FLORIDA FIELD NATURALIST 48(4):147-166, 2020.

MORTALITY IN BIRDS FROM FLORIDA WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CLINICS

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Abstract.— We summarize what we could learn about the cause of death in preparing 1,928 scientific specimens of birds salvaged from wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida from 2015 to 2020. Most specimens came from 14 different clinics in one inland and 11 coastal counties, from Pensacola (Escambia County) to Key West (Monroe County). These specimens represent 285 species in 56 avian families. Although our sample is not an unbiased look at avian mortality in Florida, we note these trends: overall trauma was involved in 81.1% of the cases, malnourishment accounted or 12.75% of cases, and illnesses accounted for 6.2%; the last two categories were not mutually exclusive. Trauma was particularly lethal for species found in terrestrial ecosystems, accounting for >93% of the cases. For offshore species, malnourishment accounted for most (78%) of the cases. Sicknesses were most prevalent in near-shore species. When the cause of trauma was known, most injuries were the result of collisions with buildings or windows (29.7%), collisions with moving vehicles (26.1%), or attacks by cats (25.4%).

Key words: birds, collisions, Florida, malnourishment, mortality, trauma, wildlife rehabilitation.

Bird populations the world over are facing increasing threats as the landscapes they inhabit become more hazardous to their well-being, particularly in cities and suburbs with dense populations of people, feral animals, and associated infrastructure (Erickson et al. 2005; Loss et al. 2013, 2014ab; Rosenberg et al. 2019). One way that people try to mitigate these effects is through wildlife rehabilitation clinics (WRCs), where citizens bring in injured or sick birds they have found to receive care and rehabilitation, with the goal of healing the bird and releasing it back into the wild. Most of these WRCs are in heavily populated areas with abundant hazards such as windows, vehicles, power lines, and pet or feral cats.

Despite their best efforts, the staff at WRCs report that 40–70% of the birds they receive eventually succumb to their injuries or illnesses (Schenk and Souza 2014, Molina-López et al. 2017). For decades, the usual terminus for avian carcasses at WRCs was incineration, as required by law. In the late 1990s, the Ornithology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) began to network with WRCs in Florida to tap into this rich source of information on the state's birds. Substantial data accompany each WRC specimen that FLMNH has retrieved and prepared, thereby supplementing the ever-growing body of observational data on Florida birdlife. By preparing data-rich museum specimens from the birds that die at WRCs, the FLMNH has generated scientific information on the state's birds and added value to the services already provided by the WRCs. Subsequent to reporting data on >550 WRC specimens (Kratter et al. 2002), we summarize what we have learned about avian mortality in Florida by preparing nearly 2,000 specimens salvaged from WRCs from 2015–2020.

Methods

Staff at FLMNH makes several trips per year to pick up specimens that have accumulated in the WCR freezers. Usually within a year, we prepare the specimens as round skins, skeletons, spread wings, or combinations thereof. We also save two tissue samples for cryo-storage, each sample typically consisting of breast muscle, heart, and liver, to be used in molecular research. We retain one tissue sample at FLMNH and deposit the other at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science.

We provide the WRCs with FLMNH data slips that are to accompany each specimen when it is placed in a freezer after death. The data slips have fields for recording the date, locality, collector, and observations by the collector or WRC staff on the cause of injury or illness. The FLMNH data slips often are not filled out completely, and many do not include information about the cause of injury.

We derived data about the cause of mortality from some combination of three sources. First, as already mentioned, the original finder (collector) of the injured or sick bird may note information such as "struck by car," or "flew into window," or "caught by cat," or "could not stand up." Second, while examining the bird, the WRC staff evaluates the presence and extent of injuries or illness, noting more specific conditions such as "fractured left wing" or "fractured right leg." These data are kept in the patient's charts and entered into the WRC's computer database or a ledger. If the bird survives, the charts become increasingly filled with data on weight, health conditions, and prognoses. If the bird dies, WRC staff place the carcass in a plastic bag for freezer storage, and usually place a filled out FLMNH data slip in the bag with the bird.

