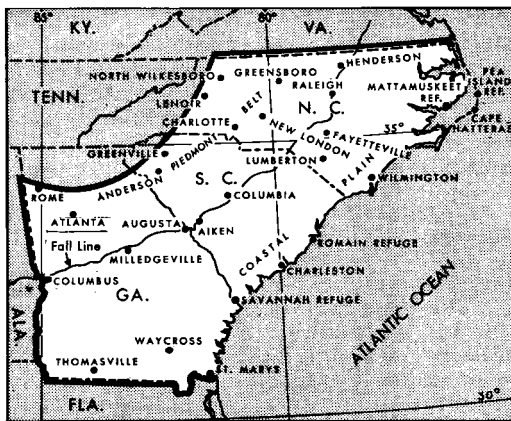


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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION / Robert P. Teulings

Storms were a major factor influencing bird observations in the Region this fall. Tropical storm Doria brushed the coast of the Carolinas with strong easterly winds on August 27, and a month later on September 30 hurricane Ginger hit shore near Morehead City, N.C. after having wandered erratically over a wide expanse of the Atlantic for 20 days. A host of extraordinary sightings were recorded in the wake of these storms.



An interesting influx of shorebirds at Atlanta in July was a notable early event of the migration period. Passerines were detected moving down the coast in noticeable numbers by the first week in August, but there was no widespread evidence of major flights before mid-September. Early sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins indicated the likelihood of an impending winter invasion but the strength of the movement was not yet apparent at the end of the period.

Tower Kills — Two television towers in s.e. North Carolina were checked regularly this fall: WECT (1960

ft.) near Singletary L. in Bladen County, and WWAY (1250 ft.) near Boiling Springs in Brunswick County (JC & JFP). At least six kills of 100 or more birds occurred at WECT during the period with a total of 1706 individuals of 75 species found dead there. WWAY accounted for 970 known casualties, most of which were victims of a single massive kill on the night of Oct. 3-4. Table 1 lists summary data on these events. It is thought likely that more birds perished than were actually recorded since casualties fell over a radius of several hundred feet around each tower, some into brush thickets where it was difficult to thoroughly search. The first kills in late September followed passage of a cold front Sept. 22, and the large kills in early October came during the first heavy flights in the wake of hurricane Ginger. Later kills followed cold fronts on Oct. 17 and 26.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — An early Com. Loon appeared inland near Roanoke Rapids, N.C. Aug. 14 (ML), and both Com. and Red-throated Loons were seen at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. in late August (JC, FN). On Oct. 3, several days after passage of hurricane Ginger, a small shearwater believed to be an Audubon's was seen inshore at Bogue Bank near Morehead City, N.C. (JF). Robert Ake and David Johnson made an exceptional find of 2 **White-faced Petrels** (*Pelagodroma marina*) at Oregon Inlet, N.C., Oct. 2 following the hurricane. This apparently is only the third reported occurrence of White-faced Petrels in North American waters and the first onshore record for the continent. At least 30 **Leach's Petrels** (first good sight record for North Carolina) were also found at the same time by the same observers. Full details of these records will be published later. A flock of 11 Double-crested Cormorants at Columbus, Ga., Nov. 1 was locally unusual (LAW), and there were also several uncommon inland sightings at Raleigh, N.C. and Roanoke Rapids, N.C. during the fall period.

HERONS, IBISES — A Great White Heron was again found on the s. Georgia coast, this time near Cumberland I. Sept. 18 (fide CM). Many members of the Carolina Bird Club observed a **Reddish Egret** at Pea I. Sept. 25-26. The bird was discovered and photographed by James Parnell and is the second record for North Carolina. Good numbers of Wood Ibis were reported from several coastal localities as far n. as Pawley's I., S.C., and 1 straggled inland to Sumter, S.C. Aug. 23 (ED). A Glossy Ibis, undoubtedly blown inland by hurricane Ginger, was found at Raleigh Oct. 2 (HL, EL). An ad. White Ibis was an unusual visitor at L. Mattamuskeet in Dare Co., N.C. in early November (JC), and many were still present through the end of the period at Morehead City where they are not known to winter (JF).

