

apparently unsuccessful this year. Six or 7 pairs established territories and eggs were laid in May, but all of the known nests were destroyed by predators before the eggs hatched (JC). The birds dispersed outside their normal nesting grounds after this initial failure and were not believed to have re-nested later. After last year's interesting report of a Black-and-white Warbler summering in e. North Carolina (AFN 24:672), there is now good evidence that the species' breeding range extends over much of the state's n. coastal plain. Two singing ♂♂ were found in e. Warren Co. June 6 (HL); 1 was seen and heard in n.e. Tyrrell Co. June 15 (HL); and 1 was observed near Mann's Harbor in Dare Co. in late June (GM). In addition to these records, several individuals were found in Croatan Nat'l Forest in Carteret Co. again this summer (JF). Worm-eating Warblers are also apparently breeding sparingly over much of the same range, as evidenced by June-July sightings in Croatan Forest (JF) and the observation of singing ♂♂ at 3 different locations in Tyrrell and Dare Cos. June 15 (HL). A Yellow Warbler, either a very late spring transient or a summering bird, was an unusual find on the s. Georgia coast at Jekyll I., June 13 (CM). At Hillsborough, N.C. a late Canada Warbler was banded by Charles Blake on June 1. Am. Redstarts, whose summer range in the Region generally lies w. of the fall line, were reported during June and July at several locations on the coastal plain. Two were seen in different areas of the Santee Swamp in Sumter Co., S.C. July 16-17 (JS, ED, LJ, et al.); 1 near Great L. in Croatan Nat'l Forest June 27 (PG, JF); and 1 near Ringwood, Halifax Co., N.C. June 21 (JML). Also a pair was found feeding young at a nest on the Roanoke R. in Northampton Co., just n. of Roanoke Rapids July 6 (JML). This location is on the edge of the coastal plain.

**BLACKBIRDS AND FRINGILLIDS**—Com. Grackles are rapidly increasing as summer breeding residents in the Southern Pines area (JC), and it was reported that their numbers "reached the nuisance level" at Columbus, Ga. this year (LAW). Along the coast, Com. Grackles nested at Jekyll I. (CM) and Brown-headed Cowbirds were present in significant numbers at Bodie I., Pea I., and Charleston through June and early July (GG & TB). Several adult ♂ cowbirds were seen at Brunswick, Ga. Aug. 6 (NP, fide CM). Ted Beckett reports that Indigo Buntings have increased as breeders in the Charleston area "possibly at the expense of the Painted Bunting". Painted Buntings were noted to be fairly common around Augusta this summer, with singing ♂♂ noted at 7 different locations (GK). A pair of Am. Goldfinches was observed at the Savannah R. Refuge, Jasper Co., S.C. July 17 and a single ♂ was seen at the same location on Aug. 8 (GK). Goldfinches are rare summer residents on the South Carolina coast. A colony of Bachman's Sparrows was found on the grounds of McKinney Fish Hatchery in Richmond Co., N.C. where 5 adults and a juv. were seen July 7

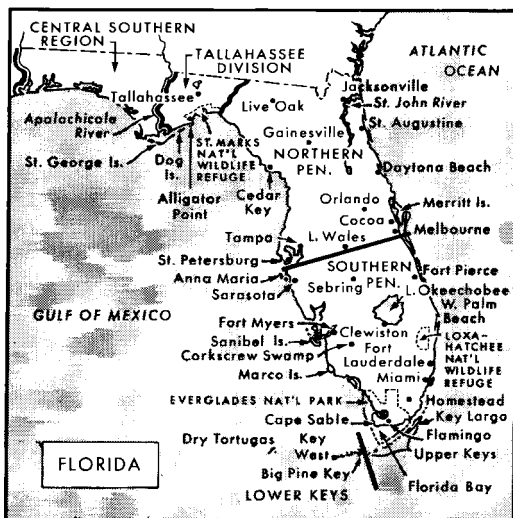
(JC, RT). No Bachman's Sparrows were found this summer at the Raleigh-Durham airport where 1 or 2 pairs have been recorded yearly since 1966 (HL).