The third source of mortality information is from FLMNH preparators during their dissections, which includes internal and external examinations that evaluate molt, feather wear, reproductive organs, fat levels, age, skull ossification, and any injuries or macroscopic signs of disease. We realize that it is difficult to assess disease in specimens that have been frozen for months or years, so our detection of disease likely underestimates the true extent of avian diseases in Florida's wild birds. Preparators write these data in specimen catalogs and later transcribe data into the curatorial software Specify (Specify Collections Consortium, Lawrence, KS, USA), the software used at FLMNH for its specimen database. Often, the preparators note internal injuries or pathologies that were not detectable in the whole specimen, especially evidence of head trauma, additional broken bones, emaciation, or infection.

Because threats vary widely depending on habitat characteristics (e.g., windows are not a threat for marine taxa), we classified the species by general ecosystem preference as follows: offshore marine (Procellariiformes, Alcidae, Fregata, Phaethon, Stercorarius, Sula, Rissa, Phalaropus, Anous, Onychoprion, Sterna paradisaea); nearshore marine (Aythya, Bucephala, Somateria, Melanitta, Mergus, Gavia, Podiceps, Phalacrocorax, Morus, Thalasseus, Leucophaeus, Sternula, Rhynchops, Sterna dougallii, S. hirundo, Larus marinus, L. fuscus), other waterbirds (other Anatidae, Podilymbus, Anhinga, Ardeidae, other Charadriiformes, Gruiformes), and terrestrial (all other species).

The specimen-based data in this paper do not represent all of the birds that died at the WRCs during the study period. A number of very common species are underrepresented simply because we do not have the staff time, freezer space, or volume of specimen cabinets to prepare and store them. Our necessary system of triage eliminated many if not most individuals of some species (Appendix 1). For the Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis), Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auratus), Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis), Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus), Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura), and Barred Owl (Strix varia), all of which do succumb with some regularity at WRCs, we prepared no specimens at all during the study period. Certain other common species, which tend to be on the small side of medium-sized birds, are relatively easy for beginners to prepare. Because training students in avian anatomy is a major part of our mission at FLMNH, these species may be overrepresented in the sample relative to other common species (Appendix 1). In other words, a larger percentage of individuals of these species were prepared as specimens than of other common species. Two other species were overrepresented by specimens because of research interests, namely Cory's Shearwater (Calonectris diomedea; project on wing molt underway by AWK) and Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis; Steadman and Franklin 2017). Also overrepresented were species that are rare in Florida or in our collections, and thus represent higher-priority specimens.

Results

Geographic and taxonomic coverage.—From January 2015 through March 2020, the Ornithology Division of the FLMNH catalogued and prepared 1,928 specimens from WRCs in Florida. We received five or more birds from 14 different clinics (Table 1), which spanned the geographical extent of Florida, from Pensacola to Key West. We received 928 specimens from South Florida (Lee, Collier, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties), whereas 481 specimens were from Central Florida (Volusia, Brevard, and Pinellas counties), and 519 specimens were from North Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Alachua counties).

The WRC specimens represent 284 species of 56 avian families (Appendix 1). Within this highly diverse sample, 15 species had 20 or more specimens, and 63 others had from 10 to 19 specimens. Because of our triage system (see Methods), these numbers do not reflect the actual numbers of deceased birds that we receive, which in themselves also do not represent the full range of avian mortality at the WRCs.

Of the 284 species and 1,928 total specimens, 165 were terrestrial species (1,269 total specimens), 22 were nearshore species (129 total specimens), 28 were offshore species (173 total specimens), and 69 were other waterbird species (357 total specimens; Fig. 1).

Reason for admittance.—For 1,923 of the specimens, reasons for admittance to WRCs were categorized as injuries (e.g., entrapment in human dwellings, swimming pools, fishing gear), presumed illness or pathologies, or malnourishment; for the other five specimens, one was confiscated from illegal captivity, and four were chicks out of the nest. Injured specimens made up the majority

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Clinic	Location	Number of specimens
North Florida Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida Florida Wildlife Care University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine	Pensacola (Escambia, Santa Rosa counties) Gainesville (Alachua County) Gainesville (Alachua County)	484 18 17
Central Florida Marine Science Center Florida Wildlife Hospital Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary Others	Ponce Inlet (Volusia County) Melbourne (Brevard County) Indian Shores (Pinellas County)	146 258 76
South Florida Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife Conservancy of Southwest Florida Cynthia Rohkamm South Florida Wildlife Center Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Florida Keys Wild Bird Center Marathon Wild Bird Center Key West Wild Bird Center Others	Sanibel, Ft. Myers (Lee County) Naples (Collier County) Lighthouse Point (Palm Beach, Broward counties) Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County) North Miami Beach (Miami-Dade County) Tavernier (Monroe County) Marathon (Monroe County) Key West (Monroe County)	116 219 286 94 48 81 20 6
Total		1,928

Table 1. Sources of bird specimens salvaged at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015-2020.

