of the Birds of Florida, published on-line in the Florida Ornithological Society's (FOS) website (<http://www.fosbirds.org/RecordCommittee/FOSRC.php>). This list is reviewed and updated periodically and consists mostly of species on the Official State List of the Birds of Florida for which 10 or fewer accepted records exist, including records previously reviewed and accepted by the FOSRC or substantiated records (based on specimens, photographs, or video/audio tape) published in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). In a few cases, species or distinctive subspecies are included in the Review List because the Committee wished to obtain further information on their status in the state. The FOSRC web pages (see above) also include the Official State List, the Rules and Procedures that govern the activities of the Committee, a reporting form for the direct on-line submission of reports to the FOSRC, the names and addresses of current Committee members, reports to the FOS Board on the proceedings of all recent FOSRC meetings, and a growing gallery of photographs of rare birds in Florida processed by the FOSRC.

This report details the evaluations of 34 new submissions totaling nearly 65 individuals and involving 22 species and two distinctive subspecies. Of the 34 reports, received from 22 September 2005 to 10 July 2006, 24 were reviewed and accepted, six were not accepted, and four were tabled pending further consideration of available evidence and specimen examination. In addition, the Committee resolved the following four reports that had been tabled pending further information or were otherwise previously unresolved: White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*, 03-504, accepted), Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*, 04-526, accepted), Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*, 05-561, not accepted), and Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*, 05-562, accepted).

Thus, overall, the Committee evaluated or reevaluated a total of 38 reports in its 2006 meetings, accepting 27 of them (71%), not accepting seven of them (18%), and tabling the rest for future reconsideration. The current acceptance rate is only a little

below the average rate of 76 percent in the post-2000 period. Twenty-eight (74%) of the reports were accompanied by photographs (27) or a videotape (1), and two involved specimen records deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH). Since 1996, three previous FOSRC reports have been published in the *Florida Field Naturalist* (FFN). During this time, the proportion of reports submitted with photographs increased from 38 percent in the 1996-2000 period (13th Report) to 74 percent in 2006 (current report). This increase in photo-documentation of rare bird sightings almost certainly reflects the recent availability of new digital technology in photographic equipment. Good photographs nearly always help to resolve difficult issues of identification. However, photographs not accompanied by a written description that describe what the observer saw do not always speak for themselves. An iconic case in the current report is exemplified by the White-tipped Dove observed and photographed by several people in the Dry Tortugas in 2003 (see below).

Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) reviewed the history of the Official State List of the Birds of Florida and provided an updated list (their Appendix 1) for the period ending 31 December 2005. This list comprised a total of 495 species, all of which are based on independently verifiable evidence (specimens, photographs or videotapes, and audio-recordings). To this list, we add two more species, thus updating the list in Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) through 31 December 2006: Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*, 06-584, specimen UF 44664) and Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*, 05-575, photographs). These additions bring the total number of species on the State List to 497. Both of the added species also now appear on the Review List. The Committee also removed four species from the Review List in 2006: Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*), White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*), and Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*). These species lose their asterisk (*) on the State List, a convention that signifies species on the Review List. One other taxon, "Audubon's" Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni* and related yellow-throated subspecies), was added to the Review List as well, because of its vagrant status in Florida and the desire by the Committee to accumulate information on its occurrence in the state.

The most frequently reported species in 2006 were White-faced Ibis with four reports of single birds and Cassin's Kingbird with three reports of singletons. Calliope Hummingbird and Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) each were represented by two reports.