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## FLORIDA REGION / John C. Ogden

The summer of 1971 was characterized by below average rainfall at most stations through the Region, with the exception of the Tallahassee area in June. Most stations also reported slightly less than average temperatures. Rainfall deficiencies at many stations ranged between 1 and 3 in. per



month. The initiation of a summer rainy season in the everglades during early June provided at least enough water to reflood much of the freshwater marshlands that had been dry as a result of drought conditions in s. Florida since the previous winter (see Limpkin, below). However, as in most areas of the state, these summer rains over the 'glades were below average and many observers consider the drought still present through the end of August. For example the 18.77 inches that fell at Royal Palm, E.N.P., June through August, was 5½ inches below normal for those 3 months, and brought the accumulated rainfall deficiency during 1971 at Royal Palm to over 16 inches. Heavy rain during this fall hurricane season is the only possible hope for avoiding a more severe drought in the spring of 1972.

If rainfall and temperature were below average, so too was the number of observers in the field this summer. I received only 125 bird observation records for use in preparing this seasonal report, about one-third fewer bird records than were submitted after the summer of 1970. Fortunately the quality of bird observations submitted was very good, and at least 2 observers (Henry Stevenson, John Edscorn) conducted field work over much of the state. Yet the total field work accomplished each summer must rank well below time afield in other seasons, and it follows that the unfortunate and frustrating situation exists whereby habitats and population dynamics of the interesting spring-summer breeding species in Florida are generally less well known than are our transient and winter resident species.

**GREBES, SHEARWATERS, PETRELS** — Perhaps the alternate-plumaged Horned Grebe this summer on L. Brooklyn, Clay Co., was the same bird there through the summer of 1970 (JW); word from Sam Grimes is that it probably cannot fly. A most profitable pelagic trip occurred Aug. 14 that went as far as 28 mi. out into the Atlantic from Cocoa (JBE, JKE & JJ). Highlands included the following Procellariids: 1 Sooty Shearwater at close range, 3 Audubon's Shearwaters, 9 Greater Shearwaters (2 very close), and 9 Wilson's Petrels. Other shearwater reports for the season were 1 Audubon's Shearwater, July 25, in the Fla. Straits s.w. of Key West (CSO, et al.), and Cory's Shearwaters, 2 June 18, about 20 mi. e. of Cocoa (JJ & ERG).

**BOOBIES, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — A badly oiled imm. Brown Booby found on the beach at Ft. Pierce, July 19, represents the first record for the species in St. Lucie Co. (HWK; \* to U.S.F.). An ad. Brown Booby was seen approximately 15 mi. off Seahorse Key, Levy Co., Aug. 8 (LEW). White Pelicans remained at least into July in the Fla. peninsula: 70 at Aucilla Wildlife Management Area, Taylor Co., June 17 (HMS & JMS); 4 on July 13, McKay Bay at Tampa (HWK); and 8 at Flamingo, E.N.P., July 24 (JEW). An aerial survey over the Marquesas Keys, Aug. 9, revealed approximately 100 Magnificent Frigatebirds on nests, apparently incubating (REM), however later obser-

vation, as yet unconfirmed, indicated that this nesting effort was abandoned by the end of August. A frigatebird over Gainesville, about Aug. 16 (JJD), after the passage of a tropical depression which crossed n. Florida from the Gulf, apparently is the first of that species recorded in Alachua Co.

