Florida Field Naturalist 48(4):173-177, 2020.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Spring Report: March-May 2020.—This report consists of significant bird observations compiled by the Field Observations Committee (FOC). Electronic submissions to the FOC should be in the following format: species, number of individuals, age and sex of the bird(s), color morph if applicable, location (including county), date, observer(s), and significance. Seasons are winter (December–February), spring (March–May), summer (June–July), and fall (August–November). Submit observations to regional compilers within two weeks after the close of each season, or to the state compiler within one month. Addresses of the compilers follow this report.

Sight-only observations are considered "reports," whereas only those observations supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio recordings, or specimens) are called "records." Species for which documentation is required by the FOC and by the FOS Records Committee (FOSRC; <fosbirds.org/official-florida-state-bird-list>) are marked here with an asterisk (*). A county designation (in italics) accompanies the first-time listing of each site in this report. Abbreviations in this report are: AFB = Air Force Base, AFR = Air Force Range, EOS = end of season, m. obs. = many observers, NERR = National Estuarine Research Reserve, NP = National Park, NSRA = North Shore Restoration Area, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SF = State Forest, SP = State Park, STA = Stormwater Treatment Area, STF = sewage treatment facility, WMA=Wildlife Management Area, and N, S, E, W, etc., for compass directions. Bold-faced entries denote birds newly reported or verified in Florida, or record numbers. Photographs or video- or audio-recordings archived by the FOC are identified by a plus (+).

SUMMARY OF THE SPRING SEASON

State review species noted in this report include American Black Duck, Inca Dove, Vaux's Swift, Hudsonian Godwit, Heermann's Gull, Yellow-green Vireo, White Wagtail, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Species Accounts

- BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 80 at Rabon Road Pond (*Jefferson*) 7 March (M. Smith, A. Smith); 2 at Shell Bay (*Duval*) 20 Apr (K. Dailey, M. Dailey).
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 at Fellsmere Grade Recreation Area (*Brevard*) 9–14 Apr (S. Brookens).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 2 at The Villages (Sumter) 5–19 Mar (M. Pitcher).
- SNOW GOOSE: 1 at Patrick AFB (Brevard) 16 Mar (J. Lageneck).

*American Black Duck: 5 at Saint Marks NWR (Wakulla) 3 Mar (D. Morrow).

CINNAMON TEAL: 1 at Black Point Wildlife Drive (Brevard) 1-11 Mar (m. obs.).

GREATER SCAUP: 2 at East Gator Creek (Brevard) 9 May (S. Fitzgerald).

American Flamingo: 1 at Saint Marks NWR 1 Mar-EOS (+D. Morrow).

*INCA DOVE: 1 at Pensacola (Escambia) 30 Mar (S. Hinton).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: 1 at Gainesville (*Alachua*) 25 Apr (A. Zions); 1 at Chassahowitzka WMA (*Alachua*) 3 May (B. Hansen).

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL: 1 at W Pensacola 8 Mar (C. Tebay).

*VAUX'S SWIFT: 1 at Gainesville to 7 Mar (B. Hall, B. Ewing).

BLACK RAIL: 1 recovered at Pensacola Beach (*Escambia*) 26 Mar and taken to Wildlife Rescue Sanctuary of NW FL (D. Kaufmann).

KING RAIL: 21 at International Paper Wetlands (Escambia) 10 Apr (J. Callaway, B. Callaway).