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC, including descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and Committee comments is archived in the Division of Ornithology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, and is available for public access. All observers are encouraged to submit reports on Review listed species, and on species potentially new to the State List. Ideally, observers should record details of plumage, shape, size, behavior, and other pertinent information, in a timely fashion in the field. Reports to the Committee should provide all pertinent forms of documentation, including a written description of observations, in the original submission. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form available from the Secretary or on-line in the FOSRC web-pages (see link above). In addition to uniformity, the report form provides the Committee and the observer with guidelines to those criteria used by the FOSRC for its evaluation. Completed forms should be submitted to the Secretary of the FOSRC, who currently is Andrew W. Kratter (address above), e-mail at kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during 2006 when the reports discussed here were evaluated. The members serving then and their home city and last year of tenure were Jon S. Greenlaw, Secretary (Cape Coral, 2006), Fred E. Lohrer (Lake Placid, 2007), Mickey C. Wheeler (Miami, 2008), R. Todd Engstrom (Tallahassee, 2009), Sally Jue (Tallahassee, 2010), Andrew W. Kratter (Gainesville, 2011), and Glen E. Woolfenden (Lake Placid, 2012). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members on the FOSRC and their addresses.

Contributors to this report: Lyn S. Atherton (LSA), Janine Bacquie (JB), Fred Bassett (FB), Mark Berney (MB), Rodney O. Cassidy (ROC), James Cavanagh (JC), Tom Curtis (TC), Michelle Davis (MD), Robin M. Diaz (RMD), Robert A. Duncan (RAD), Murray Gardler (MG), Vi Greenlaw (VG), John H. Hintermister V (JHH), Paul Johnson (PJ), Dean Jue (DJ), Andrew W. Kratter (AWK), Travis MacClendon (TMA), Larry Manfredi (LM), Trey Mitchell (TMi), Brennan Mulrooney (BM), Matthew Pike (MP), Ralph Pike (RP), Bill Pranty (BP), John Puschock (JP), Fran Rutkovsky (FR), Ted Stevens (TS), Philip Stoddard (PS), Darcy Stumbaugh (DS), Roberto Torres (RT), Alex Vinokur (AV), Robert D. Wallace (RDW), and Andrew Wraithmell (AW).

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—During 2006, FOSRC met twice, on 28 January at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, and on 5 August at Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid. At the January meeting, the Committee revisited the older reports of “Marbled Murrelet” that it had reviewed and accepted, and affirmed that they all referred to Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (see Mlodinow 1996, American Ornithologists’ Union [AOU] 1998).

At the August meeting, then-Secretary Jon S. Greenlaw reached his term limit on the Committee of seven years. After serving a full term, a member cannot be re-nominated to serve again until one or more years have passed. Andrew (Andy) W. Kratter was nominated by the Committee to serve as the new Secretary. This nomination was approved by the FOS Board at its fall meeting, 2006. Additionally, R. Todd Engstrom resigned from the Committee after serving a partial term. The two vacancies were filled by Mark Berney (Fort Lauderdale) and Bill Pranty (Bayonet Point).

Formats and terminology.—The following accounts report on all actions taken by the Committee during 2006, and provide information on the history of the rare species in Florida covered in the accepted reports. Additional information on the quality of the evidence available to the Committee and on identification issues may be found in the FOS board reports submitted during 2006 and available on-line (see above website). Complete summaries of previously accepted and not accepted reports for all species listed below may be found online as well in the board reports.

We follow current nomenclature and sequence in the species accounts that follow (AOU 1998 and subsequent supplements). Within accounts, reports on more than one submission on a species are introduced sequentially by the date of receipt. The code (in parentheses) associated with each submitted report to the Committee (e.g., 03-504) is the catalog number for the sighting or specimen report that is logged into an electronic catalog as it is received, and refers to year (03-) followed by sequential number (-504), beginning with the first entry in the catalog. The initials preceding the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the Committee (see list above). Although the FOSRC does not formally review age or sex of each bird, we often receive that information, and we will correct it when we find the report in error. We provide that information here as appropriate. Our terminology for age follows the calendar-based system outlined in Pyle (1997). We normally do not review subspecies, but on occasion (two here in this report) we accept submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be revisited in the future by the American Ornithologists’ Union. Our use of the words “report” and “record” to describe occurrences of species in Florida follows Robertson and Woolfenden (1992).

