

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2011

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This 21st report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) summarizes decisions made by members of the Committee in 2011. The FOSRC critically reviews submitted reports of rare birds in Florida, including potential new records for the state, and whether exotic species meet criteria to be considered established. Submissions are requested for species or distinctive subspecies that are believed to be first-time vagrants in Florida or that are listed as review species or subspecies on the Official State List, published on-line in the Florida Ornithological Society's (FOS) website (<http://www.fosbirds.org/official-florida-state-bird-list>). FOSRC review species or subspecies (= Review List) are mostly those taxa on the Official State List for which the FOSRC has previously reviewed and accepted 10 or fewer reports (but see below). In a few cases, species or distinctive subspecies are included in the Review List when Committee members seek further information on their status in the state. The FOSRC web pages on the FOS website also include the Rules and Procedures that govern the activities of the committee, a reporting form for the direct on-line submission of reports to the FOSRC, the names and addresses of current committee members, reports to the FOS Board on the proceedings of all recent FOSRC meeting, and a growing gallery of photographs of rare birds in Florida evaluated by the FOSRC.

This report describes the evaluations of 53 submissions, involving 39 species, one species pair, and one subspecies. Of the 47 new submissions, received from August 2010 through June 2011, four were not voted on by the Committee: one, from the Gulf of Mexico, was found to have occurred outside of Florida waters, and three, all proposals to remove exotic species from the official list, were placed into a one-year period of review mandated by our rules and procedures. Of the remaining 43 new submissions, 28 were reviewed and accepted, 11 were not accepted, and four were tabled pending further consideration of available evidence and specimen examination. Of the eleven submissions not accepted, all were not accepted because the identification had not been firmly established. In addition, the committee resolved five of the six submissions that had been tabled pending further information or were otherwise previously unresolved (Kratter 2012): the Razorbill (FOSRC #09-713) and Yellow-faced Grassquit (FOSRC #09-735) were accepted; and the Broad-billed Hummingbird (FOSRC #04-536), South Polar Skua (FOSRC #09-775), and Long-eared Owl (FOSRC #09-778) were not accepted. The sixth unresolved submission from 2010 (Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, FOSRC #09-774) remained unresolved.

Thus, overall, the committee voted on a total of 49 submissions at its 2011 meeting, accepting 30 of them (61%), not accepting 14 of them (29%), and the rest were tabled. The acceptance rate in the period from 2001-2009 was fairly stable around at 72 percent (267 of 372 submissions accepted), but decreased to 67% in 2010 and 61% this year. Much of this decrease may result from two factors: first, a decrease in submissions that have accompanying "hard" documentation (specimen or still photo/video/audio evidence); and second, many of the submissions lacking 'hard' documentation have not provided full descriptions or critical assessment of similar species. The percentage of new submissions that included a specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence (71%) was a bit lower

than the rates of the past few years (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007, Kratter 2008, Kratter 2010a,b, 78% in Kratter 2012). For the 28 new submissions that were accepted, all but three (89%) were accompanied by specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence. Of the 14 submissions not accepted, only one (7%) was accompanied by specimen or photographic/video/audio evidence. The Committee feels that more sight reports would be accepted if the descriptions were more complete, and if the submitters presented more thorough analyses of how the species was separated from similar species. The Committee firmly believes that detailed, accurate reports are necessary to document rare birds in Florida. In the past few years, we have received an increasing number of sight reports with little or poor documentation; most of these appear to have been submitted by inexperienced birders who may not be familiar with current publications on identification.

Bowman and Greenlaw (2006) reviewed the history of the Official State List of the Birds of Florida and provided an updated list for the period ending 31 December 2005. This list comprised a total of 495 species, all of which were based on independently verifiable evidence (specimens, photographs or videotapes, and audio-recordings). Two species were added to this list in the 16th Report (Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), four species were added in the 17th report (Kratter 2008), two species were added in the 18th report (Kratter 2010a), a genus and four species were added in the 19th report (Kratter 2010b), and two species were added in the 20th report (Kratter 2012) to bring the State total to 510 species. For 2011, we added two species: Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*, FOSRC #2011-838), and Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*, FOSRC #2011-846). These additions bring the total number of species on the State List to 512.

All documentation reviewed by the FOSRC, including descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and committee comments, is archived in the Ornithology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and is available for public access. Observers are encouraged to submit reports on Review listed species, and on species potentially new to the State List. Ideally, observers should record details of plumage, shape, size, behavior, and other pertinent information, in a timely fashion in the field. Reports to the Committee should provide all pertinent forms of documentation, including a written description of observations, in the original submission. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form available from the Secretary or on-line in the FOSRC web-pages (see link above). The report form provides the Committee and the observer with uniform guidelines to those criteria used by the FOSRC for its evaluations. Completed forms should be submitted to the Secretary of the FOSRC, Jon Greenlaw (10503 Mistflower Lane, Tampa, FL 33647-3544), email at <jgreenlaw@earthlink.com>.

This report was prepared on behalf of all members of the FOSRC serving during 2011 when the reports discussed here were evaluated. The members serving during these reviews and their last year of tenure were: Andrew W. Kratter (2011), Bruce Anderson (2012), Mark Berney (2013), John Murphy (2014), Jon Greenlaw (2015), Ed Kwarter (2016), and Michael Brothers (2017). See the FOS website (above) for a list of the current members on the FOSRC and their addresses.