- SORA: 110 at International Paper Wetlands 21 Apr (J. Callaway, B. Callaway).
- GRAY-HEADED SWAMPHEN: Up to 2 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park (*Alachua*) throughout the season (T. Hardin et al.).
- PURPLE GALLINULE: 36 at International Paper Wetlands 5 May (J. Callaway, B. Callaway). LIMPKIN: 13 at Cape San Blas Road (*Gulf*) 30 May (P. McCleod, R. McCleod).
- WHOOPING CRANE: 1 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP (*Alachua*) 10 May–EOS (S. Mallard, A. Conrad).
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Up to 12 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP 25 Apr–19 May (T. Hardin, C. Poli).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER: 6 at Cross Creek (Alachua) 20 Apr (P. Fuller).
- WHIMBREL: 2 at Huguenot Memorial Park (Duval) 19 Apr (K. Dailey).
- *Hudsonian Godwit: 1 at Black Point Wildlife Drive 23 May (+W. Chatfield-Taylor).
- MARBLED GODWIT: 2 at Okaloosa Island (Okaloosa) 28 Apr (M. Swan, S. Hobson).
- STILT SANDPIPER: 1 at Saint Marks NWR 31 Mar (D. Morrow).
- SANDERLING: 1 at Newnans Lake (Alachua) 3 May (A. Kent, G. Kent).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 16 at Saint Marks NWR 22 Apr (D. Morrow); 4 at Pumphouse Road (*Brevard*) 22 Apr-24 May (+A. Whitlock); 1 at Big Talbot Island SP Spoonbill Pond (*Duval*) 10 May (K. Dailey).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 6 at T. M. Goodwin WMA (*Brevard*) 5 Mar (+C. Newton); 1 at Black Point Wildlife Drive 5–26 Mar (+B. Day).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: 2 at Black Point Wildlife Drive 22 Mar-2 Apr (C. Ferro).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 1 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park 15 Apr (T. Hardin, R. Rowan); 1 at E Gulf Breeze (Santa Rosa) 25 Apr (M. Brower); 1 at Pumphouse Road 2–4 May (J. Leavens); 1 at Gulf Islands National Seashore 5–6 May (J. Schiro).
- POMARINE JAEGER: 1 offshore Alligator Point (Franklin) 31 May (+J. Murphy).
- *HEERMANN'S GULL: 1 at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park (Duval) 8 May-EOS (K. Dailey).
- GLAUCOUS GULL: 1 at Pensacola 27 Mar–3 Apr (D. Horton, B. Duncan, L. Duncan); 1 at Huguenot Memorial Park (*Duval*) 15 Apr (K. Dailey).
- BROWN NODDY: 1 at Pensacola Beach (*Escambia*) 19 May taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of NW FL (D. Kaufmann).
- SOOTY TERN: 2 at Saint George Island (Franklin) 12 Apr (B. Kinzie, J. Murphy).
- LEAST TERN: 20 at E Eau Gallie Boulevard (Brevard) 20-27 Mar (R. Peipert).
- GULL-BILLED TERN: 2 at Shell Bay, Little Marsh Island (*Duval*) 17 Apr (K. Dailey); 2 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP 29 May (J. Mays).
- CASPIAN TERN: 2 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park 16 Apr (M. Manetz).
- COMMON TERN: 1 at Merritt Island NWR (Brevard) 10 Apr (C. Newton).
- ROYAL TERN: Up to 12 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park 15-20 Apr (T. Hardin, D. Alvarez).
- BLACK SKIMMER: 1 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP 16 Mar (R. Rowan); 1 at Newnans Lake 24 Apr (D. Segal).
- RED-THROATED LOON: 1 at Gulf Breeze 17 Apr (B. Duncan, L. Duncan).
- Common Loon: 2,190 migrated over *Alachua* at up to 8 observation stations 12 Mar–25 Apr, with a peak of 325 on 31 Mar (*fide* A. Kratter).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 1 at Big Talbot Island SP Spoonbill Pond 7 May (K. Dailey, M. Dailey).
- BROWN PELICAN: 5 at Alachua 23 Mar-9 May (C. Anderson, C. Poli).
- LEAST BITTERN: 65 at International Paper Wetlands 29 May (J. Callaway, B. Callaway).
- GREAT BLUE HERON: 1 (Great White Heron) at Claude Edge Front Street Park (*Brevard*) 8–9 Apr (D. Simpson); 1 (Great White Heron) at Millennium Beach Park (*Brevard*) 27 May (D. Simpson).
- GLOSSY IBIS: 2 at Floridatown (Santa Rosa) 24 May (M. Lehmann); 1 at the Okaloosa County STF (Okaloosa) 27 May (M. Swan).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS: 1 at Okaloosa County STF 17 Apr (R. Jamieson); 1 at Walnut Hill (*Escambia*) 19 Apr (R. Jamieson).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: 2 at NW Tallahassee (Leon) 1 Apr (T. Tanaka, J. Stevenson).