Abbreviations used in this report are CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CP, county park, FOC, Field Observations Committee (reports prepared by B. Pranty since 1992 and published in *FFN*; the convention “FOC [year]” signifies a species occurrence reported in FOC and year of publication); nmi, nautical miles; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; SP, state park; subsp. and spp., singular and plural for subspecies; UF, University of Florida (an acronym applied to specimens in the FLMNH collection).

ACCEPTED REPORTS

ROSS'S GOOSE, *Chen rossii*. (a) (TC, AW, 05-579), one or two adults observed and photographed from 20 November to 29 December 2005 at Mound Pool 1 at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co.; (b) (RAD, PJ, 06-587), a flock of nine birds associated with Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) observed and photographed in Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., on 10 December 2005. In the early 1990s, this species was regarded as very rare (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) to accidental (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) in northwestern Florida. Only three occurrences were known in the state at that time, one of which was documented by a published photograph (Ogden 1988; 88-133). The FOSRC has accepted eight previous reports (see below) including two of those mentioned in Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). At least 12 other occurrences of this species not seen by FOSRC were reported to the FOC (1995-2003). Most reports and records were from Wakulla and Leon cos. westward in the panhandle, and a few were in the peninsula south to Brevard Co.

NORTHERN FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis*. (AWK, 06-584), a specimen, UF 44664; a second year, intermediate-plumaged male, found weakened 19 April 2005 on Satellite Beach, Brevard Co., which died two days later at the Florida Wildlife Hospital in Melbourne. See Kratter and Small (2007) for additional details. This specimen represents the first record of this polymorphic species in Florida.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*. (a) (RDW, 06-602), three adults observed 42 nmi east of Ponce Inlet, Volusia Co., on 1 January 2006. Descriptive details eliminated Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*); (b) (RT, 06-609), single adult observed in the Gulf Stream about 9 nmi southeast of Key Biscayne, off Miami, Miami-Dade Co., on 29 July 2006. Again, descriptive details eliminated Audubon's Shearwater. Five previous reports and records (specimens, photographs) have been accepted by the FOSRC in the period from November 1994 through September 2001. A report not seen by the FOSRC involved a bird off Port Canaveral, Brevard Co., in November 2004 (FOC 2005). Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) listed four specimen records from Florida from both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts (one record, Escambia Co.), the earliest taken in 1960. Kratter et al. (2002) reported two other recent specimens in the FLMNH collection. About 20 sight reports from Florida were known through 1992, with occurrences distributed along the Atlantic coast from Jacksonville (Duval Co.) to Miami (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Altogether, the species is a rare, perhaps regular visitor along the east coast of Florida, with approximately 25 sight reports (including at least two photographic records) and six specimens known through 2006.

WHITE-FACED IBIS, *Plegadis chihi*. (a) (TC, 05-577), a single adult in breeding plumage observed and photographed at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co., on 6 June 2005; (b) (TC, 05-578), an immature bird at St. Marks NWR, observed (diagnostically described, photographs confirmed *Plegadis* sp.) on 20 November 2005; (c) (JHH, AWK, 06-595), an adult observed and photographed in Lake Tusawilla, Micanopy, Alachua Co., on 25 February 2006; (d) (RAD, 06-605), an adult in breeding plumage observed and photographed at Fort Walton Beach spray fields near Mary Esther, Okaloosa Co., on 17 May 2006. The oldest record in Florida, 18 April 1886, is based on a specimen of a breeding female collected with a clutch of eggs in Brevard Co. (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). The species was known from fewer than a dozen or so sightings before 1992, including at least two supported by photographs (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The FOSRC has accepted six additional reports from 1994 through 2004. At least 12 other recent reports not evaluated by the FOSRC have been received by the FOC (1992-2005). Most occurrences are from north Florida, but see Stevenson and Anderson (1994) for evidence in the mainland peninsula southward.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*. (RDW, 06-603), a single, immature pale-morph bird was observed by three people on the Zellwood CBC, Lake Apopka Restoration

