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## Nineteenth Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 2009

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**NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2009**

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**Abstract.**—In 2009, the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee assessed 81 submissions, including 75 that were new, two that were unresolved in the previous year, and four older submissions that were reopened because new information became available. Fifty-six of the submissions were accepted, seventeen were not accepted, and eight were tabled pending further consideration or resolution of requests for more information. The submissions assessed covered 47 species, one genus, one species triad, one species pair, and three distinctive subspecies. The occurrence history of the rare species represented by accepted reports is reviewed in the species accounts. New to Florida are records of Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), supported by photographs; White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), supported by photographs; Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), supported by a specimen; and White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) supported by photographs. In addition, the genus *Elaenia* was added to the State List. These five additions bring the Official Florida State Bird List to 508 species.

This 19th report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by members of the Committee in 2009. The FOSRC critically reviews submitted reports of rare or unusual birds in Florida, as well as potential new records for the state, including whether exotic species meet criteria to be considered established. Submissions are requested for species or distinctive subspecies that are believed to be first-time vagrants in Florida or that are listed as review species or subspecies on the Official Florida State Bird List (= Official List), published on-line in the Florida Ornithological Society's (FOS) website (<http://www.fosbirds.org/RecordsCommittee/OfficialStateList.aspx>). Review species or subspecies (= Review List) are mostly those taxa on the Official List for which the FOSRC has previously reviewed and accepted 10 or fewer reports (but see below). In a few cases, species or distinctive subspecies are included in the Review List when Committee members seek further information on their status in the state. The FOSRC web pages (see above) also include the Records Committee 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 meeting, and a growing gallery of photographs of rare birds in Florida processed by the FOSRC.

This report details the evaluations of 81 submissions, involving one genus, 47 species, one species pair, one species triad, and three subspecies. Of the 75 new reports, received from September 2007 through July 2008, 55 were reviewed and accepted, 14 were not accepted, and six were tabled pending further consideration of available evidence and specimen examination. Of the 14 submissions not accepted, two were not accepted because the populations did not meet the establishment criteria for established avian exotics (Purple

Swampphen, *Porphyrio porphrio*, for populations in Florida, and Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*, for a presumed stray from introduced populations in the Great Lakes region), and twelve submissions were not accepted because the identification had not been firmly established. In addition, the committee resolved two reports that had been tabled pending further information or were otherwise previously unresolved: Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*, FOSRC #08-673, not accepted), and Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*, FOSRC #07-695, accepted). Four older FOSRC decisions were reopened because we had received new information. The Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*, FOSRC #85-075) record from a bird photographed in 1977, originally accepted by the FOSRC in 1985, was reopened in 2008 because some authors had doubted this identification. The matter went unresolved until 2009, when the original decision was overturned. The Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*, FOSRC #82-020) submission, a sight report, was not accepted originally; a specimen for this submission was located recently and the record was accepted. A sight report of a Broad-billed Hummingbird in 2004 (*Cyanthus latirostris*, FOSRC #05-536) was originally not accepted; photographs were recently submitted and we agreed to reopen the submission, but the new vote was unresolved. The Caribbean Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*, FOSRC #84-063) photographed in 1984, originally accepted by the FOSRC in 1986, was the only record of this difficult genus for mainland North America. It was later removed from the Official List because the identification, based on vocalizations, could not be verified (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). However, a recent record of *Elaenia albiceps* in Texas (Reid and Jones 2009) called into question the validity of the Florida *E. martinica* record, and the FOSRC moved to reopen the record. We voted to accept this record only to the genus *Elaenia*.

The current acceptance rate (57/81: 70%) is close to the rate of 71% in the period from 2001-2007 (169 of 237 submissions accepted), but below the 76% recorded in 2008 (Kratter 2010). The percentage of new submissions that included a specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence supporting the submission (81%) continued to be high, as mentioned in previous reports (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007; Kratter 2008, 2010). For the 55 new submissions that were accepted, all but five (91%) had specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence. Of the 14 submissions not accepted, eight (57%) had specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence. The Committee believes that more sight reports would be accepted if descriptions were more complete, and if submitters presented more thorough analyses of how species were separated from similar species. The Committee feels strongly that well documented sight reports are an important part of documenting rare birds in Florida,

Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) reviewed the history of the Official List 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). Two species were added to this list in the 16th Report (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), four species were added in the 17th report (Kratter 2008), and two species were added in the 18th report (Kratter 2010) to bring the State total to 503 species. For 2009, we added one genus (*Elaenia*, based on a photograph) and four species: Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*, FOSRC #09-738), White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*, FOSRC #09-729), and White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*, FOSRC #09-731) were based on photographs; Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*, FOSRC #09-768) was supported by a specimen. These additions bring the total number of species on the State List to 508. In addition, a new subspecies, Vega (Herring) Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*, FOSRC #09-761) was the first accepted record for Florida. The new genus, four new species, and the new subspecies now appear on the Review List. The Committee also voted to add a subspecies, Common (Green-winged) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) to the Review List. The committee voted to remove Iceland Gull from the Review List, because of the recent surge in accepted reports (six in 2009). It is the view of some current Committee

members, however, that we should increase the number of accepted records before removing a species from the review list; Florida has a low threshold for removal relative to other states with large or even moderate numbers of active birders (e.g., California, Texas, Arizona, Louisiana).

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC, including descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and committee comments is archived in the Ornithology Department at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and is available for public access. All observers are encouraged to submit reports on review-listed species, and on species potentially new to the Official 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, Andrew W. Kratter (address above), email at [kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu).

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during 2009 when the reports discussed here were evaluated. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure were Bill Pranty (2009), Sally Jue (2010), Andrew W. Kratter (2011), Bruce Anderson (2012), Mark Berney (2013), John Murphy (2014), and Jon Greenlaw (2015). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members on the FOSRC and their addresses.

Contributors to this report (all submitters are acknowledged below, but only those reports that are accepted include initials of the submitter): Angel and Mariel Abreu (AMA), Mary Acken (MA), Carole Adams (CA), Bruce Anderson (BA), Lyn Atherton (LA), Tricia Auffhammer, Barry Ault (BAu), Danny Bales (DB), Andy Bankert (AB), Fred Bassett (FB), Pat Bazany (PBz), Anne Bellenger, Mark Berney (MBe), Paul Bithorn (PB), Greg Bossart (GB), John Boyd, III (JB), Michael Brothers (MBr), Pat Burns (PB), Jim Cavanagh (JC), Brian Cole, Linda and Buck Cooper (LBC), Cameron Cox, Rich Demler (RD), Robin Diaz (RD), Stephen Dinsmore, Bob Duncan (BD), Lucy Duncan (LD), Pierre DuCharme (PD), Tom Dunkerton (TD), Jim Eager (JE), Carl Edwards (CEd), Charlie Ewell, Linda Felker (LF), Dan Forster, David Freeland, Robert Fortin (RF), Lindsay Galland, Murray Gardler (MG), Barbara Gay (BG), Reinhard Geisler (RG), Carl Goodrich (CG), David Goodwin (DG), Mitchell Harris (MH), Linda Hensley, John Hintermister, Bruce Horn (BH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Laura Johannsen (LJ), Paul Johnson (PJ), David Johnston (DJ), Dean Jue (DJu), Dorothy Kaufmann (DK), Ken and Barbara Keskinen (K BK), Andrew W. Kratter (AWK), Robert Landry (RL), Doris Leary (DL), Patrick Leary (PL), Karin Lebo, Garrett Legates (GL), Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LMa), Linda Melching (LMe), Janet Millard, Trey Mitchell (TM), John Murphy (JM), Laure Neish (LN), Chris Newton (CN), Robert Norton (RN), Earl Orf (EO), Jan Osborn (JO), Judd Patterson (JP), Bonnie Ponwith, Bill Pranty (BP), Tom Riggs (TR), Dotty Robbins (DR), Alexa Roche (AR), Kerry Ross (KR), Lesley Royce (LR), Fran Rutkovsky (FR), Jim Shea, Dale Taylor, Ralph Todd, Roberto Torres (RT), Ken Tracy (KT), Doug Wassmer, Bob Wallace (BW), Leo Weigant (LW), Mickey Wheeler (MW), Arthur Wilson (AW), Andy Wraithmell (AWr), and Casper Zuyderduyn (CZ).

#### COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

*Committee news.*—During 2009, the FOSRC met twice, on 7 February at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, and on 15 August at Archbold Biological Sta-

tion, Lake Placid. At the August meeting, FOSRC member Bill Pranty reached the end of his shortened term on the committee. Because of other obligations he opted not to pursue a full term, which our by-laws allow following a term of less than four years. Bill's vacancy was filled by Ed Kwater, who is new to the FOSRC.