Submitters (all submitters are acknowledged below, but only those reports that are accepted include initials of the submitter): Fred Bassett (FB), Mark Berney (MBe), Michael Brothers (MBr), Brenda & Jerry Calloway (BJC), Chip Clouse (CCl), Brian Cole (BC), Cameron Cox (CCo), Robert Crawford (RC), Jason Daly (JDa), Robin Diaz (RD), Joe Donahue, David Dortch (DD), Lucy Duncan (LD), Elizabeth Golden (EG), Nate Goodard, Carl Goodrich (CGh), Caleb Gordon, Doris Greene (DG), Jon Greenlaw (JG), Vi Greenlaw (VG), Mitchell Harris, Linda Hensley, John Hintermister, Hop Hopkins (HH), Dan Irizarry (DI), Patrick James (PJ),

Sally Jue (SJ), Mike Kilgallon, Andy Kratter (AK), Ed Kwater (EW), Zeldá Ladan (ZL), Cheryl Lechance, Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LM), Trey Mitchell, Paul Miller, John Murphy (JM), James Pfeiffer (JP), Bill Pranty (BPr), Gallus Quigley (GQ), Max Ralph, Maria Rodríguez, Roberto Torres (RT), Tim Towles (TT), Ken Tracey, Bart Whelton, Bob Wallace (BWA), Alex Wang, and Doug Wassmer.

COMMITTEE NEWS, FORMATS, AND TERMINOLOGY

Committee news.—During 2011, the FOSRC met once, on 30 June 2011 at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. At this meeting, FOSRC member Andrew Kratter reached the end of his term on the committee. Andrew's vacancy was filled by Rafael Galvez, who is new to the FOSRC. The Secretary position will be filled by Jon Greenlaw.

Formats and terminology.—The following accounts report on all actions undertaken by the committee during 2011, and provide information on the history of the rare species in Florida covered in the accepted reports.

We follow current nomenclature and sequence in the species accounts that follow (AOU 1998 and subsequent supplements). Within accounts, reports on more than one submission on a species are introduced sequentially by the date of receipt. Before 2010, the code (in parentheses) associated with each submitted report to the committee (e.g., 06-601) is the catalog number for the sighting or specimen report that is logged into an electronic catalog as it is received, and refers to year (06-) followed by sequential number (-601), beginning with the first entry in the catalog. Starting in 2010, FOSRC numbers associated with each submission will use a four digit prefix (e.g., 2010) instead of a two digit prefix. The initials following the catalog number refer to one or more contributors who supplied information to the committee (see list above). Our terminology for age largely follows the calendar-based system outlined in Pyle (1997, 2008); however we use "cycles" for gulls, as found in Olsen and Larsson (2004). We may use terms such as "first fall" or "first winter", but we use "first year" instead of the ambiguous term "first summer", which can mean both hatching summer and second-calendar summer. We normally do not review subspecies, but on occasion we accept submissions on distinctive, field-identifiable subspecies whose taxonomic rank may be revisited by the American Ornithologists' Union. Our use of the words "report" and "record" to describe occurrences of species in Florida follows Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) and Stevenson and Anderson (1994) and the Field Observation Committee reports. For each species, the number of records and reports previously accepted by the FOSRC is detailed. In addition, records with specimens or photographic evidence prior to establishment of the FOSRC (1983) are also included. For species with five or fewer acceptable records or FOSRC accepted reports, we provide details of previous occurrences in Florida.

Abbreviations used in this report are: FLMNH, Florida Museum of Natural History; nmi, nautical miles; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; UCF, University of Central Florida; UF, University of Florida (an acronym applied to catalog numbers of specimens in the FLMNH collection); and subsp. and spp., singular and plural for subspecies.

ACCEPTED SUBMISSIONS

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*.

FOSRC 2011-831 (JM, RC). A hunter shot this female-plumaged bird at Lake Micosukee, Jefferson Co., on 26 December 2010. The bird was subsequently photographed at a taxidermy shop, and the photographs were forwarded to FOSRC

Committee member JM.

The FOSRC has accepted six previous submissions (6 photographs, 1 report); in addition, Stevenson and Anderson (1994) listed eleven documented records (7 photographs, 4 specimens) that have not been evaluated by the FOSRC (Kratter 2012).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*.

FOSRC 2011-854 (MBe, EK). This adult bird was photographed by a number of people during a pelagic trip, about 86 nmi east of Ponce Inlet, Volusia Co., on 14 May 2011.

The FOSRC had previously accepted twelve submissions (four specimens, seven photos, one sight report) for this species in Florida (Kratter 2010b).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*.

FOSRC 2011-855 (MBr). This adult was found by James P. Smith, visiting with a group from the United Kingdom, at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia Co., on 8 February 2011. Over the next 16 days it was seen and photographed at two other sites in Volusia Co., along the Halifax River in Port Orange, and at the Tomoka Landfill, in Daytona Beach.

The FOSRC had previously accepted eight records and one sight report for Florida (Kratter 2010b). The state's first record, a bird photographed in winter of 1971-72 in Brevard Co. (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), has not been evaluated by the FOSRC.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*.

FOSRC 2011-857 (MBr, MBe). This first-cycle bird was found and photographed by Michael Brothers at Daytona Beach Shores on 26 January 2011. It also appeared occasionally at the Tomoka Landfill at Daytona Beach during its stay until 15 March 2011. Although it is possible that more than one individual was involved in these records, only a single bird was seen during the days present, and wear, bleaching, and molt may have resulted in changing appearances over time.