Area, Orange Co., on 21 December 2005. Previously, based on photographs, the FOSRC has verified only three other records in Florida. These hawks, one pale and two dark morphs also near Lake Apopka, were present from 16 February to 11 April 2000 (two, to 19 April) (FOC 2000). They constituted Florida's first verifiable records, even though about 60 unverified reports had accumulated from throughout the state south to Key West by the early 1990s (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The species is probably a very rare and irregular winter visitor to Florida.

LESSER SAND-PLOVER, *Charadrius mongolus*. (TC, TM, AV, RDW, AW, 05-575), a single bird in non-breeding plumage observed and photographed at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co., from 17 to 21 September 2005 (Curtis 2007). Written documentation was provided by four observers, and images by three photographers. Available evidence concerning body size, bill shape and size (short, blunt-tipped bill), relative leg length and leg position, lack of white hindneck collar, body posture, leg color, and thin wing stripe visible in flight (Hirschfeld et al. 2000) all supported the original identification. Two foreign commentators, who had field experience with both sand-plover species in Europe (E. Hirschfeld) and Australia (R. Boughton), submitted confirmatory assessments. This acceptance verifies the first Florida record for the species, and also the first record east of the Mississippi River in North America.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus ridibundus*. (LM, TM, RT, 05-576), a single hatch-year bird in non-breeding plumage was observed and photographed at the Wetlands Mitigation Site and vicinity, Cutler Ridge, Miami-Dade Co., on 19 and 22 October 2005. The Committee considered two written reports and photographs from two sources. One photograph of the bird in flight permitted the Committee to discount the possibility of the similar immature Gray-hooded Gull (*L. cirrocephalus*) and Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*). FOSRC has accepted five previous sightings, four supported by photographs, in Leon (August 1982), Collier (November 1990), Duval (December 1998), Alachua (January 2000), and Indian River (February 2002) cos. Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) provided one other record based on a photograph (in addition to the birds in Leon and Collier cos. mentioned above). About 25 other unverified reports were known from Florida by the end of 2006 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994; FOC 1992-2006).

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*. (AWK, 06-586), a second-year male, preserved as a specimen (UF 44677), was found on Honeymoon Island, Pinellas Co., on 13 April 2005 (Kratzer and Small 2007). A record based on photographs (Brevard Co.), and eight or nine other specimens, including one from Santa Rosa Co. on the Gulf coast, are known from Florida (Duncan 1988, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994; FOC 1993, 1996). This rare and irregular winter visitor was first recorded in the state in 1967 (Cruikshank 1967).

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE, *Leptotila verreauxi*. (JB, MB, MG, VG, LM, JP, PS, RDW, AW, 03-504), originally observed by many birders and photographed by several of them on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Monroe Co., from 19 April to 2 May 2003. Three photographs unaccompanied by a written description and evaluation were submitted in 2003. These first photographs provided contradictory or ambiguous information about critical plumage colors and pattern (underparts, forehead/crown/nape) that were relevant in discriminating *L. verreauxi* from *L. jamaicensis* (Caribbean Dove). The report history spanned 2003-2006 and five meetings as it moved from non-accepted status to a re-opened file as more photographs of the dove were received. Sixteen additional photographs accumulated in the report file, but the identification was not resolved until the Committee finally obtained timely field notes from one of the original observers. During this process the Committee also examined specimens from the FLMNH and the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago). Critical diagnostic characters were pale buff tones on the lower underparts and gray on the crown that did not extend onto the nape. Underparts color (buffiness extending from abdomen to undertail coverts) indicated likely origin in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, where