*Formats and terminology.*—The following accounts report on all actions undertaken by the Committee during 2009, and provide information on the history of the rare species in Florida covered in the accepted 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., 06-601) 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 received (06-) followed by sequential number (-601), beginning with the first entry in the catalog. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the Committee for accepted reports, only (see list above). Our terminology for age largely follows the calendar-based system outlined in Pyle (1997, 2008); however we use "cycles" for gulls, as found in Olsen and Larsson (2004). We may use terms such as "first fall" or "first winter", but we substitute the ambiguous term "first summer" (= second calendar summer, including the hatching summer) with "first year." We normally do not review subspecies, but on occasion we accept submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be revisited 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) and the Field Observation Committee reports. For each species, the number of records and reports previously accepted by the FOSRC is detailed. In addition, records with specimens or photographic evidence prior to establishment of the FOSRC (1983) are also included. For species with five or fewer acceptable records or FOSRC accepted reports, we provide details of previous occurrences in Florida.

Abbreviations used in this report are: FLMNH, Florida Museum of Natural History; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; UF, University of Florida (used as a prefix to catalog numbers of specimens in the FLMNH collection); UCF, University of Central Florida, Orlando; and subsp. and ssp., singular and plural for subspecies.

#### ACCEPTED SUBMISSIONS

##### COMMON (GREEN-WINGED) TEAL, *Anas crecca crecca*.

09-739 (RL). The brief description of this male, found 15 February 2009 at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co., included the horizontal white stripe above the wing at rest and the lack of the vertical white stripe at the sides of the breast. A dissenting member felt that further details, especially the white outlines to the face pattern and the differently patterned flanks, were needed to ensure that the bird was not a hybrid Common x American Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*).

The FOSRC had previously accepted one record (05-564, 2 March 2005 at Gainesville, Alachua Co.), although several earlier records (see Stevenson and Anderson 1994) have not been assessed by the FOSRC.

##### COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*.

09-727 (KT, BP, JG). This female, found by Ken Tracey in a group of several Red-breasted Mergansers (*M. serrator*) at Gulf Harbors and Beacon Square developments, New Port Richey (Pasco Co.), was present 3 April and 6 May 2009. Photographs of both species together showed the slightly larger size, more massive bill with the more distally positioned nares, rich-brown head, distinct contrast between

head and gray breast, and distinct white throat that are diagnostic for Common Merganser.

Previously, there were only three verified records from Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994): one specimen (TTRS 3216: Leon Co., December 1953), and photographs from Wakulla Co. (1975), and Hillsborough Co. (1980).

**MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*.**

09-712 (PB, BW, DR, AW). This hen-plumaged bird was found by Pat Burns at Alligator Lake County Park (Columbia Co.) and seen and photographed subsequently by many observers from 15 January-8 February 2009. It was either a female or a hatch-year/second year male. The bird lacks rufous feathering in the dorsal plumage or black in the face shown by older hatch-year/second year males (Pyle 2008). However, the photographs show a pale greenish base to the bill; females of all ages show a dusky bill, whereas most males show at least some blue tones to the bill (Pyle 2008).

This is only the second verified Florida record north of central peninsular Florida (Lake Co.); a bird was shot and photographed in Leon Co. in December 1962 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). However, Masked Duck has been recorded accidentally north to Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee (AOU 1998). The FOSRC has accepted five previous submissions (4 photographs, 1 sight report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) listed 11 documented records (7 photographs, 4 specimens, including the one in Leon Co. above) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

**LEAST GREBE, *Tachybaptus dominicus*.**

08-699 (LH, DH, BW). On 21 September 2008, Lee and David Hasse found two adults at the Yamato Scrub Natural Area in Boca Raton (Palm Beach Co.). A few days later Andy Bankert found and photographed the birds incubating two eggs, the first instance of breeding in Florida (Hasse and Hasse 2010). Two young fledged and the adults later dispersed. One young bird was still present until 17 February 2009. Compared to photos of birds from Texas (*T. d. brachypterus*, supplied by Bob Wallace) the birds in Florida showed a much larger bill, typical of the nominate West Indian subspecies, particularly populations in Cuba, which have the largest bills (Storer and Getty 1985).

There are three previously verified records or accepted sight reports for Florida: one in Miami-Dade Co. 27 November 1970 was photographed, one in Monroe Co. 3-23 October 1988 was photographed, and a sight report from Collier Co. 3 March 1999 was accepted by the FOSRC (Baker 1991, Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

**NORTHERN FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis*.**

08-700 (AWK). This pale morph was found alive at 4731 Dixie Highway, Boca Raton (Palm Beach Co.), on 6 October 2008 and brought to the Wildlife Care Center, a wildlife rehabilitation clinic in Ft Lauderdale, where it died. The specimen (UF 46998) is deposited at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

08-701 (BA). Mitchell Harris found this dark morph dead on Playalinda Beach (Brevard Co.) on 16 October 2008. A study skin was salvaged from the torn carcass (UCF 2429).

09-740 (AWK). 22 March-24 May 2009. Ormond-By-The-Sea, Volusia Co. This bird was one of three light-morph Northern Fulmars that were found beached in Volusia Co. from 22-24 March (see 09-741 and 09-744 below). The birds were brought to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet for rehabilitation, but only this individual survived. It was released on a pelagic trip out of Ponce de Leon Inlet on 24 May.

09-741 (AWK). This specimen (UF 47000) was found alive 24 March 2009 on New Smyrna Beach (Volusia Co.) See 09-740.

09-744 (BA). This specimen (UCF 2438) was found alive 22 March 2009 on New Smyrna Beach; it died 24 March 2009. See 09-740.

Prior to these five records, there was a single record in Florida: a specimen (UF 44664) of an intermediate morph from Brevard Co. in April 2006 (Kratter and Small 2007).

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus puffinus*.

09-720 (AWK). This bird was found alive on a beach in northeast Broward Co. on 9 September 2008, but was dead on arrival at the Wildlife Care Center in Fort Lauderdale. The specimen was given to the FLMNH and prepared as a study skin, with a partial skeleton and spread wing (UF 46744).

There are 15 previously accepted records for Florida (10 specimens, 2 photos, three sight reports).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*.

09-743 (LMa, RT). This subadult or adult was photographed offshore (in 120 m water) on 23 May 2009 about 4.3 nm off Elliot Key (Miami-Dade Co.).

There were 11 previously accepted reports (four specimens, six photos, one sight report) for this species in Florida.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.

09-714 (CG, LW). This adult, present 12 January-17 February 2009, was photographed on the same rocks on Boca Chica Key (Monroe Co.) and by the same person (Carl Goodrich) as Florida's first record 13 April 2007 (FOSRC #07-637; Kratter 2008); presumably it is the same bird, although the 2007 bird was never relocated despite extensive searches.

09-745 (RD, BH). This bird was found in weakened condition at mile marker 100 on Key Largo (Monroe Co.) on 5 June 2008 and brought for rehabilitation to the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center at Tavernier, Plantation Key. A photograph of the bird appeared in the Winter 2008 edition of *Footprints*, the newsletter of the Center. The bird regained its strength and was released there 12 June.

09-747 (BP, BA;). \ This bird was found by Harry Robinson perched among Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*) on 5 June 2009 on a dike along Lake Apopka, south of Hooper Farms Road, Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (Orange Co.). It was present until 12 June (Pranty et al. 2010).

These three records represent the second, third, and fourth records for Florida, although 09-714 may represent the same individual as Florida's first record (see above).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*.

09-716 (MB, AWK). On 6 December 2008 this bird was found battling a Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) in the yard of a residence in Edgewater (Volusia Co.). The owner separated the birds by spraying them with a hose, and then brought the two weak birds to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet. Michael Brothers identified one of the birds as a dark morph, juvenile Rough-legged Hawk. It was taken to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland for rehabilitation, but subsequently died. The bird was given to the FLMNH where a study skin, partial skeleton, and spread wing were prepared (UF 46780).

This is the first specimen for Florida. The only other verified records for Florida are three birds photographed in Orange Co. February-April 2000 (Pranty et al. 2007); in addition, a sight report from Orange Co. 21 December 2005 was accepted by the FOSRC (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

GREATER SAND-PLOVER, *Charadrius leschenaultii*.

09-738 (CA, LR, DL, BW, JB, AMA). This bird, a first state record and only the second ever in the western hemisphere, was found by Carole Adams, Lesley Royce, and Doris Leary on 14 May 2009 at Huguenot Memorial Park (Duval Co.), and was seen by hundreds of observers through 19 May (C. Adams et al. in prep). This after-second-year male was in near full alternate plumage. The excellent photographs show the long legs and long bill that are useful for differentiating Greater Sand-Plover from the similar Lesser Sand-Plover (*C. mongolus*). In addition, the white wing stripe extends farther into the primaries in Greater, and the feet project beyond the tail in flight.

