

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2014

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Abstract.—The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee held its annual meeting in Gainesville on 2 August 2014. As Old Business, the Committee revisited five (three unresolved and two tabled) old reports, and resolved four of them. The Tricolored Munia on the Dry Tortugas, a pair of White-cheeked Pintails in Miami, and a Black-faced Grassquit on Key Biscayne, were accepted. The identification of Bahama Warbler in Palm Beach County was not affirmed. The tabled report on a *Thalasseus* tern identified as an Elegant Tern remained tabled pending a broader review to include an earlier report. Related to the last, FOSRC 2012-912, “Cayenne” Tern, was re-opened and then tabled to include in the *Thalasseus* review. In addition, the report FOSRC 2013-975, previously not accepted on a group of Cackling Geese in Jackson County, was re-opened to consider additional information, and was accepted. A total of 52 new reports were evaluated by the Committee this year. Of these reports, 44 were accepted (42 [95%] of which were records verified by specimens, diagnostic photographs, or sound recordings), 5 not accepted, 2 unresolved, and 1 tabled. Four species (Egyptian Goose, Red-necked Stint, Violet-green Swallow, Tricolored Munia) were added to the Florida bird list, bringing the total species to 520.

The twenty-fourth report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by the Committee for the submission year ending in August 2014. Committee activity and operations are guided by our “Rules and Procedures,” which are found on the Florida Ornithological Society website under the Records tab at <http://www.fosbirds.org/>. The FOSRC routinely evaluates reports of review-listed rate species (15 or fewer previously accepted reports) 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.

At its annual meeting on 2 August 2014 in Gainesville, the FOSRC attended to three unresolved and one tabled old report. A second tabled report on an Elegant Tern (2013-979) was re-tabled together with a similar report (2012-912), which was re-opened and added to the first report, for joint reconsideration at our 2015 meeting. The other old business reports were resolved (2010-820, 2012-913, 2013-973, 2013-992), and are covered below in appropriate sections. A total of 51 new reports, and an old report (not accepted in 2013) on Cackling Geese in

Jackson County, were evaluated, or re-evaluated, by the Committee this year. Of the new reports, 43 (84%) were accepted, five (10%) were not accepted, two were unresolved, and one was tabled. The reopened report on the geese, which was previously not accepted based on inadequate information, was accepted because of new information. Acceptance rates have been high in recent meetings chiefly because of supporting, diagnostic digital photographs made available by observers. Four species were added to the official list of Florida's birds: Egyptian Goose (an exotic species deemed to be established), Red-necked Stint, Violet-green Swallow, and Tricolored Munia (believed to be an immigrant to the Dry Tortugas; see account below). These four species bring the Florida list to 520 species.

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC is archived in the Ornithology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Observers of review-listed species in Florida, and of birds that may be new to the State List, should submit reports to the FOSRC, either by using the online form or by requesting a form from the managing Secretary of the Committee directly (see <http://www.forbirds.org/>). A report to the managing Secretary that includes the basic information on field observations of a review listed or new species (who, where, when, and diagnostic description based on what the observer saw), together with any photographs provided as attachments, also is acceptable. We request that photographs not be sent without a detailed description of the bird, as photographs are not always diagnostic, or they may show only limited, non-diagnostic parts of the bird being reported.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during the 2013-14 reporting year. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure on the Committee were John Murphy (2014), Jon Greenlaw (2015), Ed Kwater (2016), Michael Brothers (2017), Rafael Galvez (2018), Dave Goodwin (2019), and Andy Kratter (2020). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members of the FOSRC and their addresses.

Submitters of reports (all submitters are acknowledge by mail, but only those reports that are accepted include initials of the submitter here): S. Agri (SA), Elsa Alvear (EA), Danny Bales (DB), Oron "Sonny" Bass (SB), Mark Berney (MBe), Kevin Brabble (KB), Michael Brothers (MBr), Brenda & Jerry Callaway (B&JC), Corey Callaghan (CC), Jerry Callaway (JC), Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Kevin E. Dailey (KED), Michelle Davis (MD), Gina DelPizzo (GD), Robin Diaz (RD), Michael Dryden (MD), Lucy and Bob Duncan (L&BD), Lucy Duncan (LD), Marcello Gomes (MG), Gary Ellis (GE), Samuel Ewing (SE), Reinhard Geisler (RGe), Elizabeth Golden (EG), Hans Gonsembach (HG), Pamela Graber (PG), Jon S. Greenlaw (JSG), Jack Hailman (JHa), Randy Harrod (RH), John Hintermister (JHi), Alice Horst (AH), Tom Johnson (TJ), John K. Killian (JKK), Andy Kratter (AK), Ed Kwater (EK), Mike Manetz (MM), Larry Manfredi (LM), Steve Mann (SM), Matthew O'Sullivan

(MO), Pam Overmyer (PO), Judd Patterson (JP), Roy E. Peterson (REP), Georgia and Eric Pourchot (G&EP), Bill Pranty (BP), Rex Rowan (RR), William E. Sexton (WES), Russell Titus (RT), Ann & Phil Weinrich (A&PW), James A. Wheat (JAW), Graham Williams (GW), Meret Wilson (MW), Stu Wilson (SW), Chris L. Wood (CLW), Andy Wraithmell (AW), Adam Zions (AZ).