**WADING BIRDS** — During the summer of 1970, I initiated an effort to collect information on the status of spring-summer wading bird nesting colonies in the Fla. Region with the intention of summarizing that information each year in **American Birds** as a contribution towards measuring wader population changes in rapidly developing Florida. It turns out that collecting data on wader colonies is no easy task, in large part because only a small percentage of the dozens of colonies active each spring and summer are ever visited by serious naturalists. Other colonies are visited only once, perhaps providing at least some information on species composition but nothing on nesting success. Happily the people who did visit wader colonies were most cooperative in relaying their observations, and for this I'm most appreciative. Following is a summary of data available at the end of summer, 1971, with emphasis on the small Wood Stork colonies scattered over c. Fla., and the interior (as opposed to coastal) nesting colonies of other wader species. Twelve potential Wood Stork nesting colonies were checked; 6 of these apparently were successful in producing an estimated 570 fledged young (mostly aerial observation by SS & EK in late June-early July; other observations by SAG, HWK, MJF, JBE, PWS). Location is followed by number of fledged young: Croom, O; Charlie's Creek (El Clair Ranch), 80 young; Tenoroc, O; Reedy Creek, O; Pelican I., 250 young; Micanopy (River Styx), 40 young; Panasoffkee, 15 young; Hall's I., O; Panther Pt., O; Dee Dot Ranch, 60 young; Barley Barber Cypress, 125 young; and St. Johns Drainage District cypress (W. of Vero Beach), O. The Micanopy and St. Johns cypress colonies each contained 100-200 storks in late spring (MJF, PWS) but were reduced to the above listed status by early summer. This overall poor nesting success, especially the early desertions at 2 sites, may relate to drought conditions prevalent at the time. Also likely related to the drought, storks which did not nest, or which nested during the winter in southern Fla., apparently quickly moved n. through the peninsula seeking adequate feeding sites, which prompted one observer (JBE) to comment that storks were more scarce this summer in the Bakeland area than he could remember in 25 years. One other stork observation of interest hints at the existence of an unknown nesting colony south of Tallahassee, where Mark Andersen and Howard Cooper observed 1 or more Wood Storks, May 15, flying towards St. Marks R. carrying nesting material.

Without exception, other wader nesting colonies reported from interior sites were composed primarily of Cattle Egrets. Although numbers are available for only a few, the tabulation is as

follows: 250 Cattle Egret and a dozen Little Blue Heron nests at a colony which developed during late June in e. E.N.P. (JCO); unknown numbers of Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons and White Ibis at 2 other Dade Co. nesting sites, 1 w. of Grossman's Hammock and the other in Greynold's Park (JCO); nearly 10,000 Cattle Egrets with some Little Blues and White Ibis at King's Bar in L. Okeechobee (SS & EK); several hundred nests of Cattle Egrets, White Ibis, and possibly a few pair of Glossy Ibis on an island in L. Istokpoga (HMS: SS & EK); and 2 predominately Cattle Egret nesting colonies near Bartow, each with several hundred pair, 1 at the Charlie's Creek stork nesting site and the other in a sludge pit (SS & EK). Further north, of 3 sites below Gainesville used by several thousand nesting egrets and herons in 1970, only the Biven's Arm site at Payne's Prairie was checked this year, and was found to be composed of 65 per cent Cattle Egret nests (an increase over 1970) with Little Blue Herons this year showing a decrease (HIE). Finally, a roost w. of Jacksonville used in 1970 by several thousand waders dried up and was deserted in 1971 (SAG). I also have some information on 3 coastal wader colonies. Riomar heronry near Vero Beach contained the following minimum counts of nests: Cattle Egret, 2000; Snowy Egret, 1000; White Ibis, 500; Louisiana Heron, 300; Common Egret, 100; Black-crowned Night Heron, 100; and lesser numbers of Little Blue and Great Blue nests (HWK). Adjacent Smith and Palmetto Is. in Oyster Bay, Wakulla Co., contained about 90 Cattle Egret nests, 80 Little Blue Heron, 70 Louisiana Heron, 65 Snowy Egret, and 40 nests of Black-crowned Night Heron (LES). And near Jacksonville, a new nesting site in a pond at Ft. Caroline Nat'l Monument contained approximately 100 pair of herons and egrets, but was deserted in late spring shortly after surface water dropped to a level whereby bushes containing nests were out of water (SAG). A few other wader observations are of interest. Great White Herons were far n. on the Gulf coast, 2, Aucilla W.M.A., June 17 (HMS & JMS). Reddish Egrets, mostly imm., dispersed into the N. Peninsula in surprising numbers: 6 at coastal Taylor Co., June 17 (HMS & JMS); 1, island at mouth of Suwannee R., June 25 (HMS); 4 at Cocoa, July 12 (RC); and 1, Ft. George Inlet, Aug. 1 (VM, JW, & J. Whiteman). The latter egret, and 1 at Cocoa were white phase, and probably originated from the West Indies, since white Reddish Egrets are very rare in the Florida Bay-Lower Keys breeding population. Three summer records of Am. Bitterns (nesting?) are especially surprising in such a dry year: 1 in Conservation Area 2A, June 7 (PWS); 1 heard "pumping" near Bartow, June 12 (WWC); and 1 at Zellwood, Aug. 16, probably a very early transient (JBE, et al.). A high count of 150 Glossy Ibis, including immatures, was at Zellwood after mid-July (JBE, et al.). Six Roseate Spoonbills occurred as far n. as St. Augustine, July 11 (RC).

