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## Twenty-seventh Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 2016-2017

Andrew W. Kratter

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF THE  
FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2016-2017**

ANDREW W. KRATTER

*Florida Museum of Natural History, 1659 Museum Road,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611*

**Abstract.**—The Records Committee of the Florida Ornithological Society met at the Florida Museum of Natural History on 8 July 2017. We reviewed 93 new reports; in addition five reports unresolved from our previous meeting were reviewed. Of the 98 total reports we reviewed at the meeting, 79 were documented by photographs or video (several of these also had audio documentation), six were birds that were banded and measured but not photographed, three were documented solely by audio recordings, and two were documented by specimens deposited in museum collections. The other eight were sight reports with varying amounts of written documentation. Of these 98 reports, 77 (78.5%) were accepted, 16 were not accepted (16.3%), two were not accepted to species but accepted to a species pair (2.0%), two were tabled (2.0%), and one was unresolved (1.0%). As at the 2016 meeting, the submissions included a large number (nine) of species that would have been new additions to the Official List of Florida bird species (Black Swift, Yellow-billed Loon, Great White Pelican, Red-naped Sapsucker, Couch's Kingbird, Brown-chested Martin, Caribbean Martin, Tropical Mockingbird, Smith's Longspur), but only one of these was accepted: Smith's Longspur, bringing the State List to 525 species. One potentially new State record, Brown-chested Martin, was tabled to gather more data.

This twenty-seventh report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by the committee for the submission year ending in July 2017. Committee activity and operations are guided by our "Rules and Procedures," which are available from the author. The FOSRC routinely evaluates reports of review-listed rare species (20 or fewer accepted records or reports over the previous ten years) and reports of species occurring for the first (known) time in the state. On occasion, when we receive a recommendation, we also consider whether an exotic species meets our criteria for establishment in Florida. Reference here to "the Committee" refers to FOSRC.

The FOSRC met at the Florida Museum of Natural History on 8 July 2017. We reviewed 93 new reports; in addition five reports unresolved from our previous meeting were reviewed. Documentation supporting the 98 total submissions included photographs and video (79 submissions, several of these also had audio documentation), audio recordings (3 submissions), measurements from banding operations

(six submissions), and specimens deposited in museum collections (2 submissions). The other eight submissions were sight reports with varying amounts of written documentation. Of these 98 submissions, 77 were accepted (78.5%), 16 were not accepted (16.3%), two were not accepted to species but accepted to a species pair, two were tabled, and one were unresolved. Not surprisingly, the rate of acceptance was much lower for submissions that lacked supporting photographic/audio/banding measurement/specimen evidence (37.5%) than for those with such evidence (85.6%). Part of this is attributable to misidentifications or poorly detailed reports submitted by beginning birders.

The submissions included a high number of species—nine—that would have been new additions to the Official List of Florida bird species, but only one of these was accepted: Smith's Longspur, bringing the State List to 525 species. One potentially new State record, Brown-chested Martin, was tabled to gather more data. The seven submissions representing potentially new additions to the Official State List that were not accepted were: Black Swift, Yellow-billed Loon, Great White Pelican, Red-naped Sapsucker, Couch's Kingbird (accepted to Tropical/Couch's Kingbird), Caribbean Martin, and Tropical Mockingbird. The identifications of two of these were accepted (the pelican and mockingbird), but the Committee determined that both these were likely escaped former captives rather than natural vagrants.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during the 2016-2017 reporting year. The members and their year of term expiration on the FOSRC are: Michael Brothers (2017), David Goodwin (2018), Rafael Galvez (2019), Andy Kratter (2020), Mark Berney (2021), Elliot Schunke (2022), and Michelle Davis (2023). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members of the FOSRC.

#### COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

*Committee news.*—During 2017, the FOSRC met once on 8 July at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. Michael Brothers reached the end of his term this year on the committee and cycled off. Following the meeting, a new member was selected: John Murphy, who previously served on the FOSRC from 2008-2015. During most of the 2016-2017 period of this report, the FOSRC website, where nearly all submissions are received, was not functioning correctly and some submissions may never have been received. In 2016 we changed the criteria for Review List species (Kratter 2018), resulting in the addition of 33 species to the Review List. However, website problems prevented updating the online Review list and most Florida birders were unaware of the changes. As a result, we likely missed several potential submissions of these species. For instance, the 2016-17

reporting period was characterized by an amazing influx of vagrants from the Caribbean. Of the of five Bahama Mockingbirds, 15 Western Spindalis, and seven Bananaquits reported to eBird during this period, we received submissions for zero Bahama Mockingbirds, three Western Spindalis, and three Bananaquits. All three species were added to the Review List in 2016.

*Formats and terminology.*—We followed the current nomenclature and sequence used in the American Ornithological Society (formerly American Ornithologists' Union) check-list (AOU 1998) and its supplements through July 2017 (<http://checklist.aou.org/>) in the species accounts. Within accounts with more than one submission for a species, each report is introduced sequentially by catalog number. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the committee on accepted reports (see list below). We employ the terminology for age of birds outlined by Kratter (2012). We normally do not review subspecies, but we have accepted submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be reevaluated by the AOS in the future. Our use of the words “report” and “record” to describe occurrences of species in Florida follows Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), a distinction that has been followed by subsequent major reviews of the Florida avifauna, and by the Field Observations Committee of the FOSRC. Individual occurrences that are independently verifiable (specimen, diagnostic photograph, or an audio or video file) are characterized as “records,” and if not verifiable as “reports.” Accepted reports are special only in the sense that the non-verifiable documentation is deemed to be fully supportive of the identification and the circumstances do not warrant special consideration. In past practice, the Committee has accepted only records (i.e., with verifiable evidence) for addition of a species to the Florida List. After that initial hurdle has been met, reports are considered on the basis of their merits based on available physical evidence and circumstance (provenance not an issue). For each species, I provide a review of the status of the species in Florida chiefly based on FOSRC data through the end of 2016, as specified.

Abbreviations used here in the species accounts are AOS (American Ornithological Society), FLMNH (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville), FOSRC (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee), NP (National Park), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), SP (State Park), and TTRS (Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee).

Submitters of reports (all submitters are acknowledged, but only those reports that are accepted include initials of the submitter here): Angel Abreu (AA), Mariel Abreu (MA), Wes Biggs (WB), James Brady (JB), Michael Brothers (MBr), Matthew Bruce (MaB), Mark Burns (MBu), Kevin Christman (KC), Martin Dellwo (MD), Jason Denesevich (JD), Rangel Diaz (RaD), Robin Diaz (RoD),

Jim Eager (JE), David Essian (DE), Noah Frade (NF), Murray Gardler (MG), Reinhard Geisler (RG), Mitchell Harris, Claire Herzog (CH), Larry Manfredi (LM), Andrew Kratter (AKr), Cheryl Lachance (CL), Thomas Ledford (TL), Wendy Meehan (WM), Kenneth Miller (KM), Jeff O'Connell (JO), Sigurd Olsen (SO), Dan O'Malley (DM), Mike Ostrowski (MO), Chris Payne (CP), Troy Ploger (TP), Bill Pranty (BPr), Bruce Purdy (BrP), Shane Runyon (SR), Chip Sasser (CS), Elliot Schunke (ES), Alan Seelye-James (ASJ), David Simpson (DS), Roberto Torres (RT), Michael Vasi (MV), Mitch Walters (MW), Audrey Whitlock (AW), Stu Wilson (SW), Aaron Yappert (AY), Adam Zions (AZ), and Suzanne Zuckerman (SZ).

## SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED

BRANT *Branta bernicla*

2017-1207 (JE, RG). "Black" Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

2017-1208 (RG). "Atlantic" Brant *Branta bernicla hrota*

On 17 December 2016 two Brant were discovered at San Carlos Bay/Bunche Beach Preserve (Lee County). The birds, present there until 21 January 2017, included one dark bird showing the dark belly typical of the subspecies *nigricans*, and one pale bird showing the sharp contrast between black breast and pale belly of subspecies *hrota*. On 1 February 2017, both birds were found on the Atlantic side of the Florida peninsula at Apollo Beach (Volusia County), where they stayed until 6 March.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Of the eight occurrences listed on eBird between July 2007 and July 2017, including the above, three were documented. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular rare migrant and winter resident coastally. This is the first record of subspecies *nigricans* in Florida, which usually is found along the northern Pacific coast.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

2017-1197 (ES). American Black Ducks appear to winter regularly in small numbers in northern Florida. Eliot Schunke videotaped 18 at Mounds Pool 3 at St. Marks NWR Lighthouse Unit (Wakulla County: 30.091102, -84.155981) on 11 December 2016. Checklists with photographs submitted to eBird show some of the flock was present through at least 24 January 2017.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016, and one report (2016-1149, Alachua County November 2011) was accepted by the FOSRC last year. Records on eBird indicate that this species is a rare but regular winter visitor in north Florida, but most submissions lack documentation. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an occasional to rare migrant and winter resident in the Panhandle and northern peninsula.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

2017-1222 (AW). Peg Bruce and Terry Huzarski discovered this male in the Indian River in Sebastian (Indian River County) on 10 March 2017. It stayed until 14 March and was photographed.

2017-1243 (CS). On 21 May 2017, this male was found at Fernandina Beach (Nassau County). The bird stayed through the summer and was still present in February 2018.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Between July 2007 and July 2017 eBird lists six occurrences for Florida, including the two above; all but one of these were documented. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular rare migrant and winter resident coastally.

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*

2017-1244 (BrP). Wendi Greene found this female on 1 March 2017 at Veterans Park in Choctawhatchee Bay (Okaloosa County). It was seen and photographed until 26 March 2017.

This is the ninth Common Merganser accepted by the FOSRC; eight of these have been since 2009 and the ninth was an “old” undated specimen from Pasco County. It has been found mostly on the Gulf Coast (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Citrus, Pasco, and Lee counties) and twice along the Atlantic coast (Duval and Volusia counties). The increase of occurrence in Florida is in agreement with some regional increases in populations in North America (Pearce et al. 2015).

LEAST GREBE *Tachybaptus dominicus*

2017-1224 (RaD). On 2 April 2017, Chuck Weber found this Least Grebe at the Yamato Scrub Natural Area (Palm Beach County). This is the locale of the only breeding of this species in Florida, in 2008 (Hasse and Hasse 2009). The bird was seen until 13 June 2017.

The Least Grebe is a casual visitor to south Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014) with only two records, one in October 1988 in Monroe County (Greenlaw et al. 2014; never submitted to the FOSRC), and the 2008 Palm Beach nest record (above), along with one FOSRC accepted sight report (March 1990, Collier County).

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

2017-1192 (BPr). Bill Pranty discovered and photographed this bird at Hudson Beach Park (Pasco County) on 13 November 2016. The grebe stayed until 28 November.

Including this Pasco County bird, the FOSRC has accepted four records (December 2000 from Santa Rosa, probably different birds December 2012 and January 2013 from Leon County, and the above from Pasco County); three sight reports have also been accepted (January 2001 from Santa Rosa, February 2008 from Escambia, and March 2013 from Volusia).

INCA DOVE *COLUMBINA inca*

2017-1240 (BD). Bob Duncan found this bird in the Peake’s Point gated community in Gulf Breeze (Santa Rosa County) on 9 May 2017. It was observed through 13 May. 2017-1248 (JB). James Brady discovered and photographed this dove in a backyard in Pensacola (Escambia County) on 3 June 2017.

Inca Dove populations are spreading in southeastern North America. The first Inca Dove in Florida was photographed in September 2011 in Franklin County (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Three additional records in north Florida have been accepted since: one photographed in October 2011 in Santa Rosa County, one photographed in February 2012 in Duval County, and one photographed in May 2015 in Escambia County.

KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE *Geotrygon chrysis*

2017-1230 (CL). This long-staying Caribbean stray was found by Joel Wilcox on 27 September 2014 and entertained 100s of birders until 26 March 2015 in Long Key State Park (Monroe County). It was joined in December by a second bird.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. The only other occurrence listed on eBird in Florida between 2007 and 2017 was a well-documented bird at the Deering Estate (Miami-Dade County) from December 2014-January 2015. The species was likely fairly common in Audubon’s time but was rare by the late 1800s (Howell 1932). There were a few records in the 1960s and 70s (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) that have not been assessed by the FOSRC.

VAUX'S SWIFT *Chaetura vauxi*

2017-1229. For the second consecutive winter, a flock of Vaux's Swifts roosted nightly in a chimney at Dauer Hall on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville (Alachua County). The five birds were also occasionally seen during the day in south Gainesville, especially at Sweetwater Wetlands. These birds were less vocal than the larger flock (16) last winter, and they were not audio recorded, but the pale throat and rump and the calls heard were consistent with Vaux's. They were first found on 9 December 2016 and were last observed 9 March 2017. Incoming Chimney Swifts in mid-March probably make attribution more difficult after this date.

Previous records include the 2016 flock at the same locale, six that were recorded in Gainesville in 1993 (Webber and Collins 1993), and a single bird in Apalachicola (Franklin County) that was captured and measured in January 1996 and December 1997 (McNair and Lewis 1997, 1998). The latter locale had a flock of as many as 49 birds the previous winter (November 1994 to 21 April 1995); audio recordings from this flock were also positively identified as Vaux's (McNair and Lewis 1997).

BAHAMA WOODSTAR *Calliphlox evelynae*

2017-1241 (JE). On 14 May 2017, Mitchell Harris found and photographed this female, the first in Florida since the 1980s, at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary (Brevard County). It stayed three days and was widely seen and photographed.

There have only been four previous records for this hummingbird for Florida, otherwise endemic to the Bahamas, and none recent: September 1971 in Palm Beach County, April 1974 in Miami-Dade County, and another there in July 1981. A specimen from January 1961 from Miami-Dade has apparently been lost (Greenlaw et al. 2014). The only other ABA-area record is a supremely strange one from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in April 2013 (Brinkley 2014).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponicus*

2017-1182 (SO). On 16 October 2016 a Bar-tailed Godwit was found at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs (Pinellas County). It was first found by Steve Reardon and was seen and photographed by many during its stay until 21 October. The white unbarred rump can be seen in some online images (eBird) indicating the European subspecies (*L. l. lapponicus*). A Bar-tailed Godwit, also of the race *lapponicus*, wintered at this locality in 2013-14 (Greenlaw 2016).

