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RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fla. Field Nat. 23(2): 38-43, 1995.

Eleventh Report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 1993.— The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) critically reviews all written sight reports and specimen and/or photographic records (including audio recordings) submitted to it to determine the validity of these reports. The Committee's findings are published annually in the Florida Field Naturalist. Details for 20 reports were received in 1993; 2 reports were not reviewed because the Committee believes that the occurrence of those species in Florida has been sufficiently established to warrant no further review. Two other reports, Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*; 93-267) and Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*; 93-277), remain in "still under consideration" status. In addition to the remaining 16 reports, the Committee voted on 2 reports that had been in "still under consideration" status since 1991; 14 (78%) were accepted and 4 (22%) were not. One species was removed from hypothetical status and added to the official Florida list of verified species bringing the total to 462 (see Robertson and Woolfenden 1992).

The Committee members and the expiration dates of their terms are as follows: Bruce H. Anderson (1996), Lyn S. Atherton (1995), Jocelyn L. Baker (1993), Wayne Hoffman (1999), John W. Fitzpatrick (1997), Vaughn W. Morrison (1998), and William B. Robertson, Jr. (1994).

In the February 1994 issue of the *Florida Field Naturalist* (22:21-23) is a list of bird species that the Committee has deemed sufficiently rare or difficult to identify to suggest FOSRC evaluation. Any species on this list should be documented by the observer when reported. All observers are encouraged to submit these reports to the FOSRC, including those intended for publication in the *Florida Field Naturalist*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, or another publication.

While in the field, the observer should write a detailed description of all body parts, including bill, legs, and feet, noting sizes, shapes and colors. Although a specimen or photograph and vocal recording are optimal, a drawing/sketch of the bird and vocal descriptions are beneficial. Behavioral traits and the habitat should be detailed. It is necessary to describe how all other similar species were eliminated (e.g., members of the genus *Myiarchus*), not only those known or suspected to occur in Florida, but also any similar species that could possibly stray here. All observations should be submitted on the standard report form that is available from the Secretary. In addition to uniformity, the report form provides the Committee and the observer with guidelines to those factors used by the FOSRC for its evaluation. Completed forms with supporting materials should be submitted to the Secretary.

An accepted report requires the unanimous vote of all Committee members. When a report is accepted, it gains status on the official Florida state list (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). A species or race new to the state is given full status only when its natural occurrence is probable, and there is a supporting specimen or photograph (and for some species, audio recording); otherwise, it is given hypothetical status. When a report is not accepted, it does not necessarily mean that the species or form was not correctly identified. Sometimes a sighting is too brief or the written account lacks sufficient details to eliminate all possibilities. The Committee will reconsider a report if additional information is submitted that the Committee believes could alter a previous decision. All documentation is deposited in the FOS Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

The FOSRC was established in 1981. Published reports of unusual sightings that have not been submitted to the Committee (either before or since 1981) have been given varying degrees of scrutiny by the various editors. Recently, Robertson and Woolfenden

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(1992) and Stevenson and Anderson (1994) have evaluated many of the unusual sightings not evaluated by the Committee. At this time the FOSRC has made no commitment to review reports that have been published prior to 1993 and those that have not been submitted to it.

Each species that appears in this report is listed according to the A.O.U. (1983) check-list and its supplements through 1994. The number of published reports (including verifiable records) through 1993 for each species or race is given after the species name; these numbers follow Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) unless otherwise stated. Each account includes the initials of the contributor(s) for accepted reports only, the FOSRC catalog number for the report, and abbreviations for any supporting materials. Following the account of each species is a listing of catalog numbers for other reports that have been considered previously by the FOSRC.

Abbreviations used in this report are: AB=American Birds; FFN=Florida Field Naturalist; NWR=national wildlife refuge; P=photo; S=specimen; SP=state park; SRA=state recreation area; S&A=Stevenson & Anderson 1994; UCF=Univ. of Central Florida; and V=video. Also, contributors are identified by their initials.