- L. v. fulviventris* is a relatively distinctive subspecies. Only one other record is known from Florida, a bird observed and photographed 6-7 April 1995, on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, also believed to represent *L. v. fulviventris* (FOSRC 95-337).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus sasin*. (a) (FB, 06-599), an adult male banded, measured, and photographed in Tallahassee, Leon Co., on 14 January 2006. Measurements and images of the critical, diagnostic rectrices (R2, R5) were part of the detailed documentation provided by an experienced hummingbird bander; (b) (FB, 06-600), another adult male banded and measured in Tallahassee on 22 February 2006, constituted one more Florida record. The FOSRC has accepted six other in-hand identifications, all from north Florida (Pensacola, Escambia Co., east to Gainesville, Alachua Co.). An adult male photographed at a feeder on Cedar Key, Levy Co., 28 February 1988, regarded as "almost surely this species," was treated properly as unverified at that time (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).
- SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*. (MD, RMD, 06-590), hatch-year bird captured, photographed, and banded at Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Miami-Dade Co., on 8 October 2005, was well-documented. Size and plumage eliminated other similar *Myiodynastes*, *Empidonomus*, and *Legatus* flycatchers from consideration. Only four other records, all supported by photographs, are known from Florida, 1995 through 2004 (FOSRC). One was in Pinellas Co. (September 2000), and the others also occurred in Miami-Dade Co.
- TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*. (ROC, 06-591), an unknown-aged bird observed and videotaped in a subdivision of Apalachicola, Franklin Co., on 7 January to 10 February 2005 at least. The videotape documented the diagnostic vocalization of the species. The taxonomic revision of the Tropical Kingbird complex (Traylor 1979) and the ensuing recognition of *T. couchii* in that complex (AOU 1983) cast doubt on all early reports of "*T. melancholicus*" in Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Stevenson and Anderson (1994) provided a review of these early reports. The first verified record for Florida, based on call and photographic evidence, was a bird found in Birch SP, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward Co., on 11 October 1999 (FOSRC). A report of a bird photographed and videotaped at Fort DeSoto, Pinellas Co., in mid-May 1998 (FOC 1998), and identified as this species, was never submitted to the FOSRC, and thus was never verified. Other reports of an individual of this species (same?) in Fort DeSoto later in 1998 and in 1999 (FOC 1998-1999), and still others in Orange Co. in two consecutive winters (FOC 2002-2003), also were unverified. The current sighting constitutes the sixth verified record of Tropical Kingbird in Florida.
- CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*. (a) (BP, DS, 05-581), a single individual observed and photographed between Balm and Wimauma roads in southeastern Hillsborough Co., 18-20 December 2005; (b) (LA, 06-593), a single bird in a subdivision on Sweat Loop Road, Hillsborough Co., 6 February 2006, was treated as a different individual; and (c) (MP, RP, 06-598), a single bird was photographed along CR-835 south of Canon Hammock Park, Hendry Co., on 15 April 2006. Five photographic records and five written reports of this species in Florida have been verified or accepted by the FOSRC since 1984. One or two Cassin's Kingbirds have wintered near Lake Apopka, Orange Co., each season from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 (FOC 2000-2005).
- THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*. (RMD, 06-589), an after-hatch-year bird captured, photographed, and banded on 7 November 2005 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Miami-Dade Co. This Bahamian species was first reported in Florida in 1961 (Abramson 1974), but the first verifiable records were not forthcoming until 1989 and 1990 (Smith et al. 1990, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). To date, including the current sighting, six photo- or audio-records and two accepted sight reports are known for Florida (FOSRC). Several other unverified reports were not seen by the Committee (e.g., FOC 1994, 1996).
- YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, *Vireo flavoviridis*. (BM, 04-526), single individual observed in Indigenous Park, Key West, Monroe Co., on 9 September 2002. Because the report sub-

mitted to FOSRC was prepared almost two years after the sighting, the Committee hesitated to accept the report based entirely on the memory of the observer. The description received was diagnostic, and clearly discounted other similar vireos, which were present at the same time. We recently received a photocopy of timely field notes that supported the original written report. One record (specimen, see Robertson and Woolfenden [1992]), six sight reports accepted by FOSRC since 1984, and several unverified reports constitute the known occurrences in Florida. The record and several reports concerned birds from the western panhandle, but other reports were from Pinellas, Palm Beach, and Monroe cos., all ranging in dates from 4-25 May and from 30 August to 11 September.