The FOSRC has previously accepted six submissions of Bar-tailed Godwit, three records (Pinellas in September 1985 to January 1986 and winter 2013-14, Monroe March-April 2010) and three sight reports (Franklin April 1984, Monroe February 2012, Wakulla March 2014). An undated bird from Lee County in 2008, referred to the east Asian race (*L. l. baueri*) with a barred rump (Greenlaw et al. 2014), has not been submitted to the FOSRC. An earlier record (Brevard County October 1970 to April 1971; Stevenson and Anderson 1994) has also not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*

2017-1246 (AY). On 22 May 2017 a Hudsonian Godwit was found by Matt Johnstone at Tower Pond at St. Marks NWR (Wakulla County). The bird was seen and photographed the following day as well.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the ten-year period up to this meeting (2007-2017), eBird lists eight occurrences, four records (St. Johns County in June 2016, and three from Wakulla County: September 2011, May 2015, and the above) and four sight reports (September 2011 and August 2012 in Palm Beach County, September 2010 in St. Johns County, and August

2011 in Duval County). Greenlaw et al. (2014) list it as a very rare to uncommon transient. From recent records (1-2 per year at most) it seems better categorized as “very rare” to “rare.”

RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

2017-1234 (MBr, MW). Rex Rowan and Matthew Bruce found this male, largely in stunning breeding plumage, on 21 April 2017 at Newnans Lake (Alachua County). It was observed and photographed by many until 27 April.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Three records were accepted last year (Kratzer 2018). Over the 10 years prior to 2016, eBird lists six records for Florida and five reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) list it as a regular rare migrant and winter visitor.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

2017-1186 (CP). Chris Payne discovered this bird, Florida’s second record, on 16 September 2016 at Curry Hammock State Park (Monroe County). He was able to get some blurry yet diagnostic photographs. Attempts to find the bird again, however, were not successful.

The only other Sharp-tailed Sandpipers found in Florida were one collected in Miami-Dade in October 1967 (Ogden 1968), and two represented by sight reports, one from Orange County in August 1973 (Greenlaw et al. 2014, not assessed by the FOSRC); and one in Leon County in September 1995 (FOSRC 96-354; Bowman 2000). The species breeds in the Russian Arctic, and winters largely in Australia, southeast Asia, India, and islands in the south Pacific Ocean. It is regular on the Pacific coast of North America, but very rare in eastern North America.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*

2017-1172 (RT). This after-hatch-year bird was spotted and photographed on a pelagic trip, about 20 miles off Elliott Key (Miami-Dade County) on 20 September 2015.

2017-1178 (RT). This intermediate-morph juvenile was well photographed during a pelagic trip, about 10 miles off Elliot Key (Miami-Dade County: 25° 19’ 36.4” N, 80° 01’ 13.8” W) on 18 September 2016.

2017-1195 (AKr). This beached jaeger was found by D. Plessis at Dania Beach (Broward County) on 16 October 2016. It was taken to the South Florida Wildlife Center where it died 18 October. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH, photographed, and then prepared as a complete skeleton (UF 51630).

2017-1196 (AKr). This emaciated jaeger was found by a fisherman offshore of Marathon (Monroe County) on 8 September 2016. It was taken to the Marathon Wild Bird Center where it died the next day. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH and prepared as a round skin, spread wing, and partial skeleton (UF 51627).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the ten years prior to adding it to the Review List, eBird lists four records for Florida and six reports; all are from the Atlantic coast. An additional record, from September 2015 in Volusia County, was accepted in 2016. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare to rare transient and apparent winter visitor. The influx did not change the usual pattern of occurrence, as about one per year has again been the norm.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

2017-1187 (DS). David Simpson was photographing birds from the Indian River County side of St. Sebastian Inlet State Park when a Razorbill swam by on 20 October 2016.

For most of the past ten years, Florida has averaged about 1 Razorbill record per year (FOSRC records). Most of these were birds that washed up on beaches



and were brought to wildlife rehabilitation hospitals on the north Atlantic coast south to Brevard County. However, the winter of 2012-13 saw a huge influx likely involving 1000s of these alcids, with many birds reaching the Gulf coast, all the way northwest to Pensacola, with one bird making it to Louisiana.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

2017-1165 (WM). Wendy Meehan discovered this first-winter bird on 4 February 2013 at the south end of the Skyway Bridge (Manatee County). It was present until 29 March 2013 and seen and photographed by many birders in both Manatee and Pinellas counties.

2017-1185 (KM). A first-winter bird was found by Marcello Gomes at Boynton Beach Inlet (Palm Beach County) on 12 November 2016 and was seen until 16 December. Two birds were seen at the nearby Lake Worth Pier during this period.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the ten-year period prior to our 2017 meeting, eBird lists seven documented records and eight sight reports, including the two above. These 15 occurrences are along the Florida Peninsula on both the Gulf coast (four) and Atlantic coast (eleven). Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it a rare migrant and winter resident.

**SABINE'S GULL** *Xema sabini*

2017-1179 (AK). This bird was seen briefly by a handful of observers about three miles offshore on a pelagic trip out of Ponce Inlet (Volusia County) on 25 September 2016. It was not photographed, but the distinctive dorsal wing pattern was well seen.

2017-1190 (DE). This juvenile was well described from an observation at Boynton Beach Inlet (Palm Beach County) on 23 October 2016 by David Essian.

2017-1198 (TL). This first-cycle bird was found by Avery Chan at Sebastian Inlet State Park (Brevard and Indian River counties) on 22 December 2016. It was present and photographed on both sides of the inlet until 30 December.

2017-1257 (MO). On 24 June 2017, Mike Ostrowski found and photographed an aseasonal Sabine's Gull at Siesta Kay (Sarasota County).

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the ten-year period prior to this meeting, eBird lists two documented records (both above) and ten sight reports, including the two above. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it an irregular, rare fall and occasional spring visitor. It also appears to be an occasional winter visitor, as the Brevard/Indian River county bird above and two sight reports in January from Volusia County (eBird) indicate, and an occasional summer visitor, as the Sarasota record above indicates.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

2017-1252 (MBr). This first-cycle bird, found and photographed by Michael Brothers, was present from 18-22 December 2016 at Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia County).

This species is a very rare winter transient and winter visitor to the state (Greenlaw et al. 2014). The FOSRC has accepted 11 previous records and one sight report, all but one from the coasts and lakes on the Florida peninsula.

**"VEGA" HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus vegae*

2017-1256 (MBr). Michael Brothers found and photographed Florida's second record of Vega Herring Gull, the subtly distinctive eastern Asian subspecies of this circumboreal gull species, at Daytona Beach, just south of the Silver Beach Avenue ramp, on 23 February 2017. Noteworthy, in comparison to nearby adult North American Herring Gulls (*L. a. smithsonianus*), were the dark mantle color and dark irides, coupled with the large mirror on P10 and smaller mirror of P9, extensive string-of-pearls look in outer primaries caused by white tongue

tips to P5, 6, 7, and 8, reddish orbital ring, and the pink legs, all consistent with *vegae* (Howell and Dunn 2007). Some taxonomic authorities split *vegae* (and *smithsonianus*) from *argentatus*.