Ducks—A Fulvous Tree Duck was seen in a field pond near Palmdale, May 31 (JMCD). The first July record of a Mallard in the Tallahassee Div. was 1, capable of good flight, L. Jackson, July 17 (HMS). Southbound Blue-winged Teal were not reported in large numbers by the end of the summer period, however of interest were 4 in s.e. flight over the Atlantic about 20 mi. out from Cocoa, Aug. 14 (JBE, JKE & JJ). A few Blue-wingeds may have summered at St. Marks Refuge: 1 at Mounds Pool, July 3, and 2 at Tower Pool, July 16 (CSG). Redheads remained into June near St. Marks Light, 2, June 4 (CSG), and 1, June 18 (HMS), while a late Canvasback was at Aucilla W.M.A., June 17 (HMS & JMS). Two Surf Scoters at the regular wintertime scoter hangout, Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Aug. 15 (DD), perhaps had summered in the area. And one Ruddy Duck summered at Winter Haven L. (HNA).

DIURNAL RAPTORS—The 2 observers with most time afield this summer (HMS, JBE) both commented on seeing fewer Swallow-tailed Kites in the Fla. peninsula than usual. I also thought Swallow-taileds were less conspicuous this summer in eastern E.N.P. However its difficult to explain how a real decline in Swallow-taileds could have come about in the face of a general population increase by these kites many Fla. observers believe has been under way during the past several years. Meanwhile Mississippi Kites continue a gradual s. expansion of breeding range exemplified in 1971 by the first breeding record for Gainesville (REC & CHC). The nest was located, and later a fledged juvenile was seen with adults. There has been no evidence that Everglade Kites attempted to nest in s. Fla. during the spring and summer of 1971. Although a rapid loss of feeding sites due to the drought resulted in some long range dispersal by Everglade Kites (PWS), apparently most of the population remained in s. Florida. Thirty-one kites were at L. Okeechobee into early June (PWS), and 44 were in a communal roost in SE Conservation Area 3A, July 18 (RC). Sharp-shinned Hawks are occasionally seen in n. Fla. in summer, and probably are rare breeders. This year one was well seen soaring with 2 Swallow-tailed Kites over I-75, n.w. of Ocala, July 26 (RC). Two immature-plumaged Cooper's Hawks were reported, 1 e. of Tallahassee, July 17 (HMS), and 1 w. of Archbold Biol. Station, Highlands Co., July 4 (JCO), the latter at the s. limit of this species' suspected breeding range in Florida. Broad-winged Hawks are rare breeders as far s. as Alachua Co., so a pair reported nesting in Gainesville for the past 3 summers is noteworthy (CHC). The old plumaged Broad-winged seen at the Dry Tortugas in May (Kale, AB, 25:730) apparently never developed enough nerve to strike out over water for the mainland, for a similar looking Broad-winged was seen at Bush Key, June 30 (WBR, GEW, et al.). My conviction that most Short-tailed Hawks in the Fla. population breed in the n. and c. peninsula received further support by