The 14 previously documented or accepted reports of Thayer's Gull in Florida include one specimen and six records with photographs from before 1984 (and not reviewed by the FOSRC; Stevenson and Anderson 1994) and seven birds subsequently accepted by the FOSRC (Kratter 2012).

KELP GULL, *Larus dominicanus*.

FOSRC 2011-838 (BP, JG, MBe). This third-cycle bird was found at Anclote Gulf Park in Holiday, Pasco Co., by Steve Mann during the West Pasco Christmas Bird Count on 28 December 2010. The bird was not identified until it was refound on 3 January 2011, when better images were taken and posted on the internet. It remained there until 8 January and was observed and photographed by many birders. The identification was tricky because this southern-hemisphere species is unfamiliar to most North American birders and the bird was in a rarely seen- or illustrated plumage (third-cycle). Complicating the issue is the documented hybridization and back-crosses between Kelp Gulls and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) on the Chandeleur Islands in Louisiana (Dittmann and Cardiff 2005); hybrids have been termed "Chandeleur Gulls." However, these islands were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and no further nesting of Kelp Gulls in North America has occurred. Hybrid "Chandeleur" Gulls, however, nested on a spoil island in Mobile Bay, Alabama in May 2010 (McConnell 2010), but no Kelp Gulls were present. Thus, all hybrids or backcrosses from the Chandeleur Islands would be five years old and in full adult plumage (like those in Alabama). Almost all who posted to the ID-frontiers list-serve (archived at <http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdwg01.html>) considered this to be Kelp Gull. One person experienced with this species was not sure a hybrid could be ruled out.

The Committee voted to accept this record given that plumage and structure were consistent with a pure third-cycle Kelp Gull and the lack of any definite hybrid characters. This is the first record for Florida.

Previously, Kelp Gulls have occurred in the American Birding Association area in Maryland, Louisiana, Texas, and Colorado.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*.

FOSRC 09-713 (BC). This bird was observed 12 December 2008 at Sebastian Inlet State Park, Indian River Co. Votes at the February 2009 meeting (2 to accept, 5 not to accept), the August 2009 meeting (3 to accept, 4 not to accept), and July 2010 meeting (5 to accept, 2 not to accept) were all not resolved. No new information was available for the June 2011 meeting. The Committee's main problem with the description was the bird's size, and after some discussion, most of the Committee agreed that other than the observer overestimating the size, the description was adequate.

This rare winter visitor to both coasts of peninsular Florida was previously known from the state on the basis of one photographed in Brevard Co. in 1967 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), 13 specimens (Stevenson and Anderson 1994; Pranty 1993, 1996; Greenlaw and Kratter 2007; Kratter 2012), and one report from Volusia Co. (Kratter 2010a).

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*.

FOSRC 2010-822 (SJ, AK). A dog found this specimen in the woods near Porter Pond in Jackson Co. between Christmas 2010 and the second week of January in 2011. The somewhat rotted specimen was prepared at the FLMNH (UF 48774) as a study skin, partial skeleton and spread wing.

FOSRC 2011-848 (CL, LM). This bird was found and photographed by Cheryl Lachance at the Dry Tortugas National Park on 13 April 2011; it was observed there until 17 April 2011. Prior to these two records, Florida had six accepted reports of this species: specimens from Monroe Co. in 1898 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) and Lake Co. in 1992 (FOSRC #09-777, Kratter 2012), a videotaped bird from Highlands Co. (FOSRC #94-290, Anderson 1996), a report from Highlands Co. (FOSRC #95-330, Anderson 1996), one photographed in April 2003 in Monroe Co. (FOSRC #03-503, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and one found injured in Santa Rosa Co. in November 2007 and released after rehabilitation (FOSRC #07-654, Kratter 2010a).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cyanthus latirostris*.

FOSRC 2011-841 (ZL). This male was photographed attending a feeder at a residence in Oviedo, Seminole Co., on 23 January 2011; it stayed until 24 February 2011.

This is the fourth accepted record for Florida, all since 2004: one in September 2004 in Escambia Co. (FOSRC #04-549, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006); one in Calhoun Co. in January 2008 (FOSRC #08-660, Kratter 2010b); and one in Duval Co. in January 2008 (FOSRC #08-664, Kratter 2010b).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus platycercus*.

FOSRC 2010-828 (FB). This after-hatch-year female was caught, banded, and photographed at a residence in Choctaw Beach, Walton Co., on 17 December 2010.

The FOSRC had previously accepted six records of Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Florida, all since 2000 and all from the Panhandle (Kratter 2012).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus sasin*.

FOSRC 2011-845 (FB). This after-hatch-year female was trapped, banded, and photographed at a residence in Niceville, Okaloosa Co., on 28 December 2010.

The FOSRC has accepted eight other in-hand identifications, from Escambia Co.

south and east to Polk Co. (Kratter 2010b). An adult male photographed at a feeder on Cedar Key, Levy Co., 28 Feb 1988, regarded as “almost surely this species,” was treated properly as unverified at that time (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*.

FOSRC 2010-825 (GQ). For the fourth winter, a Say's Phoebe, assumed to be the same individual, returned to Astatula, Lake Co. The only submission to the FOSRC was a description, based on an observation on 6 November 2010, although the bird was present until at least 6 March 2011.

