Southern Atlantic Coast Region

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This fall was characterized by warm temperatures, average to below-average rainfall, and a general lack of consistent frontal events. Often this type of weather pattern does not produce any of the major fallouts of migrants that birders hope for each autumn. And generally this was the case across the Region, except for some reports of a few days filled with excellent numbers of transients in the western areas and foothills. As for rarities, the North Carolina Outer Banks came through again with two Regional firsts: White-winged Tern and an amazing Antillean Nighthawk.

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras); E.L. Huie (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton County, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P.); N.C.B.R.C. (North Carolina Bird Records Committee); O.S.F. (Orangeburg Super Sod Farm).

Loons to Wood Stork

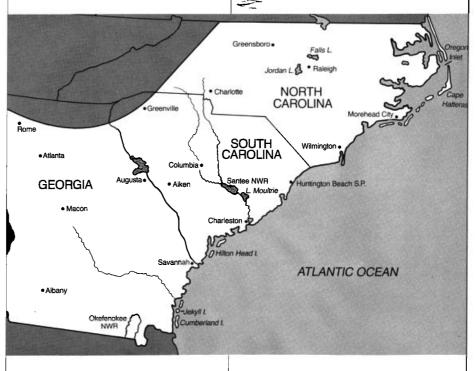
The presence of three alternate-plumaged Com. Loons at L. Lanier, GA Sept. 4 was most unexplainable (BFo, fide JS). Could they have been early migrants or were they just summer lingerers that escaped detection? The inland fall migration of Commons at that lake was better than most years, with a peak of 95 Nov. 29 (JS). Reports of Pacific Loons continued again this fall when three (one immature and two adults) were seen at Figure Eight I., NC Nov. 12 and one again Nov. 19 (D. Carter). These birds were associated with a flock of >1000 Com. Loons and afforded great comparisons and close study. North Carolina still lacks adequate documentation on many Pacific/Arctic Loon records over the last several years! Eared Grebes continued their pattern of fall occurrences with a peak of nine at Goldsboro, NC Oct. 2 (ED), one-three at E.L. Huie, GA Aug. 21-Sept. 11 (fide JS), and five in Monroe, GA Nov. 12-25 (fide JS).

Pelagic birding continued to be a popular activity off the North Carolina Outer Banks

with several August and September trips. There were average to good numbers of the expected species, with Cory's, Greater, and Audubon's shearwaters being found on all trips. Leach's Storm-Petrels were found in small numbers on several trips and Bandrumped Storm-Petrel was found in average numbers with the exception of the possible 52 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 21 (MT et al.). A very unexpected Manx Shearwater was found off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 21 (MT et al.). This species is normally found in the winter to early summer period; was this individual a late spring or an early fall bird? The rarer birds included an ad. White-tailed Tropicbird off Hatteras Sept. 25 (BP et al.) which was one of the "apricot" morph birds. This was possibly the first reported occurrence of this color morph in the Region. This species was also seen off Hatteras Aug. 8 (AHet al.) and Aug. 13 (BP et al.) The 2nd report of a Red-billed Tropicbird came Aug. 13 when a sub-adult was found off Hatteras (BP et al.). Two sightings in one year is a rare event in Regional waters. An ad. Masked Booby off Hatteras Aug. 20 (BP et al.) was also the 2nd report this year for the species. The Brown Booby continued to make news off Hatteras after the 2 documented sightings in July. At least two different imm. birds were found; one Aug. 15 (BP et al.) & 21 (AHet al.), and another Sept. 9 (BP et al.). A sub-adult was found Sept. 17 (BP et al.) and an adult was seen at Hatteras Inlet Aug. 6 (MB et al.) sitting on a sandbar. All told, it seems there were at least three-four different Browns in North Carolina waters this year! Finally, a specimen of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was picked up in the foothills at Tryon, NC Aug. 21 (ST) and will be deposited in the State Museum. This bird was found following a storm which came up from the Gulf of Mexico.

A single Am. White Pelican was found in North Carolina at Pea I. from Oct. 8–Nov. 25 (m.ob.) for that state's only report. In Georgia good numbers were in the Cumberland I. area, with birds present from Sept. 29+. The peak count was 22 Nov. 26 (JS, CL). Also in Georgia, a Brown Pelican was far inland near Rome Sept. 6 (GH, *fide* JS) for an extremely rare occurrence. The only report of Magnificent Frigatebird was of one near Skidaway I., GA on the late date of Nov. 5 (L&CEI, MM).