The only other Florida record for this subspecies was an adult photographed at Daytona Beach Shores on 12 January 2009 (FOSRC 2009-761: Kratter 2010). This taxon breeds in eastern Siberia and winters along the northwest Pacific south to Japan. It is regular in western Alaska, but extremely rare elsewhere in North America.

ELEGANT TERN *Thalasseus elegans*

2017-1188 (CH). Siesta Key (Sarasota County) continued to produce good records of rare terns in fall 2016. Claire Herzog found an Elegant Tern there on 17 November 2016.

The FOSRC has previously accepted eight submissions of Elegant Terns in Florida; seven of these were clustered on the Gulf Coast between Pinellas and Lee counties; the exception was in the Florida Keys (April 2015 at Pigeon Key, Monroe County).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon aethereus*

2017-1239 (BD, LD). What was certainly Florida's most observed and photogenic Red-billed Tropicbird, this adult visited Shoreline Park on Escambia Bay (Escambia County) on 24 March-13 June 2017.

2017-1253 (TP). Troy Ploger, on a boat 30 miles west of Pass-A-Grille (Pinellas County) photographed this adult on 20 June 2015.

The FOSRC has now accepted 16 submissions, nine from the Atlantic, three from the Florida Keys, and three from the Gulf of Mexico. Two earlier specimen records have not been evaluated.

PACIFIC LOON *Gavia pacifica*

2017-1238 (JD). Perry Doggrell found a Pacific Loon off Ft. Pickens (Escambia County) on 21 March 2017. Up to three were seen there by many and photographed until they departed on 18 April 2017.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the 10 years prior to our 2017 meeting, eBird lists 18 or so occurrences for Florida; 11 of these were in Escambia County; the others were in Okaloosa (two), Franklin, Alachua (two), Levy, Brevard, and Martin. Only five of the eighteen were documented by photographs; the others were sight reports. No submissions to the FOSRC were received in 2016. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare winter visitor.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

2017-1228 (AKr). Michael Brothers found this specimen dead on the beach at Daytona Beach Shores (Volusia County) on 29 October 2016. The specimen was donated to the FLMNH, where it was photographed and then prepared as a complete skeleton (UF 51906).

The FOSRC has now accepted 15 submissions, 14 from the Florida's Atlantic coast (Nassau south to Miami-Dade County), and one from the western Panhandle. Five earlier specimens (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) have not been assessed by the FOSRC. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it a rare winter visitor.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

2017-1167 (WM). This bird was found by Wendy Meehan on 13 January 2016 at Carillon Lake (Pinellas County). It was seen by others that day, but not subsequently.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Of the 13 reports and records in the past 10 years that eBird lists for Florida, ten have photographic

documentation. One of these (8 April 2017 in Pasco County) was during the period of this report but was not submitted.

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula*

2017-1171 (LM, RT). This juvenile bird was found and photographed sitting at Pacific Lighthouse (Miami-Dade County), about three miles offshore of Elliott Key, during a pelagic trip on 1 November 2013.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. In the 10 years prior to that, eBird lists seven records for Florida and 11 reports; most are from the Dry Tortugas and Miami-Dade County. A June 2016 specimen from Pinellas County was accepted by the FOSRC last year (Kratter 2018). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular rare visitor.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*

2016-1129. (RoD) This bird was found and photographed by Robin Diaz on 25 April 2016, on Boca Chita Road between the mainland and Key Largo (Monroe County). At our 2016 meeting, concerns were expressed that the shape of the scapulars may be indicative of a hybrid origin. Neotropical Cormorants and Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*) form mixed breeding pairs in Palm Beach County (Greenlaw 2015). We voted to table the submission and consult with Mark Berney, who knows hybrids as well as anyone. At our 2017 meeting (with Berney now on the Committee) we considered the scapular shape within the range showed by pure Neotropic.

The Neotropic Cormorant was first found in Florida in April 2007 (FOSRC #2007-672; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007). In January 2012 it was found breeding at Wakodahatchee Wetlands and multiple individuals have nested there since. Some of the 25 records accepted by the FOSRC represent the same individuals returning to breed there (see Kratter 2018).

“CUBAN” AMERICAN KESTREL *Falco sparverius sparverius*

2017-1213 (RaD). Rangel Diaz discovered and photographed this distinctive subspecies of American Kestrel at South Beach in Crandon Park (Miami-Dade County) on 14 January 2017.

The Cuban subspecies of American Kestrel is common on Cuba, the Isle of Youth, and in the southern Bahamas. Although Bailey (1925) asserted that this subspecies was a vagrant to the Florida Keys, no specimens have been located (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed four previous sight reports that lacked verifiable evidence.

CUBAN PEWEE *Contopus caribaeus*

2017-1225 (SR). Shane Runyon and Nicola Salino discovered and photographed this Caribbean stray on 8 April 2017 in Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. It was not seen afterwards.

2017-1250 (SR). Shane Runyon also found this pewee; this one at Pine Tree Park (Miami-Dade County) on 5 May 2017. It could not be relocated.

There have been only five previous Cuban Pewees accepted by the FOSRC: a bird photographed in March 1995 in Palm Beach County, a sight report from Monroe County in February 2001, a bird audio-recorded in Palm Beach County in November 1999, one audio-recorded and photographed in Miami-Dade County in September 2010, and another photographed in Miami-Dade County in March 2016. The species is resident in the Bahamas and on Cuba.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*

2017-1221 (RaD). Tom Auer found this interesting *Empidonax* on 8 March 2017 at the Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72nd Avenue in Miami (Miami-Dade County).

Subsequent photographs and audio recordings taken over the next two days indicated that it was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. This was likely a wintering individual, as northbound migrants are not expected until mid-April.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Over the past 10 years, eBird lists many occurrences for Florida, but fewer than 20 were documented, and even documented records can be quite difficult to assess (see below). In particular, identification of silent migrant birds can be treacherous. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a very rare to uncommon transient.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*

2017-1174 (JO, ES). Jeff O'Connell found and audio-recorded this bird on 12 September 2016 at Faulk Drive Landing (Leon County). It was photographed the following day.

2017-1199 (RoD). 24 August 2016.

2017-1200 (RoD). 5 September 2016.

2017-1202 (RoD). 18 September 2016.

2017-1203 (RoD). 26 September 2016.

2017-1204 (RoD). 26 September 2016.

2017-1205 (RoD). 10 October 2016.

2017-1206 (RoD). 16 September 2016.

During the fall of 2016, banders at the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park banding station in Key Biscayne (Miami-Dade County) captured eight *Empidonax* flycatchers that measured out as Alder Flycatchers. One of these (2017-1201, see below) was determined to be within a zone of overlap in some measures between Alder and Willow flycatchers.

Although Alder Flycatchers are regular migrants through Florida in the fall (Greenlaw et al. 2014, eBird records), the FOSRC has kept the species on the Review List because of difficulties of distinguishing it from others in the genus *Empidonax*, especially the more uncommon Willow Flycatcher (see below). The FOSRC has now accepted 19 submissions, one from spring and 18 from fall, since it began to solicit submissions of this species in 2008.