observation of singles near Frostproof, Polk Co., May 30 (JMcD), near Suwannee, Dixie Co., June 25 (HMS), and at the mouth of Chassahowitzka R., Citrus Co., Aug. 12 (LEW & EC). A stray, or very early arrival imm. Bald Eagle was at Mashes Island, Wakulla Co., Aug. 17 (HMS). The Marsh Hawk seen in late May outside the E.N.P. entrance (Kale, AB, 25:730) was again seen June 12 (FJA). Several observers have commented in recent years on the growing scarcity of the Sparrow Hawks resident in the Fla. peninsula. In 1971, only one was found in Sumter Co. (JBE & PJF), 2 near Chassahowitzka (HNA) and none in Polk Co. (JBE).

**LIMPKIN**—Because Limpkins are one of the more conspicuous (large and noisy) avian residents of s. Florida's freshwater everglades, they are a useful species to survey for a measure of the affects of the 1971 drought. Generally throughout the sawgrass 'glades in the 3 Conservation Areas and E.N.P., Limpkins appear to have experienced a real population crash during the past spring months (JCO, PWS). A survey made from a fast-moving airboat along a 20 mi. route in the Shark Valley, E.N.P., Dec. 9, 1970, produced 67 Limpkins. By comparison, slightly more thorough airboat surveys in the same region on July 30, and Aug. 20, 1971, produced 0 and 1 Limpkin respectively (JCO). Presumably the sharp decline in Limpkins was due to considerable destruction of their primary food, *Pomacea* snails, as evidenced by the near total lack of snail reproduction during this summer following reflooding of the 'glades. Apparently *Pomacea* can only survive in large numbers in freshwater habitats that are almost permanently flooded; such habitats are increasingly scarce in s. Fla., often occurring only in the network of canals that penetrate the 'glades. Our missing Limpkins were presumably lost through mortality and dispersal, perhaps mostly through the latter since there is enough documentation that long distance dispersal did occur to suggest that it may have been heavy. Several dozen Limpkins were seen along canals and in marshes w. of Vero Beach this summer including some areas where Limpkins have not been seen in recent years (HWK); 1 Limpkin at Payne's Prairie, June 5 (JRG) may be the first record for the Prairie; and 1 at L. Jackson, Leon Co., June 25 (JMS) was the first for that lake. Other Limpkins went as far as Virginia and Maryland (Scott & Cutler, AB, 25:717).

**SHOREBIRDS**—An interesting high count of 21 Am. Oystercatchers was made, June 25, on an island at the mouth of Suwannee R. (HMS). Ruddy Turnstones, always unusual at interior, freshwater sites, appeared at an early date, 4 at the flooded Zellwood cornfields, July 31 (JBE). A Long-billed Curlew at St. George's I., June 26, was the first record for that month in the Tallahassee Div. (HMS). June records of Knots included an unusual interior sighting, 2, L. Okeechobee, June 2 (PWS); another June observation was of a high count of

20 in basic plumage at the mouth of Suwannee R., June 25 (HMS). A flock of Pectoral Sandpipers at Zellwood, Aug. 7, comprised an estimated 1000 birds (JBE). White-rumped Sandpipers, typically one of the latest spring transients, were recorded at Payne's Prairie, 50 on June 5 (ARS & JRG), and 5 at Aucilla W.M.A., June 17 (HMS & JMS). Eight Least Sandpipers at L. Jackson, Leon Co., July 8, were early for the Tallahassee Div. (HMS). A Dunlin at Aucilla W.M.A., in alternate plumage, June 17, may be the latest probable transient for the N. Peninsula (HMS & JMS), while another Dunlin at the mouth of Suwannee R., June 25 (HMS), was in basic plumage and perhaps not going anywhere. Twenty-five Semipalmated Sandpipers at Aucilla W.M.A., June 17, presumably were late northbound transients (HMS & JMS). Sanderlings are rare at interior sites; this year one occurred at Zellwood, Aug. 15 (JBE). The only report of Am. Avocets received was 8 in alternate plumage, L. Okeechobee, June 25 (PWS). Red Phalaropes were frequently seen in the Atlantic off Cocoa in August (JJ), including a count of 31, 15-28 mi. from Cocoa, Aug. 14 (JBE, JKE & JJ).