Last season's Great "White" Heron at Pea I., NC remained in the same area throughout the period and was seen by countless observers. Just how long will this individual remain? Reddish Egrets continued to be found in many coastal areas of all 3 states. There were at least seven in North Carolina, eight in South Carolina, and nine in Georgia—probably a record number for the Region during a season. Up to five Roseate Spoonbills present in the Brunswick-Jekyll I., GA area from late August-mid-October (m.ob.) were not unexpected, but the report of one at Hatteras, NC Aug. 13 (PO, fide SD) was amazing. Wood Storks were found in their usual coastal haunts in average numbers, but inland there were a couple of rare local reports. In North Carolina one immature was found at Greenville Aug. 28 (J&PW) and an adult was seen far inland migrating with an Osprey over Pilot Mt., Surry, Sept 19 (RS et al.). In Georgia one was out of place in Meriwhether Aug. 15 (L&CC, fideTM).



FIELD NOTES SPRING 1995

Whistling-Ducks to Limpkin

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were reported only once, with a single bird near Darien, GA Oct. 23 (MH). The presence of at least three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, at Donnelly W.M.A. in the Ace Basin of South Carolina early August-late September (m.ob), was unexpected, and provided the first record for South Carolina. It is not known where these birds came from, but they were judged to be wild with no information concerning escapes coming to light. As with all potential captive species, you can sometimes prove an escape to be so, but you can never prove wildness beyond a shadow of doubt! Some of the more interesting goose reports included a Greater White-fronted at Murphy's I., SC Oct. 30 (DD, fide JP); eight Snows far to the south at Jekyll I., GA Oct. 15 (NG et al.); and one Brant very early at Hatteras Inlet, NC Sept. 17 (NB). A & Cinnamon Teal in eclipse plumage was at H.B.S.P., SC Sept. 9 for about the 8th state record (NM et al.). As usual, Pea I., NC had most of the Eur. Wigeons during the season, with two-four males early October- November (m.ob.). A rare inland occurrence was provided by a male near Raleigh, NC Nov. 19–22 (RH) for the 2nd consecutive year. Ducks seemed to be in short supply much of the fall in many areas, no doubt due to the mild weather. Nevertheless, several interesting reports included a lone Com. Eider at H.B.S.P., SC Nov. 20 (RC, CE et al.); a very rare inland Oldsquaw in Monroe, GA Nov. 5 (JG, fide JS); and once again the presence of summering Ruddy Ducks in North Carolina with a pair and a duckling near Sneads Ferry in August and September (NM, JO) and a male at L. Pinehurst Aug. 6 (KM). ~ The Am. Swallow-tailed Kite provided excitement in the Atlanta, GA area when two were in s. Fulton from mid-July-late August (m.ob.). Also at this spot, a Mississippi Kite was seen Aug. 23 along with the Swallow-taileds for a rare "two-kite-day" for the Atlanta area (JS). There was also a very good count of 26 Mississippi Kites at Jackson, SC Sept. 2 (CEl, fide AW). The hawk migration seemed to be about normal, with average numbers of Broad-wingeds in the foothills and accipiters and falcons along the coast. Rare inland Merlins included a single near Chapel Hill, NC and a good count of four different birds in the Atlanta, GA area September and October. Inland Peregrine Falcons included singles in Durham, NC Oct. 9 (BF); Falls Lake, NC Oct. 2 (RD); Tryon, NC Sept. 18 (ST); O.S.F., SC Nov. 25 (JGr, fide RC); and up to three in downtown Atlanta, GA through the period (m.ob.). Always noteworthy, nesting Am. Kestrels were found in Newton, GA Aug. 12 (BD) when a pair was seen feeding two young

Sandhill Crane reports from the Georgia migration corridor were down somewhat. There were only a few flocks seen and the only unusual report was three flying over Jekyll I., Nov. 23 (MO) on the southern coast. Last but not least, a Limpkin was found near Macon, *Monroe*, GA Sept. 5 (DA, *fide* JS). The bird was photographed and represented the first report in the state since 1975.