Prior to these records, the FOSRC had accepted seven previous reports of this species; three of these pertained to what is almost certainly this same individual returning annually to Lake Co. (FOSRC #07-656 in winter 2007-8, Kratter 2010a; FOSRC #2010-785 in winter 2008-9, Kratter 2012; and FOSRC #2010-783 in winter 2009-2010, Kratter 2012).

CUBAN PEWEE, *Contopus caribaeus*.

FOSRC 2010-816 (LM, JG, VG). This bird was found, photographed, and videotaped by Larry Manfredi on 5 September 2010 at Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade Co. It was seen by many observers through 8 September.

This is the fourth accepted record for Florida: the first was photographed and audio recorded in Palm Beach Co. in March 1995 (FOSRC #95-333, Anderson 1996); one was audio recorded in Palm Beach Co. in the Fall of 1999 (FOSRC #02-490, Bowman 2004), and one was observed in Monroe Co. in February 2001 (FOSRC #01-441, Bowman 2004).

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*.

FOSRC 2010-824 (BJC). This bird was found and photographed by Brenda & Jerry Calloway at Ft. Pickens, on 3 October 2010.

The FOSRC has previously accepted six reports: four photographed in Miami-Dade Co. (FOSRC #s 96-362, 01-439, 05-570, 06-590), one photographed in Pinellas Co. (FOSRC #02-485, Bowman 2004), and a sight report from Franklin Co. in October 2007 (FOSRC #07-650, Kratter 2010a).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*.

FOSRC 2011-850 (MBE). For the fourth consecutive winter a Cassin's Kingbird stayed at the Stormwater Treatment Area 5 in Hendry Co. Assumed to be the same individual, this bird was observed by many visitors to STA 5 and was photographed on 21 February 2011.

The FOSRC had previously accepted 13 submissions (nine photographs, four sight reports), but three of these likely represented the same individual returning over three winters to Orange Co. This submission is probably the fourth record (FOSRC #s 06-598, 07-657, 08-702; Kratter 2010b) of the individual returning to Hendry Co.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*.

FOSRC 2010-821 (RD). This bird was observed, photographed, and heard vocalizing at Virginia Key, Miami-Dade Co., on 13 October 2010.

FOSRC 2011-856 (CCo, BP, DI). This bird was found by Cameron Cox southwest of Ruskin, Hillsborough Co., on 4 June 2011. In addition to being photographed, it was heard vocalizing in response to recordings of Tropical Kingbirds. It was present the following day as well.

The FOSRC has previously accepted 11 submissions of Tropical Kingbirds in Florida; ten of these are supported by photographs and recordings or descriptions of vocalizations, and the other is an accepted report. In addition, the FOSRC has

accepted five submissions (four photos and one report, see below) of birds that were either Tropical Kingbird or Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*).

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

FOSRC 2011-849 (JDa). Jason Daly found and photographed this silent bird at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas Co., on 16 April 2011. It was present only one day. Field identification of Tropical/Couch's Kingbird can be assured only with vocalizations or detailed views of the outer wing.

This is the fifth instance in which the FOSRC accepted a yellow-bellied kingbird to either Tropical Kingbird or Couch's Kingbird. Although Couch's Kingbird is currently not on the Official State List of Florida Birds, in 1986, the FOSRC accepted two Couch's Kingbird reports (FOSRC #86-092, in March 1986 in Palm Beach Co.; and FOSRC #86-106, November 1986 in Wakulla Co.); the species was removed from the Official State List in 1999 (Bowman 2001) because no records had documentation of vocalizations.

THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*.

FOSRC 2010-826 (HH). This bird was found and photographed by Hop Hopkins at Crandon Park, Miami-Dade Co., on 13 November 2010.

The FOSRC has accepted nine previous submissions, three with photographs, two with audio recordings, and four sight reports.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, *Vireo flavoviridis*.

FOSRC 2011-858 (LD, PJ). This bird was found by Lucy Duncan in Pensacola Beach, Santa Rosa Co., on 9 June 2011. It was photographed during its stay until 11 June 2011.

The FOSRC has accepted eight previous submissions (Kratte 2010a). The first Florida record, a specimen from Santa Rosa Co. in May 1958 (Robertson and Woofenden 1992), has not been reviewed by the FOSRC.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia currucoides*.

FOSRC 2011-833 (CC). This female was photographed at the Dry Tortugas on 28 December 2010. This is the second accepted Florida record.

The first Florida record was a bird in Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade Co.), in December 2002 (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006).

BICKNELL'S THRUSH, *Catharus bicknelli*.

FOSRC 2011-829 (EG). This bird was caught, measured, and photographed during banding operations at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Miami-Dade Co., on 4 November 2010.

Previous records of Bicknell's Thrush in Florida include four museum specimens identified by Woofenden & Greenlaw (2005), three from spring and one from the fall; and three records (two fall and one spring) of birds that were mist-netted, photographed, and measured in Miami-Dade and Monroe cos. The spring record (FOSRC #07-641) consisted of two birds, and a third bird was also heard at the same site that day.

SAGE THRASHER, *Oreoscoptes montanus*.

FOSRC 2011-836 (JP, LD, BWa, DD). This bird was found on 15 January 2011 at Ft. Pickens by James Pfeiffer. It was photographed and seen by many during its stay until 6 March 2011. This is the fourth verified record for Florida.