FLORIDA FIELD NATURALIST

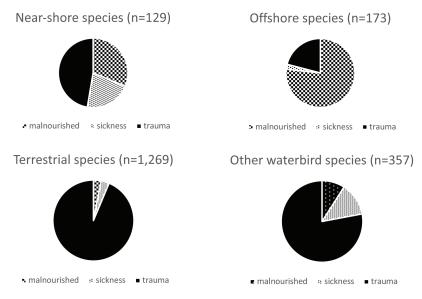


Figure 1. Reason for admittance of birds salvaged at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015–2020, based on guild.

(1,560 or 81.1%), malnourished specimens accounted for 244 cases (12.7%), and illness accounted for only 119 cases (6.2%). Evidence of trauma was much higher for terrestrial species (93%) than for bird species associated with water (offshore marine 21%, nearshore marine 47.4%, other waterbirds 78.1%; Fig. 1). Illness was most pronounced in near-shore species (21.4%). Malnourishment was much higher in offshore species (76.7%) and especially rare in terrestrial species (3.1%)

Agent of injury or illness.—The agent of injury was reported by the original finders for some of the birds and written on the FLMNH data slips by WRC staff, who sometimes added their own observations. Illnesses were reported by veterinarians or veterinary technicians at WRCs. Of the 1,928 specimens, the agent of injury or sickness was determined in 621 (36.0%; Table 2). Four agents each made up >15% of the cases (Table 2): beached seabirds (21.7%), collisions with buildings or windows (20.0%), collisions with moving vehicles (17.6%), and attacks by cats (17.1%). No other agent accounted for more than 5%. Of the 621 mortalities with assigned causes, 67.5% resulted from injuries due to interactions with the human landscape (e.g., windows, buildings, vehicles, pets). For the 418 cases restricted to injuries resulting from interactions with the human landscape, three agents were the cause of most injuries: collisions with buildings or windows (29.7%), collisions with moving vehicles (26.1%), and attacks by cats (25.4%).

Agent of injury or sickness	n	%
Beached	135	21.7
Hit window or building	124	20.0
Car or other vehicle	109	17.6
Cat	106	17.1
Flew into something	27	4.3
Shot	19	3.1
Fungal or tumor	18	2.9
Red tide	16	2.6
Botulsim	15	2.4
Fishing gear	13	2.1
Dog	11	1.8
Other predator	9	1.4
Hurricane or tropical storm	9	1.4
Electrocuted	5	0.8
Bubblegum	1	0.2
Golf ball	1	0.2
Glue trap	1	0.2
Funnel trap	1	0.2
Motor oil	1	0.2
Total	621	

Table 2. Agents of injury or illness for bird specimens salvaged at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015–2020.

Types of injuries.—For the 1,536 cases with injury, 863 (56.2%) did not specify the injury. For the 673 cases where the type of injury was specified (Table 3), 767 specific injuries were recorded (some individuals had multiple injuries). Of these, 304 (40.0%) were wing injuries (dislocations or fractures of the shoulder, humerus, ulna, radius, carpometacarpus), 197 (25.7%) were head injuries (head trauma, injuries or fractures of skulls, eyes, or bills), 126 (16.4%) were leg or feet injuries (dislocations or fractures femur, tibiotarsus, tarsometatarsus, toes), and 140 (18.3%) were injuries to the torso (dislocations or fractures of coracoid, furcula, neck, trauma to internal organs, and various paralyses).