SWANS, GESE — The Whistling Swan population at Pea I. Refuge in late November was 100 per cent higher than last year with about 2000 birds present (NRW). At L. Mattamuskeet, the principal Whistling Swan wintering site in the Region, an estimated 6200 were present by Nov. 20 (JD). A flock of 75 was seen on Bogue Sound near Morehead City in mid-November (RPH) and small numbers were recorded along the South Carolina coast as far s. as Savannah N.W.R. (CL, fide CN). Very early flights of Canada Geese

Table 1

Tower Casualties in Southeastern North Carolina (JC, JFP)

Night of Kill	Tower	Number of Birds Found	Five Most Abundant Species	Unusual Species
Sept. 22-23	WECT (near Singletary L., Bladen Co.)	312	Yellowthroat-109 Veery-31 Ovenbird-28 Am. Redstart-26 Red-eyed Vireo-20	Clapper Rail-1 Golden-winged Warbler-1 Dickcissel-1
Sept. 23-24	WECT	275	Yellowthroat-92 Am. Redstart-30 Ovenbird-26 Red-eyed Vireo-25 Black-and-white Warbler-17	Virginia Rail-1 Worm-eating Warbler-2 Blue-winged Warbler-1 Bay-breasted Warbler-1
Oct. 3-4	WWAY (near Boiling Springs, Brunswick Co.)	958	Black-th. Blue Warbler-203 Yellowthroat-168 Ovenbird-159 Red-eyed Vireo-70 Palm Warbler-68	Worm-eating Warbler-2 Tennessee Warbler-1 Blackburnian Warbler-3 Connecticut Warbler-1
Oct. 4-5	WECT	111	Ovenbird-33 Yellowthroat-14 Catbird-10 4 species-8	Blackburnian Warbler-1
Oct. 16-17	WECT	322	Catbird-64 Yellowthroat-61 Swamp Sparrow-27 Red-eyed Vireo-19 Myrtle Warbler-17	Bay-breasted Warbler-1 Sharp-tailed Sparrow-2 Seaside Sparrow-7
Oct. 17-18	WECT	104	Yellowthroat-24 Myrtle Warbler-15 Golden-cr. Kinglet-8 Swamp Sparrow-6 Indigo Bunting-5	Sharp-tailed Sparrow-2 Seaside Sparrow-1
Oct. 26-27	WECT	367	Myrtle Warbler-125 Golden-cr. Kinglet-46 Swamp Sparrow-27 Hermit Thrush-23 Yellowthroat-21	Black-th. Green Warbler-1 Sharp-tailed Sparrow-1

were seen over the lower Altamaha R. and Butlers I. in Georgia Aug. 15 (GY, fide CM), a full month before arrivals were noticed elsewhere in the Region. By the end of the period some 10,000 Canadas were present at L. Mattamuskeet (JD) and about 2800 were at Pea I. (NRW), but both populations were well below those of last fall. Two Blue Geese were found with a flock of 33 Snow Geese at Pea. I. Oct. 2 (GG, RA), and 2 were sighted near McClellanville, S.C. Nov. 25 (JS). Inland, an imm. Blue Goose was an unexpected visitor along with an adult Snow Goose on a pond near Winston-Salem, N.C. Oct. 8 (CF, RW, RS).