- SNAIL KITE: 2 adult females at Withlacoochee River (Sumter) 15 Mar (D. Richard, K. Lynn); 1 immature at Withlacoochee River (Citrus) 15 Mar (D. Richard, K. Lynn); 1 at Lake Panasoffkee (Sumter) 26 Mar (J. Bechtel); 146 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP 7 Apr (fide C. Poli); 1 at Wacissa River headwaters (Jefferson) 22 Apr (S. Kiser, M. Kiser); 1 east of Brooksville 17 May (D. Grimes).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary (Santa Rosa) 9 Mar (L. Kelly).
- NORTHERN HARRIER: 1 at T. M. Goodwin WMA 7 May (V. Gallogly).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK: 1 at Grant Flatwoods (Brevard) 10 Apr (D. Simpson).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: 1 at Crystal River 21 Mar (P. Laipis); 1 at Coleman (Sumter) 21 Apr-8 May (D. Robbins, D. Richard).
- BURROWING OWL: 2 at Orlando Melbourne International Airport (*Brevard*) 21 Apr (E. Ravecca).
- BELTED KINGFISHER: 1 male at Bystre Lake (Hernando) through 24 May (D. Fraser).
- HAIRY WOODPECKER: 1 at Micco Scrub Sanctuary (*Brevard*) 11 Mar–7 May (D. Simpson); 1 at W Pensacola 17 Mar (E. Blomberg).
- NANDAY PARAKEET: 3 at Crescent Avenue (Brevard) 28 Apr and 13 May (L. Pernas-Giz).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER: 1 at Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial Park (*Okaloosa*) 11 Apr (B. Purdy).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 1 at Saint Marks NWR 9 Mar (B. Phelan).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 2 at Dixie's Park (*Brevard*) 1 Mar-26 Apr (m. obs.); 1 at Okaloosa County STF 15-18 Mar (B. Purdy).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD: 2 at Dixie's Park 1–16 Mar (m. obs.); up to 4 at Crescent Drive (*Brevard*) 1 Mar–13 Apr (m. obs.); 1 at Gulf Breeze 14 Apr (B. Duncan, L. Duncan).
- GRAY KINGBIRD: 1 at Lake Panasoffkee 27 Apr (D. Segal).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 at Okaloosa County STF 5-16 Apr (B. Purdy, M. Swan).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO: 1 at Bald Point SP (Franklin) 26 Apr (J. Murphy).
- *YELLOW-GREEN VIREO: 1 at Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial Park 29–30 Apr (M. Swan, S. Hobson).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO: 1 at Maritime Hammock Preserve (*Brevard*) 7 Apr (T. Ledford); 1 at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary (*Brevard*) 25 Apr (W. Chatfield Taylor); 1 at Turkey Creek Sanctuary 25 Apr (A. Whitlock); 1 at Bald Point Road (*Franklin*) 25 Apr (+D. Beach, T. Beach); 1 at Lori Wilson Park (*Brevard*) 2 May (P. Mansfield); 1 at Orlando Park (*Brevard*) 3 May (C. Ferro); 1 at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) 13 May (+J. Murphy).
- CAVE SWALLOW: 1 at Okaloosa County STF 11 Apr (B. Purdy).
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE: 1 at Fox Lake Park (*Brevard*) 1 Apr (Glenn Peterson); 1 at Range Road/Hooper Road (*Brevard*) 21 Apr (M. Roberts).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: 4 at Tallahassee (Leon) 1–27 May (S. Phillips).
- BROWN CREEPER: 1 at Fawn Lake (Brevard) 2–11 Mar (B. Rohman).
- WINTER WREN: 1 at Gainesville through 28 Mar (T. Hardin, A. Shapiro, J, Ewert).
- VEERY: 1 at 444 Crescent Drive 24 Mar (+L. Pernaz-Giz); 22 at Alachua 25 Mar–9 May (B. Shea, B. Pirzer); 1 at Gleason Park (Brevard) 5 May (D. Simpson).
- HERMIT THRUSH: 1 at Turkey Creek Sanctuary 25 Apr (+A. Whitlock).
- AMERICAN ROBIN: 1 at Inverness 9 May (E. Smith); 5 at Ensley (*Escambia*) 28 May (J. Callaway).
- *WHITE WAGTAIL: 1 at Saint George Island SP (Franklin) 18 May (J. Cavanagh).
- American Goldfinch: 1 at E Gulf Breeze 11 May (M. Brower).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER: 1 at Gulf Breeze 11 May (B. Duncan, L. Duncan).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: 1 near Lake Jackson (Leon) 1 Mar (J. Cavanagh); 1 at Holt (Okaloosa) 30 May (M. Swan).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1 at Gulf Breeze 16 Mar (B. Duncan, L. Duncan).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: 1 at Gainesville 4 May (C. Poli); 1 at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary 9 May (W. Chatfield-Taylor).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: 4 at Alachua 22 Mar–18 Apr (J. Donsky, T. Hardin et al.); 1 at Orlando Park 8 May (M. Berg).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1 female at Erna Nixon Park (Brevard) 27 May (D. Simpson).