Previous records are a specimen from Gilchrist Co. in January 1969 (Johnston 1969) a bird present and photographed in Escambia Co., March to May 1976

(Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), and a bird photographed in Taylor Co. in March 1981 (FOSRC #81-006; Bowman 1983).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis tolmiei*.

FOSRC 2011-851 (RT). This male, found by Dan Smith, was present from 12-25 March 2011 at the C-111E Canal/Hammock in Miami-Dade Co. It was photographed on 13 March.

The FOSRC has accepted six previous submissions: birds photographed in Lee Co. in April 1998 (FOSRC #98-385, Bowman 2000), Pinellas Co. in April 2008 (FOSRC #08-682, Kratter 2010a), and Palm Beach Co. in April 2010 (FOSRC #2010-804, Kratter 2012) and reports from Broward Co. in February-March 2002 (FOSRC #02-464, Bowman 2004), and Miami-Dade Co. in April 2001 (FOSRC #02-487, Bowman 2004) and September 2005 (FOSRC #06-588, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Setophaga coronata "audubonii"*.

FOSRC 2011-837 (AK). This bird was described from an observation at Paynes Prairie State Preserve, Alachua Co., on 16 January 2011. Photographs accompanying the submission were not useful differentiating it from "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*S. c. coronata*), but the distinctive yellow throat and plainer face were described.

The FOSRC has accepted five previous reports: one observed in Monroe Co. in April 1988 (FOSRC #88-143, Dowling 1989); one photographed in Monroe Co. in April 2008 (FOSRC #08-687, Kratter 2010a); one photographed September 2006 in Pinellas Co. FOSRC (FOSRC #06-592, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007), one observed in Lake Co. in December 2008 (FOSRC #2010-808, Kratter 2012), and one photographed in Leon Co. in April 2007 (FOSRC #2010-808, Kratter 2012).

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*.

FOSRC 2011-859 (MBe, DG). This male was photographed as it visited feeders in a yard in Ortona, Glades Co. It was present 12 December 2010 to March 2011, and was found by Janet Fox.

Twelve records and reports have been previously accepted by the FOSRC (Kratter 2012).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus*.

FOSRC 2010-823 (DD). This bird, assumed to be the same individual that wintered in the same location winter 2009-2010 (FOSRC # 2010-779, Kratter 2012), returned to Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., for its second winter on 31 October 2010, when it was found and photographed by David Dortch. It stayed until at least 25 February 2011.

The three previous accepted records in Florida include one videotaped in Polk Co. January 1990 (FOSRC #90-185, Baker 1991, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), one photographed in Pinellas Co. in February 2003 (FOSRC #03-511, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), and #2010-779 mentioned above.

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivaceus*.

FOSRC 09-735 (BWA, LM, CGH). This male was present and photographed 20-26 April 2009 at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park on Key West, Monroe Co. Votes at the August 2009 (3 to accept, 4 not to accept) and July 2010 (3 to accept, 4 not to accept) meetings were unresolved. The Committee agreed that the photographs show a Yellow-faced Grassquit of the nominate West Indian subspecies, but the provenance of individuals of this species in Florida is debatable. It was believed that the Mexican and northern Central American subspecies are far more common in captivity than the West Indian subspecies, which has led the FOSRC previously to

accept individuals of the latter as natural vagrants (see Smith et al. 1991). However, this difference may no longer be valid. Several shipments of Yellow-faced Grassquits (subspecies not listed) have been confiscated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service in Miami, with an origin listed as Cuba, whereas no confiscated birds are listed as originating in Mexico or Central America. In one instance, nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits were confiscated by the USFWS in the Bahamas from a passenger flying from Cuba and attempting to bring into the United States (Norton and White 2001). Aviculturists breed and sell nominate Yellow-faced Grassquits in the United States, using the name “Cuban Olive Finch.” Nonetheless, the Key West bird showed no sign of cage wear and was in an area known for natural vagrants from Cuba. In 2010, the dissenting four voters felt that a captive provenance of this bird could not be ruled out. Although no new material was presented for the 2011 vote and some of the same arguments against natural provenance were made, most of the Committee felt that because the bird showed no signs of captivity and was at a time and location known for Cuban vagrants, natural occurrence from the West Indies was believed to be likely.

Two previous records have been accepted by the FOSRC: the first was photographed in the Dry Tortugas, Monroe Co. in April 1994 (FOSRC #94-305, Anderson 1996); the second was photographed in Everglades National Park, Monroe Co. in February 2001 (FOSRC #01-440, Bowman 2004). The first state record, a bird photographed in Miami-Dade Co. in July 1990 (Smith et al. 1991), has not been assessed by the FOSRC but was accepted by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) as a natural vagrant. All of these have been of the nominate subspecies from the West Indies.

HOODED ORIOLE, *Icterus cucullatus*.

FOSRC 2011-834 (FB). This fresh-plumaged, after-second-year male was photographed at a residence in Santa Rosa Beach, Santa Rosa Co. on 8 January 2011. This is the second record for Florida.

The first Florida record, also in Santa Rosa Co., was photographed in October 2002 (FOSRC #02-494, Bowman 2004).

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*.

FOSRC 2011-846 (TT). This female, found and photographed by Tim Towles, visited a feeder in Vero Beach Highlands, Indian River Co., from 26 to 28 February 2011. This is the first Florida record.