Ducks — Two Green-winged Teal were very early migrants at Raleigh Aug. 13 (HL). However, the waterfowl flight produced few other early records, and it was reported that populations of common species, especially Mallard, Black Duck and Am. Widgeon, were slow in building up at L. Mattamuskeet (JD) and in the Charleston area (TB). Perhaps the most outstanding observation was of an estimated 20,000+ Blue-

winged Teal at Bird Key near Charleston Sept. 26 (TB, SL). These birds were found massed on the sand after dark in a tremendous tightly-packed flock which covered several acres. This writer knows of no published records of such large numbers of teal roosting on dry beach areas. A Eur. Widgeon was an unusual find at Pea. I. in late October (NRW et al.), as was a Com. Teal there Nov. 25 (JG). At Columbus, Ga., 50 Redhead Nov. 9, 30 Com. Goldeneye Nov. 14, and 32 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 11 were good local counts for the fall season (LAW). Six scoters (sp.) were seen off Wrightsville Beach as early as Sept. 6 (JC). The migration appeared to reach its peak in late October with as many as 10,000 scoters noted offshore at Pea I. in large rafts and flying groups Oct. 30 (DH, GW, JR). The flocks seen there on that date were predominantly Surf Scoters, but at least 50 White-winged Scoters were definitely identified.

BIRDS OF PREY — A Rough-legged Hawk was sighted near Bowman in Orangeburg Co., S.C. Oct.

29 (DF) and another was seen on the coast at Pea I. on Nov. 10 & 11 (NRW). During a 2-hour observation period on Oct. 4, 90 Ospreys were seen passing over Wrightsville Beach (JC), and at least 20 were counted among a good flight of hawks at Ocracoke I. Oct. 24 (HW et al). N. R. Williamson, refuge manager at Pea I., reported Peregrine Falcons more common along the Outer Banks than in 1969 or 1970, an impression borne out by an impressive list of sightings by various observers from that locality and elsewhere (see Table 2). Sparrow Hawks were conspicuously abundant on the Outer Banks in late September, as illustrated by a tally of 99 (an average of 5 per mi.) seen perched on wires along the road between Oregon Inlet and Salvo Sept. 27 (DC et al). The first heavy influxes of Sparrow Hawks were noted farther s. at Charleston (TB), Augusta (GK) and St. Simons I., Ga. (MP) Oct. 9.

CRANES, RAILS — Weekly censuses showed a peak count of 70 Sandhill Cranes at Okefenokee N.W.R. Nov. 29 (WM, fide EC), reflecting the seasonal arrival of birds of the northern race which winter at the refuge along with the established resident population of Florida Sandhill Cranes. Among migrants killed at Atlanta's downtown skyscrapers this fall were a Clapper Rail Sept. 1 and a Virginia Rail Oct. 7 (TF). Individuals of both species were also killed at the WECT tower in Bladen Co., N.C. in late September (see Table 1). Elsewhere near Raleigh, a transient Virginia Rail was found markedly out of habitat in dry woods at Umstead State Park Sept. 17 (EL). Black Rails were recorded this fall on Bodie I. where 2 were observed Sept. 25 (KK, LO) and 1 from the same spot the next day (GC, EB).

SHOREBIRDS — The North Carolina Outer Banks, as always, proved to be an exciting area for shorebird watching on the coast. On Sept. 25 there was an unusual concentration of 100 or more Piping Plovers at Oregon Inlet (ET, RT), and 5 Am. Golden Plovers were there on Oct. 10 (GG). A Curlew Sandpiper, still showing remnants of its colorful breeding plumage, was seen on the mud flats at Hatteras Inlet Aug. 19 (SHP), the second record for the Region this year (*Am. Birds* 25:844). David Hughes and Gary Williamson, carefully