Types of illness.—Florida birds regularly undergo mortality events associated with algal blooms (red tides), and other diseases occur with frequency. For 69 cases, the illness was not specified. Of those specified (Table 4), aspergillosis fungal infections (18 cases), botulism (15 cases), and illness resulting from red tide events (16 cases) were listed.

DISCUSSION

For Florida birds, co-occurring with humans is dangerous and often lethal. Wildlife rehabilitation clinics offer some hope for birds

152

Type of injury	n	%
Not diagnosed	485	48.7
Head trauma	156	15.7
Wing	108	10.8
Ulna	25	2.5
Humerus	67	6.7
Carpal	15	1.5
Leg	47	4.7
Tibiotarsus	45	4.5
Tarsometatarsus	7	0.7
Spinal, paralysis, neck	45	4.5
Total	1,000	

Table 3. Types of injuries recorded for bird specimens salvaged at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015–2020.

that have become injured or sick. Among the birds that are admitted to WRCs, injuries from perils placed by humans in their environment (e.g., windows, vehicles, feral cats) are responsible for a majority of the cases, especially for non-marine species. Our results especially illustrate the grave effects for non-marine bird populations that result from collisions with windows and vehicles, and predation from freeranging cats. These three phenomena have drastic effects on many bird populations in the United States, where mortality is estimated at 80–340 million birds/year from collisions with vehicles (Loss et al. 2014b), between 100 million and 1 billion birds/year from collisions with windows and buildings (Loss et al. 2014a), and 1.3–5 billion birds/ year from predation by cats (Loss et al. 2013).

Rates of mortality for marine bird species are more difficult to determine. In our sample, marine species almost always were found alive on the beach but too weak to fly. These birds were emaciated, with

Illness	n	%
Red tide	16	6.0
Botulism	15	5.6
Fungal or tumor	18	6.8
Not given	24	9.0
Sick or injured	35	13.2
Beached	135	50.8
Beached and injured	14	5.3
Hurricane or tropical storm	9	3.4
Total	266	

Table 4. Types of illnesses and other non-trauma related causes recorded for bird specimens salvaged at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015–2020.

reduced flight muscles and organ distress. About 9% of these also had traumatic injuries, though some of these injuries may have occurred subsequent to becoming weak. Major factors affecting marine bird populations off Florida are sea surface temperature anomalies and tropical weather. When sea surface temperatures spike, fish populations often plummet, and the bird populations dependent on this resource become malnourished (e.g., Piatt et al. 2020). If they cannot find better conditions, these birds become too weak to fly and many wash up on beaches and are taken to WRCs. Tropical storms and hurricanes have great potential to harm bird populations (e.g., Huang et al. 2017). Winds may blow seabirds landward, and some species may travel hundreds of kilometers inland (e.g., Marantz and Kratter 1998). Severe storms may also disrupt ecosystem functioning and have lasting effects on fish prey bases of marine birds. In October 2013, Hurricane Sandy was thought to have severely disrupted fish populations in the northeastern United States. In the subsequent winter of 2013-2014, thousands of Razorbills (Alca torda) flew hundreds to thousands of kilometers south of their usual wintering areas and underwent incredible mortality (Diamond et al. 2020).

At a WRC in eastern Tennessee (Schenk and Souza 2014), a higher percentage of fatal injuries to birds was sustained from cats (48.3% vs. 25.4% in our study) and dogs (14.3% vs. 2.6% in our study) than we found in Florida. They found a nearly equal percentage of injuries took place from collisions with motor vehicles (26.7% vs. 26.1% in our study). Schenk and Souza (2014) did not assess collisions with buildings and windows, which suggests that they may not be a major contributor to bird injuries in that area. The clinic in their study is in a mid-sized town surrounded by rural areas, and injuries from collisions with buildings and windows may be minimal compared to the much more urban clinics from which we received a majority of Florida specimens. A rural setting may also increase the likelihood of lethal encounters with cats and dogs.