**LAUGHING GULLS, TERNS**—Approximately 2000 Laughing Gulls were at the Bird I. breeding colony near St. Petersburg, July 5, including some still too young to fly (HMS). Unusual inland occurrences of Least Terns in Leon Co. were 2 at L. Jackson, June 15, and 2, a few miles away at L. Munson, June 19 (both HMS). Another June record of a Black Tern occurred, this year at Aucilla W.M.A., June 17 (HMS & JMS). An ad. Sooty Tern found grounded about 1 mi. inland, L. Worth, July 26 (AS), was released the next day. Other Sooty Tern observations included 4, Aug. 14, about 20 mi. off Cocoa (JBE, JKE & JJ), and 1 ad., Aug. 19, in e. Florida Bay (JCO). Bridled Terns were reported in the Fla. Straits between Key West and Dry Tortugas, 1 in late June (FMP), and 5, July 25 (CSO, et al.). And 12 Bridled Terns were counted in an area 15-25 mi. out from Cocoa, Aug. 14 (JBE, JKE & JJ).

**PIGEONS THROUGH KINGFISHERS**—From mid-July through the remainder of the summer period, many hundreds of White-crowned Pigeons made daily, round-trip feeding flights into the Long Pine Key pinelands, E.N.P., approximately 20 mi. n. of their Florida Bay nesting sites (WBR, JCO). Such heavy pigeon traffic into the mainland pines was unprecedented in local memory and may have been caused by a shortage of a staple, late-summer food, poisonwood berries, in the upper Florida Keys and coastal hammocks (SS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo seen by the tern banders (WBR, GEW, et al.), July 9, may be the first July record for the Dry Tortugas, although there have been several June records there, and Yellow-billeds breed on the not too distant lower Fla. Keys. Barn Owls are rare but regular breeders in s. Dade Co., but it was unusual to see as many as 3, Aug. 6, along farmroads w. of Homestead (JCO). A dead Barn Owl in the same area, Aug.

12, could not be preserved. Two Burrowing Owls discovered e. of Mayo, June 12 & 17 (HMS & JMS) are the first in summer for Lafayette Co., and may represent a westward range extension. Henry Stevenson considered a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, July 29, near St. Marks Light, to be an early transient, since hummers are not known to breed in that area. Belted Kingfishers, among the earliest southbound transients in Florida, appeared in the Gainesville area by the end of June (JJD), and in the S. Peninsula near Arcadia, July 4 (JCO).

**FLYCATCHER, SWALLOWS, CATBIRDS**—Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at the St. Marks Refuge, June 4 & 23 (CSG) may have been Spring stragglers, as the several May records for this species in the Fla. Region point towards the existence of a late spring flight. However there are also early July records for Scissor-taileds on the n. Gulf coast of Fla. in other years; one of these was interpreted as an "early wanderer" (Stewart, AFN, 23:699). Both interpretations could be correct, and the recent occurrence of unseasonably late spring or early fall transients along the n.e. Gulf may be related to this species eastward spread as a breeder. Three Acadian Flycatchers near Bartow, Aug. 8 (PJF) were the earliest southbound Empidonax of local record. An E. Wood Pewee in song 15 mi. n.w. of Lakeland, June 12 (JBE), if at a nest site, represented the extreme s. edge of the species' breeding range in Polk Co. Straggling Barn Swallows are not unusual along Florida's coast in June, however these interior records are noteworthy: 1 e. of Kissimmee, June 11 (HMS); 1, e. Marion Co., June 12 (HMS & EAD); and 2, Payne's Prairie, June 18 (RWM). Much more unusual in Fla. in June was a Tree Swallow near Vero Beach, June 22, flying n. ahead of a thunderstorm (HWK). An impressively early and large swallow flight in Conservation Area 2A, July 21 (HLJ & PWS) contained 12 Cliff Swallows, 15 Bank Swallows, and 225 Tree Swallows! Other early swallows were 1 Tree Swallow n.w. of L. Okeechobee, July 14 (RC), 20 Tree Swallows near Lakeland, July 19 & 20 (JBE), and 15-20 Bank Swallows at Naples, July 20-22 (TB & LB). Almost unprecedented during the summer period (Ogden, AFN, 24:677) a small flight of Catbirds apparently entered and deeply penetrated the Fla. peninsula during late July. One Catbird was picked up freshly killed at WCTV Tower n. of Tallahassee, July 22 (WWB, RLC), and 2 appeared in my yard in Homestead, July 21. One of the 2 Catbirds in my yard sang for several days after their arrival and both remained through the end of the summer period, but there was no indication of nesting.