working Pea I. Aug. 29 after passage of tropical storm Doria, observed a **Bar-tailed Godwit** (photographed on Sept. 1 by MB) among a flock of **50 Hudsonian Godwits**. The Bar-tailed Godwit, a first for the Region, is the latest in a recent series of sightings along the Atlantic seaboard (cf. *Am. Birds* 25:47,714,841). No less interesting was the count of Hudsonian Godwits which surpasses the combined total of all individuals of this species previously recorded in the Region! An excellent assortment of shorebirds moved through the Atlanta area during the last half of July. The influx was described as being locally unprecedented. The most unusual was a **Ruff**, first seen July 11 (ME, PE) and subsequently observed by others through July 30. On the latter date, members of the Atlanta Audubon Society (fide WD) recorded a Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Plover, Willet, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpiper, dowitcher (sp.?), as well as Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpipers and a Wilson's Phalarope. The Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson's Phalarope and Willet are especially noteworthy as these species have rarely been found inland in the Region. At other inland locations this fall, shorebird sightings were rather sparse, mainly because most reservoirs, lakes and ponds were filled to capacity from heavy rains and provided little suitable shoreline habitat for migrants. However, at Raleigh there were some interesting visitors including a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 2 (HL, EL, JF), an Am. Golden Plover Sept. 11 (RJH), a large flock of 80 Greater Yellowlegs Sept. 12 (CMa), a White-rumped Sandpiper Sept. 18 (MB), a N. Phalarope Oct. 2 (HL, EL), and a late Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 22 (HL, EL). Again this fall there were multiple reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, suggesting that the species may be more frequent as a migrant through the Region than has previously been recognized. In addition to the above mentioned sighting at Raleigh, 7 were found at Pea I. Sept. 25 (C.B.C.), 5 at Savannah, Ga. Sept. 9 (SY), and 1 at Jekyll I., Ga., Sept. 17 (JNC). Am. Avocets were more widespread than usual along the coast, being noted from North Carolina to Georgia. Peak counts were: 25 at Hogg I. near Charleston Aug.

Table 2
Sightings of Peregrine Falcons in Southern Atlantic Coast Region, Fall 1971

Date	Location	Number	Observer(s)
Sept. 21-Nov. 11	N.C. Outer Banks	13	m. ob.
Sept. 18 & Oct. 2	Raleigh, N.C.	2	MB, HL, EL
Oct. 4	Wrightsville Beach, N.C.	1	JC
Oct. 12	Huntington Beach, S.C.	1	FP
Oct. 17	Cape Romain, S.C.	1	TB
Oct. 18	Jekyll I., Ga.	1	CM
Nov. 13	Morehead City, N.C.	1	EP

Total 20

20 (DF), 83 near Savannah Sept. 6 (HC), 150 at Pea I. Sept. 25 (C.B.C.), and 10 in the Altamaha R. marsh on the Ga. coast Oct. 9 (MP).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER—In late October small numbers of jaegers were seen close to shore by observers working the beaches in the Bodie-Pea I. area. Among 6 birds seen Oct. 25 and 7 on Oct. 26 (HW et al.), 3 were identified as Parasitic Jaegers while the rest lacked clearly diagnostic features. Three Parasitic Jaegers and a probable Pomarine Jaeger were seen there Oct. 30 (HL party). Large numbers of Laughing Gulls still lingered on the North Carolina coast late in the period, with at least 10,000 noted around Morehead City Nov. 24 (JF, MB). On Aug. 29, two days after passage of tropical storm Doria, a **Little Gull** was found inland at Roanoke Rapids L. by Merrill Lynch. The bird was studied closely and leisurely under good conditions, firmly establishing the first sight record of this species for the Region. Another surprising visitor in Doria's wake was a Sooty Tern, observed near Morehead City Aug. 28 (JF). An imm. **Bridled Tern**, blown ashore by hurricane Ginger, was found dead at Oregon Inlet Oct. 3 (DH, GW; *N.C.S.M.). Ginger was also believed responsible for the first local appearance of a Royal Tern inland at Raleigh Oct. 2 (RH, JH) along with unusual numbers of Com. and Forster's Terns. A Black Skimmer, displaced inland from its coastal locale by Ginger, was found at Roanoke Rapids Oct. 6 (ML).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS — Two Ground Doves were present at Fort Macon, near Morehead City in late September and early October, somewhat n. of their usual range on the Carolina coast (JF, RW, WFS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was late at Sneads Ferry, N.C. Nov. 7 (GG). Another seen at Augusta Sept. 5 was a partial albino with all secondaries and primaries white (CZ, GK). Black-billed Cuckoos, regular but scarce migrants, were reported from N. Wilkesboro, N.C. on Sept. 20 (WS) and from Morehead City Oct. 3 (found dead, CJS, fide JF). Migrating Com. Nighthawks were noted at Chapel Hill, N.C. on the evening of Sept. 8 when 65 were counted in 30 minutes (JOP), and a "large movement" was seen at Charleston Oct. 9 after a cold front (TB). Late nighthawks were seen Oct. 27 at Columbus, Ga. (HM, fide LAW) and Oct. 30 at Pea I. (HL, EL, SP). A rather early migratory flock of 300 Chimney Swifts was noted at N. Wilkesboro Aug. 3, and Aug. 28 some 5000 transients roosted overnight at Wilkes Central High School (WS). Two casualties were picked up dead in downtown Atlanta on the late date of Oct. 26 (TF).