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—During 2014, the FOSRC met once on 2 August at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. John Murphy reached the end of his term this year on the Committee and cycled off. He was replaced by Cameron Cox. Cameron brings an exceptional background in international birding and deep experience in identification fine-points honed during his tour leadership over a period of years.

No species were removed from the Review List this year, pending consideration of suitable guidelines to use in the future. The Committee's Rules provide no guidance on this matter, and we have used 10 and 15 accepted reports as thresholds for removal in our past practices.

Formats and terminology.—We followed the current nomenclature and sequence used in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (AOU 1998) and its supplements through July 2014 (<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 above). We employ the terminology for age of birds outlined by Kratter (2010). We normally do not review subspecies, but we have accepted submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be reevaluated by the AOU in the future. Our use of the words "report" and "record" to describe occurrences of species in Florida follow 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 FOS. 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, only a record has been accepted by the Committee 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 or through the end of 2014, as specified.

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

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED

CAKCLING GOOSE, *Branta hutchinsii*

FOSRC 2013-975 (JKK, PO, AW, CLW). This group of four small geese was initially reviewed in 2013 and was not accepted because of poor, low-resolution photographs and a concern about our inability to discount the small Canada Goose (*B. canadensis parvipes*) (Greenlaw 2015). The group had been found on 11 January 2013 near Sneads, Jackson County, and in the ensuing few days, it was observed by several people. After the decision, the Committee received new photographs, a video, and a descriptive report from CLW, who had gotten close to the geese on 15 February. The new information impelled the Committee to re-open the report to reconsider the new information. A reevaluation by S. G. Mlodinow, a white-cheeked geese specialist, now affirmed the identification as a group of Richardson's Cackling Geese (*B. h. hutchinsii*).

This occurrence represents the fifth acceptance (all records) of this species in Florida since 2005, a year after *B. canadensis* was split (Banks et al. 2004). The first was a specimen taken in 1956 in Wakulla County, which awaited reevaluation following a split of the white-cheeked geese.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE, *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

FOSRC 2014-1024 (BP). BP submitted a request to consider this goose as a recently established, exotic breeder in Florida. The submission was based on a review of the history, status, and distribution of the species in the state by Pranty and Ponzo (2014). This goose is native to sub-Saharan Africa and the Nile Valley of southern Egypt, and is popular in aviculture. It was first reported in Florida in the 1960s and breeding has occurred in the state outside captivity since the 1980s. Its Florida range is represented by coastal and subcoastal localities in a swath of settled landscape extending from Miami-Dade County north through Martin County. The acceptance of Egyptian Goose to the Florida list constitutes the state's 517th species. Subsequently, the American Birding Association followed the lead of the state committee and accepted the species on its ABA Checklist (Pranty et al. 2014), and the AOU acquiesced and added the species to the North American list (Chesser et al. 2015).

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL, *Anas bahamensis*

FOSRC 2012-913 (LM). An apparent pair was discovered on 3 October 2012 on a marshy lagoon in a landfill facility at 23707 SW 97th Avenue, near Cutler, Miami-Dade County. They remained in the area until 5 October, after which they were not seen again. The report remained unresolved until this year because of an issue over provenance. The birds in this case were associated with native ducks, and were wary and appeared to be in fresh plumage condition.

FOSRC 2014-1015 (RD). This pintail was observed on 8 and 16 October 2013 at the central District Wastewater Treatment Plant on Virginia Key, Key Biscayne,

Miami-Dade County. It was associating with teal and shovelers in sludge lagoons, where it fed and rested. It was unbanded and was described as “skittish” and “wary” during the entire observation period on 8 October. The location was in a large parcel of preserve land less than 200 m from the Atlantic shoreline at Bear Cut.

Anas bahamensis was known to Howell (1932) from a single specimen taken by a hunter on the Banana River, Brevard County, in March 1912 (corrected date in Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) listed the specimen, two other mounted specimens formerly displayed in the Foxbow Wildlife Museum and taken in Aripeka, Fillman Bayou, Pasco County, in January 1970 (Greenlaw et al. 2014), a bird that was shot and photographed, Hickory Mound Lake, Taylor County, in February 1970, and a photographed bird taken in Everglades NP, Monroe County, on April 1974, as acceptable records from Florida. Through 2014 (Greenlaw et al. 2014), about 30 reports of the species were known from the state, including a few that were known to have escaped from captivity. The records Committee has processed only six reports through 2014, one of which was an observation from Merritt Island NWR in March 1990 and treated as an acceptable sight report. From 1990 until 2012, most Committee members treated the few reports of this species with suspicion about the possible natural occurrence of the birds involved. This changed in 2013 when an unpublished assessment of this species in Florida documented a concentration of occurrences along the central and southeast Atlantic coast near potential sources of wild pintails in The Bahamas and Cuba, and a distinct seasonal pattern that chiefly extends from December into early spring.