"TRAILL'S" FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum / traillii*

2017-1201. Among the *Empidonax* flycatchers banded at the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Cape Florida banding station (Miami-Dade County) in fall 2016, was one on 5 September for which some measurements fell very near the range of overlap between Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) and Alder Flycatcher, but other measurements indicated Alder. The initial vote (4 accept/3 not to accept) was not conclusive. We agreed to vote on it as a "Traill's" Flycatcher, the old name for the species group before Willow and Alder Flycatcher were split, and that vote was accepted.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER *Empidonax traillii*

2017-1175 (SR). This bird was found and audio recorded by Shane Runyon and Nicola Salino on 4 September 2016 at Canal L-31W outside Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade County; 25.415626, -80.573632).

Judging by the frequency of documented records on eBird, the Willow Flycatcher appears to be less common than Alder Flycatcher in Florida. The FOSRC has accepted five previous submissions (one spring, one mid-June, three fall) since it began to solicit submissions of this species in 2008.

SAY'S PHOEBE *Sayornis saya*

2017-1169 (WM). Doty Robbins found this bird along 4 Mile Grade Road in De Soto County on 20 October 2013. It stayed the winter, last seen on 13 March 2014. 2017-1180 (AZ). Adam Zions found and photographed this bird on 1 October 2016 at the Cedar Key Airport (Levy County). It was not seen subsequently.

This species was removed from the Review List in 2013 (Greenlaw 2015). It was returned to the Review List in 2016 when criteria for the List were changed (Kratzer 2018). Through 2013 the Committee accepted a total of 17 submissions for this species in Florida. Thirteen of these were photographic records. The first record in Florida was a wintering bird that was discovered and photographed in Orange County, in November 1975 (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

LaSAGRA'S FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus sagrae*

2017-1189 (RoD). Robin Diaz found and photographed this Caribbean stray on 19 November 2016 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (Miami-Dade County). 2017-1233 (NH). On 21 April 2017, Noah Frade found and photographed this vagrant flycatcher at Long Key State Park (Monroe County). It was also present the following day.

This species, found in the Bahamas and on Cuba, was added to the Review List in 2016. Over the ten-year period (2007-2017) prior to this meeting, eBird lists 27 occurrences in Florida (21 with photographs or video, including the two above) and six sight reports with details. Although this rate of occurrence is slightly higher than the criteria for removal from the Review List, the Committee feels that it is important to keep vagrants from the West Indies, such as LaSagra's Flycatcher, on the Review List, especially because Florida is the only state where they are found in the ABA Area.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

2017-1183 (RoD). On 13 October 2016, Erich Boenzli found this flycatcher at A. D. "Doug" Barnes County Park (Miami-Dade County). He called Robin Diaz and gave her a detailed description of a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. The bird, however, was not found again.

This is the 15th submission of this species accepted by the FOSRC. All occurred between mid-September and mid-November. This highly migratory species breeds from the mountains of Arizona and New Mexico south through Mexico to northern Central America, and winters in southern Central and South America.

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

2017-1245 (KC). Kevin Christman found and photographed this kingbird at Buck Beach on Tyndall Air Force Base (Bay County) on 21 May 2017. Based on the vocalizations he heard, he submitted this as a Couch's Kingbird, for which Florida has no documented records. Unfortunately he did not audio-record the bird, and without recorded vocalizations or a detailed look at the wing formula, separating Couch's Kingbird from Tropical is nearly impossible. The largish bill visible in the photographs make Tropical Kingbird more likely. The Committee accepted it as a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird.

The FOSRC removed Couch's Kingbird when the Committee adopted Robertson and Woolfenden (1994) as its base-line list. The two earlier FOSRC-accepted reports for Florida (March 1986, Palm Beach County, and May 1987, Wakulla County) did not provide audio of the birds and thus did not have verifiable documentation (Robertson and Woolfenden 1994). The Tropical Kingbird has increased steadily in recent decades in Florida (Pranty et al. 2016) and have even bred, forming hybrid pairs with Gray Kingbirds, *T. dominicensis* (Wilson et al. 2015). The species was removed from the Review List in Official List in the 23rd report (Greenlaw 2015).

LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*

2017-1226 (LM). Larry Manfredi found this Loggerhead Kingbird, the fourth recorded in the state, on 9 April 2017 in a rural part of Hialeah (Miami-Dade County). Despite much searching, the bird could not be relocated.

The previous three records, all from Monroe County, include a bird at Key West in March 2007, one in the Dry Tortugas in March 2008, and another in Key West in April 2009. Records prior to 2007 were re-evaluated and considered unverifiable (Smith et al. 2000, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006). The species is resident in the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles.

**FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus savana*

2017-1231 (AA, MA). Rafael Galvez found this bird on 23 April 2017 in Crandon Park, Miami (Miami-Dade County). Present only one day, it was photographed. 2017-1258 (WB). Wes Biggs found and photographed this immature on 16 May 2017 at Levee Park in Clewiston (Hendry County). It stayed until 24 May.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Last year, three birds were accepted by the FOSRC. Over the past 10 years, eBird lists thirteen records for Florida (including those above) and six reports. Greenlaw et al. (2014) list it as an “almost regular, very rare visitor.” Records are scattered from throughout the year, but seven of the 19 recent Florida records are from April.

**THICK-BILLED VIREO** *Vireo crassirostris*

2017-1194 (DO). This vireo was present from 30 November to 3 December 2016 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (Miami-Dade County). It was first found and photographed by Dan O'Malley.

This is the 16th Thick-billed Vireo accepted by the FOSRC. All except one have been in the four southeast Florida counties (Palm Beach 1, Broward 4, Miami-Dade 8, and Monroe 3); the exception was one in Pinellas County. Dates of occurrence are from August to May. This Caribbean species is resident in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands.

**CUBAN VIREO** *Vireo gundlachii*

2017-1235 (MBu). On 29 April 2017, Mark Burns found and photographed Florida's second Cuban Vireo, just one year after the first, at the Kawama Yacht Club, 1500 Ocean Bay Drive, on Key Largo (Monroe County). It was not seen afterwards. The four images show a compact vireo with even creamy yellowish underparts, yellowish lores, pale yellow spots behind the large pale eyes, a thick, long, pale bill, and thin whitish wingbars.

The Cuban Vireo is a common resident throughout most of Cuba (Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000), but had only once before been recorded away from Cuba; a bird at Key West (Monroe County) 19-24 April 2016 (Pyle et al. 2017, Kratter 2018).

**BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD** *Mimus gundlachii*

2017-1166 (WM). This bird was discovered 15 May 2014 by Calvin Ruttman at Leffis Key (Manatee County) and was photographed by many during its stay until 20 May.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Two Bahama Mockingbird submissions were accepted in 2017. Over the 10 years prior to 2016, eBird has 11 documented occurrences (including this record) and 5 sight reports for Florida. Although eBird lists five different Bahama Mockingbirds reported in Florida during the period of this report (August 2016-July 2017), none of these were submitted to the FOSRC. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a nearly regular, very rare to rare visitor. Most records are from the southeastern coast and Keys, but the species has been found as far north as Brevard County on the Atlantic coast, and Pinellas County on the Gulf of Mexico. The species is found in the Bahamas and scattered in the Great Antilles, usually on the immediate coast or on smaller islands peripheral to the main islands.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus*

2017-1219. Monte Stickel discovered the first Smith's Longspur ever recorded in Florida on 24 December 2016 at the Flamingo Campground in Everglades National Park (Monroe County). Despite much effort, the bird was not relocated subsequently. The photographs show a winter-plumaged longspur that is buffy below with fine streaks, a bold black outline to the auriculars, and greater wing-coverts narrowly edged in rufous. The similar Lapland Longspur is white below, with greater wing-coverts broadly edged in rufous, producing a rufous wing panel at rest.