The only previous record in North America was a basic-plumage bird February 2001 in California (Abbott et al. 2001). The species breeds in central Asia and winters broadly across the Old World from Australia west to southern Africa.

COMMON GREENSHANK, *Tringa nebularia*.

09-768 (AWK). This bird was collected and prepared by an unknown person, and then sent in the 1880s to Theodore Jasper in Ohio, who was accumulating specimens to illustrate a book on North American birds. The oldest tag on the specimen is Jasper's (#553), who identified the bird correctly, and gave a collection date of 23 May 1882 and a locality of Tampa, Hillsborough Co. Jasper's collection includes a number of birds collected in Tampa in the 1870s and 80s. At some late point, the Jasper collection was given to the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity, where the identification was changed to Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*). Bill Whan, who is researching Jasper, thought Jasper's identification was correct. He forwarded photographs of the specimen to the FOSRC. The Committee then borrowed the specimen for examination.

The bird is an obvious *Tringa* sandpiper, as indicated by the long, rather straight, and needle-like bill, the long legs, and the gray-and-white plumage. The only *Tringa* sandpipers as large are the Willet (*T. semipalmata*) and the Greater Yellowlegs. Spotted or Nordmann's Greenshank (*T. guttifer*), a poorly known shorebird of eastern Asia, is somewhat smaller, has proportionately shorter legs, and unpatterned underwing coverts. Compared to Greater Yellowlegs, the back and wing coverts of the greenshank are quite plain and almost completely lack white; the bird thus lacks the checkered appearance of the yellowlegs. The most noticeable difference is the white rump that extends up the back in the Common Greenshank. The largely white outer three pairs of rectrices of the specimen are quite different than Greater Yellowlegs, which has barring on both webs of on all rectrices. The flanks of the specimen have a few dark sparse spots. The throat and chin of the specimen have fine dark streaks, whereas this area is unstreaked white on the Greater Yellowlegs. The length of the tarsometatarsus of Common Greenshank averages somewhat shorter than Greater Yellowlegs with a wide range of overlap; the tarsus of the specimen however, is below the range given for Greater Yellowlegs in Pyle (2008).

This is the first record for Florida and one of very few in the Western Hemisphere outside Alaska and the Pacific Coast. In eastern North America it is known only from a few records from Atlantic Canada (AOU 1998). A sight report from New York in August 1962 is considered hypothetical (Bull 1985). In addition, one was photographed in May 2009 in Barbados (Norton et al. 2010). Audubon purportedly collected three Common Greenshanks at Key West in May 1832. The specimens, illustrated by Audubon, have not been located, and the species was considered not documented for Florida by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). For the specimen from Tampa, in a dissenting vote, a FOSRC member felt that there was no direct evidence linking the specimen to the Tampa collecting locale, and that trade and some cases of fraud of specimens at that time cast doubt on the authenticity of the label data.



BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*.

09-722 (LMe). This adult was described from an observation at Ponte Vedra Beach, ca. 1.6 km south of the northern boundary of Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns Co.) on 11 February 2009. The one dissenting member felt the description did not exclude all other “black-headed” gulls or ones with aberrant soft-part coloring.

09-734 (LMa, CE<sub>d</sub>, TM, PB). This adult was present and photographed 7-12 February 2009 at Cutler Wetlands at the corner of SW 223rd St. and SW 97th Ave. in Cutler Bay, (Miami-Dade Co.).

There were seven previously documented records and one accepted sight report for Florida: one in Brevard Co. in 1972 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) and another there April-May 2008, and singles in Leon Co. (August 1982), Collier Co. (November 1990), Duval Co. (December 1998), Alachua Co. (January 2000), Indian River Co. (February 2002), and Miami-Dade Co. (October 2005).

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californica*.

09-725 (MBr, AWK). This individual first-cycle gull, first found and photographed by Michael Brothers on 20 February at Daytona Beach Shores, (Volusia Co.), was easily distinguished as it had a deformed maxilla. It was last seen 2 March 2009. It was with the immense gull flock (>10,000 birds) that roosts in late afternoon at Daytona Beach Shores.

09-756 (MH). This basic adult was found and photographed 27 March 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa (Brevard Co.).

09-770 (MBr). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 25 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. It lacked the aberrant bill tip of FOSRC #09-725. A first-cycle California Gull observed but not photographed in December 2008 at the same locale may have been the same individual (see account below).

The FOSRC has previously accepted four submissions: a sight report from Pinellas Co. in 1983 (FOSRC #83-040), one photographed in Franklin Co. in 1998 (FOSRC #99-392), one photographed in April 2006 in Levy Co. (FOSRC #07-646), and one photographed in Volusia Co. in January-February 2008 (FOSRC #08-669). The state's first record, photographed in Pinellas Co. in April 1978, has not been assessed by the FOSRC.

VEGA (HERRING) GULL, *Larus argentatus vegae*.

09-761 (MBr, AJ). This basic-plumaged adult was found by Michael Brothers on 12 January 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. Present through 25 February 2009, it was extensively photographed, and written analyses from several gull experts were submitted as well. This is the first verified record for Florida and eastern North America for this somewhat distinctive subspecies from the northwestern Pacific Ocean. Another Vega Gull, reported from Maryland in February 2009, has yet to be evaluated by the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (P. Davis in litt.). The gull in Daytona had a dark iris and, in comparison to nearby American Herring Gulls (*L. a. smithsonianus*), a noticeably darker gray back and wings, a broader white secondary “skirt,” and a different pattern to the wing tips. All of the above differences closely match the characters of the *vegae* subspecies of Herring Gull, which is found in eastern Asia and occasionally western Alaska and the Pacific Coast of North America. Many authorities consider it to be distinct at the species level, although the American Ornithologists' Union has not split *vegae* from *argentatus* (Banks et al. 2008). The identification was supported by analyses from several gull experts, including a Korean very familiar with *vegae*.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*.

09-726 (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 2 March 2009 at Daytona Beach Shores. The one dissenting member was concerned about possible intergradation with Kumlien's Iceland Gull, especially the overly pink base to the bill, the pale and unpatterned scapulars, the white edges to the tertials (not just the tips), and the lack of dark "hook-backs" on the tips of the primaries.

There are 11 previous documented or accepted reports of Thayer's Gull in Florida: one specimen and six records with photographs from before 1984 (and not reviewed by the FOSRC; Stevenson and Anderson 1994), but only four birds accepted by the FOSRC since: a bird photographed in March 1985 in Broward Co. (FOSRC #86-091, Dowling 1989), a sight report from Broward Co. in January 1999 (FOSRC #99-389, Bowman 2004), a bird photographed in November 2001 in Pinellas Co. (FOSRC #02-460, Bowman 2004), and a bird photographed in March 2008 in Brevard Co. (FOSRC #08-678, Kratter 2010).

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides*.

08-708 (RS, BP). This first-cycle gull, found by Ron Smith and observed and photographed by several others, was present 30 November 2008-18 April 2009 at Fort Island Gulf Beach (Citrus Co.).

09-721 (MBe, AWK, MBr). This first-cycle gull was photographed by Mark Berney at Daytona Beach Shores on 8 February 2009. At our meeting we were unable to determine if one (FOSRC 09-766) of three Iceland Gulls submitted by Andrew Kratter and Michael Brothers from the same location on 2 March 2009 was a different bird, so it was lumped under this submission.

09-755 (MH). This pale first-cycle gull was found and photographed at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa (Brevard Co.) on 3 February 2009.

09-771 (MBr). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed at Daytona Beach Shores on 21 January 2009. It was more distinctly patterned than the other three Kumlien's Iceland Gulls at this locale this winter (FOSRC # 09-721, 764, 765) and had a larger bill.

09-757 (MH). This pale first-cycle gull, found and photographed at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa on 13 March 2009. was slightly larger and longer winged, with a somewhat blockier head and slightly thicker and longer bill than the Iceland Gull seen earlier at the same locale (09-755).

09-764 (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed at Daytona Beach Shores on 2 March 2009. The dark markings on the scapulars and tertials on this otherwise pale gull are more distinct than those shown by the other Iceland Gulls at this locale in this year (FOSRC #09-721).

09-765 (MBr, AWK). This first-cycle gull was found and photographed at Daytona Beach Shores on 2 March 2009. This gull had generally darker plumage than 09-721 and 09-764,

There were 17 previously accepted records for Florida (one supported by a specimen, 16 supported by photographs).

SOUTH POLAR/GREAT/BROWN SKUA, *Stercorarius macconnicki/skua/antarcticus*.