Plovers to Terns

American Golden-Plovers were found in better-than-average numbers throughout the Region. There were up to seven birds in the Macon, GA area (m.ob.) during August and September; several in the Atlanta, GA area in September (v.o.); up to four birds at the O.S.F., SC from August-October (m.ob.); two at Falls Lake, NC Oct. 16 (RD); and at least four-six birds at C. Hatt. and Pea I., NC during the fall (m.ob.). The Piping Plover was found inland in North Carolina twice, with singles at New Bern Aug. 7 (BH) and at Falls L., Sept. 16 (RD). Inland records are very rare in the Region. American Avocets found away from their usual locations included two in Horry, SC Sept. 9-13 (RM) and one on Harker's I. near Beaufort, NC Nov. 18 (WF). Upland Sandpipers peaked at the O.S.F., SC with 39 Aug. 2 (RG). Other reports included 15 in a pasture in Sampson, NC Aug. 16 (EB, SE), two at Sneads Ferry, NC Aug. 17 (NM), and one at Lockwood Folly Inlet, NC Aug. 6 (RD).

Long-billed Curlews were found at New Drum Inlet, NC Oct. 5 (SD), Little St. Simons I., GA Oct. 9 (GOS), and St. Catherine's I., GA Oct. 15 (HP, fide JS). The only reports of Hudsonian Godwit came from the North Carolina Outer Banks where ≤10 were at Pea I., Aug. 15-21 (m.ob.) and one was at C. Hatt., Sept. 3 (SDet al.). Inland Sanderlings were reported from all 3 states with two near Macon, GA Sept. 3 (TI), one at the O.S.F., SC Sept. 23 (LG), and six at Falls Lake, NC Sept. 16 (RD). The only inland reports of White-rumped Sandpiper involved from one-four birds at E.L Huie, GA late August-mid-October (m.ob.) and two-three at Falls Lake, NC Aug. 28 and Oct. 16 (RD). Baird's Sandpipers come through the Region in small numbers each fall. This year singles were noted inland near Macon, GA Aug. 13 and Sept. 5 (TI et al.); E.L. Huie, GA Aug. 17 & 18 and Oct. 11 (PR, JS); H.B.S.P., SC Sept. 2 (SP); C. Hatt., NC Sept. 19-24 (m.ob.); and at Pea I., NC Aug. 8 & 20 (RD, WC, JSh). Habitat for Purple Sandpipers is very limited in Georgia, thus of interest was the presence of five-ten at Tybee I, Nov 24-27 (v.o.), a good count for the

state. Once again Curlew Sandpipers were found only on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, with singles at Bodie I. pond, Pea I., C. Hatt., and two at Portsmouth (m.ob.). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were widespread. There were ≤eight in the Macon, GA area (m.ob.), seven near Darien, GA Sept. 6 (MH), and ≤three in the Atlanta, GA area Oct. 5 (THe). In South Carolina, one was at Landrum Aug 4-5 (ST) and several were at the O.S.F. late August-late September, with a peak of six Sept. 4 (L&CEl, fide AW). North Carolina birds included one at Tryon Aug. 5 & 6 (ST), one at Sneads Ferry Aug. 17 (NM), and one-two at C. Hatt., Aug. 25-Sept. 5 (m.ob.). The always exciting Ruff was found at Pea I., NC Aug. 5 (NB) & 8 (RD) A Reeve was at Pea I., Sept. 26 (BH, WF) Rare inland Wilson's Phalaropes included a single at E.L. Huie, GA Sept. 3–7 (BHu,JS) and ≤four different birds at Goldsboro, NC between Aug. 27-Oct. 16 (ED). Even rarer on land is the Red-necked Phalarope This fall three were at E.L. Huie, GA Aug 6-16 (v.o.), one was at Pea I., NC Aug. 27 (RT, PE), and one was at Goldsboro, NC Oct. 17 & 18 (ED).