The Committee expresses its thanks to David S. Lee who critically reviewed the documentation for the South Polar Skua, M. Ralph Browning of the National Museum of Natural History who kindly loaned the Committee specimens of the Brown-chested Martin, P. William Smith who provided helpful comments on the Brown-chested Martin and Thick-billed Vireo reports, Walter Kingsley Taylor for his helpful suggestions with earlier drafts of this manuscript, and Tom Webber who maintains and provides access to the FOS Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Contributors to this report are Bruce H. Anderson, Lyn S. Atherton, Richard Bowen, James E. Cavanagh, Robert A. Duncan, Gloria Hunter, Howard W. Langridge, Paul M. McKenzie, Joseph Ondrejko, Robert Sargent, Ira F. Weigley, Allan Strong, and Alan Wormington.

ACCEPTED REPORTS

COMMON EIDER, *Somateria mollissima*: 16 reports, not all have been evaluated (S&A).

First reported on 3 February 1993 (AB 47:250), a male in its third winter was described from an observation made on 21 February 1993 from the Nassau River Bridge at highway A1A (Duval-Nassau counties line; PM; 93-269). Photos were taken by other observers but were not submitted to the Committee. There were reports that this bird remained in the area into the spring (*vide* Peggy Powell), but the last date that the bird was observed has not been published. (Previously accepted, 82-014, 92-262. Common Eider reports will no longer be reviewed by FOSRC).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, *Limosa haemastica*: 37 reports, not all have been evaluated (S&A).

One in basic plumage was first reported from St. Marks NWR (Wakulla Co.) on 8 December 1992 (RAD, JEC; P; V; 93-265); the bird was last seen on 3 January 1993 (AB 47:251). This is the only 1 verified of 3 winter reports for this species in Florida. (Previously accepted, 83-055, 87-112. Hudsonian Godwit reports will no longer be reviewed by FOSRC).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA, *Catharacta maccormicki*: 18 reports of *Catharacta* species, probably 8 of them are credible; 3 of these reports have referred to this species (S&A). This species was removed from the hypothetical status when 1 was found by Mary Wilson on 17 June 1993 about 8 km south of Melbourne Beach along highway A1A (Brevard Co.), in a weakened condition. This intermediate morph was examined at the home of rehabilitators, Jerry and Pat Loll of Indialantic, where it was photographed and measured on 3 July 1993 (BHA; V; P; 93-275). This was the second report of a skua in Florida during the summer. (Previously accepted, 82-024; previously not accepted, 83-030, 83-056).

this species on its breeding grounds, it was determined that those markings on immature birds of that race may be lacking or not noticeable in the field. Because the bird was neither collected nor photographed, it remains in hypothetical status in Appendix A (see Langridge and Hunter 1993).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica townsendi*: 11 reports; 7 accepted, including 4 photographed (these numbers include 2 other individuals seen later in 1993, details which were submitted to FOSRC in 1994; S&A). A first-year male was observed on 13 September 1992, on the west side of Elliott Key about 200 m south of the campground (Dade Co.; AS;P;93-266). All 4 accepted fall reports for Florida have occurred on or between 11 and 15 September. (Previously accepted, 83-029,83-047, 85-088; previously not accepted, 81-001, 85-071).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, *Dendroica kirtlandii*: 18 reports including 1 specimen; not all evaluated (S&A). A male was observed on 22 April 1993 on Jungle Trail about 100 m north of County Road 510, on Orchid Island (Indian River Co.; IFW;93-273). (Previously accepted, 82-025; previously not accepted, 82-015, 89-126).

BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris bicolor*: 4 specimens and ca. 10 sight reports (S&A). An adult male was found on 6 May 1993 perched on a utility wire about 50 m south of the entry gates on Government Road, Key West (Monroe Co.; JAO;93-272). Details of another male grassquit seen north of Homestead (Dade Co.) on 26 March 1993 were reported as having been submitted to the Committee (FFN 21:127), but were never received. (Previously accepted, 87-126; previously not accepted, 88-145, 89-161, 91-251).