COMMON MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser*

FOSRC 2014-1021 (KB). This merganser, an adult female, was observed and photographed on 3 January 2013 off Fort Island Gulf Beach, Crystal River, Citrus County.

FOSRC 2014-1022 (PG). Two female-plumaged individuals were found and photographed together on 11 November 2012 on a pond beside McKendree Road south of SR-52, San Antonio, Pasco County.

FOSRC 2014-1023 (JC). This adult female was observed and photographed on 8 December 2013 on Tiger Point Golf Course, Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County.

Documented occurrences of this species have become more regular in Florida in the last few years. Reports of three different individuals in three consecutive months are unusual. Since 2009, the species has been documented photographically at least once annually in the state (six records), while previously only two were known based on specimens (the first taken in December 1953, the other in 1968 now lost and only recently accepted by the Committee based on a photograph of the mounted specimen) (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Still, over 60 reports before 1992 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) suggest the species has been present in Florida more often than the few modern records imply, but until the advent of digital photography, much doubt surrounded early identifications. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) reviewed some of these early reports and discussed the issues surrounding them.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

FOSRC 2014-1004 (MBe, JSG). We believe, based on structure and plumage, that this female is the same individual that nested in a mixed pairing last year (2013-972) on the same *Annona* island in Wakodahatchee Wetland, Delray Beach, Palm Beach County. This past year, MBe recorded the bird from 1 February–1 June 2013. It formed a pair bond with a male Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*),

copulated with him, and successfully reared three hybrid nestlings to fledging. This represents the first known case of a successful nesting of a Neotropical Cormorant in Florida. See below for accounts of three other birds of this species in the wetland.

FOSRC 2014-1007 (LM). This cormorant was discovered on Jun 2014, and observed again on 5 June from Card Sound Road in Crocodile Lakes NWR, Monroe County. Relative small size was evident in direct comparison to a Double-crested Cormorant in one photograph.

FOSRC 2014-1008 (MG). This cormorant was found and photographed at Peaceful Waters Sanctuary, 11700 Pierson Road, Wellington, Palm Beach County.

FOSRC 2014-1036, 2014-1037, and 2014-1038 (MBe). Reports on these three individuals are presented together because they were in the same breeding colony of mixed species cormorants at the same time in Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach, Palm Beach County. I refer to these individuals in the respective reports here as “bird 2,” “bird 3,” and “bird 4” (see 2014-1004 above for “bird 1” in the wetlands). Bird 2 was an adult male (verified by wing-waving display and territorial behavior). It was recorded from 15 September 2013 through 1 February 2014. Based on a unique crescent-shaped, white mark on its foreneck, it also was present from December 2012–April 2013 the previous year. This year, it undertook two nesting attempts that failed. Bird 3, was an adult female (copulation received) recorded from 6 October 2013 through 3 January 2014. She paired with a Double-crested Cormorant they successfully fledged five hybrid young on the northwest *Annona* island in the wetlands. This represents the second known successful nesting by *P. brasiliensis* in Florida. Bird 4 was an adult of unknown sex. It was observed from 6 October 2013 through 3 January 2014. It paired with a Double-crested Cormorant and fledged four hybrid young on the northwest *Annona* island, for the third known successful nesting of the species in Florida.

FOSRC 2014-1040 (MBr). This adult cormorant was discovered and photographed on 16 July 2014 off the end of Boca Chica Road, Boca Chica Key, Monroe County. This is the seventh record of the species this year in Florida.

A total of 19 records have been verified in the state in just eight years since the first in April 2007. This represents a notable change in status of the species in such a short period of time.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica*

FOSRC 2014-996 (JSG). This godwit was found on 18 September (Ahern 2014) and remained through the winter, when it visited several sites, including Anclote Key, in the vicinity. It was most often observed by birders on the bayside beach in the island section of Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs. The bird belonged to the nominate subspecies *L. l. lapponica*.

FOSRC 2014-1009 (LD). This godwit was observed on 18 March 2014 by three people in Mounds Pool, St. Marks NWR, Wakulla County. The description of barred tail and other details of morphology and plumage supported the identification. One observer reported seeing white underwings when the bird briefly stretched its wings, suggesting an individual of the nominate subspecies.

The FOSRC has accepted six reports (three accompanied by photographs) of this species in Florida, with the first found in 1983. Two other records (photographs) from 1970 and 1985 were not examined by the Committee, but were accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) in their critical review of the state's avifauna.