09-742 (AWK, RN, TR). This bird was seen near first light on a pelagic trip on 24 May 2009, ca. 25 mi. southeast of Ponce de Leon Inlet (Volusia Co.). The observers remarked on the large size, extensive white wing patches, short tail and wide wings that separate skuas from jaegers (in the American sense), especially from dark morph Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*). The comments varied somewhat on plumage color, which is important for separating South Polar Skua from Great Skua, and may have resulted from different lighting conditions as the bird moved across the observers' views. Brown Skuas are thought to occur in the North Atlantic (see Hess 2004)

but there they would be difficult to differentiate from South Polar Skua. The initial FOSRC vote to species (South Polar Skua) was unresolved. With that vote, the assenting members agreed to vote on the submission as a skua species (South Polar, Great, or Brown) and accepted it as such.

The FOSRC has previously accepted six records of South Polar Skua, four with photographs (31 October 1993 in Brevard Co., 9 November 1998 in Volusia Co., 10 October 1998 in Nassau Co., and 12 December 2000 in Palm Beach Co.) and two sight reports (5 September 1982 and 28 October 1994, both in Brevard Co.).

THICK-BILLED MURRE, *Uria lomvia*.

08-706 (AWK). Brevard Co. This bird was found in a weakened condition on the beach on 16 November 2008 at Sebastian Inlet State Park (Brevard Co.) by Terese Harber. It subsequently died and the specimen was given to the FLMNH, where a study skin, partial skeleton, and spread wing were prepared (UF 46715). This winter-plumaged male shows the following characters distinctive for Thick-billed Murre: the short culmen (32 mm) is rather evenly curved through its length, the bill is deep, and the white edged inner secondaries are gray rather than black at the base. 09-719 (BP). This specimen, found by Jack Hailman on 29 January 1999 on Jupiter Island, 5 mi. north of Jupiter Inlet (Palm Beach Co.), was given to the Archbold Biological Station and prepared as a study skin (ABS 1388). It is previously unpublished and was “discovered” by Bill Pranty while photographing specimens at ABS in 2008. This immature shows a longer bill than the murre specimen from Brevard Co. (FOSRC #08-706, above), but the bill is deep with the same gradual curvature to the culmen.

There is only one previously verified record for Florida, a specimen from Martin Co., 6 December 1992 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992; Bowman 2000).

ZENAIDA DOVE, *Zenaida aurita*.

09-746 (LMa). This bird was found and photographed 4 June 2009 by Larry Manfredi on Marseilles St., Upper Key Largo, two miles northeast of US Route 1 along C-905 (Monroe Co.); it was present until 7 June 2009.

There are five substantiated records for Florida (two specimens before 1900, and three photographed, 1962-63, 1988, 2002, all from the Keys. In addition, three sight reports have been accepted by the FOSRC (1997, 2001, 2004), two from Monroe Co., and one from Key Biscayne in Miami-Dade Co. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list three older sight reports that have not been reviewed by the FOSRC.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, *Aeronautes saxatalis*.

09-729 (LD, DK.). This bird hit a window on a beachside condominium on 9 April 2009 at Navarre Beach (Escambia Co.) and was brought alive to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida (Kratzer and Kaufmann 2010). The bird was photographed and regained health at the facility, and was released 26 May at Perdido Key (Escambia Co.) by Dorothy Kaufmann. The bird rose and circled three times before disappearing from sight. The black and white patterned plumage is unique among the swifts north of Mexico. White-tipped Swift (*A. montivagus*) of the Andes is somewhat similar, but lacks the intrusion of white down the central underparts and males have white tail tips.

This is the first state record.

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD, *Hylocharis leucotis*.

09-731 (CS). In August 2004, Cecilia Strickland took photographs of a hummingbird at her residence in Panama City (Bay Co.). The bird remained unidentified for several years, until the photographs were shown to hummingbird bander Fred Bassett,

who tentatively identified it as a female White-eared Hummingbird and urged the observers to submit the photographs to the FOSRC. The photographs show a bright-green-backed hummingbird with white underparts at a feeder. A very bright white post-ocular stripe curved around the black auriculars. The sides of the throat and upper flanks are spotted with green. The bill is not visible in either photograph. No other hummingbird combines these characteristics. The closest candidate is Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomia melanogenys*) of the eastern Andes (a most unlikely vagrant to Florida), which has more evenly distributed and smaller spots below and is duller green above.

This is the first state record.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus sasin*.

09-715 (PD, LBC). This second-calendar-year male (*vide* F. Bassett) was present and photographed from 25 January-25 February 2009 at 114 Shadow Lane, Lakeland (Polk Co.).

This is the southernmost record in Florida. The FOSRC has accepted seven other in-hand identifications, all from north Florida (Escambia Co. east to 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).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*.

08-704 (RT, LMa, MBe, DB, JB, JP). This yellow-bellied kingbird was found by Roberto Torres on 2 November 2008 at "Dump Marsh," SW 248th St. & 97th Ave., Homestead (Miami-Dade Co.) and subsequently seen, photographed, and audio recorded. It was present until 10 April 2009. On 8 November, two Tropical Kingbirds were found at the site by Mark Berney and both were heard vocalizing. Photographs were obtained of both birds together and show that one bird (08-705) had less wear in the wings and tail.

08-705 (RT, LMa, MBe). This bird was present 8-15 November 2008 at the same locale as FOSRC #08-704 (above). See preceding account.

09-763 (TM, RT). This bird, in mostly worn plumage, was found and photographed 18 July 2009 at the corner of SW 316th St. and SW 112th Ave., Homestead (Miami-Dade Co.), about 8 km from where two Tropical Kingbirds wintered in 2008-2009 (FOSRC #08-704 and 705, above). The calls were described as twittering. It would be very difficult to determine if the bird under review here is one of these same individuals. It is likely that the kingbird could have returned to breed in Mexico and returned by July to Florida.

These three records are the eighth through tenth accepted records of Tropical Kingbird in Florida; eight of these are supported by photographs and recordings and/or descriptions of vocalizations, the other is an accepted sight report; In addition, four accepted records (three photos and one sight report, see FOSRC #09-760 below) exist of birds that were either Tropical Kingbird or Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*.

09-760 (JM). This bird was found and photographed 14 June 2009 at Hickory Mound Wildlife Management Area (Taylor Co.) The bird did not vocalize, thus it could not be identified beyond the species pair Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, although bill length would indicate Tropical Kingbird.

There are ten accepted records of Tropical Kingbird in Florida (see above). In 1986, the FOSRC accepted two Couch's Kingbird reports (86-092, 24 March 1986 at Loxahatchee NWR, Palm Beach Co., and 86-206, 20 November at St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Co.), but the species was removed from the Official State List in 1999 (Bow-

man 2000) because no records had documentation of vocalizations. This is the fourth accepted record of birds that were either Tropical Kingbird or Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*.

08-702 (CEd). This bird, found 18 October 2008 and present to 3 January 2009 at Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (Hendry Co.), was discovered in the same general vicinity as birds recorded in two previous winters (2007-2008, FOSRC #07-657; 2006-2007, FOSRC #06-598), and all probably were the same individual.

09-730 (LJ). This bird was found and photographed 10 October 2008 at the Pine Lakes Golf Community, Jacksonville (Duval Co.).

The FOSRC had previously accepted eleven submissions (7 photographs, 4 sight reports), but three of these may represent the same individual returning over three winters to Orange Co., and this submission may represent the third record of this individual.

LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*.

09-736 (CG, LMa). Carl Goodrich found and photographed this bird on 12 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor on Key West (Monroe Co.); it was present until 20 April. The bird has patches of leucistic (white) feathers in the crown, secondaries, and rectrices.

This record quickly followed the first and second records from Florida: the first, also at Fort Zachary Taylor, in March 2007 (FOSRC 07-632; Kratter 2008) and the second in March 2008 at the Dry Tortugas National Park (Monroe Co). This species has had a convoluted history on the Official List. Birds photographed in the 1970s were accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), but Smith et al. (2000) reviewed these records and concluded that none established the species for the state. The FOSRC subsequently voted to remove the species from the list in 2003 (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and it was not reinstated until the appearance of the Key West bird in 2007.

VARIED THRUSH, *Ixoreus naevius*.

09-767 (BP). Woolfenden and Banks (2004) provide details and photographs of this specimen (GEW 5950 at Archbold Biological Station), which was found dead 17 November 2002 in Panama City (Bay Co.).

Previous accepted Florida reports include two sight reports, one from Escambia Co. in November 1984 (FOSRC #85-076, and the other January 1988 from Bay Co. (FOSRC #88-132), and one photographed in Pinellas Co. in November 1996 (FOSRC #96-371).

WHITE WAGTAIL, *Motacilla alba*.

08-703 (JE, KR, LM). This winter-plumaged bird was found by Jim Eager on 30 October 2008 at the south end of the Florida Keys Marathon Airport (Monroe Co). He alerted a few other birders who were able to see and photograph the bird that day; it was not seen thereafter.