There were good numbers of Longtailed Jaegers off Hatteras, NC with three Aug. 13, two Aug. 14, one Aug. 20, and seven Sept. 17 (BP et al.). The only South Polar Skua reported was one off Hatteras Aug. 8 (AH et al.) seen chasing a Whitetailed Tropicbird. Georgia had a couple interesting Lesser Black-backed Gull reports One at L. Lanier Nov. 11 provided only the 2nd inland record for the state (JS), and up to four different birds were in the Jekyll I.-St. Simons I. area in late September-early October (m.ob.). A tern photographed at C. Hatt., NC Sept. 23 was a Sandwich "Cayenne" Tern (SD, TH) This is about the 3rd record of this form for North Carolina. The C. Hatt., NC area usually hosts a few Roseate Terns during the summer and fall. This year a very good count was the seven found Sept. 2-3 (SD et al.). Black Terns were found inland throughout the Region with the best counts being 35 at L. Crabtree, Raleigh, NC Aug. 15 (DS), >40 at Goldsboro, NC Aug. 16 (ED), and >25 at L. Lure, Rutherford, NC Aug. 17 (JN). They also were in good supply along the coast, with a count of 460 at Portsmouth, NC Aug. 26 (SD) And, finally, there was a multiple observer report of White-winged Tern for North Carolina (RMcN, MMa). A basicplumaged bird was found at Bodie I. pond Aug. 13 and was seen by several people during the one-day occurrence. If accepted by the N.C.B.R.C., it would provide the first record for the state and Region.

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Doves to Vireos

The Eurasian Collared-Dove continued its spread in the region with a small colony in Myrtle Beach, SC (VP, RC, CE) for the state's first record. Up to 30 individuals have been seen in the area and apparently the birds have been present for a couple of years. North Carolina's 2nd record was of a bird photographed at a feeder in Buxton Aug. 5 (NB, BJR), not far south of the first report of this species at Salvo in late July, and quite possibly the same individual. That state's 3rd report was of a lone bird at Figure Eight I., Aug. 13 (DCa). And, finally, the Region's first outpost in Brunswick, GA continued to increase, with the best count being 26 Oct. 8 (RD). The Com. Ground-Dove is still in a state of decline throughout the region, thus of interest were inland records of several at Orangeburg, SC this fall (RC, CE), one at Augusta, GA Sept. 6 (AW), and nine in downtown Macon, GA Nov. 17 (PJ, fide JS). Transient Black-billed Cuckoos were found in all 3 states, with numerous reports suggesting a better-than-average migration for the species. Northern Saw-whet Owls migrate through states to the n. of the region each fall and this year Enders banded five ındividuals near Halifax, NC between Nov. 12-24. This was a good count and suggested that this species is overlooked in the Region each winter.

Without question, the bird of the season was the Antillean Nighthawk found at C. Hatt., NC Aug. 5–Aug. 25 (CR). The bird consistently appeared at dusk with one–two Commons and conveniently called repeatedly for everyone to compare and enjoy! With the close observations and tape recordings, the bird provided the Region's first documented occurrence.

Hummingbirds continued to be found in the Region in late fall with multiple reports of Rufous, Ruby-throated, Selasphorus, and Archilochus birds. The best record was of Georgia's 2nd Broad-tailed Hummingbird, present at Kennesaw, Ga Nov. 27-Dec.19 and banded by Sargent (fide JS). In North Carolina there was a Blackchinned Hummingbird report, after the unaccepted report of one in January in Wilmington. This time an imm. male was found at Figure Eight I., Nov. 4-6 (DCa, v.o.). On several occasions a violet throat patch was clearly seen, but photos failed to document this mark. An imm. 3 Rubythroated was present at the same time for comparison. Totally unexpected was the Common "Red-shafted" Flicker found by Brinkley at Pea I., NC Oct 9. This is the 3rd record of this w. form in North Carolina, with the previous two also being from the Outer Banks.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported 3 times with singles in Durham, NC Sept. 30 (WC), Palmetto, GA Aug. 24 (GB, BHa, BB, MO), and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA Sept. 10 & 20 (MD et al.). Empidonax flycatchers were reported more than usual, with Yellow-bellieds being found at least 3 times in North Carolina and ≤four different birds in the Atlanta, GA area. The prize in this group was the Ash-throated Flycatcher found at Pea I., NC Sept. 24 (BH et al.). The bird was seen only one day, but was photographed. Hopefully this will provide documentation for this species, which had only sight reports two-three times before. A "yellow-bellied" Tyrannus kingbird was spotted flying away at Chapel Hill, NC Nov. 22 (TH), but one identified as a W. Kingbird was seen at L. Pinehurst Oct. 23 & 24 (DB), both very rare inland records. This season's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports consisted of birds at Atlanta, GA Oct. 22-23 (HP, v.o.) and Stumpy Pt., Dare, NC Nov. 1 (JF).