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

PACIFIC LOON, *Gavia pacifica*: 17 reports, 3 not accepted (S&A). A lone bird in basic plumage was described from an observation made on 28 November 1992 off City Park on Cedar Key (Levy Co.;93-268). The report was not accepted because some members were unable to exclude the Arctic (*G. arctica*) or Common (*G. immer*) loons. In addition, some members did not believe that the throat strap was one typical of *pacifica* as described by the observer, nor that the lighting was optimum during the observation. Another Pacific Loon was reported in the area at about the same time (*vide* LSA); however, that report was never published nor were the details submitted to the Committee. One was reported at Siesta Key (Sarasota Co.), 1-8 January 1992 (FFN 20:82), and published as "details to FOSRC," however, none have been received. (Previously accepted, 83-048, 84-060, 87-110, 88-160, 90-215, 92-261; previously not accepted, 90-205. Pacific Loon reports will no longer be reviewed by FOSRC).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK, *Buteo regalis*: 9 reports, 3 or 4 accepted (S&A). Two observers independently observed and identified a hawk as this species at Cedar Key (Levy Co.), on 1 and 2 October 1993 (93-278). Each observer submitted documentation, but neither described the dorsal aspects of the bird, the tarsi, nor the shapes or relative proportions of the wings and tail. Neither observer indicated if Krider's form of the Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis krideri*) was considered before making the identification. This race has been observed in Florida and is a possibility because neither observer noted rust coloration on the tarsi ("leggings"), and neither had any prior experience with the Ferruginous Hawk. (Previously accepted, 84-059, 86-093; previously not accepted, 85-072, 87-127, 87-128, 88-135, 88-150).

CUBAN EMERALD, *Chlorostilbon ricardii*: 14 sight reports, no photos or specimens (S&A). A female was observed on 5 and 6 May 1991 at Mahogany Hammock, Everglades National Park (Monroe Co.; 91-228); the bird was reported by others on 4 and 7 May (FFN 19:129). The detailed description of 1 observer accords well with a

female *Chlorostilbon*; however, some members believed that not all other species in the genus could be eliminated.

THICK-BILLED VIREO, *Vireo crassirostris*: 12 reports, not all have been evaluated (S&A).

A vireo was observed on Snake Bight Trail, Everglades National Park (Monroe Co.), for about 30 minutes on 27 May 1993. The individual was viewed as close as 3 m under both cloudy and sunny skies (93-279). The description of the head and ventral plumages accords well with some individuals of this Bahamian and West Indian species. However, the description included an all dark bill; the Thick-billed Vireo normally has a pale bill. The variable resident and migrant White-eyed Vireos (*V. griseus*) sometime have an all dark bill and sometime retain the dark irises of the immature as adults (S&A). There is 1 other report of this species in Everglades National Park: 1 seen from 28 December 1980 to 21 January 1991, but its identity was never confirmed. The Thick-billed belongs to a large and poorly understood complex of mostly tropical and subtropical insular vireos that includes the White-eyed. Some forms have been designated as races and others as full species. Of all the forms in this complex, other than the White-eyed, the Thick-billed resides closest to Florida and would be the most likely one to occur here. However, an observer must exclude all other possibilities that could occur in Florida when identifying any species out of its normal range. This would include almost every form of vireo that is resident in the Caribbean. Even a detailed description of the individual may not be sufficient to eliminate all possibilities and whenever possible, a specimen or clear photos (or video), and an audio recording should support the identification. The Committee did not receive details for the only other 1993 report of this species: 1 seen on Boot Key (Monroe Co.) on 3-10 October (FFN 22:65). (Previously accepted, 89-179, 90-202, 91-226; not previously accepted, 88-151).

REPORTS NOT EVALUATED

SWAINSON'S HAWK, *Buteo swainsoni*: regular winter resident in south Florida, rare in north Florida mostly in fall (S&A). An immature that had been shot in the wing was found in Leon Co. and taken to the St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc., Havana, FL, for rehabilitation. The bird was found in December 1991 and released in August 1992 (JEC;P). This represents the first confirmed record for the Panhandle.

LECONTE'S SPARROW, *Ammodramus lecontei*: rare winter resident throughout the Florida mainland (S&A). One was seen from 17 March through 5 May 1992 at the end of Route 361 (Dixie Co., JEC,P).

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