This is the second Florida record. The first, in March 2007 in Pasco Co. (Pranty 2007), was of the nominate subspecies from Greenland, Iceland, and western Europe. The bird in Marathon had a narrow dark streak behind the eye and a gray rump, indicative of the subspecies in eastern Russia and Alaska (*M. a. ocularis*; Alström and Mild 2003). Thus, the two Florida records represent races from opposite ends of the species' broad east-west distribution across the Palearctic.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii*.

09-737 (KBK). This color-banded bird was found and photographed 24 April 2009 at Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa (Brevard Co.). It was not seen thereafter. This male was banded on the breeding grounds in Oscoda County, Michigan, in summer 2008.

Six previous reports have been accepted for Florida (one specimen, three photos, and two accepted sight reports).

LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*.

08-698 (JM). This bird was found and photographed 13 September 2008 at Alligator Point (Franklin Co.).

Previously verified records or accepted reports in Florida of this species include one specimen (Miami-Dade Co., 30 September 1968), three that were photographed (Okaloosa Co., 31 August-30 September 1967; Orange Co., 18 April-6 May 1977; Franklin Co., 1 February-15 March 1985), and one sight report (Wakulla Co., 9 September 1990) accepted by the FOSRC (Baker 1991, Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

HARRIS'S SPARROW, *Zonotrichia querula*.

08-709 (BW). This adult was found by Ginny Rose and identified by Rex Rowan during an outing of a local bird group on 6 December 2008 on the La Chua Trail at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (Alachua Co.). It was present and widely photographed until 22 February 2009. This is the ninth record or accepted report for Florida.

09-752 (MBe, AW). This bird was present and photographed 24 January-13 February 2004 on Wainwright Drive, east of Sunnysland Station (Hendry Co.).

Six previous records in Florida are supported by photographs (from Orange, Brevard, Alachua, Okaloosa, Seminole, and Volusia cos.), and two sight reports have been accepted by the FOSRC (from Escambia and Okaloosa cos.).

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*.

09-724 (MA). This second-year male was found and photographed 14 February 2009 on Mead Drive in Oviedo (Seminole Co.).

09-733 (RF). A male and female were described from an observation on 28 March 2009 at Kirby Storter Roadside Park, Big Cypress National Preserve (Collier Co.). We decided to assess the male and female separately because females are much more difficult to separate from Indigo Bunting (*P. cyanea*). The male was accepted; the one dissenting member felt that the bird was too distant to rule out other passerines. The female was not accepted. The very brief description mentions that the bird was brownish with bars on the wings, the back was a little darker, and it was same size as the male. Male Lazuli Buntings often associate with Indigo Buntings in Florida, and the brief description does not provide enough detail to differentiate the two, especially the color and extent of the wing-bars and the shape of the bill.

Nine records and reports have been accepted previously by the FOSRC.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*.

09-717 (FR, EO). This adult female, present and photographed 11 January-March 2009, is undoubtedly the same individual returning to feeders for the fourth straight winter (2007-2008, FOSRC #08-665; 2006-2007, FOSRC#07-628; 2005-2006, FOSRC#06-607) at 3210 Brookforest Drive, Tallahassee (Leon Co.).

09-718 (AW). This first-winter male visited feeders and was photographed on 23 January 2009 at 131 Willaura Circle, Tallahassee (Leon Co.).

09-723 (PBz). This first-winter male was observed 15 December 2008 near a golf course on Plantation Lane in Crystal River (Citrus Co.).

There were eight previously confirmed records of Bullock's Oriole for Florida (Pranty et al. 2005, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), although four of these likely refer to the same individual.

#### SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

##### TRUMPETER SWAN, *Cygnus buccinator*.

08-707. This adult was photographed 29 April 2007 along CR 724 near Basinger (Okeechobee Co.) and showed distinct features of Trumpeter Swan, including the rusty stained head plumage, the long, all black, bill with a straight culmen, the straight angular border to the base of the upper mandible (as opposed to the vertical or convex border of the Tundra Swan, *C. columbianus*), and the entire inclusion of the eye within the facial skin (Pyle 2008). The status of Trumpeter Swans in eastern North America is not settled, however; in the past few decades, birds have been introduced mainly into the Great Lakes region, with breeding in that area. Vagrant birds, presumably from these reintroduced populations, have shown up in several states along the east coast, but not all records committees (e.g., New York, Massachusetts, South Carolina) have considered the populations sufficiently established to add the species to their official state lists. Other records committees (e.g., North Carolina) have apparently regarded them as vagrants from established populations. The Maryland Records Committee considered a pre-1950 record to represent a wild vagrant, but recent birds are not from established populations. The FOSRC accepted the identification of the Okeechobee Co. bird as a Trumpeter Swan, but did not accept that it was from an established population. The Committee would like to see more widespread acceptance that populations in the northeast are established before admitting the species to the Official List.

##### LEAST GREBE, *Tachybaptus dominicus*.

09-749. A group of visiting birders reported three review species (09-748,-749,-750) on 22 January 2009 from their trip around Pinellas Co. The descriptions in all three submissions were cursory and did not definitely exclude far more common species. The brief description in this sight report from St. Petersburg mentioned a smaller bill and grayer plumage than Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), but Pied-billed Grebes vary in these characters with age, season, molt, and wear of plumage. The observer admitted that eye-color and bill shape were not noted. In addition, Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) was not considered.

##### ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*.

09-750. In the submission, a sight report from Lake Maggiore Park (Pinellas Co.) on 22 January 2009, the observer admits that he was "not real good with hawks." The observer states "plain face, size [about size of Red-shouldered or Swainson's Hawk], and combination of black belly with light breast only fit Rough-legged Hawk;" however, this could describe a small Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) with a well-formed belly band as well.

##### PURPLE SWAMPHEN, *Porphyrio porphyrio*.

09-728. Pranty et al. (2000) documented the initial population growth of this exotic species in Florida. It is native to much of the tropical and subtropical Old World, outside of Africa. In Florida, some pairs originating from an aviculturist's yard near Pembroke Pines (Broward Co.) began breeding and spreading in the mid 1990s. By 1998, Bill Pranty documented nesting and a minimal population of 84 individuals. In interviews with local residents, Pranty determined that the population was founded ca. December 1996. By 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

(FWC) had determined that the population had grown so large that it could present threats to native wildlife and plant communities. The FWC and the South Florida Water Management District began a program to eradicate the swamphen by targeted hunting, mostly in Water Conservation Areas of south Florida. By March 2009 they had shot over 3,100 swamphens, but there appeared to be little impact on the population, which was estimated to be 2,000-3,000 extant birds. In 2009 the FF-WCC considered the eradication effort a failure and terminated the program. Swamphens have been noted north to Lake and Brevard cos., along with one photographed at Glennville, Georgia, 21 Nov 2009 that probably had dispersed from Florida.

Appendix A of the FOSRC's Rules and Procedures delimits criteria that a population must meet for an exotic species to be considered established in Florida, and thus added to the Official State List. The population must meet 1) the Persistence Criterion, which states that a stable or increasing population of that species has persisted continuously in one or more areas for at least 15 years, and 2) at least one or both of these additional criteria:

- a. An exotic species that has exhibited rapid population growth by widely evident natural reproduction, accompanied by evidence of extensive range expansion within (and perhaps beyond) Florida, may be deemed "established." The example of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Florida during the late 20th century provides a model application of this rule (Population Growth and Range Expansion criteria), even though the origin of this species in the state may be in doubt. See 3b for publication requirement.
- b. An exotic species for which there is acceptable evidence that successful nesting (fledged young) is a characteristic of one or more local populations of several hundred individuals, that this nesting activity is recruiting young adults into the population(s), that (if applicable) the population(s) have exhibited resilience in the face of major perturbations such as hurricanes or habitat disruptions, and that there is little or no evidence that ongoing releases play a significant role in population maintenance, may be deemed "established," but only after such evidence as is available has been published in at least one scientific source (e.g., peer-reviewed journal, technical book), or after this evidence has been amassed by a Committee member or some other interested individual and reviewed by the Committee. In the last instance, a detailed analysis of the issue must be published in a suitable scientific source if a judgment of Establishment is rendered by the Committee. Furthermore, by extension, the requirement for publication applies to species considered "established" under section 3a as well.

The Committee felt that the population of Purple Swamphens in Florida probably met both criteria 2a and 2b, but did not meet the Persistence Criterion, because an increasing population had only been present since 1996 (13 years). We felt that there was little doubt that the population would meet the Persistence Criterion in the next few years.

LESSER SAND-PLOVER, *Charadrius mongolus*.

09-748. This sight report documented two individuals on 22 January 2009 at Honey-moon Island State Park (Pinellas Co.). The Committee felt that the birds observed were almost certainly Wilson's Plover (*C. wilsonia*); winter plumages illustrated in many field guides do not show the range of variation in that species, and many do not show that the breast band may be broken. This was the character that led the observer to conclude that they were not Wilson's Plovers.