North Carolina's 3rd Northern Wheatear showed up at the C. Hatt. campground Sept. 22 and remained until Oct. 29 (ML, D&KA, PM). This individual was exceedingly tame and afforded nice photo opportunities! The length of stay was amazing; previous Wheatears in the state were gone in a day or so.

The thrush migration was characterized as the best in many years, at least in the Piedmont and foothills. Of interest was the report of at least seven Gray-cheekeds in the Tryon, NC area Sept. 22-Oct.8 (ST). Thompson also had 17 Swainson's in the same area Oct. 2, a great one day total. The Warbling Vireo, a very rare fall transient in our area, was found twice-one at Kennesaw Mt., GA Aug. 17 (GB) and one at Columbus, NC Oct. 6 (ST). The considerably less rare fall migrant Philadelphia Vireo was found in normal numbers except for the report of at least 18 birds in the Atlanta, GA area Sept. 5-Oct. 18 (m.ob.); an unusually large concentration for one locality.

Warblers to Finches

The warbler migration was better this season than last, with good numbers of Golden-wingeds (7 reports), Tennessees, Nashvilles (>15 reports), Magnolias, Ceruleans (>10 reports), and Wilson's (7 reports). Highlights included two Nashvilles banded at Charleston, SC Sept. 19 & 26 (WP), one Blackpoll banded at Charleston Oct. 4 (WP), a peak of 17 Ceruleans at Kennesaw Mt., GA Aug. 11 (GB), a rare and very late Worm-eating banded at Jekyll I., GA Oct. 13 (DC), and

a late Swainson's near Atlantic Beach, NC Oct. 9 (RH). Connecticut Warblers were reported twice; two banded at Jekyll I, GA Oct. 13 (DC), and one was found inland in *Durham*, NC Sept. 3 (ET, *fide* WC). A ♀ Mourning Warbler was banded at Charleston, SC Aug. 24 (WP) for the 5th documented South Carolina record! And North Carolina had 2 reports of this very rare migrant, with single birds being found at Pea I., Sept. 3 (E.B.N.T.) and Sept 24 (NB).

A & Western Tanager returned to a Wilmington, NC yard Oct. 31 for the 3rd consecutive year (KK). Let's hope this bird survived its 3rd winter in the s.e. for maybe another visit next year! Dickcissels are rare but regular fall transients along the coast, thus of note were several inland migrants. A female was in n. *Greene*, GA Oct. 22 & 29 (PS) and two were at Landrum, SC Ag 4–Sept. 3 (ST). In South Carolina, a male was banded at Charleston Nov. 9 (WP) for a rare coastal report. In North Carolina birds were found on the Outer Banks several times, with counts of from one–four on several occassions (v.o.).

Clay-colored Sparrows were well reported, with all birds being found along the coast. In North Carolina, the Outer Banks had at least six reports and the Wilmington area had one. In South Carolina, three were reported, including the banding of two at Charleston Oct. 20 and Nov. 8 (WP). In Georgia, where decidedly rarer, there were ≤two near Darien Sept 27 (MH et al.) and three at St. Simons I, Sept. 24-Oct. 9 (m.ob.). Lark Sparrow reports were down in North Carolina, but in South Carolina one was in Georgetown, Aug. 25 (LG), one was at Mt. Pleasant Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (D&DF, RG), and one was inland at the O.S.F., Sept. 4 (RC, CE) for a first local record. In Georgia, one was found at St. Simons I., Oct. 7 (v.o.). Georgia had good numbers of Henslow's Sparrows, with four in Glynn Nov. 24 (JS) and four in McIntosh Nov. 27 (MH). One was banded at Charleston, SC Oct. 26 (WP) for a rare record. The only LeConte's Sparrow was one found in Glynn, GA Nov. 24 (JS, MO). Inland records of Sharp-tailed Sparrow are very rare, thus of interest was one found in n. Greene, Ga Oct. 29 (PS), providing a first county record. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported frequently as in the past several years. The farthest inland reports involved one at Tryon, NC Nov. 17 (ST) and two-three in the Atlanta, GA area in October (GB, MO, JS). The only Lapland Longspur report was of a male at the O.S.F., Nov. 6 (RC, CE). Snow Buntings turned up along the North Carolina Outer Banks with singles at Bodie I