Smith's Longspurs are uncommon to rare breeders in the tundra from central Alaska east to Hudson Bay, Quebec. They winter in the plains of the central United States (southern Iowa, western Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, north Texas, and northwestern Louisiana). The occurrence closest to Florida was a vagrant bird in Macon County, Georgia, in December 2007-January 2008 (eBird). The Atlantic states from South Carolina north have had a sprinkling of vagrant records.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

2017-1168 (WM). One was photographed 30 December 2013 at the Alimacani Boat Ramp (Duval County). A flock of up to four birds was found by Shelly Beville on 13 December at nearby Huguenot County Park and many observed and photographed it until 3 March 2014.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016 with changes in the criteria for inclusion on the list (Kratler 2018). In the ten years prior to this year's meeting, eBird lists six occurrences in Florida, five on the northeast Atlantic Coast (Duval, St Johns, Flagler, and Brevard counties), and one in the Panhandle (Bay County). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular, rare, winter visitor to Florida.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW *Spizelloides arborea*

2017-1255 (AKe). Adam Kent found and photographed Florida's third documented American Tree Sparrow on the very late date of 27 May 2017 at the very southern locality of Flamingo, Everglades National Park (Monroe County).

The records previously accepted by the FOSRC were one photographed April 1998 from Wakulla County (Bowman 2000), and one October 2003 from Escambia County (Bowman 2005). Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed another photographed bird from Brevard County in April 2012, but this has not been submitted to the FOSRC. The species regularly winters much farther to the north (in the east, south to Missouri, northern Kentucky, West Virginia, and northern Virginia) with occasional birds farther south.

HARRIS'S SPARROW *Zonotrichia querula*

2017-1212 (MG). The late Murray Gardler found and photographed this bird on 4 January 2017 on Kettering Road, 0.25 mi N Power Line Road (Hernando County); it stayed and was observed and photographed by many until 26 January.

The FOSRC has previously accepted seven submissions, two sight reports (Escambia and Okaloosa counties), and five photographed (Okaloosa, Alachua, Volusia, Seminole, and Hendry counties). Three earlier photographed birds (in Orange, Brevard, Alachua counties) and a few sight reports (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) have not been assessed by the FOSRC.

WESTERN SPINDALIS *Spindalis zena*

2017-1191 (RaD). On 19 November 2016, Rangel Diaz photographed this male at the Charles Deering Estate (Miami-Dade County). It stayed until 1 December.

2017-1210 (SR). Shane Runyon found and photographed this female at Crandon Park (Miami-Dade County) on 5 January 2017. It was present until 7 February.

2017-1254 (SZ). A male was found on 7 May at Lantana Nature Preserve (Palm Beach County) and stayed until 11 May. It was photographed by Suzanne Zuckerman. A female was also found there on 7 May by Kenny Miller (eBird), but was not submitted to the FOSRC.

Although the period for this report (August 2016-July 2017) had 15 different Western Spindalis reported in Florida (eBird), only three of these were submitted to the FOSRC. This species, resident in the Bahamas and Cuba, was added to the Review List in 2016. One record was accepted last year by the FOSRC. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as a regular visitor, with one breeding record (summer 2009 in Miami-Dade County). In the ten years prior to 2016, of the 23 or so shown on eBird, 11 were documented by photographs. All records are from southeast Florida and the Keys.

#### KIRTLAND'S WARBLER *Setophaga kirtlandii*

2017-1216 (RaD). On 11 February 2017, Cara Borre discovered what is likely the first Kirtland's Warbler ever to winter in the United States, at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (Miami-Dade County). The bird was seen occasionally until 17 February and was photographed on 15 February by Rangel Diaz.

2017-1237 (CF). Christopher Ferro found and photographed this rare migrant on 8 May 2017 at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary (Brevard County). It could not be relocated.

These two records of Kirtland's Warbler bump the total to 13 accepted by the FOSRC. A specimen from Palm Beach County in April 1896 has not been assessed by the Committee (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Of these 14 verified or accepted occurrences, 11 are from the spring (19 April-10 May) two are from the fall (16 and 20 October), and the Miami-Dade bird above is the only winter record. This species breeds in the upper Midwest (mainly Michigan) and winters mainly in the Bahamas.

#### BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER *Setophaga nigrescens*

2017-1184 (ASJ). Alan Seelye-James found and photographed this male on 25 October 2016 at Evergreen Cemetery (Broward County). It stayed the entire winter, last seen on 4 March 2017.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. A 2014 submission was accepted last year (Kratler 2018). Although Greenlaw et al. (2014) stated that there were nearly 100 records or reports of this species for Florida, numbers over the last decade indicate that the species has sharply declined in frequency in Florida.

#### BANANAQUIT *Coereba flaveola*

2017-1170 (DM). This bird was found and photographed by Dan O'Malley at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, (Palm Beach County) on 29 November 2014.

2017-1209 (RG). This bird was found on 31 December 2016 at the Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve in Wilton Manor (Broward County). It was seen by many and photographed during its stay until 14 February 2017.

2017-1223 (MD). Martin Dellwo found and photographed this Bananaquit on 9 March 2017 on a suburban street in Hollywood (Broward County). It was also seen the following day.

2017-1232 (MV). Shane Runyon found this Bananaquit at North Shore Open Space Park (Miami-Dade County). The bird stayed until 22 March and was photographed by many.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed it as an irregular, casual to very rare winter visitor. In the ten years prior to 2016, all of the six records on eBird were documented by photographs. All Florida



records are from southeast Florida and the Keys. Although the period for this report (August 2016-July 2017) had seven different Bananaquits reported in Florida (eBird), only three of these were submitted to the FOSRC.

#### SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

##### RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

2017-1215. This bird was observed on Hutchinson Island in Stuart Beach on 12 January 2017. The bird was described as being quite far away on choppy seas. The feet are described and the bill was said to have a yellowish base, but the description lacks key plumage details, such as pale cheeks. The Committee felt that the details were too vague to make a diagnostic identification.

##### BLACK SWIFT *Cypseloides niger*

2017-1242. Black Swift has never been documented from Florida, although there was a sight report in 1966 that was not accepted (Robertson and Woolfenden 1994, Greenlaw et al. 2014). This swift was observed 29 April 2017 in Little Hamaca City Park in Key West (Monroe County). It was not photographed and the bird was not seen with other birds for comparison of size and flight behavior. Other potential vagrants that are also largely dark (e.g., Common Swift *Apus apus*, Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutilus*) were not considered.

Black Swifts breed sparingly in the mountains of western North America south to Costa Rica, with populations also in the Greater and Lesser Antilles. There are documented records from May 2009 in Ontario and August 2011 in New Jersey (eBird); a sight report from Alabama (Kittle et al. 2007) was accepted by the Alabama Bird Records Committee (McConnell 2009).

##### LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*

2017-1247. On 27 May 2017, this subadult jaeger was spotted and photographed off Lee County in the Gulf of Mexico (26° 15' 40.2" N, 82° 58' 05.2" W). The images show a slight light-morph jaeger with a somewhat small bill, and apparently two outer primaries with prominent white shafts. However, it appears that the outer primary and primary 7 are in sheath and not grown in. The amount of white on the underside of the primaries and the bill size is beyond typical for Long-tailed, and the Committee felt that it could possibly be a Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*).

##### YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*

2017-1211. The Yellow-billed Loon has not been previously documented in Florida, although a bird in Brevard County in December 2010 (FOSRC #2011-830) may have been this species, but the images were not diagnostic (Kratter 2012). On 9 January 2017, this loon was photographed at Bottoms Road in Panacea (Wakulla County). The Committee felt that the two images were not of high enough quality to eliminate Common Loon (*G. immer*). The bill does appear yellowish, but Common Loons' bills can look yellowish in certain light. The dark pattern on the head, neck, and breast is more similar to that of Common Loon.

The Yellow-billed Loon is a very rare winter resident across the continental United States. A single record from Georgia in February 2014 (<<http://eaglecreek4.tripod.com/georgiabirdingandnature/id165.html>>) is the only record from south of Tennessee in the southeastern United States.

##### NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

2017-1214. This bird was photographed at Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6 (Hendry County) on 14 January 2017. Although the bird shows a pale area

posterior to the gular area, the Committee felt that the yellowish lores, a large deep bill, rounded scapular edges, and shortish tail are diagnostic for a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*). Neotropic Cormorant should show a slimmer bill, longer tail, more pointed scapular tips, and dark lores.

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

2016-1118. The Great White Pelican has not been previously recorded in Florida or the ABA Area. This bird appeared in a flock of American White Pelicans (*P. erythrorhynchos*) at Ding Darling NWR (Lee County) on 28 February-1 March 2016. It was seen by many and widely photographed. It apparently reappeared in February 2017 but this later sighting was not submitted to the FOSRC. The 2016 photographs show the bird to be larger than the nearby American White Pelicans, with a pinkish cast to the plumage, large protruding forehead and eyes, and black extending to the innermost secondaries. The Committee agreed that the identification was correct, but the provenance of the bird was questioned. Populations of Great White Pelican breeding in southeastern Europe are moderate-length migrants to sub-Saharan Africa; African populations are nomadic (Elliott et al. 2017). The species has occurred as vagrants several times to western Europe, many of which are likely wild birds (Jiguet et al. 2008). Given the migratory behavior, the history of vagrancy, the lack of any signs of captivity, and pelicans' great ability to fly long distances, the Committee felt that a wild origin was not out of the question. However, the bird is also widely kept in captivity. A search of zoos and collections in the United States revealed that none had a missing bird. Some Great White Pelicans may be kept in private collections and may not be banded or reported. They are also kept in zoos outside the United States (e.g., in several South American zoos) that were not contacted. Using occurrence records, Jiguet et al. (2008) proposed some climatic and environmental conditions under which pelican species (Great White, Dalmatian *P. crispus*, and Pink-backed *P. rufescens*) are likely to turn up naturally as vagrants in western Europe. In 2016, the Committee felt it was best to determine if such conditions prevailed preceding the occurrence in Lee County before making a vote on the submission.

At the 2017 meeting, the Committee had the additional 2017 record to consider. This individual appeared to have joined a group of American White Pelicans and is moving with them throughout the year. Given that it may be difficult to identify this bird when it is moving with American White Pelicans, it is not implausible that the bird could have been in the wild for several years or even more than a decade. This greatly increases the potential geographic and temporal windows for which the bird may have escaped from captivity. At the 2017 meeting, it was also noted that migrant Great White Pelicans in the Middle East use favored stops to rest and forage and break up their long journey to eastern Europe. Pelicans have high wing-loading and are dependent for long movements on thermals rising from terrestrial environments. Given these considerations, we felt the bird from Sanibel is just as likely an escape from captivity as a wild vagrant from natural populations.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

2017-1217. This raptor was observed but not photographed on 18 February 2017 on CR 448 over the Apopka Canal in Lake County. The scant description states that it was seen with four Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) but was much larger. Without a description of plumage, the Committee felt that the submission could not be accepted. In addition, Golden Eagles are about the same size as Bald Eagles in wing span and length and thus should appear more or less the same size in the field. 2017-1220. This all-dark raptor was photographed on 9 March 2017 in Burrs Wetlands (Brevard County). The images show a dark nape (Golden Eagle has

a golden nape), unfeathered tarsi (Golden Eagle has feathered tarsi) and what appears to be a large bill (the angle of the photo makes size assessment difficult). The Committee felt that this bird was a Bald Eagle.

2017-1236. This dark raptor with a golden nape was observed but not photographed at MacDill Air Force Base (Hillsborough County) on 8 May 2017. In addition to the very aseasonal date for a Golden Eagle, the description did not include important details of plumage, proportions, or flight style that are important for distinguishing Golden Eagle from Bald Eagle.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Greenlaw et al. (2014) considered it a nearly regular, rare migrant and winter visitor in the Panhandle and north peninsula, and rare farther south. Prior to 2016, of the nine or so shown on eBird, only two were documented by photographs, and those two may have been the same individual (October 2011 and January 2012 in Wakulla County). Two sight reports at our 2015 and 2016 meetings (Kratzer 2018) were also not accepted, attesting to how often this species is misidentified.

#### RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

2017-1227. Red-naped Sapsucker has never been recorded from Florida. Between 20 November 2016 and 19 February this male sapsucker was observed and photographed a few times on State Road 54 at the northwest corner of the Starkey Ranch Development (Pasco County). The photos show a red throat that is mostly broadly bordered by black, a whitish nape, and pale barring on the back divided by a dark central back. The latter character is a better match for Red-naped Sapsucker, but the throat and nape are better for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. varius*). The Committee felt that the bird in the images was best left unidentified or was a hybrid of Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Red-naped Sapsuckers breed in the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia and Alberta south to Arizona and New Mexico; they regularly winter south to central Mexico and western Texas. Louisiana has three records (October 1989, October 1998, and November 2015) listed on eBird; the species is otherwise not known from the southern United States.

#### YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*

2017-1176. This yellowish *Empidonax* was photographed at the Lake George Conservation Area on the north section of Brooks Road (Volusia County). It was observed 15-16 September 2016. The images show a smallish bill and roundish head, with a distinct eye ring widening at the back. None of the images show primary projection, which can be quite useful, especially for differentiating the longer-winged Acadian Flycatcher (*E. virescens*). Although some of these features are characteristic of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, the buffy wingbars are better for Acadian, and the yellowish tone of the throat may be due to reflected light. For all Yellow-bellied Flycatcher submissions at this meeting the Committee examined images using a corrected, color-balanced monitor (Rafael Galvez).

