

# Photo Salon

## Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida

Ornithological history can be most interesting when research and sleuthing are involved, when the identification of a bird is complex, or when the historical record is flawed or obscure. All have been the case with extralimital Loggerhead Kingbirds reported in since 1971, all from Florida (one nineteenth-century record from Isla Mujeres, Mexico, is the only other extralimital record known). The tortured history of this species' inclusion on, then exclusion from, North American avifaunal lists was considered carefully in an article in these pages by P. William Smith, Glen E. Woolfenden, and Alexander Sprunt IV (The Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida: The Evidence Revisited, *North American Birds* 54: 235-240). Happily, with Carl Goodrich's discovery of the bird depicted below at Fort Zachary Taylor, Key West on 8 March 2007, Loggerhead Kingbird will now have an undisputed place on the American Birding Association's *Checklist* (the species is already on the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*, which includes the Caribbean islands). Although earlier reports of Loggerheads in the United States and Mexico may have been correct, at least one bird—photographed at Islamorada, Florida on 31 December 1971—appears to be a Giant Kingbird, a rare Cuban species not yet included on checklists of North American birds!

The photographs below were taken by Larry Manfredi on 8, 10, and 14 March, as was the cover photograph from the last issue (credited in error to the bird's finder). The bird's proportions and color suggest that it was of the mainland Cuban subspecies *caudifasciatus* (or possibly the Isle of Pines subspecies *flavescens*). Loggerheads in the Bahamas (subspecies *bahamensis*) have more yellowish underparts than the Key West bird, while other Greater Antillean taxa show a different tail pattern: Puerto Rican *taylori* and Hispaniolan *gabbi* lack the Key West bird's pale tail tip, while Jamaican *jamaicensis* has a more distinct white tail tip. The Cayman Islands' Loggerheads (*caymanensis*) show more olive tones in the back than the Key West bird, which appeared brown-backed in the field. This bird remained in the area through at least 26 March and was observed by hundreds of birders, many from out of state!

