

Florida Field Naturalist

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 45, No. 4

NOVEMBER 2017

PAGES 103-125

Florida Field Naturalist 45(4):103-109, 2017.

ELEVEN RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE EXOTIC AVIFAUNA OF FLORIDA

BILL PRANTY¹ AND VALERI PONZO²

¹8515 Village Mill Row, Bayonet Point, Florida 34667

Email: billpranty@hotmail.com

²725 Center Road, Sarasota, Florida 34240

Email: anibirdbrain@gmail.com

Greenlaw et al. (2014) list 161 species of birds of exotic or unknown provenance that had been recorded in Florida via photographic and/or specimen evidence through June 2013. Between July 2013 and December 2016, 11 new exotic species have been documented in the state. Here, we provide details on these new species. BPA data refer to files in the Bill Pranty Archive, Pranty's collection of ornithologically significant photographs and video-recordings.

Common Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*): one found free-roaming near Fruitville Road and Interstate 75 in the Deer Hollow area of Sarasota, Sarasota County, 23 October 2013, was featured in an article in a local newspaper (Anonymous 2013; BPA 6110-d, photographer uncredited). The emu was captured and taken into captivity by Sarasota County Animal Services; we do not know its final disposition. There is one previous report of the species in Florida but no previous record (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Common Emu is endemic to Australia.

Magpie Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*): two unbanded adults in the Edgewater area, Volusia County, in July-August 2014 (BPA 8542a-c, M. Brothers, 15 July 2014; BPA 8543, B. Pranty, 19 July 2014, Fig. 1) were featured in an article in a local newspaper (Pulver 2014; BPA 8544a-c, photographs by J. Tiller). The geese frequented the Hacienda del Rio retirement community in Edgewater, where



Figure 1. Two Magpie Geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*) at the Hacienda del Rio retirement community, Edgewater, Volusia County, Florida, 19 July 2014. Photograph by Bill Pranty.

one of the geese, tamer than the other, often joined residents in the community swimming pool! On 19 July, BP transcribed the vocalization as a high-pitched, quiet *hoot*. Presumably it was these same two individuals who were photographed on the New Smyrna River off Edgewater, 22 July 2014 (BPA 8982, E. Atkins), where they landed on a boat and rode it to shore. The geese were so tame that they were picked up by hand and moved off the boat (E. Atkins in litt.). Due to fears from some Hacienda del Rio residents about catching a disease from the geese, the tame goose reportedly was captured by an employee of the retirement community and transported to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where it was then (illegally!) released. However, the goose had returned to Hacienda del Rio the following day, after presumably having flown from the refuge. The non-tame goose eventually disappeared (E. Gudalewicz in litt.) and the remaining, tame goose was captured and was placed in captivity at East Coast Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Port Orange; we do not know its final disposition. This was the first report and record of the species in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Magpie Goose is native to New Guinea and Australia.

Blue-winged Goose (*Cyanochen cyanoptera*): one tame, unbanded adult was discovered in early 2012 in a residential area at Stuart, Martin County (BPA 8959a–d, L. Wishney, 8 January 2015; BPA 8946a–d, B. Pranty, Fig. 2, 16 April 2015; P. Procko in litt.). The goose



Figure 2. Blue-winged Goose (*Cyanochen cyanoptera*) at Stuart, Martin County, Florida, 16 April 2015. Photograph by Bill Pranty.

was pinioned, with the distal end of its right wing missing (BP and VP pers. obs.). It survived at least through August 2016 (P. Procko in litt.). This is the first report and record of the species in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Blue-winged Goose is endemic to Ethiopia.

California Quail (*Callipepla californica*): one male photographed at Loxahatchee, Palm Beach County, 28 February 2015 (BPA 8751, L. Leon) was not seen again. This was the first report and record of the species in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). California Quail is native from southwestern British Columbia and Utah south to Baja California.

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*): one unbanded individual was photographed among a flock of American White Pelicans (*P. occidentalis*) along the wildlife drive at J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, Lee County, Florida, 28 February-1 March 2016 (BPA 8980a-i, T. McQuade, 28 February 2016; BPA 8981a-c, B. Hill, 1 March 2016); presumably this same individual reportedly was observed at the refuge on 1 February 2017 (eBird data). There is one previous report of the species in Florida but no previous record (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Great White Pelican breeds locally in southwestern Asia and much of Africa. Northern populations migrate to winter farther south.

Although the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee is reviewing this record (A. W. Kratter in litt.) as a potential natural vagrant based on vagrancy to Europe (Jigeut et al. 2008), we consider this individual to be an escapee from a private collection. The record of an unbanded Pink-backed Pelican (*P. rufescens*) photographed at Marco Island, Collier County, Florida, 29 December 2001—an individual presumed to have wandered from its private “owner” at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida (Bowman 2004, Greenlaw et al. 2014)—perhaps is instructive.