Molina-López et al. (2017) reported a different situation with WRCs in Spain, where most (41%) of the birds brought to WRCs were found in illegal captivity and confiscated by wildlife authorities. Although this is an issue with a few species in the United States, particularly Painted Buntings (*Passerina ciris*) in south Florida (Sykes et al. 2006), this problem is much more extensive in Spain, where finches in particular are trapped for singing competitions. In Spain, another large percentage of cases (33%) was orphaned young birds. In the sample of specimens for this study, we had only four cases of orphaned young birds. Because, they often make poor skin or skeletal specimens, we typically do not accept non-volant young of common species at the FLMNH, although these cases are common at the WRCs from which we received specimens. Of the remaining cases in Spain, trauma accounted for 70% of cases, illness accounted for 15%, and misplaced birds found in human living spaces accounted for 15%. The percentage of cases involving illness was similar to ours, but they had somewhat fewer cases involving trauma.

As mentioned in the methods, the sample of specimens used in this study has some strong biases. First, the injuries or illnesses had to be lethal. It is the mission of the WRCs to rehabilitate and release the birds that arrive at their facilities. We do not know whether released birds have an elevated mortality rate compared to others of their species. Another bias is that many common species are underrepresented simply because we do not have the staff time to prepare them. Our necessary system of triage eliminated most individuals of common large species such as the Common Gallinule (Gallinula galeata), American Coot (Fulica americana), Common Loon (Gavia immer), American Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga), Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias), Great Egret (Arda alba), Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Nyctanassa violacea), Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus), Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), Barred Owl (Strix varia), and Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus). Even for some smaller species that are retrieved abundantly at WRCs (e.g., Red-bellied Woodpecker [Melanerpes carolinus], Blue Jay [Cyanocitta cristata], Grav Catbird [Dumetella carolinensis], Ovenbird [Seiurus aurocapilla], Common Yellowthroat [Geothlypis trichas], and American Redstart [Setophaga ruticilla]), we are unable to process all incoming specimens. Our study could be improved with substantial additional staffing to pick up birds more regularly and to dissect and analyze a larger proportion of them. Often particular species may be dedicated to other institutions or organizations. For instance, during the red tide outbreak of 2018-2019, biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission collected dead birds from WRCs to screen for red tide poisoning. We are unaware of their findings.

Species probably vary considerably in their susceptibility to illness or injury that lands them in WRCs. Among passerines, some long-distance migrating species appear be particularly susceptible to injuries (e.g., the Neotropical migrants Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Blackthroated Blue Warbler [*Setophaga caerulescens*], and Black-and-white Warbler [*Mniotilta varia*]) compared to species that seem to be just as common (e.g., the winter resident Yellow-rumped Warbler [*Setophaga coronata*], or the resident Tufted Titmouse [*Baeolophus bicolor*] or Carolina Chickadee [*Poecile carolinensis*]). Migrant species may be at greater risk of mortality because twice a year (during migrations) they are in completely unfamiliar environments and have not learned the local landscape of predators and other dangers. Many residents and winter resident species, on the other hand, remain in the same area for months, which allows them time to learn the dangers in the landscape. Among waterbirds, shorebirds (Scolopacidae, Charadriidae), nearly all of which we prepare as specimens, appear less susceptible to injury than other taxa. These species live in environments with fewer hazards than terrestrial ecosystems (buildings, vehicles, free ranging cats). In addition, they are primarily found on beaches, marshes, and mudflats in Florida, which are mostly inaccessible for people, and mortality may be under-recorded simply because the injured or sick birds are not found and brought to WRCs. We hope that our research will provide a springboard for future studies of avian mortality that are more comprehensive in geographic coverage and more detailed in their necropsies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the staffs of every WRC for their cooperation, and for the considerable effort they extend, day in and day out, to save wildlife of all sorts, not just birds. We thank the many volunteers that us have helped us prepare specimens at the FLMNH over the course of this study. The Batchelor Foundation provided generous support to expand our work with WRCs in 2018. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission providing funding in 2002 that helped to establish our initial network with WRCs in Florida.