“AUDUBON’S” WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata* subsp. (LSA, 06-592), a well-marked bird (male?) in non-breeding plumage of this western form observed and photographed in East Beach Woods at Ft. DeSoto Park, Pinellas Co., on 28 September 2005. The first record for Florida was photographed on 3 May 1993 (B. E. Small) on the Dry Tortugas (Langridge 1993). Before 1994, about eight additional sight reports were known from the state (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Since 1994, three photo-records (including 06-592) were added to the earlier list along with three unverified sight reports.

MACGILLIVRAY’S WARBLER, *Oporornis tolmiei*. (RMD, 06-588), a single bird observed and carefully described in timely field notes on 22 September 2005 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Miami-Dade Co. The report submitted to the Committee provided an analysis of the observations and elimination of similar species in the same genus. One record based on photographs and three accepted reports, including this one, constitute verified occurrences in Florida. The photo-record was a presumptive adult male seen by numerous observers in Sanibel Lighthouse Park, Lee Co., from 5-17 April 1998 (FOC 1998; 98-385). Verified reports concerned an individual in Fern Forest Park, Broward Co., from 17 February to 10 March 2001 (FOC 2001; 02-464), and a female in A. D. Barnes CP, Miami-Dade Co., 20 April to 4 May 2001 (02-487). Since 1995, five unverified sightings also have been reported (FOC 1995-2005).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*. (TS, 05-561), an after-second-year bird observed on 6 February 2005 near Lake Apopka, Orange Co. Bold black lateral crown stripes that contrasted with a gray face, and a broad patch of yellow on the forehead eliminated other *Zonotrichia* species. The only record of this species in Florida is based on a photograph of a bird observed at Islamorada, Upper Matecumbe Key, Monroe Co., on 21 June 1990 ([Anonymous] 1990, Hoffman et al. 1991, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992; 90-209).

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*. (JC, DJ, FR, 06-607), a female-plumaged bird appeared at a Brookforest Drive feeder in Tallahassee, Leon Co., from 17 February through 18 March 2006. A photograph and the written description confirmed the identification. This species and the Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*) were recently reinstated as separate species by the AOU (1995). The issue of mis-identification of similarly plumaged female and immature Bullock’s and Baltimore orioles created initial uncertainty about the status of the former species in Florida following the reinstatement. Pranty et al. (2005) reviewed all archived, verifiable evidence (specimens, photographs) through 2004. They corrected mis-identifications and found only six verifiable records from the state. The Tallahassee bird featured here provides a seventh record. The species may be more regular as a winter resident in Florida than the number of records currently suggest.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

ROSS’S GOOSE, *Chen rossii*. (06-583), an adult observed on 26 December 2005 north of Wesley Chapel, Pasco Co. The Committee examined one written report and several photographs. The size of the bird was smaller than associated Snow Geese, but not as

small as expected of a "typical" Ross's Goose. The bill had a slight "grin patch" and bill shape was somewhat longer than expected. The consensus on the Committee was that the bird represented a likely hybrid with Snow Goose. Reports accepted by FOSRC: 88-133, 92-252, 99-399, 00-423, 00-324, 01-445, 03-523, 03-524, 05-579, 06-587; previously not accepted: none.