***Onychognathus* species:** one individual, either a **Red-winged Starling** (*O. morio*) or a **Tristram’s Starling** (*O. tristramii*), was photographed at Brickell Key, Miami, Miami-Dade County, 8 June 2014 (BPA 8801a–b, L. Siqueira). The images are of low resolution (taken with a cell phone camera) and the specific identification cannot be made with certainty. There is one previous report of Red-winged Starling in Florida but no previous report of Tristram’s Starling (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Red-winged Starling is resident in central and southern Africa, while Tristram’s Starling is endemic to the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas.

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*): one unbanded male at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County,



Figure 3. Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*) at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, 30 August 2015. Photograph by Valeri Ponzio.

29-30 August 2015, discovered by JoAnna Clayton, was seen by dozens of observers, including both of us (BPA 8976a–b, 30 August 2015, V. Ponzo, Fig. 3). The tanager was very vocal, uttering a single, sharp, metallic *whit!* call; several calls were captured in a video recording (BPA 8975, 30 August 2015, B. Pranty). Although it usually remained hidden in thick vegetation, the tanager flew toward us, perched conspicuously, and called repeatedly when we played back the recording of its own calls. The tanager fed on fruits of firebush (*Hamelia patens*) and beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*; BP and VP pers. obs.) and once captured and swallowed a dragonfly (E. Plage in litt.). This was the first report and record of the species in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Silver-beaked Tanager is resident over much of the northern half of South America.

Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*): one avicultural morph (having green upperparts, a white breast, and a yellow belly) was found ill or injured at Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, 14 May 2013. Taken to Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital, the bird succumbed and its carcass was donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF 50182, specimen; BPA 7932a–b, A. W. Kratter, are photographs of the specimen). There is one previous report of the species in Florida but no previous record (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Gouldian Finch is endemic to northern Australia.

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*): singles have been found at four locations recently, at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, 26 April 2015 (BPA 8905a–b, M. Burns) and 7 February 2016 (BPA 8977a–c, R. Smith); at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County, 20 April 2016 (BPA 8978a–b, J. Clayton); and at Kissimmee Lakefront Park, Osceola County, 6 August 2016 (BPA 8979a–c, B. Lupa). There are three previous reports of the species in Florida but no previous record (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Saffron Finch is native to the northern half of South America; an exotic population is found in Jamaica.

Black-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda troglodytes*): one was photographed at Leffis Key Preserve, Manatee County, 26–29 August 2013 (BPA 6147a–c, S. Wilson, 29 August 2013). This is the first report and record of the species in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Black-rumped Waxbill is native to sub-Saharan Africa; exotic populations are breeding in Puerto Rico and Guadeloupe.

Red-collared Widowbird (*Euplectes ardens*): one male in alternate plumage was found dead along SW 187th Street, Miami, Miami-Dade County, 2 December 2015 (BPA 8974, R. Goldenstar). The carcass was supposed to be donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History but it never arrived (A. W. Kratter in litt.). There is one previous report of the species in Florida but no previous record

Table 1. Continent(s) of origin of birds of exotic and unknown provenance that have been recorded in Florida ($n = 171$ species). Percentages exceed 100% because some species are native to more than one continent. Sources: Greenlaw et al. (2014) and this paper.

Continent	# of Species	% of Species
Eurasia	55	32
Africa	50	29
South America	46	26
North America	40	23
Australia	20	11
Antarctica	0	0

(Greenlaw et al. 2014). Red-collared Widowbird is resident in central and southern Africa.

Greenlaw et al. (2014) provide information on 161 species of exotic or unknown provenance recorded in Florida, as follows: 139 exotics (14 species in the Main List, 124 [not 125] species in Appendix B, Part I, and one species-pair in Appendix B, Part I); 18 species of unknown provenance (Appendix A, Part I); and four exotics from Crandon Park, Miami-Dade that were only briefly mentioned because they were considered “personal property” (Appendix B, 264-265). This paper describes documentation gathered for 11 additional exotic species between mid-2013 and 2016, for a total of 172 species of birds of exotic or unknown provenance that have been verifiably recorded outside of captivity in Florida. The trend of ca. four new exotic species being recorded in Florida each year (Pranty 2004) seems to continue. With literally hundreds of species found in captivity in the United States (e.g., Banks and Clapp 1972; Greenlaw et al. 2014, Appendix B, Part II; <softbillsforsale.com>), the pool of additional exotic birds available to escape or be released in Florida is quite large, extending well beyond the expected families such as waterfowl, gamebirds, parrots, and “finches.” Geographically, Florida’s verifiable exotic avifauna originates worldwide, with all continents except Antarctica being represented (Table 1).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Eric Atkins, Robin Diaz, Jon Greenlaw, Elsie Gudalewicz, Andrew Kratter, Larry Manfredi, Eric Plage, Paula Procko, Ron Smith, Roberto Torres, and Linda Wishney for providing photographs or other information. Ed and Elsie Gudalewicz graciously showed us and Brian Ahern the Magpie Geese and provided information on their history at Edgewater. Paula Procko graciously hosted us and provided the history of the Blue-winged Goose at Stuart. Ron Smith and Eric Plage assisted us in observing the Silver-beaked Tanager at St. Petersburg. Brian Ahern and Eva Dupuis kindly loaned their cameras to BP to help document some of these species. Bruce H. Anderson and Kevin Dailey improved drafts of this paper.

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