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		Number of
English name	Scientific name	specimens
Anseriformes		
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis	3
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	1
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	3
Blue-winged Teal	Spatula discors	6
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	1
American Wigeon	Mareca americana	1
Mottled Duck	Anas fulvigula	1
Mottled Duck x Mallard	Anas fulvigula x platyrhyn- chos	4
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	2
Redhead	Aythya americana	4
Ring-necked Duck	Aythya collaris	1
Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	1
Lesser Scaup	Aythya affinis	3
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima	1
Surf Scoter	Melanitta perspicillata	2
White-winged Scoter	Melanitta deglandi	1
Black Scoter	Melanitta americana	3
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	4
Hooded Merganser	Lophodytes cucullatus	1
Masked Duck	Nomonyx dominicus	1
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis	3
Galliformes		
Northern Bobwhite	Colinus virginianus	1
Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	1
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	1
Grebes		
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	4
Horned Grebe	Podiceps auritus	6
Pigeons, doves	-	
White-crowned Pigeon	Patagioenas leucocephala	7
Common Ground Dove	Columbina passerina	7
White-winged Dove	Zenaida asiatica	2
Mourning Dove*	Zenaida macroura	3
Cuckoos		
Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Crotophaga ant Coccyzus americanus	24
Mangrove Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus Coccyzus minor	24 1
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus minor Coccyzus erythropthalmus	1
	Coccyzus eryinropinaimus	Ð
Nightjars		
Common Nighthawk**	Chordeiles minor	18

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
An	tillean Nighthawk	Chordeiles gundlachii	1
	uck-wills-widow**	Antrostomus carolinensis	16
	stern Whip-poor-will	Antrostomus vociferus	7
Swifts			
Ch	imney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	15
Hummingbi			
Ru	by-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	13
Rails			
Kir	ng Rail	Rallus elegans	4
Cla	pper Rail**	Rallus crepitans	21
Vir	ginia Rail**	Rallus limicola	18
So	a**	Porzana carolina	16
Cor	nmon Gallinule	Gallinula chloropus	2
Am	erican Coot*	Fulica americana	3
Pu	rple Gallinule**	Porphyrio martinicus	14
Pu	rple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	2
Yel	low Rail	$Coturnicops\ noveboracens is$	1
impkins			
-	npkin	Aramus guarauna	8
Avocets, stil	ts		
Bla	ck-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	3
Am	erican Avocet	Recurvirostra americana	2
Dystercatch	ers		
•	erican Oystercatcher	Haematopus palliatus	3
Plovers			
Bla	ck-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	5
Kil	ldeer	Charadrius vociferus	7
Sei	nipalmated Plover	$Charadrius\ semipalmatus$	3
Pip	ing Plover	Charadrius melodus	4
Wil	son's Plover	Charadrius wilsonia	1
Sne	owy Plover	Charadrius nivosus	1
Sandpipers			
	ddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	16
	l Knot	Calidris canutus	6
	nderling	Calidris alba	16
Du	nlin	Calidris alpina	5
	ast Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla	4
Sei	nipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla	1
She	ort-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus griseus	5

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
	American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	3
	Wilson's Snipe**	Gallinago delicata	11
	Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	2
	Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	2
	Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	1
	Willet	Tringa semipalmata	5
	Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus	10
	Red Phalarope	Phalaropus fulicarius	10
Jaegers			
0	Pomarine Jaeger	Stercorarius pomarinus	4
	Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus	4
	Long-tailed Jaeger	Stercorarius longicaudus	3
Alcids			
	Thick-billed Murre	Uria lomvia	1
	Razorbill	Alca torda	4
Gulls ar	nd terns		
	Black-legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	2
	Bonaparte's Gull	Chroicocephalus philadelphia	10
	Laughing Gull**	Leucophaeus atricilla	20
	Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis	1
	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	11
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	7
	Great Black-backed Gull	, Larus marinus	6
	Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus	10
	Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus	23
	Bridled Tern	Onychoprion anaethetus	17
	Least Tern	Sternula antillarum	15
	Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	1
	Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	1
	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	2
	Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii	3
	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	19
	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	1
	Royal Tern	Thalasseus maximus	3
	Sandwich Tern**	Thalasseus sandvicensis	15
	Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger	7
Fropicbi	rds		
0 P1001	White-tailed Tropicbird	Phaethon lepturus	7
	Red-billed Tropicbird	Phaethon aethereus	1
Loons	·····		-
200118	Red-throated Loon	Gavia stellata	3