2017-1177. This *Empidonax* was present 17-23 September 2016 at Mead Gardens (Orange County). The images submitted have strong discoloration and are over saturated toward yellow-green. The angle of the images makes it difficult to judge primary projection, although it seems to be longer than expected for Yellow-bellied. The head shape favors Acadian, with a long bill, a long and sloping forehead, and a slight crest.

2017-1193. This *Empidonax* was photographed on 9 October at Fort De Soto Park (Pinellas County). The wings lack separation between the pale secondary edges and the wingbar typical of Yellow-bellied. The primary tips are unevenly spaced,

unlike Yellow-bellied. In some images, on the color-corrected monitor (see 2017-1176 above) the underparts appear whitish, not yellow enough for Yellow-bellied.

This species was added to the Review List in 2016. Over the past 10 years, eBird lists many occurrences for Florida, but fewer than 20 were documented, and as these submissions attest, even documented records can be quite difficult to assess. Field identification of silent migrant birds is often impossible. Greenlaw et al. (2014) listed Yellow-bellied Flycatcher as a very rare to uncommon transient.

THICK-BILLED VIREO *Vireo crassirostris*

2016-1139. On 10 June 2016, a vireo was audio recorded 1 mile north of Everglade City (Collier County). The vocalization is the rambling long song, which is similar to that of White-eyed Vireo (*V. griseus*) and not well represented on Xeno-canto, a web-based bird vocalization database (<xeno-canto.com>). At the 2016 meeting, the Committee felt that that it would be best to get outside opinion from those who know Thick-billed Vireo vocalizations better. Larry Manfredi, who conducts birding tours to the Bahamas several times per year, agreed that identifying is tough, but concluded that the bird was likely not a Thick-billed Vireo.

CARIBBEAN/CUBAN MARTIN *Progne dominicensis/cryptoleucos*

2016-1147. Caribbean Martin has not been previously recorded in Florida or the ABA Area; Cuban Martin is known from three or four 1895 specimens from Key West (Greenlaw et al. 2014). This interesting martin was photographed in good detail on 29 April 2016 at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historical Park (Monroe County). This presumed female has a gray throat distinctly cut off from gleaming white underparts. The flanks are smudged pale gray. The undertail coverts are completely unmarked. The tail has a rather long, deep fork. The unmarked undertail and distinct cutoff between throat and breast may be outside the range exhibited by female Purple Martins (*P. subis*), although that species is highly variable. The plumage pattern is similar to most depictions of female Caribbean Martin, which breeds throughout the Greater and Lesser Antilles, aside from Cuba. Although female Cuban Martins are usually described as having blotchy white and dark underparts, letters provided by the submitter stated that they can be unmarked white below and very difficult to differentiate from Caribbean Martin. At the 2016 meeting, we voted to table the submission to get explore other museum specimens of these three species.

At the 2017 meeting, we voted not to consider Sinaloa Martin (*P. sinaloae*), an endemic breeder in northwest Mexico with unknown wintering quarters; this species is extremely poorly known. The male is very similar to Caribbean Martin, but the female plumage is almost unknown. Although it seems far less likely for a Sinaloa Martin to show up in Florida than Caribbean or Cuban Martin, a number of species found in that part of Mexico have been recorded in Florida (White-eared Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, etc.). Kratter took images of specimens of Cuban Martins at the United States National Museum. These females, like other depictions and online images, showed a much less contrasting cut off between the gray throat and white underparts. The dark smudges on the flanks are also more extensive in Cuban Martins than the bird in question. The Committee felt that this bird, though most similar to female Caribbean Martin, was possibly in the range of variation shown by Purple Martins, and a first State record requires a stronger sense of assurance.

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus gilvus*

2017-1249. The Tropical Mockingbird has not been previously recorded in Florida. In the ABA Area, a record from April-June 2013 in Sabine Woods (Jefferson County),

Texas, was determined to be of questionable provenance. The Florida bird was found on 1 June 2017 at the Lake Worth Municipal Beach (Palm Beach County). The bird, lacking the white patch on the inner primaries, and having reduced white in the rectrices, was considered to be correctly identified. It stayed until August and built a nest, pairing with a Northern Mockingbird (*M. polyglottos*). The bird showed some odd molt limits, indicating possible captivity in its past. Primaries 2-4 were heavily worn, whereas those farther out were less worn. Two secondaries on the left wing appeared to be new and of a different generation than the other remiges. Tropical Mockingbirds appear to be available on the pet market. At least three different online sources (The Finch Farm, Bird Express, Softbills) list Tropical Mockingbirds, but none had birds available in July 2017 when checked. The Committee felt that a captive origin was as least as likely as a vagrant from natural populations for this individual.

Tropical Mockingbirds are resident from southern Veracruz, Mexico, south into northern South America. They are also resident in the Lesser Antilles from Barbuda south to Trinidad and Tobago.

#### SUBMISSIONS TABLED/UNRESOLVED

##### BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica*

2017-1173. Barrow's Goldeneye has not been previously recorded in Florida. In late 2016, a Florida birder related the following to the FOSRC secretary. A local taxidermist in north-central Florida was asked to go through the whole frozen specimens that a recently deceased hunter had at home. Among the specimens was a male Barrow's Goldeneye with a tag attached that had the date 13 January 1998 and the location Crystal River (Citrus County). The specimen was prepared as a mount and is at the taxidermist's studio. The identity is not an issue, but the Committee felt it would be best to table the submission and try to talk directly with the taxidermist given the rather convoluted story and third-hand nature of the details.

Barrow's Goldeneye is a rare winter resident on the north Atlantic coast of North America, occurring south regularly to Long Island Sound, and rarely south to Virginia.

##### BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN *Progne chalybea*

2017-1251. On 8 June 2017, this hirundinid was observed and photographed on SR 50 where it crosses over the St. Johns River (Orange County). The one image available shows a brown-backed hirundinid with white underparts and a broad brown breast band. Both Brown-chested Martin and Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) show this plumage pattern. The bird was at quite a distance and the image is not detailed enough to make out some critical details such as bill size, tail fork and undertail covert pattern. The Committee decided to ask the observer whether any other images were available and if the one image available could be submitted in higher resolution.

Brown-chested Martin has occurred seven times in the ABA Area (eBird). Most or all birds are thought to be the nominate subspecies, which is an austral migrant that breeds in Argentina and migrates north into northern South America. A previous sight report in Florida (October 1991 in Palm Beach County) was initially accepted by the FOSRC, but later removed from the list because there was no verifiable evidence (Bowman 2000).

##### BAHAMA SWALLOW *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*

2016-1123. A kayaker spotted this bird flying above the Commodore Creek Kayak Trail in Lee County on 20 March 2016. Although the viewing was brief

(2-3 seconds), the observer studies and is very familiar with Tree Swallows (*T. bicolor*) and noted the long tail and white extending into the underwings. Some Committee members felt that Mangrove Swallow (*T. albilinea*) could not be ruled out. The vote at the 2016 meeting was unresolved. At the 2017 meeting the Committee was again deadlocked. The Committee does not have a limit on how often an unresolved result stays in the queue.

The FOSRC has accepted two previous records and four previous reports of Bahama Swallow. Two older specimens (7 April 1890 Monroe County, 30 April 1992 Miami-Dade County) and a photographed bird (27 July 1986 in Monroe County) have not been assessed by the FOSRC.

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