RED-NECKED STINT, *Calidris ruficollis*

FOSRC 2014-1039 (MBr). This stint, still in partial breeding plumage, was discovered on 16 July 2014 by V. Nilsson, and observed by MBr and others on

17 July, when it was photographed. It was found feeding with other sandpipers a couple hundred meters beyond the end of Boca Chica Road, on Boca Chica Key, Monroe County. It remained in the area through at least 25 July, but it was not always reliably seen on any particular day. This record is the first of the species for Florida, and constitutes the 518th species on the state's bird list.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Stercorarius maccormicki*

FOSRC 2014-1026 (HG, AK). This skua was found beached on 21 May 2014 on Deerfield Beach, Broward County. It was taken to a rehabilitation center where it was kept until it died. AK saw the bird alive on 3 June and later received the specimen (UF 50489) for the FLMNH.

Five records (photographs) of this species have been reviewed and accepted by FOSRC. Two additional sight reports also have been accepted, but the earliest (observed in September 1982 off Brevard County) was not accepted as a first state occurrence by Robertson and Woolfenden (1994), who regarded the identification as uncertain in the absence of verifiable material.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*

FOSRC 2014-1041 (AK). This bird was found dead on 13 December 2013 on Flagler Beach near the beach pier, town of Flagler Beach, Flagler County. The bird was preserved as a specimen (UF 50442) at FLMNH, where the Committee examined it.

Thirty occurrences (28 records) have been affirmed by FOSRC since the first in 1985. This specimen was the only individual known to occur in Florida during the winter of 2013–14 following the major incursion of the previous winter, when most of Florida's records were documented. Thus, Florida did not experience an "echo" effect of the historic winter influx.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET, *Brachyramphus perdix*

FOSRC 2014-1044 (AK). This Murrelet was found dead on the beach on 27 February 2013 in Gulf Stream, Palm Beach County. It is deposited as a specimen (UF 50267) at FLMNH, where the Committee examined it.

Six records were accepted by FOSRC through 2014 since the first found in December 1986 (Hoffman and Woolfenden 1988). These are the only known occurrences of the species in Florida.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

FOSRC 2014-1016 (AZ). This gull was observed and photographed on 13 February 2014 at the Welaka National Fish Hatchery (southern unit) on the St. Johns River, Welaka, Putnam County. It was in non-breeding plumage, and associated with Bonaparte's Gulls (*C. philadelphia*).

Eleven reports (nine of which are photographic records) of this species have been accepted by the FOSRC since 1982. The earliest record, not included in the FOSRC tally, was of a bird photographed in the winter of 1971-72 in Brevard County.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*

FOSRC 2014-1018 (MBr). An adult gull in non-breeding plumage discovered and photographed on 6 January 2014 represents another of several recent occurrences of this species to come from the evening gull aggregations at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County.

FOSRC 2014-1019 (L&BD). An adult in breeding plumage, this bird was found and photographed on 16 March 2014 at the entrance to Fort Pickens on Pensacola Beach, Escambia County.

FOSRC 2014-1034 (MBr). This adult gull was discovered on 24 February 2014 on the open Atlantic beach at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County. It also

was present on 6 and 18 March, when it was differentiated from an earlier adult present on 6-15 January on the same beach by distal beak-color pattern. FOSRC 2014-1043 (MBr). This first-cycle gull was discovered on 26 February 2014 at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County. It also was seen on three ensuing dates, 27 February, and 5 and 18 March. The bird was observed and photographed standing on the beach with other gulls and in flight, and identification was verified by individual plumage pattern.

There are now 11 photographic records of this species for Florida through the end of 2014, all examined by FOSRC. The Committee also accepted a report of a bird seen at the Toytown landfill, Pinellas County, in March–April 1979, but Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) relegated that report, and one other also from Pinellas County in 1978, both based on photographs, to their “unverified stragglers” appendix because of doubts about the original identifications. Greenlaw et al. (2014) characterized the current status in Florida as rare and of irregular occurrence, but these four records in one year stand out as unusual in that context. The statement in Greenlaw et al. (2014) that Robertson and Woolfenden (2014) had accepted the Pinellas County reports is in error.

VEGA HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus vegae*

FOSRC 2014-1035 (MBr). This adult gull in the Herring Gull complex was found on 10 March 2014 in Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County. The taxon, while still ranked as a subspecies by the AOU (1957, 1998), is recognized as a species by others (e.g., Olsen and Larsson 2004). It breeds in northeast Russia and winters farther south in east Asia, including Japan. Photographs of the Florida gull were sent to gull specialists in the United States and Japan. They concurred on its identification. The late primary molt in this gull was unusual, but was within the range of variation known in Japanese gulls of this species (O. and M. Ujihara, in litt. to MBr). This is the first documented occurrence of this taxon in Florida.

This is the second verifiable report of this taxon in Florida. The first (FOSRC 2009-761) occurred in January 2009 at the same location as that of the current bird (Kratler 2010).

RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon montana*

FOSRC 2014-1030 (MD, RD, EG). This dove was captured in a mist net on 3 October 2013 at the Cape Florida Banding Station, Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County. The bird was captured again on 8 October and seen on several other days until the last encounter on 22 October.

Two specimens (first, May 1923), one archived photograph at TTRS, and a single accepted sight report constitute the previous occurrences in Florida (Greenlaw et al. 2014). All three were from Key West or Dry Tortugas, Monroe County, so the current record departs from this geographic pattern. The nearest population is on Cuba, where it is regarded as “common” and is widespread (Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000).

SNOWY OWL, *Bubo scandiacus*

FOSRC 2014-1001 (G&EP, KED, JAW). This owl was observed initially on 27 December 2013 on the south end of Little Talbot Island, Little Talbot Island SP, Duval County. It remained in the area until at least 19 January 2014 (eBird.org).

Only two records precede this bird. One occurred in Franklin County in 1999, and the second was in St. Johns County in 2013 (Greenlaw et al. 2014).

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax alnorum*

FOSRC 2014-995 (MM, AZ). This flycatcher was discovered on 27 August 2013 at the La Chua Trail entrance to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Gainesville, Alachua County, when it was videotaped (with sound) and photographed. The bird mostly uttered its typical ‘pip’ call and a few other notes, and occasionally also its song. The bird evidently continued at its discovery site until 21 September (R. Rowan, in litt.).

This species and *E. traillii* are both poorly known in Florida. Because the two species sometimes call or sing during migration stopover, they were placed on the review list to obtain more information on seasonal occurrence in the state based on recorded or well-described typical call or song. *E. alnorum* has been documented on seven occasions in Florida, including this case, since it was placed on the state review list. Even more reports have been mentioned informally in other media without involving the Records Committee. For example, 2014-995 apparently was one of seven *E. alnorum* found by birders in Alachua County between 24 August and 26 September 2013 (R. Rowan, in litt.). These dates conform well with seasonal occurrences of verifiably documented birds (five records, audio-recordings), extending in fall from 27 August to 26 September. One spring migrant was heard and photographed on 4 April in the Gainesville area.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii*

FOSRC 2014-994 (LM, GW). This *Empidonax* flycatcher was found by LM on 21 August 2013 beside Aerojet Road in the “Annex” section of Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental area, Miami-Dade County, when it was photographed and sound recorded. Later in the fall on 20 October, GW encountered it again (assumed, see below) at the same location and recorded its vocalizations for Xenocanto (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/>). A Willow Flycatcher has been present on other occasions at this site between mid-August and mid-October (LM in litt.); because vocal Willow Flycatchers are seldom reported in Florida, we presume that one individual remained temporarily localized at the Annex in late summer-fall 2013. This site more often attracts fall stop-over Alder Flycatchers.

FOSRC 2014-1025 (MBr). This individual was discovered and sound recorded on 20 October 2013 in a wooded swamp in Lake Woodruff NWR, Volusia County. Two other observers re-encountered the bird and also heard its distinctive call.

Apart from this bird and the previous one, only one other record of the species is known from Florida since it was placed on the review list. That involved an individual present in Alachua County from 18-24 September 2011 at a single site where it was encountered almost daily by different observers.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

FOSRC 2014-1005 (GE, RT). This flycatcher was discovered on 3 October 2013 in Richardson Park and Nature Preserve, Wilton Manors, Broward County. The bird was not seen again at this location.

FOSRC 2014-1006 (SA). Dates and location on this bird were obtained from Tropical Audubon’s listserv website (tropicalaudubon.org/tasboard/), while photographs were supplied by SA. The bird was observed from 28-30 October 2013 at Evergreen Cemetery, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County.

FOSRC 2014-1014 (no observer support). This bird was discovered on 1 November 2013 in Sugden Park, Naples, Collier County. A brief report and photographs were posted to the “BrdBrain” website (listserv.admin.usf.edu/scripts/wa.exe?A0=BRDBRAIN). Critical identification was verified by the photographs.

Ten reports (nine photographic records) have been accepted by FOSRC since 1995. Seven of these have been in the last ten years from the end of November

2013. Only two have been from the Panhandle (Escambia, Franklin counties), while the most northerly peninsular occurrence was in Pinellas County.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*

FOSRC 2014-998 (BP). This female was observed on 17 May 2014 near St. Armands Square on St. Armands Key, Sarasota County. She was localized and nest-building in the same oak tree where a female, presumptively the same, successfully fledged young alone last year for Florida's first breeding record involving an inferred Tropical Kingbird x Gray Kingbird (*T. dominicensis*) mating (Wilson et al. 2015).