English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
Common Loon*	Gavia immer	2
Storm petrels		
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Hydrobates leucorhous	4
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Hydrobates castro	2
Shearwaters		
Northern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	2
Black-capped Petrel	Pterodroma hasitata	1
Cory's Shearwater**	Calonectris diomedea	18
Sooty Shearwater	Ardenna grisea	3
Great Shearwater	Ardenna gravis	9
Manx Shearwater	Puffinus puffinus	3
Audubon's Shearwater	Puffinus lherminieri	13
Frigatebirds		
Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens	4
Boobies and gannets		
Masked Booby	Sula dactylatra	4
Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster	9
Red-footed Booby	Sula sula	2
Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus	1
Anhingas		
Anhinga*	Anhinga anhinga	4
Cormorants		
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1
Pelicans		
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	3
Herons and egrets		
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	4
Least Bittern**	Ixobrychus exilis	19
Great Blue Heron*	Ardea herodias	8
Great Egret*	Ardea alba	2
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	5
Little Blue Heron*	Egretta caerulea	3
Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor	7
Reddish Egret	Egretta rufescens	2
Cattle Egret*	Bubulcus ibis	3
Green Heron**	Butorides virescens	13
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	4

Nyctanassa violacea

6

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
This and	spoonbills		
1015 4110	White Ibis*	Eudocimus albus	3
	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	5
	Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja	7
Hawks,	eagles, kites		
	Osprey*	Pandion haliaetus	4
	Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus	10
	Northern Harrier	Circus hudsonius	3
	Sharp-shinned Hawk**	Accipiter striatus	12
	Cooper's Hawk*	Accipiter cooperii	15
	Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	2
	Mississippi Kite	Ictinia mississippiensis	16
	Snail Kite	Rostrhamus sociabilis	7
	Red-shouldered Hawk*	Buteo lineatus	12
	Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	14
	Short-tailed Hawk	Buteo brachyurus	2
	Red-tailed Hawk*	Buteo jamaicensis	7
Barn ow	vls		
	Barn Owl	Tyto furcata	4
Owls			
	Flammulated Owl	Psiloscops flammeolus	1
	Eastern Screech-Owl**	Megascops asio	26
	Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	7
	Burrowing Owl**	Athene cunicularia	14
	Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	1
Kingfisł			
	Belted Kingfisher**	Megaceryle alcyon	26
Woodpe	ckers		
	Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	6
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes carolinus	15
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**	Sphyrapicus varius	28
	Downy Woodpecker	Dryobates pubescens	13
	Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	5
	Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	11
Falcons			
	Crested Caracara	Caracara cheriway	4
	American Kestrel**	Falco sparverius	28
	Merlin	Falco columbarius	20
	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	17

Appendix 1. (Continued) Species and sample sizes of birds salvaged at wildlife
rehabilitation clinics in Florida, USA, 2015–2020, used in this study. An asterisk
(*) indicates common species undersampled in this study; two asterisks (**)
indicate a common species oversampled in this study.

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
Parrots			
	onk Parakeet	Myiopsitta monachus	2
	anday Parakeet	Aratinga nenday	1
	ue-crowned Parakeet	Thectocercus acuticaudatus	1
	itred Parakeet	Psittacara mitratus	1
Re	ed-masked Parakeet	Psittacara erythrogenys	1
Flycatchers	3		
	reat Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	7
	lfur-bellied Flycatcher	Myiodynastes luteiventris	1
Ea	astern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	4
Gi	ray Kingbird	Tyrannus dominicensis	6
	astern Wood-Pewee	Čontopus virens	3
Ye	llow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	1
Ac	adian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens	1
	illow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	1
	astern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	11
Shrikes			
Lo	ggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	13
Vireos			
W	hite-eyed Vireo	Vireo griseus	9
Ye	llow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	5
Bl	ue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius	6
Pł	niladelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	1
Re	ed-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	11
Bl	ack-whiskered Vireo	Vireo altiloquus	2
Jays, crows			
	ue Jay**	Cyanocitta cristata	27
	orida Scrub-Jay	Aphelocoma coerulescens	1
	nerican Crow*	Corvus brachyrhynchos	3
Fi	sh Crow	Corvus ossifragus	6
Swallows, r			
	ank Swallow	Riparia riparia	2
	ee Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	4
	orthern Rough-winged Swallow		3
Pu	urple Martin	Progne subis	11
	arn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	12
	iff Swallow	Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	1
Ca	ave Swallow	Petrochelidon fulva	1