HUMMINGBIRD, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen regularly at a feeder in Morehead City through Nov. 27 (fide JF). An estimated 1000 E. Kingbirds were seen moving s. from St. Simons I., Ga. to Jekyll I. Aug. 29, and remained abundant in that area through the following day (MP, fide CM). **Western Kingbirds** were unusually common this fall with 11 separate reports, including 5 of more than 1 individual. One party recorded a remarkable 8 W. Kingbirds on wires along the Ocracoke I. highway Oct. 24 (HW et al.). On the coast, singles were found at Bodie I. Sept. 25 (JC), Pea I.

Oct. 20, (GG), Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown Co., S.C. Nov. 6 (FP) Kittyhawk, Nov. 12 (GG), and Oregon Inlet, N.C. Nov. 20 (MAB). Two were at Emerald Isle, N.C. Oct. 2, (JF) 3 at Bodie I., Nov. 11, and 2 there Nov. 14 (JOP). Inland, there were singles at New Holland, N.C. Nov. 6 and Cumberland Co., N.C. Nov. 10 (JC, JFP) and 2 in Thomas Co., Ga. Nov. 6-11 (RC). The various records from the coast spanned the period from Sept. 25-Nov. 20, whereas the inland sightings all fell within a period of just six days, Nov. 6-11. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found near Milen, Ga. on Oct. 12 (MRL) and another was seen Aug. 5-6 at Pea I. (NRW). An unusual flight of swallows occurred Oct. 2 at Raleigh, apparently related to the passage of hurricane Ginger. The tally included 2 Bank Swallows, 5 Cliff Swallows and 750 Tree Swallows (HL, EL). In addition, an exceptionally late Tree Swallow was seen there Nov. 26 (JOP). Normally, the Tree Swallow migration through Raleigh is very early and light.

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WRENS — Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded in the Piedmont and coastal sections of North Carolina before the end of September and good numbers appeared to be present by the end of the period. A few Brown Creepers were present on Bodie I. as early as Sept. 25 (C.B.C.) and a significant movement was seen there Oct. 9 (GG). An early Winter Wren, singing, was found at Raleigh Oct. 7 (EL). Migrant House Wrens were conspicuously abundant in Francis Marion Nat'l Forest, S.C., Oct. 10 (TB). No less than 5 Short-billed Marsh Wrens turned up in downtown Atlanta Oct. 2-12 (TF, LF), and a Bewick's Wren was seen there in Trusco Park Oct. 23 (A.A.S., fide WD).