CAKCLING GOOSE, *Branta hutchinsii*. (06-596), a single bird, unknown sex and age, observed at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., on 10 December 2005. The Committee examined a single written report prepared well after the sighting had occurred, and a single photograph of a distant bird associated on the ground with several Ross's Geese and two Canada Geese. The photograph showed a relatively small, white-cheeked goose with a small, triangular bill. The position of the head (slightly turned away) did not permit confident evaluation of head or bill shapes. The size of the goose was approximately equal to or slightly larger than the nearest Ross's Goose standing nearby. The description did not consider the possibility of the most difficult-to-separate small Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis parvipes*. The identification is likely correct on geographic grounds, but the evidence was insufficient for confirmation. Reports previously accepted by FOSRC: 05-560, based on a specimen; not accepted: none.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis*. (06-597), an immature-plumaged bird observed briefly by one observer at Seagrove Beach, Walton Co., on 16 February 2006. Size was described as "huge", and a "light streak" was present above and behind the eye. Relative size of a solitary hawk can be difficult to judge. The pale supercilium is supportive of the identification. The written report did not mention body proportions, and tail length and tip-shape was uncertain. This species is very rare in Florida, while the similar Cooper's Hawk (*A. cooperii*) is common. The only verifiable evidence of occurrence in the state is a partial skeleton. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) mentioned only four sightings of goshawks through 1992 that they regarded as "acceptable", one of which was an adult. No other occurrences were reported in Florida during the 1992-2005 period covered by the FOC. Considering the rarity of this species in Florida, the Committee felt that only a photograph accompanied by a strong supporting description is acceptable for verification of an immature bird. Reports previously accepted by FOSRC: none; not accepted: 03-502.

SOUTHERN LAPWING, *Vanellus chilensis*. (06-606), presumptively a single bird observed on two separate occasions, 21 May and 10 June 2006, at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co. Previous sightings in Florida included some known escapees from captivity, but natural vagrancy in other cases is possible (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The documentation in this instance included a written description and evaluation, and several distant photographs. The identification of the St. Marks bird is not in dispute. Plumage characteristics suggested the present bird represented the northern subspecies, *V. c. cayennensis*, of this South American species. This subspecies, with nearest breeding populations in northeastern South America and Panama (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989, AOU 1998), is apparently relatively sedentary. A breeding record is now known for Costa Rica as well (May 2005). Some level of vagrancy does occur, with recent reports in Trinidad and Mexico, and evidence exists for range expansion westward in Panama (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989, Martin 1997). This species is sometimes kept in captivity, but probably not commonly. The St. Marks bird was not banded, and it did not bear any other indications of previous captivity. One week after the lapwing disappeared from St. Marks, an individual of this species and subspecies appeared in Maryland (<http://www.pbbase.com/wcbirding/sola>). It is not out of the question that this was the same bird seen in Florida. At the moment, given the history of the species in Florida, any decision other than possible escapee (origin unknown) would be speculative. Southern Lapwing is not yet accepted on the North American species list by the American Birding Association (<http://www.americanbirding.org/checklist/>). Committee rules require that we be conservative in cases involving possible escapees

from captivity unless evidence of natural vagrancy is concrete and convincing. The evidence of recent vagrancy in Middle America and range expansion into Panama and Costa Rica suggests a developing pattern that must be watched. Reports previously accepted by FOSRC: none; not accepted: none.

VAUX'S SWIFT, *Chaetura vauxi*. (a) (05-580), apparently one individual observed in flight at St. Marks NWR on 17 to 18 December 2005 by several observers. One written description was provided, but the photographs documented only the genus. No vocalizations were heard; (b) (06-582), up to 20 individuals were observed and photographed over Paynes Prairie near Gainesville, Alachua Co., from 18 December 2005 to at least 5 January 2006. The birds were seen by several observers. No vocalizations were heard. Photographs documented *Chaetura* sp. only. Because Chimney Swift (*C. pelagica*) is known from a specimen taken in Florida on 1 December (1993; UF 38060), and from other specimens obtained in mid-November (Stevenson and Anderson 1994), identifications of late reports of *Chaetura* swifts in the absence of information on vocalizations must be regarded as uncertain. Throat color and even flight behavior overlap in the two species. Reports previously accepted by FOSRC: 95-331, 99-397; not accepted: 90-184, 00-426.

SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*. (05-561), an adult observed by one person at St. Marks NWR on 26 January 2005. A brief written description seemed to rule out alternative possibilities. The written account was ambiguous on whether the observer witnessed tail pumping, a behavior that is expected in the species. The issue was not resolvable without timely field notes. The observer had field experience with the species, and the identification was probably correct. Reports previously accepted by FOSRC: 88-158, 98-382, 03-520; not accepted: none.

REPORTS NOT RESOLVED

CACKLING GOOSE, *Branta hutchinsii*. (06-601), written description of a small-bodied, small-billed, white-cheeked goose observed by several birders from 2 February to 1 March 2006 in Barefoot Bay, south of Palm Bay, Brevard Co. A single photograph featured the small goose with its head slightly turned standing beside a large Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). The perspective on the small goose's head made it difficult to confidently evaluate bill shape. The report was tabled pending a request to see other photographs, and further evaluation of plumage and bill-head shape characters.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*. (06-608), a subadult was observed and photographed about 13 km southeast of Key Biscayne, and about 3 km southeast of Fowey Rocks Light, Miami-Dade Co., on 3 July 2006. The documentation record contained four photographs, a written description and analysis, an evaluation of a new field character that may help to discriminate between young Red-billed and White-tailed (*P. lepturus*) tropicbirds, and remarks from online commentators. The Committee tabled the report pending examination of plumage variation in specimens of the two tropicbirds in relation to the efficacy of the proposed field mark.

"EUROPEAN" HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus* subsp. (06-604), written descriptions and photographs of a single bird observed by multiple birders and photographed by two people at the Volusia County Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia Co., 11 February to 6 March 2006. Documentation included a written synopsis of the European taxa, *L. argentatus* ssp. (*L. a. argentatus* [north-central Europe, Finland to Germany] and *L. a. argenteus* [western Europe, from southern Scandinavia, British Isles, south to the Iberian Peninsula]), *L. michahellis* (Yellow-legged Gull, southwestern Europe, and Mediterranean and Black seas basins), and the American *L. a. smithsonianus* (northern North America). Fourteen superb photographs of the bird on the ground and in flight, showing all potential field characters, and submitted comments from several European and American gull aficionados, completed the body of information submit-

ted to the Committee. Not included in the written description and evaluation by the lead observer, but mentioned by one commentator, was *L. cachinnans* (Caspian Gull, interior eastern Europe east into Asia). The outside commentators disagreed among themselves on the identification of the Florida bird, although a leading gull authority, K. M. Olsen, senior author of the new book on gulls (Olsen and Larsson 2004), supported the "European" Herring Gull identification. Olsen and Larsson (2004) split the herring gulls on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The British Ornithologists' Union presently has the taxonomic status of the Herring Gull complex under review (Sangster et al. 2005). Considering the potential complexity of the issues related to gull identification, especially with respect to trans-Atlantic and European taxa about which taxonomic questions remain open, the Committee tabled the report to allow additional time for a more deliberate evaluation of these issues.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides*. (06-594), a single second-winter bird observed and photographed at the Volusia County Landfill, Volusia Co., on 11 February 2006. The submitted report also contained a photograph of a second individual of the same species. An unresolved question about which individual the description in the documentation report applied caused the case to be tabled until the issue was resolved. Parts of the description did not seem to aptly describe either individual, which were both well-photographed. The identifications of the two birds were not in dispute.

REPORT IN ERROR

ATLANTIC PUFFIN, *Fratercula arctica*. (06-585 = 05-558), a specimen (UF 44359) previously processed and accepted at the 15 January 2005 meeting of the FOSRC, and inadvertently assigned a second catalog number. The report was dropped from the January 2006 agenda at the meeting.

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