This northern species winters southward irregularly to the southeast United States (northern Alabama, northern Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; AOU 1998, Beaton et al. 2003), with extralimital records as close to Florida as Dauphin Island, Alabama, in April 1994 (eBird.com database) and Brunswick, Georgia, in April 1972 (Manns 1972).

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

MASKED DUCK, *Nomonyx dominicus*.

FOSRC 2010-827. This bird was described from an observation made on 11 December 2010 in Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade Co.). Committee members felt that it was possible that the observer misidentified a female Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), which had been observed and photographed by others on the same pond the same week. This bird had a darker than normal cap and a faint pale supraloral line, which may have led the observer to think that two dark lines crossed the face. The description did not include other notable features of Masked Duck, such as the much deeper bill, and the pattern on the back.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON, *Gavia adamsii*.

FOSRC 2011-830. This controversial bird frequented a stretch of the Indian River Lagoon near Manatee Hammock Park, Brevard Co., from 14-20 December 2010. The photographs submitted were taken at extreme distance, and none definitively showed the suite of field marks which could definitely preclude this bird from being a Common Loon (*G. immer*). Characters in favor of Yellow-billed Loon include the apparent larger size (several photos have nearby Common Loons), erect neck, and angle at which the bill was held (at least in some photographs). Important features of the plumage and soft parts, particularly the paleness of the face and neck and contrast with the cap and nape, the extent of dark coloring along the culmen, and the bill shape, were more difficult to discern from the photographs because of the lack of detail. When the images were posted on the ID-Frontiers list-serve (archived at <<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdwg01.html>>), opinions were divided about the bird's identification, with several prominent North American birders believing it to be a Common Loon. Most Committee members felt that a first state record should be less questionable.

A species of northern latitudes, Yellow-billed Loons winter very rarely south to Arkansas, Tennessee, and New York in the eastern United States. The only documented record in the southeastern United States was one that wintered from December 2003 to March 2004 in Fayette Co., Georgia (GCRC 2004).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*.

FOSRC 2011-835. This bird was described from a brief observation (5-10 seconds) at Emerald Marsh, Lake Co., on 2 February 2011. The Committee felt that the description did not conclusively rule out other *Buteo* species.

The only verified records for Florida are three birds photographed in Orange Co. February-April 2000 (Pranty et al. 2007; FOSRC #s 00-415, 00-417, 00-418; Bowman 2000) and a specimen from Volusia Co. in December 2008 (#09-716, Kratter 2010b); in addition, a sight report from Orange Co. 21 December 2005 was accepted by the FOSRC (FOSRC #06-603, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007).

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus thayeri*.

FOSRC 2011-842. This first-cycle bird was observed standing on a beach at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval Co., on 28 February 2011. Although the described bird closely matched a Thayer's Gull in most details, critical details, such as the pattern of the tail and the tertials, were missing, which made it difficult to tell whether it was a pure Thayer's Gull or an intergrade with a Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Stercorarius maccormicki*.

FOSRC 09-775. This bird was observed from shore for ca. 20 minutes as it was harassing terns 400+ m offshore on 10 September 2009, at Playalinda Beach, Brevard Co. The vote at the July 2010 meeting was not resolved (2 to accept, 5 not to accept). Dissenting voters felt that skua and dark Pomarine Jaeger identification is a difficult task at that distance, and photographic corroboration is perhaps essential. Those voting to accept felt that the experienced observer's description, including the hefty build, broad wings, and short tail characteristic of a skua sp., coupled with the blond collar, adequately described South Polar Skua. At the 2011 meeting, an initial vote again was unresolved (3 to accept, 4 not to accept), and member Jon Greenlaw petitioned that we reopen discussion and vote again with a goal of resolution. Two of the Committee changed their votes to not accept.

Florida has four verified records of this species: one from Brevard Co. in October 1993 (FOSRC #93-275, Anderson 1995), and three from the fall of 1998 (FOSRC #99-394 in Volusia Co., FOSRC #99-395 in Nassau Co., and FOSRC #00-414 in Palm

Beach Co.; Bowman 2000). In addition the FOSRC has accepted three sight reports (two of these to genus only).

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*.

FOSRC 2010-818. This bird was observed along a sea wall, 1 mi north of SR 100 on route A1A on 3 October 2010. The observer, participating in a bike race, did not have optics and was 100 feet away. The bird was described as sitting on a railing, which the Committee felt may be impossible for an alcid. The basic description lacked the white face, which a Razorbill has in winter.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*.

FOSRC 09-778. This female specimen (ABS 1001), in the collection of Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Highlands Co., lacks a location other than “Florida,” and has no date. It was prepared by Ben Marks from the Field Museum of Natural History (pers. comm.), and has modern data and label. Dorothy Kaufmann (in litt.), director at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida (WSNWF) in Pensacola, has a record of sending a Long-eared Owl to Glen Woolfenden at Archbold in January 1997. The vote at the July 2010 meeting was not resolved (5 to accept, 2 not to accept). Most Committee members felt that because the WSNWF receives a few birds from southern Alabama (A. W. Kratter pers. comm.) and because the specimen lacked a paper trail, it could not definitively be regarded as coming from Florida. The dissenting voter felt that because the specimen tag had Florida as a locality, it was indisputably from Florida.

LONG-EARED OWL / STYGIAN OWL, *Asio otus* / *A. stygius*.