THRUSHES, GNATCATCHER, KINGLETS — Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen in good numbers at Raleigh during the first two weeks of October (HL, EL). One was found at Jekyll I., Ga., where the species is regarded as a very scarce transient, Oct. 11 (CM). A Veery was late at Raleigh Oct. 23 (GWh). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered at Roanoke Rapids as late as Nov. 21 (ML). The first heavy influx of Golden-crowned Kinglets occurred Oct. 8-9 and observers commented on their abundance at several locations including Raleigh (GWh) and Chapel Hill (JOP). Ted Beckett reported the "largest number I have ever seen" at the Baruch Plantation near Charleston Oct. 14. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also drew comment when "hundreds" were seen during the last half of October in Camden Co., Ga. (MP).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A Solitary Vireo seen at Raleigh Nov. 20 was rather late (GWh). The only Warbling Vireo sighting of the season came from N. Wilkesboro Sept. 15 (WS). Again, Philadelphia Vireos were found on the Outer Banks with individuals at Duck, N.C., Sept. 10 & 26 (GG) and at Bodie I. Sept. 25 (JW, HL). Individuals were also found in Georgia at Atlanta Oct. 12 (LF) and Columbus Oct. 18 (JM). An early Black-and-white Warbler was found Aug. 25 at St. Simons I. in the extreme s.e. coastal section of the Region (MP). An early flight of migrants was noted on the Outer Banks Aug. 6, including 8 Prothonotary Warblers (GG). Four records of Swainson's Warblers were all from the coastal plain: a tower

casualty at Columbia, N.C. on Sept. 23 (MB; *N.C.S.M.), 1 banded at Duck Oct. 9 (GG), another seen at Jekyll I. Oct. 11 (CM), and a casualty at the WWAY tower in Brunswick Co., N.C., Oct. 19 (*U.N.C.W.). Two Worm-eating Warblers were early and unusual near Southern Pines Aug. 15 (JC). Golden-winged Warblers were listed as fall transients Sept. 13-Oct. 2 at Morehead City (JF), the WECT tower in Bladen Co., N.C. (JC) and Raleigh. One of the 4 birds seen at Raleigh (HL, EL) was a ♂ with a peculiar yellow "Brewster's breast patch" below the black throat (a possible back-cross hybrid?). Blue-winged Warbler sightings spanned the dates Aug. 19-Sept. 24, noted at Wilmington, WECT, Roanoke Rapids and Raleigh, all in e. North Carolina. A well-marked Brewster's hybrid was studied closely at Winston-Salem Sept. 27 (RS). Two Tennessee Warblers were late Oct. 29 in the Atlanta area (fide WD). Orange-crowned Warblers were unusual at Umstead State Park near Raleigh (HL, EL) and at Atlanta (fide WD), Oct. 15 & 29 respectively. Nashville Warbler records included 4 at Atlanta in the period Sept. 18 — Oct. 13 (A.A.S.) and individuals at Augusta, Ga. (TR et al.), Pea I. (MB) and Hillsborough, N.C. (CHB) during the same interval. Magnolias were "common as usual" at Raleigh Aug. 31 — Oct. 15 (HL, EL), and 160 were counted Sept. 14-15 at Roanoke Rapids indicating a large movement (ML). Early Black-throated Blue Warblers were noted at St. Simon's I., Ga. Aug. 25 (MP) and at Southern Pines, N.C. Sept. 4 (JC). Myrtle Warblers were early at Roanoke Rapids Sept. 21 (ML) and there was a large influx at Jekyll I. Oct. 3 (JB). The only Cerulean Warbler report was for Atlanta on Sept. 22 (TF; *G.S.U.). A late Blackpoll Warbler was seen at Brunswick, Ga. Nov. 6 (KM, fide CM). Prairie Warblers were abundant at Jekyll I. Aug. 24-25 indicating an early influx (JNC). Four records of Connecticut Warblers were noted, with tower casualties at Raleigh Sept. 23 and Oct. 20 (MB; *N.C.S.M.) and at WWAY Oct. 5 (*U.N.C.W.). An imm. was banded at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill Oct. 9 (ET). The only Wilson's Warbler sighted was at Bodie I. Sept. 26 (C.B.C.).

ICTERIDS — A sizeable flight of at least 1500 Bobolinks was observed on the morning of Sept. 18 at Halifax, N.C. (ML, BC). A migrant Baltimore Oriole was early at N. Wilkesboro July 29 (WS). With this species there seems to be a lapse of a month or more between the passage of transients heading for Central and South America and the later arrival of winter residents which stop over in the Region. At least 4 Bullock's Orioles arrived at feeders in the Thomasville, Ga. area before the end of the period (RC).