Eighteen reports have been accepted by FOSRC since 2000. A specimen and a published photograph extend the early records back to 1996 (Greenlaw et al. 2014). Fourteen records (photographic, audio, or video, all involving at least diagnostic descriptions of the typical call) have occurred in the last 10 years since the end of 2014.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*

FOSRC 2014-999 (AZ). This flycatcher was observed on 27 November 2013 about seven miles (11 km) west of Bunnell on CR-305 near the intersection with SR-100. It was reported as early as 21 November and again on 23 November (BrdBrain listserv archives, above), and probably is the same bird that was present at that location last winter (FOSRC 2013-954).

FOSRC 2014-1000 (LM). This individual appeared on 15 March 2014 in a residential neighborhood on SW 322nd Street, Homestead, Monroe County, and remained in the area at least to 6 April. It roosted about 0.4 mi (0.6 km) away from the residence in a grove of bamboo with Western Kingbirds (*T. verticalis*).

FOSRC has accepted seventeen reports (12 based on photographs and one on an audio-file) since 1985. In the last ten years ending in December 2014, the Committee has verified 10 reports. A few others have been reported to birding listservs during the latter period that have not been evaluated by the Committee.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, *Tachycineta thalassina*

FOSRC 2014-1032 (TJ). A single swallow of this western species was discovered on 10 January 2013 about 200 m north of the Coastal Prairie Trails near Flamingo campground, Everglades NP, Monroe County. It was observed as close as five meters for a period of about 45 minutes as it foraged and vocalized in a mixed swallow flock dominated by Tree Swallows (*T. bicolor*). This well-photographed individual represented the first example of the species in Florida, making it the 519th species on the Official State List.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, *Myadestes townsendi*

FOSRC 2014-1002 (DB, EK, RH, SM). The solitaire was discovered on 3 November 2013 beside the Osprey Trail parking lot in Honeymoon Island SP, Pinellas County. It occurred in scrub thicket habitat with an open canopy of dispersed taller trees, where it fed on the pale seed cones of *Chamaecyparis thyooides* (JSG). It was last seen on 6 November (BrdBrain archives above).

The only previous record in Florida was one documented in March 2008 in Orange County (Bankert et al. 2009).

VARIED THRUSH, *Ixoreus naevius*

FOSRC 2014-1003 (BP). This thrush was observed and photographed by BP on 6 November 2013 in a residential yard along 141st Street North in Seminole, Pinellas County. The individual quickly disappeared and was not seen by other birders.

Including the present record, FOSRC has accepted seven reports (five records) of the species in Florida since 1984. The earliest record, which was not assessed

by the records Committee, was a bird photographed in Palm Beach County in October 1977 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Greenlaw et al. 2014).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis tolmiei*

FOSRC 2014-1029 (A&PW, CC). This wood-warbler was observed on 6 March 2014 in Riverbend County Park, Indiantown Road, Jupiter, Palm Beach County. It was present from 2 March through 13 April.

Including this record, FOSRC has accepted eight reports (five records) since 1998 on this species. The first encounter in Florida was a single bird in Lee County in April 1998 that was videotaped during an eight day stopover. Greenlaw et al. (2014) mentioned five accepted occurrences through 2012, but the actual count was seven (five in the spring, not “three”).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga kirtlandii*

FOSRC 2014-1013 (no observer support). This adult female Kirtland's Warbler was discovered on 19 April 2014 along Haulover Canal, Merritt Island NWR, Brevard County. Photographs, and an account of the discovery, were posted to a listserv (BrdBrain archives, above) website and on the Florida Rare Bird Alert, respectively.

Nine reports (seven records), including this one, have been accepted by FOSRC. Seven occurrences have occurred in the last ten years since August 2014. Most of the birds were encountered along the Atlantic coast (Volusia south to Broward counties) opposite their wintering grounds in the Bahamas. A spring individual was found during a spring stopover in Alachua County seemingly on course northwestward across the Florida peninsula to breeding sites in the northern Midwest. Another spring individual in Pinellas County apparently took a longer route to get back north. It seems clear that some individuals of *S. kirtlandii* use the Florida peninsula as portions of their routes to and from their breeding and wintering locations. An advantage of the trans-Florida routes is a relatively short water crossing between the mainland and the Bahamas.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*

FOSRC 2014-997 (GD, SE, MM, MO, RR, WES, AZ). This adult male was observed from 5–11 January 2014 in a residential yard on NW 37th Drive, Gainesville, Alachua County.

FOSRC 2014-1012 (JCa). This female-plumaged oriole was observed on 16 January 2014 at feeders in a residential yard on Shantilly Court, Tallahassee, Leon County.

Pranty et al. (2005) reviewed the identification status of early reports of this species in Florida after *I. bullockii* and *I. galbula* were each reinstated by the AOU (1995) to species rank from a more inclusive lumped taxon. The review was stimulated by issues of misidentification of female-plumaged birds (females and immatures of both sexes) after the status of the two species was resurrected. Overall, FOSRC has accepted 20 reports since 1988. Pranty et al. (2005) covered early occurrences through 2004 (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007). From 2004 through 2014, 14 reports (11 records) of *I. bullockii* were accepted by FOSRC.

BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris bicolor*

FOSRC 2013-973 (AH, LM, RGe). An immature male of this species was discovered on 30 April 2013 and later photographed on 5 May in Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP along No Name Road, Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County. The identification was not an issue, but unsupported information on the presence of this species in the captive bird trade previously raised an issue (2013) about its provenance. Recent evidence (e.g., Restall 2007; L. Manfredi in litt.) indicated that our earlier understanding was unfounded, and that the species' presence in the cagebird

industry is unlikely. Manfredi pointed out that this grassquit is sometimes mistakenly listed in trade sources for Yellow-faced Grassquit (*T. olivacea*). The individual in this case was not found in urban or suburban residential neighborhoods where an escapee might be expected, but was at a well-known migrant and vagrant hot-spot in a park on the outer coast. Including this bird, five reports have been accepted by FOSRC between 1987 and 2013.

TRICOLORED MUNIA, *Lonchura malacca*

FOSRC 2010-820 (LM). This was an unresolved report from last year's meeting of a single bird initially found alive on an unspecified date in April 2003 (and later discovered dead, when it was photographed) at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas NP, Monroe County. This report has been unresolved since the FOSRC meeting in 2011 after submission in October 2010.

FOSRC 2014-1017 (JP, SB, EA, RD). This munia was discovered on 17 December 2013 and was observed again on 18 December, inside Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas NP, Monroe County. It represented the fourth record of the species from Garden Key, where the fort is located, since 1999.

The issue concerning the first of the munias listed here, and two others reported earlier from the Dry Tortugas, was the likely provenance of the birds. Because munias of this species have not been found in the avicultural center of Greater Miami, the provenance question depended on speculative assertions about releases or escapes of birds carried in boats by immigrant Cubans fleeing their homeland. The gridlock on this matter was finally broken by two factors: first we received still another report of *L. malacca* on the Dry Tortugas (2014-1017 above) and, second, specific information, coupled with photographs of and testimony on the circumstances of the Cuban traffic coming to Florida by boats. Three people with direct experience concerning Cubans traveling across the Straits of Florida reported to us in emails that the immigrants were crowded in small, open boats and carried little else in personal belongings other than the clothes they wore, some food, and identification papers – certainly not pets of any kind on such a dangerous crossing. The most likely alternative hypothesis is natural vagrancy from established populations on western Cuba, where they are regarded as “widespread” (but local) on the island and “abundant” on the Zapata Peninsula in ricefields southeast of Havana (Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000). Another item came to our attention in relation to the two reports listed here, which provided additional support to the natural-vagrancy hypothesis. T. White (in litt. to A. Kratter, 16 October 2012) provided information on a record of an apparent vagrant to Great Inagua in southeastern Bahamas on 5 October 2011. The occurrence at this remote location was regarded as a likely part of the “pattern of wandering from Cuba or Hispaniola” (T. White). One member of the Committee disagreed with the majority view, but was not able to offer another reasonable explanation for the munia dispersal pattern. This is a case in which a small but growing number of observations point to an apparent pattern of dispersal from a source population and help to resolve an initial suspicion of human-related transport. The decision to accept natural vagrancy of *L. malacca* on the Dry Tortugas added the 520th species to the Florida birdlist.

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

INCA DOVE, *Columbina inca*

FOSRC 2014-1027. This dove was observed at a residential backyard feeding station from 29 December 2013 to 1 January 2014 in Jupiter Inlet Colony, Palm

Beach County. It lacked the scalloping evident on both adult and immature birds. It was about the size of the Common Ground-Dove (*C. passerina*), but with a longer tail. The bird may have been a juvenile as the observer surmised, but iris color (tan in juveniles, red in adults) was not noted and potential look-alike, small, long-tailed exotic doves (e.g., Scaled Dove [*Columbina squammata*], Diamond Dove [*Geopelia cuneata*]) that may be held in captivity were not discounted.

VAUX'S SWIFT, *Chaetura vauxi*

FOSRC 2014-1031. This swift was seen on 2 February 2014 at Dewey Boster County Park, Volusia County. Although not photographed, it was observed for 45 sec at distances as close as 30 m, but it remained silent. The bird was later than any documented record of Chimney Swift (*C. pelagica*) in Florida, and the observer had field experience with both species. The flight behavior suggested *C. vauxi* (Johnson 2013), but the description of plumage pattern and body structure was insufficient to support the identification of this difficult-to-identify and rare species in the state.