FOSRC 2010-819. This bird was heard calling at night in northwest Gainesville, Alachua Co. on 9 October 2010. The bird, giving single low hoots, was never closer than 300-400 m. The description is consistent with some calls of either the Long-eared Owl, a rare visitor from farther north, or the Stygian Owl, which has resident populations in Cuba and in the Neotropics north to northeastern Mexico. However, Long-eared Owls are not known to give the single low hoot calls during fall/winter. The Committee felt that this may have been a Great Horned Owl, which is known to give occasional single hoots.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, *Cyananthus latirostris*.

FOSRC 04-536. This female, found on 20 December 2003 in Gainesville, Alachua Co., was originally submitted as a sight report in 2005 but was not accepted. At the time, it would have been a first for Florida, and the FOSRC felt that better documentation was required. In February 2009, two photographs of a female hummingbird taken the following day were submitted to the FOSRC. The submission was reopened in August 2009. Votes at that meeting (2 to accept, 5 not to accept) and the July 2010 meeting (5 to accept, 2 not to accept) failed to resolve the issue.

Because the FOSRC has accepted three Broad-billed Hummingbirds since this sight report (FOSRC #s 04-549, 08-660, 08-664), the Committee felt that it did not need to hold this report to the same standard (e.g., photographs, specimens, sound recordings) it typically uses to add a species to the Official State List.

At the 2010 meeting, the main topic of conversation was whether photographs and descriptions all pertained to the same individual. Other hummingbirds present at the same time included a Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*) and a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*). Committee members were unanimous in their view that the photographs were likely not a Broad-billed Hummingbird. The written descriptions varied on whether the tail had white tips and the bill had a red base, and on the color of the underparts. The recently submitted report did include reddish base to the bill, which is distinctive for Broad-billed Hummingbird, but the other reports stated that

the bill was all black. An important discussion ensued on whether one description can trump the other descriptions, which may have pertained to other species. The 2010 vote remained unresolved. The two dissenting voters felt that the body of evidence was contradictory, and even the best description lacked some key field marks.

No new material was presented for the 2011 meeting. FOSRC member Jon Greenlaw petitioned that we vote to resolve this long-standing, dead-locked submission by recognizing the uncertainties and ambiguities of the case.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, *Campephilus principalis*.

FOSRC 2011-852. This bird was described from an observation in suburban St. Augustine, St. Johns Co., on 13 April 2011. Although the observation included key characters of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, such as a white bill and white pattern on the back while perched, the observation was at a distance of 30 m and made without binoculars. It is the Committee's opinion that the only acceptable submissions of this species would be those with verifiable evidence (e.g. identifiable photographs or video). The recent controversy over video recordings, audio recordings, and sightings in Arkansas (Sibley et al. 2006) and Florida (FOSRC #06-610, Kratter 2008) calls into question whether the species may have persisted into the twenty-first century.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii*.

FOSRC 2010-815. This bird was heard singing several times from 1-8 September 2010 in New Port Richey, Pasco Co., but was seen only once as it flew off. The Committee felt that the description of the song lacked important details, such as pitch changes. Given the probable rarity of this species in Florida (one definite specimen; Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), the committee felt that a report would have to include a sighting and a better description of the song to be accepted.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia currucoides*.

FOSRC 2011-853. This bird was observed visiting a feeder at a home in Wesley Chapel, Pasco Co., on 20 April 2011. A FOSRC form was submitted, but the observer did not provide a description of the bird. Committee members also remarked that bluebirds (*Sialia* sp.) seldom visit feeders.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Setophaga kirtlandii*.

FOSRC 2011-860. This bird was described from an observation at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Collier Co., on 14 February 2011. As far as known, the entire population of this endangered warbler winters in the Bahamas, with no known confirmed records from the United States before spring migration begins in April. Although the bird was well described, it was in atypical wintering habitat and did not exhibit the characteristic tail pumping shown by this species. Most Committee members felt that such an extraordinary report would require verifiable confirmation.

There are seven previously accepted reports for Florida (one specimen, four photographed, and two accepted sight reports).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, *Icterus bullockii*.

FOSRC 2011-840. This female oriole was observed in Altamonte Springs, Seminole Co., on 28 October 2010. The observer based the identification, as Bullock's rather than Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*), on the bright white wing coverts with a saw-tooth pattern (see Lee and Birch 1998). However, this distinction is difficult to judge, and other field marks that would indicate Bullock's Oriole were either not mentioned (the stronger face pattern with dark eyeline and pale supercilium) or indicated Baltimore Oriole (the orange tone to the throat). The Committee felt that this may have been a female Baltimore Oriole.

There are ten confirmed records of Bullock's Oriole for Florida (Pranty et al. 2005, Greenlaw and Kratter 2007, Kratter 2010b), although five of these likely refer to the same individual.

SUBMISSIONS NOT RESOLVED

PURPLE SWAMPHEN, *Porphyrio porphyrio*.

FOSRC 2011-839. Bill Pranty submitted the motion to add this exotic species to the Official State List. A similar motion in 2009 was not accepted because the species did not meet the Persistence Criterion of 15 years (Kratter 2010b). Committee members agreed that this species now met all three of the criteria to be considered established, with the persistence criterion met by the end of 2011. However, two Committee members felt that despite meeting the FOSRC's criteria to be considered established, the Committee should await results of the continued stated efforts by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) to "control" this population. The other five members felt that since the FFWCC acknowledged that it has failed in its best attempt to eradicate this population, and that the species adequately meets the FOSRC's criteria, it should now be considered established.

GREATER ANI, *Crotophaga major*.