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were rather early at Chapel Hill Sept. 5 (JOP) and rather late at Atlanta Oct. 24 (fide WD). Indigo Buntings were seen at Raleigh as late as Oct. 27 and at Pea I. Oct. 30 (HL). Single Dickcissels were found dead at the WECT tower Sept. 23 and Oct. 5 (*U.N.C.W.) and 3 more casualties occurred at the Equitable Building in downtown Atlanta Sept. 12 (TF; *G.S.U.). Another was reported at a feeder in Wilmington, N.C. Oct. 27 (PMH, fide DE). Arrival of northern finches was reported from several localities indicating pos-

sibilities of a significant winter invasion. The earliest Evening Grosbeak record was at Raleigh Nov. 9 (HL, EL) and by the end of the period they were fairly common there. Flocks of up to 30 were present at Chapel Hill (JOP), and small numbers were seen at Southern Pines (JC) and as far s. as Pawley's I., S.C. (FP) by late November. Purple Finches were found as early as Sept. 23 at Pea I. and later arrived in good numbers at Raleigh and other locations. About 100 were seen at Columbus, Ga. on Nov. 14, a surprisingly large count so early in the season (JM). Pine Siskins were first seen at Raleigh Nov. 9 (HL) and soon thereafter at Chapel Hill (ET) and Southern Pines (JC). The first House Finches were noted at Greensboro (DG) and Chapel Hill (RL) by Nov. 15. Nine Grasshopper Sparrows were casualties in downtown Atlanta during the period Oct. 2-31 (TF) and 1 was found alive there in Trusco Park Oct. 28 (LF). One was unusually late at Raleigh Nov. 12 (HL, EL), as was 1 at Augusta Nov. 7 (GK), although wintering birds have occasionally been found at those locations. The October kills at the WECT tower, 50 miles from the coast, yielded surprising numbers of Seaside Sparrows and Sharp-tailed Sparrows (see Table 1), and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was also found inland at Whispering Pines, N.C. Oct. 9 (JC). A Henslow's Sparrow was a casualty at WECT Nov. 28 (JC). A Lark Sparrow was early at Orton Plantation in coastal Brunswick Co., N.C., Aug. 28 (JC, FN). Other sightings of this species were reported from Bodie I. Sept. 25 (C.B.C.) and Oregon Inlet Oct. 10 (RA et al.). A Bachman's Sparrow at Chapel Hill Oct. 16 was a rare local record (JOP) and another at Columbus Sept. 6 was the first seen there since 1964 (JM, fide LAW). An early Slate-colored Junco was found at Durham, N.C. Sept. 29 (PSP). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were studied at Bodie I. Oct. 10 (RA et al.). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from four widely separated locations in the period Oct. 8-24, including Atlanta (TF), Bodie I. (RA et al.), N. Wilkesboro (WS) and Wrightsville Beach (JC; *U.N.C.W.). Two Lapland Longspurs were found at Augusta Dec. 5 (GK, FD, TR). The birds were found in the same spot where one was seen last March (*Am. Birds* 25:566). The only fall record for Snow Buntings was for 2 at Wrightsville Beach Nov. 17 (JC, FN).

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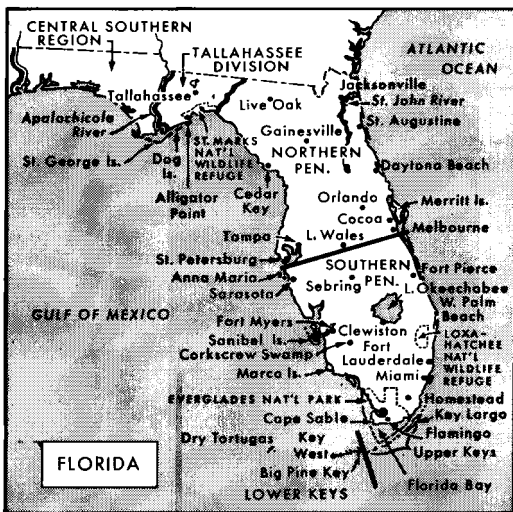
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FLORIDA REGION

/ William B. Robertson, Jr.