**WARBLERS**—A Black-and-white Warbler at Jacksonville, July 22 (JC), and a Prothonotary in n. Polk Co., July 24 (PJF), were locally early migrants. It is difficult to believe but Black-poll Warblers may occasionally summer at the Dry Tortugas (Ogden, AFN, 24:677); this summer there was one ♂ in song, Garden Key, July 9 (WBR, GEW, et al.). An early transient Kentucky

Warbler struck WCTV Tower on the night of July 25-26 (WWB, RLC). Late nesting by Yellowthroats was observed near St. Marks Light, Aug. 7 (HMS), where a pair were observed feeding fledglings. Hooded Warblers may have nested at a site just n. of Gainesville, near the species' s. breeding limit, where a pair was seen in early May, and 1 was seen June 5 (JRG). Like the Black-poll, Am. Redstarts also have a spring flight that runs into early June. One particularly late redstart in song at Royal Palm, E.N.P., June 26 (JCO), if it was still going north, which is extremely doubtful, would represent the latest spring migrant recorded in the Fla. Region.

**ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES**—An Orchard Oriole was still singing near Tallahassee on the late date of July 17 (HMS), when migration by some local orioles may have begun. An ad. and several recently fledged Boat-tailed Grackles 12 miles e. of Live Oak, July 9 (HMS), were at the species' n. breeding limit in Florida's interior. Brown-headed Cowbirds continue to spread e. and s. as breeders. They appeared in Duval Co., where 2 ♂♂ were at Dee Dot Ranch, June 6 (SAG, DG), and 3 adults and a juvenile were at a bird feeder in Jacksonville, July 19 (VM). And possibly the first summer record for Dixie Co. occurred June 25, 1 near Suwannee (HMS). Determining the cowbird's actual breeding range is complicated by a late-summer s. dispersal of juveniles, and a possible tendency for adults to wander. This summer 1 ♀ was seen far s. at the Dry Tortugas, June 28! July 9 (WBR, GEW, et al.). Blue Grosbeaks continue to expand their breeding range s., somewhat on the heels (tails?)—Ed) of Indigo Buntings. The pair of grosbeaks near Bartow in June (Kale, AB, 25:734), remained through the summer, the ♂ singing, although no nest was located (JBE). A Blue Grosbeak at Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Aug. 15 (DD), was probably an early transient, since the species does not breed there. Another observation of the elusive resident Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus s. floridanus*, occurred this summer, 1 singing at a site w. of L. Okeechobee, July 14 (RC).

**CORRIGENDA**—The specimen reported to be a Le Conte's Sparrow from the WCTV Tower, May 12, 1967 (Stevenson, AFN, 21:499), has been re-examined and identified as a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. And a White-crowned Sparrow from Cuba in October, 1969 (Robertson, AFN, 24:38), was actually a Lincoln's Sparrow (O. H. Garrido in litt., May 28, 1971).