FOSRC 2011-832. This bird was photographed by an out-of-state birder at Crandon Gardens, Miami-Dade Co., on 16 December 2010. When originally photographed, it was thought to be Smooth-billed Ani (*C. ani*), but it was subsequently determined to be a Greater Ani by the pale iris, long bill, and extensive iridescent plumage. Greater Ani is a mostly South American species that has been found recently north to Costa Rica (Sandoval 2010), and has appeared a few times as a possible long-distance vagrant in the Caribbean region. Two were collected in Veracruz, Mexico, in 1959 (Olson 1978), but subsequent searches in the area failed to find any more. Single birds showed up recently in Aruba and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Long-distance vagrancy is well known for the other two species of ani (especially Groove-billed Ani, *C. sulcirostris*, which has reached California, Canada, and southern Florida from its normal distribution, which extends from southern Texas south through the tropical Americas to Argentina). Anis are not popular in the pet trade. No anis of any species are listed in ISIS, the international data base of captive and zoo animals. However, an internet search found a request by an aviculturist in Florida to buy captive Greater Anis, and the species was listed on a California based web-site that sells captive birds, although the latter did not have any for sale currently. Crandon Gardens, the locality where the Florida individual was photographed, has a large collection of tropical birds and many free-flying exotic species have been seen there (M. Berney pers. comm.). The Committee agreed that the Florida bird was a Greater Ani, but were unresolved on the provenance, with most members feeling that a captive origin could not be ruled out.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*.

FOSRC 09-774. Two birds were seen and heard on 12 September 2009 at the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area ("The Annex"); later that afternoon, the birds were heard vocalizing by a different observer, but not seen. The vote at the July 2010 meeting was not resolved (3 to accept, 4 not to accept). No new material was presented for the 2011 vote, which remained unresolved. The two dissenting votes had issues with the brief description of the birds, which failed to eliminate the similar-looking Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*), Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonax varius*), or Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*). Some squeaky vocalizations of Alder Flycatchers (*Empidonax alnorum*), which were present at the Annex at the same time, are roughly similar to those of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. The five votes

to accept felt that the description of the vocalizations, which one observer mentioned as “like a rubber toy”, coupled with the brief description, effectively eliminated these other species.

BICKNELL’S THRUSH, *Catharus bicknelli*.

FOSRC 2011-861. This bird was mist-netted at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Okeechobee Co., on 9 October 2010. The Committee received only two measurements of primary lengths and no other measurements or details. The Committee voted to table the submission until the observer can submit additional details.

TRICOLORED MUNIA, *Lonchura malacca*.

FOSRC 2010-820. This bird was found alive at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe Co.; it was later found dead at the same locale. The carcass was photographed but apparently not saved. The identity was not disputed. The same issues came up for this submission as those the Committee faced for another of this species assessed last year (FOSRC #09-762, Kratter 2012). Namely, can we distinguish natural vagrants originating in established Cuban populations (Rafaelle et al. 1998, Garrido and Kirconnell 2000) from birds that have escaped captivity in south Florida? Those voting in favor felt that the isolated location of the Dry Tortugas made vagrancy from Cuba more likely; this was the fourth report from those islands. The dissenting voters felt that provenance could not be determined with enough certainty. If accepted, this would be a first record for Florida and the American Birding Association Area.

SUBMISSIONS NOT REVIEWED

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, *Phaethon aethereus*.

FOSRC 2010-817. This submission of a bird observed on 4 August 2010 at 27.7163° N, 89.727075° W, ca. 154 nmi south of Pensacola Beach, was not considered, once it was determined that it occurred in Louisiana waters, outside of the limits considered by the FOSRC.

BUDGERIGAR, *Melopsittacus undulatus*.

FOSRC 2011-843. Bill Pranty submitted motions to remove this species, White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus* (FOSRC #2011-843), and Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus* (FOSRC #2011-847), from the Official State List because current populations of these exotic species are apparently far below levels that the FOSRC considers established. For an exotic species to be removed from the Official List, the Rules and Procedures of the FOSRC require that public comments be solicited for one year in order to determine population levels and distribution. The FOSRC voted to solicit observations for these three species as well as two other exotic species (Spot-breasted Oriole, *Icterus pectoralis*, and Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*), grandfathered onto the Official State List when the FOSRC accepted Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) as its baseline list in 2001. The one-year period will begin when requests for observations are posted to Florida list-serves. Populations of the Budgerigar, formerly numbering in the 1000s across several counties along the Gulf coast in central Florida, have dropped to near zero, with breeding localized to one yard in Pasco Co. This population may be fully dependent on continued feeding and nest box placement to continue here.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET, *Brotogeris versicolurus*.

FOSRC 2011-844. See FOSRC 2011-843 regarding removing this species from the Official State List. Populations of this exotic species have apparently dropped dramatically. In addition, possible widespread hybridization with the closely related

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*B. chiriri*) in the state has apparently called into question the taxonomic integrity of White-winged Parakeets in Florida. Comments will be solicited from the public for a one year period before the FOSRC assesses this submission.

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL, *Pycnonotus jocosus*.

FOSRC 2011-847. See FOSRC 2011-843 above regarding removing this species from the Official State List. This exotic species has apparently maintained a small population for decades in southeast Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Pranty 2010), but the population may have never risen above the FOSRC's minimum criterion for establishment. Comments will be solicited from the public for a one year period before the FOSRC assesses this submission.

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