The busy hurricane season (five at once in mid-September) made its mark in meteorological annals with the longest-lived tropical storm of record (Ginger, 31 days), the latest of recent years (Laura, third week of November), and one of the few to cross Central America and become a storm in the E. Pacific (Olivia,



née Irene). Drought-stricken peninsular Florida would have welcomed a mild, wet hurricane, but none of the storms got close enough to have much effect on Florida weather. Despite heavy rains across n. Florida in August and along the Gulf Coast in September and October, drought continued in s.e. Florida and the Everglades basin. Predictions of acute water shortages in the spring of 1972 were commonplace until unexpected rains in November and December somewhat eased the threat. Unusually warm weather persisted through the period with even Tallahassee reporting only local, light frost.

THE MIGRATION — Fall bird-watching in Florida typically consists of stretches of tedium broken by frantic episodes when bad weather causes fallout from the stream of night migrants passing overhead. This fall cold fronts were few and feeble and low pressure systems were mostly too remote to bring persistent cloud cover. As a result long dull spells predominated and the occasional breaks in the pattern perhaps shone more brightly by contrast. Cold fronts on Sept. 12-14, Oct. 6-8 and Oct. 10-12 produced most of the notable records of migrant landbirds. The September front brought a large influx of warblers at Gainesville on the 12th (CHC) and Lakeland on the 14th (JBE), and most observers in n. and c. Florida reported that the Oct. 6-8 front was the big event of the fall migration. Only the Oct. 10-12 front reached s. Florida where it grounded the season's only impressive numbers of migrants at Miami (ESD), Homestead (EJF) and Dry Tortugas (FO). This fall's migration was notable for unusual numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, Philadelphia Vireos, many warblers, particularly Tennessee, Magnolia and Chestnut-sided, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. As expected given the relatively settled weather, it was a rather quiet fall at Florida TV towers. Complete records were available only from WCTV n. of Tallahassee (WWB, RLC) which felled 409 birds, more than a third of these (152 of 41 species) killed on the night of Oct. 19-20. This kill, not associated with any large weather system, must have resulted from local rain or low overcast. Reports from observers included several especially notable contributions that figure prominently in the following account. In pursuit of a record year-list for Florida (ultimately 327 species), John Edscorn ranged the state from Pensacola to Key West and submitted particularly valuable comments on population trends. Mrs. Fisk's banding station at Homestead logged 1447 birds of 73 species, again including the only reports of several rarities. Mrs. O'Brien and party supplied observations, Oct. 12-19, from Dry Tortugas, a strategically located station where fall migration is still little known. Johnnie Johnson's ocean trips off Brevard Co. produced significant additions to the slowly unfolding picture of pelagic birds in Florida waters.

BIRD POPULATIONS — Observers cited almost 50 species from grebes to sparrows that they thought were unusually scarce, in many cases noting that present scarcity continued a declining trend. Low numbers of some birds (Gannet, most ducks, Bonaparte's Gull, Robin, northern finches) could reasonably be charged to the mild fall and delayed migration, or to the effects of recent Florida drought on nesting success (Wood Duck, Limpkin, gallinules). In other cases, particularly water birds, reported scarcity in one area seemed to be balanced by larger numbers elsewhere. Many reports, however, were not so easily explained, and they involved many common and widely distributed resident, wintering and migrant birds. The list of species reported to be drastically reduced in Florida this fall included: Snowy Egret (nest site competition with Cattle Egrets? — JBE), Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (only 7 on an 1100-mile trip c. and n. Florida,