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Knoder, V. Markgraf, J. McDonald, R. W. McFarlane, R. E. Miele, J. C. Ogden, C. S. Olson, F. M. Packard, W. B. Robertson, L. E. Sacks, S. Sprunt, A. Steams, H. M. Stevenson, J. M. Stevenson, A. R. Stickley, P. W. Sykes, J. E. Walters, J. Williams, L. E. Williams, G. E. Woolfenden. Other abbreviations — E.N.P., Everglades National Park; U.S.F., University of South Florida; \*, specimen — JOHN C. OGDEN, Office of the Chief Scientist, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Fla. 33030.

## ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

ONTARIO — The breeding season was cool and dry, with severe drought conditions in some localities. Migration continued well into the period, with the first sightings of some warblers at Pimisi Bay



not coming until June 1-7, two to three weeks later than usual (LdeKL). Other species not appearing until June in some areas were Red-eyed Vireos and Cedar Waxwings, and there was heavy flycatcher movement occurring during the first two weeks.

Water levels were generally high at the beginning of the season, and the dry weather did not appear to influence the success of breeding waterfowl. Species favouring beaches around the Great Lakes must have found conditions difficult; Piping Plover failed to be reported from Oliphant, for example, and it is questionable if there was any suitable habitat there at all.

In the more northerly sections of the Province, and even as far s. as Pimisi Bay, early nesters may have been delayed by the cold weather and late-lingering snow, but the unusually sunny and dry conditions that prevailed through most of the period seemed to favour breeding success and

family broods and immatures were on the move again by late July.

Breeding Bird Survey (B.B.S.) routes are beginning to yield intriguing comparative material with the past two years, as well as providing an interesting counterpoint to the more usual reports. Sharp fluctuations from year to year seem to be the pattern for many species, and the data seem too inadequate at present to draw many conclusions about changes in abundance.

It was an exceptional breeding season in the rarities it yielded: readers should note particularly the records of Little Gulls, White-eyed Vireo and Lark Sparrow.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Com. Loons provided a mixed picture: they appeared to be holding their own in the Kingston area although being subject to harassment by boats on L. Opinicon (AK, RDW), and there were 2 pairs at Luther Marsh Aug. 13 (GWN, RC); but they were thought to be scarce in the Clay Belt (AJE), and in the Bruce area the eggs were failing to hatch (JBM). This may correspond with current studies on Ontario loons which have reported pesticide residues and eggshell thinning. There were three nesting pairs of Red-necked Grebes on Manitoulin I., but no young were seen (CB). At Luther Marsh there were several juveniles accompanied by adults Aug. 13 (GWN, RC), and a bird of this species was seen at Strathroy Aug. 17 (DF, RD). A White Pelican appeared at Luther Marsh July 17 (RHW), and possibly the same bird was at Hamilton later, July 24–Aug. 10 (GM, et al.). There were isolated Double-crested Cormorants sighted, including one on Mountsberg Reservoir Aug. 15 (JAK). There were several nests on Pigeon I. this year, but the eggs were broken, probably by fishermen (MHE); a recurrence of the problems which beset the species in the Kingston area when it formerly bred there in the 1950s.

HERONS, IBIS — The Great Blue Heron colony at Penage had 48 nests this year: this compares with 20 pairs 10 years ago (fide HP). Elsewhere 45 of 69 nests counted Apr. 18 were occupied in the Breslau heronry, the last active one in Waterloo Co. (CAC, WHS), and a newly located colony near Burwash was estimated to contain 20-30 pairs on Apr. 24 (CWh). There was an encouraging report on Black-crowned Night Herons at Pigeon I., where 23 active nests seemed to be showing much better success than last year. The visit did not reveal any Cattle Egrets, for the first time since 1966 (MHE). The heronry at Howdenville contained a Com. Egret on July 7, when a second bird was fishing nearby at Oliphant (CEG, RDU): the species has not nested as far n. as this in Ontario. Southern heron species made some appearances: a Little Blue Heron near Warwick Aug. 19 (RWS); a Snowy Egret at Toronto June 19 (RHW, DEP); and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Rondeau July 16–Aug. 4 (RS). Least Bitterns are elusive birds and usually elicit few reports; however, this year the species