

FIRST WINTER RECORDS IN FLORIDA OF YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) AND SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*)

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We recently provided details on the first or first recent winter records of five species of Neotropical migrants in Florida, and summarized seven other species described during winter since 1994 (Pranty and Ponzo 2012). We also mentioned three other species for which we believed that recent winter records had yet to be formally described: the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).

Contrary to our earlier paper (Pranty and Ponzo 2012), the history of the somewhat confusing Chimney Swift record was published by Anderson (1996) and Kratter et al. (2002), so we merely summarize the history here. A hatching-year male swift that was found alive at the University of Florida campus, Gainesville, Alachua County by Richard Bucholz died three hours later. The specimen, UF 38060, was made into a study skin and partial skeleton (Kratter et al. 2002). The specimen tag bears the date of “31” November 1993; Bucholz “put down 31 November instead of realizing it was 1 December” because he “never knew how many days were in each month” but was certain that “it was November/December rather than October/November” (Anderson 1996:125). Tom Webber (in litt., Oct 2012) relayed a similar story to us. Thus the date of this specimen was determined to be 1 December 1993 (Anderson 1996, Kratter et al. 2002). We have archived five photographs of the Chimney Swift specimen taken by Andy Kratter (BPA 3353a-e).

The other two species that we mentioned, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Scarlet Tanager, are described in detail for the first time here. As with our previous paper, BPA catalog numbers refer to the Pranty archive.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one discovered at Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, on 4 January 1994 was audio-recorded on 24 January 1994 by Brian Hope and accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC; 95-341; Anderson 1996). The Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee report (Pranty 1994) gives the final date of occurrence as 11 April 1994, but Anderson (1996) states that the correct date was 4 April 1994. The flycatcher wintered in Hope’s neighborhood, which includes a golf course, vegetated by Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and other dense shrubs. The flycatcher typically perched low in vegetation, usually 0.3-1.0 m above ground, but occasionally foraged as much as 4.5-6 m above ground (B. Hope pers. comm.). No photographs were taken, but three minutes of vocalizations were recorded. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard giving two calls, a bi-syllabic call reminiscent of a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and a single-noted call uttered when the flycatcher was foraging. Many calls of each type are audible on the audiotape submitted to FOSRC, which is now a digital audio file (BPA 823).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are very rare to uncommon transient migrants throughout, occurring mostly during fall (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Greenlaw et al. in review). A few winter reports, perhaps mostly on Christmas Bird Counts (Stevenson and Anderson 1994) are known, but the Palm Beach County flycatcher audio-recorded by Brian Hope furnishes the only verifiable record during this season (Anderson 1996, Greenlaw et al. in review).

Scarlet Tanager: one in basic plumage, evidently a hatch-year male (Fig. 1), discovered at Ascend Performance Materials (formerly Monsanto) property, Cantonment, Escambia County on 28 December 2011 by Bob & Lucy Duncan and others (Pranty 2012). Two photographs (BPA 2048a-b) taken by Larry Goodman have been archived, one showing the tanager perched and the other with its wings raised. The bird was found in an isolated vine-covered tree among storage tanks and piping on the grounds of a chemical plant. Photographs show a medium-sized passerine with an overall dull yellow-green plumage and blackish wings. The head is uniformly yellow green with a large black eye. The pale brownish bill is rather short and thick with a small “tooth” midway along the bottom of the maxilla. The back and rump are also yellow-green. The wings are unmarked except for three short, yellowish-tipped olive feathers on the tips of the median coverts; the scapulars are blackish with paler remiges. The tail, visible from only the side, appears to be olive. The underparts, including the undertail coverts, are mostly pale yellow, with a whitish patch along the flanks. The underwing coverts are whitish with slightly darker remiges. The legs and feet are gray.



Figure 1. Basic-plumaged Scarlet Tanager at Ascend Performance Materials property, Cantonment, Escambia County. This photograph documents the first record of this species in Florida during winter. Photograph by Larry Goodman, 28 December 2011.

Scarlet Tanagers are rare to uncommon transient migrants throughout (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Greenlaw et al. in review). Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list 17 localities in Florida with winters reports, but none was known to be verifiable. Thus, the Escambia County tanager (Fig. 1) represents the first winter record for state (Greenlaw et al. in review).

Probably largely result of the Internet, first-winter records in Florida of Neotropical migrants continue to accumulate. In addition to the four first-winter records described by us (Pranty and Ponzo 2012), the seven records that preceded that note, and the two species detailed here, two additional species of Neotropical migrants have been recorded during recent winters and await formal description: Wilson's Phalarope at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Orange County and Warbling Vireo at Miami, Miami-Dade County.

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