The only Florida record is a bird photographed in Wakulla Co. in September 2005 (Curtis 2007, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).



CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*.

09-769. This first-winter bird, found 5 December 2008 at Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia Co.), was not photographed. The description fit California Gull, and indicated that it was in largely juvenal plumage, as expected of a California Gull at this season. It did not have an aberrant bill like the California Gull photographed at the same locale in February and March (FOSRC #09-725). However, another first-cycle California Gull was discovered (and photographed) at the same locale in March (FOSRC #09-770). It was further along in molt than the bird seen in December, as would be expected. The Committee felt that the December bird could well have been the same individual as the one in March, so this submission was subsumed under FOSRC #09-770.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL, *Larus michahellis*.

08-673. This first-cycle gull was present and photographed 27 January-10 February 2008 at the Tomoka Landfill, Daytona Beach, (Volusia Co.). The committee received opinions from a variety of gull experts. Among them were several Europeans, including ornithologists who have published papers on the geographic variation and taxonomic status of Yellow-legged Gull; researchers who are studying the molt, ageing, and identification criteria of Yellow-legged Gull; and birders who have extensive experience with the different populations of Yellow-legged Gull. The photos showed a large gull (about the size of a Herring Gull), with a large, mostly dark bill, white head and breast streaked lightly with brown, rather long wings, mostly dark primaries with only a suggestion of a pale window in the inner primaries, mostly new scapulars with distinct dark anchor pattern, pale wing coverts with indistinct brown bars, and a white tail with broad dark subterminal band and no dark barring in the outer rectrices. This first-cycle gull generated some debate among the European gull experts. Prior to the August 2008 FOSRC meeting, eight of nine experts thought it was a Yellow-legged Gull, probably from one of the Atlantic populations in France, Spain, or Portugal. One of these experts, however, did not feel that the bird was typical. Another expert was not sure what it was, but did not think it was a Yellow-legged Gull. The vote at the August meeting left the issue unresolved (5 votes to accept, and 2 not to accept).

Following the August meeting, commentary on the gull's identification continued from three of the European experts. Two characters were considered atypical for a first-cycle Yellow-legged Gull. First, the outer webs of the inner primaries (pp 1- at least 4 in both wings), showed a blaze of paleness; these are typically all dark. Second, the molt was more retarded than expected, as the bird retained several juvenal scapulars and had not yet initiated wing covert replacement; by January first-cycle Yellow-legged Gulls have typically completed scapular molt and have started molt in the wing coverts. One expert maintained that by a process of elimination, Yellow-legged Gull appeared to be the only option, but had earlier declared "... as a first for Florida, you may wish to wait for a more typical individual." Another expert, formerly supportive, recommended leaving it as an unidentified *Larus* species, given the two atypical characters previously mentioned and the relative freshness of the plumage compared to European birds of the same age. The third expert did not express an opinion on the specific identity, but was "puzzled" by the bird and questioned whether it was safe to identify such birds away from their normal range, especially those showing atypical characters.

09-753. This first-cycle gull was found and photographed 20 February 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa. The five photographs show a rather dark gull, in an advanced state of molt. All scapular and back feathers, as well as many wing coverts have been replaced with first-basic plumage. The bird is perched among Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and

appears larger, but not as large as a Herring Gull would appear. The major difficulty is separating Yellow-legged from Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*). Although the advanced molt points toward Yellow-legged, some Lesser Black-backed Gulls can be this advanced in molt in late February (Olson and Larsson 2004). A Yellow-legged Gull should appear at least as large as a Herring Gull, and many show a much thicker bill than the bird described. Although structurally this bird lacks the characteristic elongated shape of Lesser Black-backed, shape is quite variable in both species. A good view of the tail would help immensely, but no shots of a spread tail were submitted, and the view of the closed tail appears to show that the outer rectrices are mainly black; the observer, however, described that the black subterminal bar was widest centrally, fitting Yellow-legged Gull. Overall, the Committee felt that the bird could not be conclusively differentiated from a Lesser Black-backed Gull.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*.

09-758. The one submitted photograph, taken 6 March 2009 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa, shows a first-cycle gull standing among Laughing and Ring-billed gulls. This bird is slightly larger than those species, with long wings, a somewhat rounded head, and a small black bill, tinged pinkish basally. The visible primaries are brown, with pale areas on some of the outer webs. The inner webs of the primaries, most of the tertials, and tail cannot be seen. The coverts, scapulars and back are pale brown mottled white. Many in the Committee thought that the size and pale plumage were more similar to a Kumlien's Iceland Gull than to Thayer's, or possibly represented a hybrid between the two.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides*.

08-695. This first-cycle gull was observed 29 January 2008 at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa. The rather brief description included several characters that are indicative of Kumlien's Iceland Gull, such as the moderate size, between that of Herring and Ring-billed gulls, short dark bill, rounded head, and white primaries with few brown bars. However, the description did not include the length of the primaries and details of the tail and tertials, which are important criteria for differentiating an Iceland Gull from a small, bleached or leucistic Herring Gull, a pale Thayer's Gull, or a hybrid combination. The vote at the August 2008 meeting was not resolved (5 votes to accept and 2 not to accept). No new material was presented at the February meeting. One member was of the opinion that the spate of recent, well documented Iceland Gull records in Florida (see above and Kratter 2008) and the occurrence of some problematic individuals have established a higher standard for acceptance. The other votes of the Committee mirrored this sentiment.

WHITE-WINGED TERN, *Chlidonias leucopterus*.

08-697. This bird, photographed in the company of Black Terns (*C. niger*) on August 2008 in Pensacola Bay from 447 Creary St., Pensacola (Escambia Co.), was not noticed until the photographs were examined later. The photograph is overexposed and some parts of the image are washed out. The bird was an adult molting into basic plumage. Much of the body was still black, but the head was largely white, a plumage variant seen in molting White-winged Terns during August (Olsen and Larsson 1995). Although Olsen and Larsson stated that most adult Black Terns have largely molted into basic plumage by mid-August, this may be true only in the Old World subspecies; North American Black Terns can still show lots of black body plumage even into September (A. Kratter pers. obs.). The primaries of the subject were white, as are the primary coverts on both upper and under wing. The lesser coverts were white, but the median coverts appeared dark. The underwing coverts looked dark,

but were in heavy shadow. The bird appeared smaller than a nearby Black Tern, but the bill looked proportionally similar. Although the dark underwing coverts indicated White-winged Tern, the primary coverts were white, as in Black Terns but not in White-winged Terns. The upper median coverts appeared dark, as in Black Terns; these should be white in White-winged Terns. The Committee felt that this was a somewhat late-molting adult Black Tern.

A sight report of White-winged Tern in April 2007 from Santa Rosa Co. was also not accepted by the FOSRC (Kratzer 2008).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor*.**

09-732. This adult shrike, found and photographed 27 December 2007 at Merritt Island NWR (Brevard Co.), had a large bill with a prominent hook. Although the bill hook is more pronounced in Northern Shrike than in the common Loggerhead Shrike (*L. ludovicianus*), all other features of this bird fit the latter. In particular, the bill is not long enough, the black of the lores is too extensive and continues onto the forehead, and the outer rectrices show no black basally. In addition, almost all Northern Shrike records from south of their usual wintering distribution are of hatch-year/second-year birds.

There are no previous records of Northern Shrike for Florida.

**THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*.**

09-759. This bird was observed 9 April 2009 at Everglades City (Collier Co.). The description in this sight report mentioned yellow lores, solid yellow underparts, and a distinctive song, less wheezy song than that of the White-eyed Vireo (*V. griseus*). However, the description lacked mention of a key character to separate Thick-billed Vireo from White-eyed Vireo, namely the broken white eye-ring, which contrasts markedly with the yellow lores. The dark iris was also not mentioned. The underparts of most Thick-billed Vireos from Florida are not as solidly yellow as shown in some field guides. The description did not exclude Yucatan Vireo (*V. magister*).

The FOSRC has accepted nine previous reports (3 photos, 2 audio recordings, 4 sight reports).

**VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, *Tachycineta thalassina*.**

08-710. Five observers saw this bird during the Merritt Island NWR Christmas Bird Count on 20 December 2008. Two observers submitted FOSRC forms. It was seen twice over the course of the day, both times flying with a group of about ten Tree Swallows (*T. bicolor*). The birds were seen fairly well, but the observers were not able to obtain photographs. Although the details point to Violet-green Swallow (small size, white face, white patches on sides of rump), the Committee felt that verifiable evidence would be necessary to add this species to the Official List.

There is no accepted report of this species in Florida. The FOSRC previously did not accept a sight report from Monroe Co. in February 1988 (FOSRC #89-162, Baker 1991). Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list three other sight reports, all considered “very questionable.”