CASSIN'S VIREO, *Vireo cassinii*

FOSRC 2014-1020. This vireo was captured, measured, banded, and photographed on 29 September 2013 at the banding station on Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP, Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County. The bird remained in the vicinity and was seen again on 1 October. The in-hand photographs were useful in assessments made by two outside authorities that the Committee contacted, who had experience with identification of the western vireos in the "Solitary Vireo" complex. Also, several other people commented on the photographs on "ID Frontiers," an online bird identification website. Bill size, a relatively strong throat-cheek contrast, and a very white abdomen raised the likely possibility that the Key Biscayne bird was a variant, rather early Blue-headed Vireo (*V. solitarius*) passing through Florida.

BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE, *Baeolophus atricristatus*

FOSRC 2014-1011. This complex and improbable case involved two sightings of this Mexican and Texas species in one Florida county just a few kilometers apart, but separated by seven months. Each was assigned its own catalog number to avoid making assumptions about what otherwise could be reasonably viewed as a single individual. The two observers involved were unable to supply any photographs. This report is the second observation, which was made on 6 October 2013 on St. Armand's Key, Sarasota County (the first was in March; see below). Based on descriptions, no issues arose concerning identifications, but the matter of provenance was raised. The species is resident in a limited range from northeastern Mexico north across the Lower Rio Grande Valley to Corpus Christi (Rappole and Blacklock 1985) then through central Texas to the Oklahoma border and west to some mountain ranges in the Trans-Pecos region (Tweit 2009). It has not been recorded in Louisiana (losbird.org/lbrc/checklist.pdf), and it does not occur on the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico (Howell and Webb 1995), where it would be relatively close to Florida. We find no record of vagrancy in the species. The absence of extralimital occurrences raised the question of status and provenance of the birds involved in the reports covered here, specifically whether they represented one or two individuals and whether a human agency explained the presence of one or two birds in Sarasota County. The occurrence of even one individual in Florida seems remote given the non-migratory status of the species, distance, and geography. The dissenting vote on this report simply accepted the identification with few other remarks.

BAHAMA WARBLER, *Setophaga flavescens*

FOSRC 2013-992. This report had been tabled in 2014 pending further review of plumage and external morphological variation in Yellow-throated Warblers (*S. dominica*). This warbler was discovered and photographed (single image) on 12 July 2012 at Green Cay Wetlands on Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County. Several experienced people thought the bird could be a Bahama Warbler, but the species is resident on two northern islands in the Bahamas and is not known to be a vagrant, even in the Bahamas (White 2001, Hallett 2006). The Committee's evaluation of bill length variation in mainland Yellow-throated Warblers (Ficken et al. 1968, McKay 2008, McKay et al. 2010), coupled with an analysis of plumage variation by M. Berney in relation to what we could see on the single photograph, supported the parsimonious view that the warbler in question was a probable variant Yellow-throated Warbler.

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*

FOSRC 2014-1028. This bird was discovered on 20 April 2014 in Tomoka SP, Ormond Beach, Volusia County. The description was too vague and inadequate to support identification of this western species.

SUBMISSIONS REOPENED, TABLED, OR NOT RESOLVED

ELEGANT TERN, *Thalasseus elegans*

FOSRC 2013-979. This report was tabled pending a more thorough review of plumage variation and bill morphology in this group as they concern the orange-billed and yellow-billed *Thalasseus* terns found in Sarasota County since August 2012. Related to this report, we reopened and then tabled 2013-979, "Cayenne" Tern, for review at the same time (2015).

BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE, *Baeolophus atricristatus*

FOSRC 2014-1010. See 2014-1011 above for a related report that was not accepted. This report was unresolved. The titmouse was first seen on 5 March 2013 in a residential yard on Poplar Street, Sarasota, Sarasota County. The description of the bird was diagnostic. The observer said she had accidentally discarded a photograph of the bird she had taken. Others who visited the yard failed to find it. Two members felt that the report warranted recognition as a natural vagrant even though our past practice has been not to accept a new species on the Florida birdlist without verifiable evidence. The majority felt that a natural vagrancy was so unlikely that the bird's provenance was suspect. We found no record of vagrancy in the species, not even on the upper coast of Texas.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella neglecta*

FOSRC 2014-1033. This report was unresolved. An individual meadowlark thought to be *S. neglecta*, based on songs that were of the type sung by that species. It was observed at a distance on 9 December 2013 in a grazed pasture on Van Pelt Dairy farmland, near the intersection of Pelt Road and SR-97, Escambia County. Some members of the Committee were wary of the possibility of misidentification by voice, because rarely some individuals of both meadowlark species do mimic the other's song (e.g., Lanyon 1957). Two members argued the likelihood that this bird was a returning individual from the previous year.

LESSER GOLDFINCH, *Carduelis psaltria*

FOSRC 2014-1042. This adult male, green-backed goldfinch appeared at a residential feeder on 15 July 2014 on Crescent Drive, Melbourne, Brevard County.

It re-appeared on 18 July. The bird was photographed and correctly identified. The report was tabled pending resolution of questions on unseasonal date, status of species in captivity, and apparently odd molt pattern of the bird.

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