and Pea I., Nov. 11–12 (v.o.). An imm. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at the O.S.F., Aug. 28 (CE *et al.*) provided a first local record. Winter finches were nonexistent in the Region and the four Purples at Bodie I., Nov. 22 (CHG) were the only finches reported at all!

Corrigenda

The following records from the Winter Season report (*AFN* 48:198) need to be deleted: The North Carolina Com. Murre (in the SA) due to lack of sufficient details; the Wilmington Black-chinned Hummingbird and Vaux's Swift in Columbia were not accepted by the respective Bird Records Committees.

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Florida Region

NOEL WAMER AND BILL PRANTY

Rainfall amounts in the Region this fall continued the above-normal pattern of the spring and summer seasons. As a result waders were dispersed and few reports of concentrations were received. While the Region was never threatened by a hurricane force storm, two tropical storms made landfall. Both of these storms brought flooding rains, but their apparent effects on birdlife were much different. Beryl came ashore August 15-16 in the panhandle just to the west of the Region, resulting in strong on-shore winds along the northern Gulf coast. A variety of storm-driven pelagic species were reported. Gilbert made a northeasterly passage across the southern and central peninsula November 14-15. The only report of storm waifs following it were Magnificent Frigatebirds a few miles inland. Major migration fallouts were noted in the coastal areas of Franklin and Pinellas counties September 19-20 and another good fallout was noted in Pinellas following a frontal passage October 1. Observers in Pinellas and Duval counties both noted greater than normal num-

bers of Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers and their hybrids. However, both of these observers and the Dog Island banding operation in Franklin County reported that Yellow-billed Cuckoos were very scarce. By the end of the period there was virtually no indication of invasion by northern species, and the normally common American Goldfinch was hard to find even in the northernmost parts of the Region. However, this season did have some notable vagrants, the best of which were Marbled Murrelet, White-collared Swift, La Sagra's Flycatcher, and Northern Wheatear. The murrelet was of the expected Siberian race, but the swift may be the first mainland record from the Greater Antillian populations.

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co.); A.P.A.F.R. (Avon Park Air Force Range, Polk and Highlands Cos.); Birch S.R.A. (Hugh Taylor Birch S.R.A., Broward Co.); Cape Florida (Cape Florida-Bill Baggs S.R.A., Dade Co.); C.N.S. (Canaveral National Seashore, Volusia Co.); C.P. (County Park); D.T.N.P. (Dry Tortugas N.P.); E.N.P. (Everglades N.P.); D.I. (Dog I., Franklin Co.); F.D.C.P. (Ft. DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.); F.O.S. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); L.N.W.R. (Loxahatchee N.W.R., Palm Beach Co.); M.I.N.W.R. (Merritt I. N.W.R., Brevard Co.); P.P.M. (Polk County Phosphate Mines); S.M.N.W.R. (St. Marks N. W.R., Wakulla Co.); S.R.A. (State Recreational Area).

Loons to Waterfowl

The 587 Pied-billed Grebes at P.P.M., Nov. 6 provided the highest ever count for Polk; an Eared Grebe was there Nov. 13 (both PF). Another Eared was at a Tallahassee sewage pond Nov. 18-Dec. 12 (JC, GM). A Cory's Shearwater was seen on a pelagic trip off Cocoa Aug. 25 (LH et al.), another was seen from shore at C.N.S., Oct. 28, and three were seen there Nov. 15 (both HR). Other pelagics seen from C.N.S. were a Greater Shearwater Oct. 28, and two Manx Shearwaters (†F.O.S.) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel Nov. 15 (both HR). Following the passage of tropical storm Beryl Aug. 16, three Audubon's Shearwaters were seen off Alligator Pt., Franklin (DE, LM). Both Masked and Brown boobies were seen at D.T.N.P.,



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