SUBMISSIONS NOT RESOLVED

**RED-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps grisegena*.**

09-711. This bird was found and photographed 7 January 2009 at Bunche Beach (Lee Co.). This submission was withdrawn by the observer (visiting from overseas) after photographs of what was thought to be the same bird were posted on the Internet, which definitely showed a Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*). However, on his return home, the original observer looked more carefully at his photographs and thought that his

depicted a different bird. He submitted these to the Committee and asked to reopen the submission (vote 7 to 0 to reopen). The original observer's three photographs are all rather distant and show a grebe swimming alone. The photographs show a mostly dark gray grebe with a white cheek patch, a flat head, and a rather long bill; in one photo the bill looks vaguely tinged yellowish. The forehead is quite sloping and the head flat and squared off toward the back. The bill length and head shape vary among the photographs, perhaps because of diving behavior. The vote was not resolved (2 to accept, 5 not to accept).

There are only three previously accepted reports of Red-necked Grebe for Florida, all from the western Panhandle: one photographed in Santa Rosa Co. in December 2000 (FOSRC #01-437, Bowman 2004); a sight report from Santa Rosa Co. in January 2001 (FOSRC #01-442, Bowman 2004); and a sight report from February 2008 in Escambia Co. (FOSRC #08-675, Kratter 2010).

**RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*.**

09-713. On 12 December 2008 this bird was found on a beach at Sebastian Inlet State Park (Indian River Co.); it then walked into the water and swam off. The submission included a very brief description of the bird, mentioning size (two feet in length), a penguin-like black bill with a white circle around it, black upperparts and white underparts. The February 2009 vote was not resolved (2 to accept, 5 not to accept). Votes not to accept were based on the too brief description and on size, which as reported was too large; members voting to accept mentioned that the bill pattern is unique to Razorbill. No new information was available for the August meeting. At this meeting, the justifications for votes to accept and not accept were similar to those in February, and, not surprisingly, the submission remained unresolved (3 to accept, 4 not to accept).

This rare winter visitor was previously known from Florida on the basis of one photographed in Brevard Co. in 1967 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), 12 specimens (Stevenson and Anderson 1994; Pranty 1993, 1996; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), and one sight report from Volusia Co. (Kratter 2010).

**WHITE-TIPPED DOVE, *Leptotila verreauxi*.**

09-751. On 3 May 2009, this bird was flushed from the ground and seen in flight across a pond by two observers at Indigenous Park on Key West (Monroe Co.). The observer mentioned shape (chunkier and shorter-winged than our typical doves"), a squared tail "like a Zenaida Dove," the white-tipped outer two or three rectrices, and that it was "all brown, darker than Mourning, White-winged, or [Eurasian] Collared-Doves." It was submitted as a "probable White-tipped Dove" so we assessed it both as a White-tipped and as *Leptotila* sp.

The Committee voted not to accept to species; we felt that there was not enough detail to preclude Caribbean Dove (*L. jamaicensis*), which has an introduced population on New Providence in the Bahamas. Caribbean Dove has not been recorded in Florida, although the proximity of New Providence makes it a possible stray.

The vote on whether to accept as *Leptotila* sp. was not resolved. Those voting against accepting to genus felt that not enough detail was provided. Both White-tipped Dove and Caribbean Dove show a paler forehead that should contrast markedly with the rest of the plumage. The bright cinnamon underwing coverts of both species were not mentioned.

There are two previous Florida records, both from the Dry Tortugas: one (FOSRC #99-357) was photographed 6-7 April 1995; the other (FOSRC #03-504) was photographed 19 April 2003. The closest resident population is on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata* [audubonii group].

09-754. This bird was seen by two observers on 13 December 2008 at the Southwest Regional Library Wetlands in Pembroke Pines (Broward Co.). The brief description did not include characters other than those that could differentiate “Audubon’s” from Myrtle Warbler. These include a yellow throat, yellow crown, broad white wing patch, uniformly colored cheeks, and lack of a white supercilium. The vote was not resolved; the two members voting not to accept thought that an Audubon’s Warbler should not show a broad white wing patch in basic plumage, and that it seemed that an alternate-plumaged male had been described.

The three reports previously accepted by the FOSRC include a sight report in April 1988 from the Dry Tortugas National Park (FOSRC #88-143, Dowling 1989), a photographic record in April 2008 from same locale (FOSRC #08-687, Kratter 2010), and a fall migrant photographed 28 September 2006 in Pinellas Co. (FOSRC #06-592, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivacea*.

09-735. This male was present and photographed 20-26 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor on Key West (Monroe Co.). The photographs show a Yellow-faced Grassquit of the nominate West Indian subspecies. It is believed that the Mexican and northern Central American subspecies are far more common in captivity than the West Indian subspecies (Smith et al. 1991), which has previously led the FOSRC to accept individuals of the latter. It was recently brought to the Committee’s attention that several shipments of Yellow-faced Grassquits (subspecies not listed) have been confiscated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Miami, with an origin listed as Cuba, whereas no confiscated birds are listed as originating in Mexico or Central America. In one instance, nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits were confiscated by the USFWS in the Bahamas from a passenger flying from Cuba and attempting to bring the birds into the United States (Norton and White 2001). Also, a free-flying Yellow-faced Grassquit was reported from Miami recently; however, after the meeting it was revealed that it was of the subspecies *pusilla* from Mexico, which is less likely to occur as a vagrant in Florida. The dissenting four votes felt that a captive provenance of this bird could not be ruled out.

The two previous records for Florida, both of the nominate West Indian subspecies, were in areas that are far from sources of presumed captive escapes: the first (FOSRC #94-305) was in the Dry Tortugas in April 1994, and the second (FOSRC #01-440) was in Everglades National Park in February 2001.

TRICOLORED MUNIA, *Lonchura malacca*.

09-762. Two adults were photographed on 7 July 2009 on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas National Park. This species, native to southeast Asia, has established exotic populations on Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (AOU 1998) and Cuba (Raffaelle et al. 1998, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000). The identification of the two birds on the Dry Tortugas was not disputed. The species’ populations on Cuba and Jamaica may have been established by birds colonizing from Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, and thus is known to be capable of overwater flights. The bird appears to be popular in the pet-bird trade in the United States. The four dissenting votes felt that the birds may have escaped from captivity and flown to the Dry Tortugas. Also plausible is that birds may have been smuggled from Cuba and set free at sea or near the Dry Tortugas.

If accepted, this would be the first accepted record for Florida and the American Birding Association (ABA) area. Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) considered the Tricolored Munia a non-established exotic in Florida. A previous Florida record (FOSRC #99-398) was not accepted by the FOSRC (Bowman and Greenlaw 2000) because of provenance.

## OLD FILES REOPENED

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cyananthus latirostris*.

04-536. This female, found on 20 December 2003 in Gainesville (Alachua Co.), was originally submitted as a sight report in 2005, but was not accepted. At the time, it would have been a first for Florida, and the FOSRC felt that better documentation was required. In February 2009, two photographs of a female hummingbird taken the following day were submitted to the FOSRC.

The vote to reopen was five to reopen, and two not to reopen, which allowed for reconsideration. The dissenting members felt that the new photographs were not of high enough quality to overturn the previous decision. Because the FOSRC has accepted three Broad-billed Hummingbirds since this sight report (FOSRC #04-549, 08-660, 08-664), we could also relax the criterion, held by all current members, that only records with irrefutable evidence (e.g., photographs, specimens, diagnostic sound recordings) could be used to add a species to the Official List.

The new photographs are quite distant and not very sharp. FOSRC members Kratter and Murphy were present on day after the bird was found. Kratter reported that there was much confusion regarding the sighting of hummingbirds that day. A female Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was known to have been present for a few days; further, not known at the time was that a female Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) was also present, and this bird was photographed by Kratter and probably others thinking that it could be the Broad-billed Hummingbird. The Calliope Hummingbird was later banded by Fred Bassett. Murphy was certain he saw a Broad-billed Hummingbird. The vote was not resolved. The five dissenting votes felt that the new photographs were not diagnostic. In addition, the three FOSRC forms submitted originally differ on some characters, including presence or absence of white in the tail and in color of the underparts.

CARIBBEAN ELAENIA, *Elaenia martinica*.