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
Titmico	chickadees		
ritilice,	Carolina Chickadee	Poecile carolinensis	4
	Tufted Titmouse	Baeolophus bicolor	3
	Turbed Humbuse	Bacolophus oleoloi	5
Wrens	II	The states we does	1
	House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	1 6
	Sedge Wren Marsh Wren	Cistothorus platensis	
	Carolina Wren	Cistothorus palustris	5 10
	Carolina wren	Thryothorus ludovicianus	10
Gnatcac	thers		
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	10
Kinglets			
8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	5
Thrushe		C	
1 III usiic	Eastern Bluebird**	Sialia sialis	26
	Veery	Catharus fuscescens	5
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Catharus minimus	6
	Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	11
	Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	7
	Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	14
	American Robin	Turdus migratorius	6
T II 1		-	
Thrashe	rs Grav Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	17
	Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	17
	Bahama Mockingbird	Mimus gundlachii	1
	Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	20
a. 1.	0	intinus polygiotios	20
Starling	s, mynas	Contraction	1
	Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa	1 8
	European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	0
Waxwin	gs		
	Cedar Waxwing**	Bombycilla cedrorum	19
Wydahs			
	Pin-tailed Wydah	Vidua macroura	1
Finches,	munias	T 1 (1 (0
	Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	9
	White-rumped Munia	Lonchura striata	1
Old Wor	ld sparrows		
	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	7

	English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens
Finches	5		
	House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	13
	Purple Finch	Haemorhous purpureus	1
	American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	12
Emberi	zid sparrows		
	Bachman's Sparrow	Peucaea aestivalis	1
	Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	1
	Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	2
	White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	3
	Nelson's Sparrow	Ammospiza nelsoni	1
	Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	1
	Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	4
	Eastern Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	1
Chats			
Cildub	Yellow-breasted Chat	Icteria virens	4
Dlashh			-
Blackbi	Bobolink	Delichenam emiginemus	2
	Eastern Meadowlark	Dolichonyx oryzivorus Sturnella magna	4
	Orchard Oriole	e	4 2
	Spot-breasted Oriole	Icterus spurius Icterus pectoralis	9
	Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	2
	Red-winged Blackbird**	Agelaius phoeniceus	14
	Brown-headed Cowbird**	Molothrus ater	14
	Common Grackle**	Quiscalus quiscula	10
	Boat-tailed Grackle**	Quiscalus major	10
*** 1		Quisculus major	11
Wood w	varblers	a :	15
	Ovenbird Warmanating Warhlan	Seiurus aurocapilla	15
	Worm-eating Warbler Louisiana Waterthrush	Helmitheros vermivorum Parkesia motacilla	8 2
	Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia motaciila Parkesia noveboracensis	2 7
	Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	17
		Protonotaria citrea	
	Prothonotary Warbler Swainson's Warbler		18 3
	Tennessee Warbler	Limnothlypis swainsonii	3
	Orange-crowned Warbler	Leiothlypis peregrina Leiothlypis colata	5 1
	0	Leiothlypis celata	2
	Connecticut Warbler	Oporornis agilis Caathlunia philadalphia	2
	Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis philadelphia	1
	Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis formosa Coothlypia trichaa	3 8
	Hooded Warbler	Geothlypis trichas Setenhaga eitring	8 9
	noued warpler	Setophaga citrina	9

English name	Scientific name	Number of specimens		
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	25		
Cape May Warbler	Setophaga tigrina	14		
Northern Parula	Setophaga americana	12		
Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga magnolia	3		
Bay-breasted Warbler	Setophaga castanea	3		
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca	1		
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	3		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica	3		
Blackpoll Warbler	Setophaga striata	7		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga caerulescens	23		
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum	21		
Pine Warbler	Setophaga pinus	12		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata	13		
Yellow-throated Warbler	Setophaga dominica	8		
Prairie Warbler	Setophaga discolor	10		
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga virens	1		
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	1		
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla	1		
Cardinals, buntings, grosbeaks				
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	7		
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	7		
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	15		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	7		
Blue Grosbeak	Passerina caerulea	3		
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	13		
Painted Bunting	Passerina ciris	13		
Dickcissel	Spiza americana	2		