- SWAINSON'S WARBLER: 1 at Miccosukee (*Leon*) 29 Mar–3 Apr (B. Phelan); 1 at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary 21 Apr (C. Cimino); 1 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park 25 Apr (M. Chappell).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 1 at Lori Wilson Park 1 Apr (P. Mansfield).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER: 1 at Gainesville 11–12 May (D. Alvarez, C. Burney); 1 at Aripeka Sandhills (*Pasco*) 12 May (V. Capp); 1 at Gulf Breeze 15 May (B. Duncan, L. Duncan).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER: 2 at Alachua 9-12 Apr (A. Casella, R. Robinson).
- American Redstart: 1 at Fort Pickens (Escambia) 31 May (P. Doggrell).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER: 1 at Dixie's Park 31 Mar (A. Whitlock).
- CERULEAN WARBLER: 1 at Indialantic Beach (*Brevard*) 24 Apr (T. Ledford); 2 at Saint Marks NWR 26 Apr (D. Morrow).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER: 12 at Alachua 22 Apr-8 May (T. Hardin, C. Burney).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: 4 at Alachua 17 Apr-2 May (G. Parks, F. Goodwin).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: 1 female at Fort Island Gulf Beach (Citrus) 14 May (E. Roche).
- YELLOW WARBLER: 1 at W Main Street (Brevard) 7 Mar (B. Taylor); 6 at Alachua 17 Apr-
- 17 May (A. Zions, R. Rowan); 1 at Fort Cooper SP (Citrus) 20 May (H. Nagy).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER: 1 female at Millennium Beach Park 27 May (D. Simpson).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: 2 at Fort Pickens (Escambia) 17 May (D. Muth).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: 1 at Maritime Hammock Preserve 3 May (C. Ferro).
- *BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: 1 at Inverness 28 Mar (E. Smith).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: 11 at Alachua 11 Apr-6 May (G. Parks, B. Pirzer).
- WILSON'S WARBLER: 1 at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP to 22 Mar (T. Hardin, J. Donsky).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 at Milton (Santa Rosa) 7 Mar (M. Lehmann).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW: 2 at Saint Marks NWR 8 Apr (B. Phelan).
- CHIPPING SPARROW: 1 at Burgess Avenue (Brevard) 19 May (S. Anderson).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 at LeRoy Wright Park (*Brevard*) 10 Mar–4 Apr (+M. Harris); 1 east of Brooksville through 13 Apr (J. Mann, S. Mann).
- FIELD SPARROW: 1 east of Brooksville through 9 Mar (J. Mann, S. Mann).
- LARK SPARROW: 1 at Watermelon Pond (Alachua) 15-22 Mar (A. Kent, C. Faulhaber)
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW: 1 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park to 8 Mar (K. Magee, T. Hardin).
- Fox Sparrow: 1 at Gainesville to 2 Mar (E. Amundson).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 1 at Fay Lake Wilderness Park (Brevard) 12–19 Apr (+C. Ferro).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1 at Hernando (Citrus) 6–18 Mar (H. Nagy).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 1 at Okaloosa County STF 2 May (B. Purdy).
- SCARLET TANAGER: 1 at Visitor Center, Merritt Island NWR (*Brevard*) 11 Mar (L. Walters); 1 at L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (*Leon*) 11 May (S. Kiser); 1 at Lake Panasoffkee (*Sumter*) 14 May (D. Richard).
- WESTERN TANAGER: 1 at Newberry (*Alachua*) to 20 Mar (J. O'Connor, K. O'Connor); 1 at Tallahassee 2–22 Mar (S. Phillips); 1 at Shalimar (*Okaloosa*) 14 Mar–26 Apr (C. Porch, B. Purdy).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1 at Pace (Santa Rosa) 8 Mar (L. Kelly).
- DICKCISSEL: 1 at Milton 9 Mar–19 Apr (M. Lehmann); 1 at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary 25 Apr (D. Simpson); 1 at Okaloosa County STF 2 May (B. Purdy).
- BOBOLINK: 1 male at LeRoy Wright Park 13 Apr (+M. Harris).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Up to 31 at Sweetwater Wetlands Park to 25 Apr (T. Hardin).
- SHINY COWBIRD: 1 at Saint George Island SP (Franklin) 21 May (+K. Coates).
- BRONZED COWBIRD: 1 at Saint Marks NWR 3 Apr (+K. Coates); 1 at Destin (Okaloosa) 17 Apr (C. Saleeby).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE: 1 at LeRoy Wright Park 26 Mar (+M. Harris).

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Acknowledgments

This report is the twenty-first seasonal report published since I took on the state compiler role in spring 2015. After five years in this role, and nine years overall on the Field Observations Committee, it is time to focus my discretionary time in other areas. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the FOS and for all the relationships made or strengthened over that time. I am especially appreciative of the hard work, dedication, and support provided by the regional compilers and would like to acknowledge each for their efforts. These reports would not have been possible without them: Bruce Anderson, Robin Diaz, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Jim Eager, Charlie Ewell, Bev Hansen, John Murphy, David Sherer, and Ron Smith.

It has been incredibly difficult to get new individuals for the regional and state compiler roles as committee members have rotated off their years-long volunteer assignments. The report has dwindled in content as we have lost coverage for over half the Florida counties in recent years. As a result, this may be the last published seasonal summary for the FOS. Thank you to all who have contributed over the years in making this a key part of the *Florida Field Naturalist* for decades.

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