84-063. This bird, found and photographed on 28 April 1984 at Fort Pickens (Escambia Co.), provides the only record of the species for the United States and the ABA area. The ABA Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC) accepted it in 1984-5 and the FOSRC also accepted it in May 1986 in the second round of review. The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee did not accept it, and this decision was followed by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). Thus, when the FOSRC made Robertson and Woolfenden its baseline list, the species was removed without comment from the Official State List. FOSRC member Jon Greenlaw moved to reopen the file, and at least five of us voted to pursue this action. Contents of the file include the sole, rather distant photo, detailed descriptions of plumage and vocalizations by the discoverer (Evelyn Barbig) and by Bob Duncan and Mike Magley, a shorter description by Fred Griffin, and a copy of the ABA-CLC report in *Birding* (1985, Vol. 17, No. 6, pp. 261-266). This article includes a letter from John Fitzpatrick supporting the identification, a long synopsis by ABA-CLC member Kenn Kaufman supporting the identification, a short dissenting opinion by ABA-CLC member Dan Gibson, and a brief note by Bob Ridgely in reply to Fitzpatrick's observation that the voice of the White-crested Elaenia (*E. albiceps*) is quite different from that described for the individual at Fort Pickens. With most tyrannid species' voices now available online ([www.xenocanto.com](http://www.xenocanto.com)), the Committee had a wider range of vocalizations for reference than the previous committees that deliberated on this record. Bill Pranty also made the contents of the ABA-CLC file available to Committee members.

The photo shows a rather elongated tyrannid flycatcher with a small head and short bill. The bird is conspicuously crested, with white visible at the rear of the crest (also noted in the written description). The only tyrannids likely in North America

with white in the crest are the diverse assemblage of species in the genus *Elaenia*. Species in the genus *Myiopagis*, also known as elaienias, are smaller and have yellow in the crests. The underparts of the bird in the photo were hidden by a leaf, but were described as white. The bird showed rather conspicuous white wingbars. The calls were described as pleasant whistles in complex phrases, rather unlike any tyrannid, but perhaps closest to *E. martinica* among the elaienias. The calls of *E. albiceps* are quite different, with hoarse notes in simple two-note phrases.

The Committee felt that the photos unambiguously showed an elaenia in the genus *Elaenia*, most likely either *E. martinica* or *E. albiceps*. In *E. martinica*, the crest is usually not as conspicuous as that of the bird in the photo, although the bird was reported to be singing, and elaienias may erect the crest when singing. The described voice is more similar to that of *martinica*, but the description did not closely match recorded vocalizations of *martinica* that we heard, or transliterated descriptions provided in field guides. Because the bird cannot be safely identified to species from the material (photograph) available to the Committee, no verifiable evidence exists that establishes the bird as *E. martinica*. The vote to species (*E. martinica*) was not accepted. However, the photo does establish that an *Elaenia* sp. occurred in Florida, and because no other species in the genus has been recorded here, we voted to add *Elaenia* sp. to the Official List.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

82-020. This record, which Smith and Woolfenden (1995) proclaimed was “beset with irregularities,” was originally submitted as a sight report and not accepted by the FOSRC. It was found 21 September 1982 at St. George Island (Franklin Co.). At the time, however, it was not revealed that the bird was collected (LSU 136610; photographs added to FOSRC #82-020 file). Smith and Woolfenden (1995) concluded that it was likely collected in Florida. The photographs of the mummified specimen show the bird next to a Northern Wheatear collected in Louisiana. The St. George Island specimen is a close match, showing similar size and structure (long wings, short tail), with buff underparts, black wings with buff edges to the coverts and remiges, white rump, and black tail with white bases to the outer rectrices. The vote to reopen was unanimous. The submission was accepted. One dissenting member felt that the many irregularities in the specimen’s history rendered the locality and date data suspect.

BACHMAN’S WARBLER, *Vermivora bachmanii*.

85-075. This controversial bird was found and photographed 30 March 1977 at Lake Washington, west of Melbourne (Brevard Co.). The record, described in Barber (1985), was accepted by the FOSRC in 1985 the same year. Five photographs and a written analysis, which included transcribed opinions of S. D. Ripley and R. F. Pasquier from the National Museum of Natural History, H. M. Stevenson from Florida, and N. K. Johnson and S. F. Bailey from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, were originally submitted to the FOSRC. The original correspondence from the experts, however, is not in the FOSRC file. In addition, R. Barber and Dan Heathcote, who also saw the Brevard Co. bird, visited the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP), to study warbler specimens. The identification as a Bachman’s Warbler is particularly intriguing, because the last accepted record of this probably extinct species was in 1962 in South Carolina. In their warbler monograph, Dunn and Garrett (1997) questioned the identification as a Bachman’s Warbler (as had others in Internet posts). Dunn and Garrett (1997) concluded that this was likely a female “Golden” Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia* in the *petechia* group), which is resident in mangroves in southernmost Florida (subsp. *gundlachii*) and throughout most of the Caribbean. However, they did not provide reasons for their conclusion. Interestingly, Yellow Warbler was never considered by either the original observers or the con-

sulted experts. With the recent question of the identity of this bird, the FOSRC decided to re-assess the submission. At the August 2008 meeting, the Committee had digital copies of the original photos, a digital photograph posted to the Internet of three Bachman's Warbler specimens from VIREO (Visual Resources for Ornithology), and specimens of Golden Yellow Warblers and North American (*aestiva* group) Yellow Warblers from the FLMNH and Archbold Biological Station. The photographs of the 1977 bird, none of which was very sharp, show a very drab, pale brownish warbler, whitish below with a band of pale yellow across the chest, no wingbars, indistinct yellow edges on the remiges and perhaps on some coverts. The primary extension appears short. The bill seems to have a slightly curved maxilla. The plumage matches that of some Bachman's Warblers, but may also approach that of some female Golden Warblers, although none of the specimens or photographs we examined shows such drab plumage in a spring female. The primary extension of Bachman's Warbler appears long in the VIREO photographs, but the angle of the photographs does not permit an accurate assessment of this character. Unlike Yellow Warblers of the *aestiva* group, Golden Yellow Warblers have a short primary extension (FLMNH specimens). The bill of the Brevard Co. bird does not appear to be as decurved as that of typical Bachman's Warblers, but the observers thought it matched a female specimen at the ANSP. The Committee felt that it needed more comparative material to overturn a prior FOSRC decision and voted to table the vote at the August 2008 meeting.

At the February 2009 meeting, comparative photographs taken from several angles were available of Bachman's Warblers in the National Museum of Natural History collection, as well as comments from Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett stating their reasons for considering the bird in the photographs to be a Golden Yellow Warbler. Discussion at our meeting focused on the plumage and structural characters (all noted above), the migratory habits of both Golden Yellow and Bachman's warblers, the higher standards for both discounting a previous decision of the Committee, and for establishing the presence of a bird thought to be extinct earlier. The vote was unresolved (3 votes to accept as Bachman's Warbler, 4 votes not to accept).

For the August 2009 meeting FOSRC member Mark Berney compiled additional photographs of hand-held and wild *gundlachii* Yellow Warblers. We first voted to reopen this submission, because we were unclear how the rules operated at our previous meeting; the vote to reopen passed six to one. Five or more votes to reopen puts the submission back into consideration and nullifies the previous decision.

The photographs of *gundlachii* Yellow Warblers show an individual from the same season (21 February) with plumage nearly identical to the bird in this submission, as well as handheld shots of another drab bird in fall (5 October 2003). Both *gundlachii* individuals are pale gray overall, with the primaries, tertials, and wing coverts edged paler. Bachman's Warblers show plainer wings, especially on the tertials (Pyle 1997). The 21 February bird has spots of yellow in the face, on the sides of the upper breast and rump, very close to the pattern on the Lake Washington bird. The Lake Washington bird appears to be molting some wing coverts; second-year Yellow Warblers replace 3-10 wing coverts in their pre-alternate molt, whereas Bachman's Warblers do not replace wing coverts during their limited pre-alternate molt (Pyle 1997). The dorsal view of the rectrices of the Lake Washington bird shows pale edges to the outer webs; the ventral view of the rectrices is not very sharp, and does not show any pattern. Yellow Warblers have pale edges to the outer webs, and largely yellow inner webs; Bachman's Warblers lack pale edging to the outer webs and have white spots on the inner webs of rectrices 5-6 (females). The FOSRC voted to overturn the previous decision and did not accept that the photographs represented a Bachman's Warbler. The one dissenting member felt that we should view all the evidence available at the time of the original FOSRC decision (we did not have access to the specimens in the ANSP).



## REMOVED FROM THE REVIEW LIST

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides*. With the six submissions accepted at this meeting, the Committee accepted seven records in 2009 and four records in 2008, with 25 overall documented occurrences in Florida (one specimen, 24 photographed individuals). Although we have been reluctant to remove species from the review list (because the previous threshold of ten accepted records is far lower than many other states), the number of recent records indicates that this species occurs annually in small numbers.

## CORRIGENDUM

In the 18th report of the FOSRC (Kratter 2010), the final sentence of the account for the Great Black-Hawk (FOSRC #08-689) was unclear, and needs to be clarified as follows:

“We thus accepted the identification of the Great Black-Hawk of the nominate race, but, like Diaz, concluded that the black-hawks at Virginia Key are unlikely to be natural vagrants to Florida.”

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