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Southern Atlantic Coast Region

RICKY DAVIS

This winter season will be remembered for a long time. Temperatures were above average throughout the Region and precipitation was almost completely rain, with only a couple of snow/ice events. This meant that birds lingered in good numbers and winter birds from the north and west were in short supply. Add to this some unforgettably confusing birds and exciting rarities, and you can see why this season was very interesting.

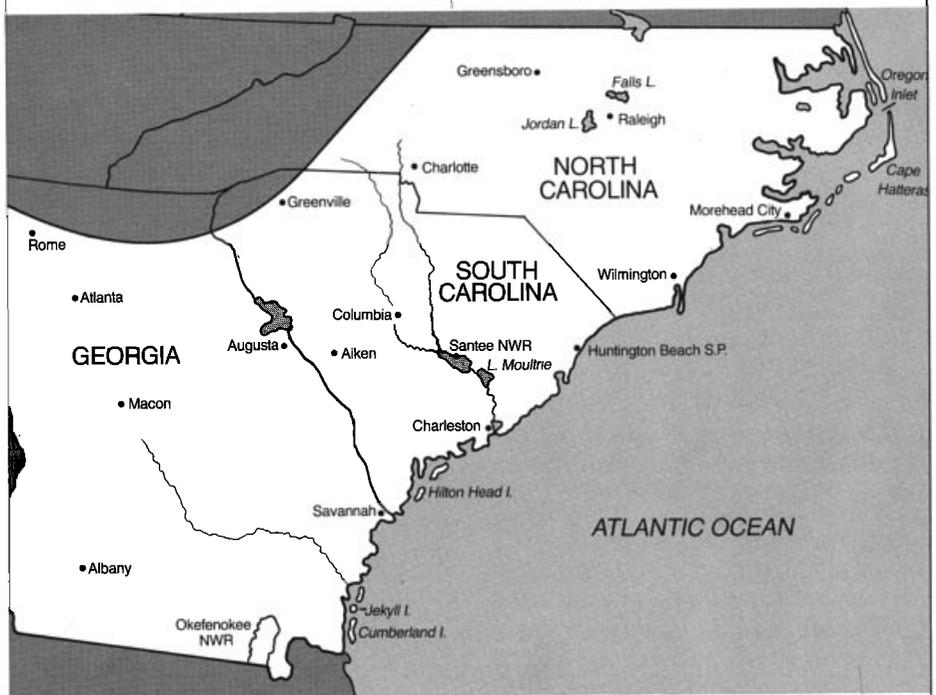
Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (*Cape Hatteras*); H.B.S.P. (*Huntington Beach State Park*); N.C.B.R.C. (*North Carolina Bird Records Committee*); W.M.A. (*Wildlife Management Area*).

Loons to Wood Stork

A Red-throated Loon found on the Jordan L., NC, CBC Jan. 1 (H&ELi) provided a very rare inland winter record. Pacific Loons were again reported from several locations. South Carolina hosted one at Myrtle Beach Jan. 15 (RC, CE) and another one was at

nearby H.B.S.P., Jan. 29–Feb. 9 (PW, VA, P&BM, v.o.). These furnished only the 2nd or 3rd records for the state, depending on whether it was one or two individuals involved. In North Carolina the usual Figure Eight I. area had two Feb. 5 (DC). Also one was at nearby Wrightsville Beach Feb. 14 (SD) and photos were taken, providing the first documentation of a winter report for this species (complex?) in the state! Red-necked Grebes were in normally low numbers this winter (after last year's record invasion), with singles in Pamlico Sound, NC Dec. 11 (LG, *et al.*) and Jan. 29 (WC), and at Wrightsville Beach, NC Feb. 12 (SC). In South Carolina one was at H.B.S.P., Jan. 1 and at Beaufort Feb. 25 (RC, CE). Up to five Eared Grebes spent the winter at their usual haunt in Goldsboro, NC (ED) and singles were found at C. Hatt., NC Jan. 28 (SC, KM) and inland at L. Townsend near Greensboro, NC Jan. 17–Feb. 11 (HLi, HH). In South Carolina, one was in the surf at H.B.S.P., Jan. 22 (RC, CE). In Georgia, one was in *Monroe* Dec. 29 (JP, *fide* TM) and Feb. 18 (O.A.S., *fide* TM). Up to 12 Audubon's and one Manx shearwater were seen on a pelagic trip off Hatteras, NC Feb. 11 (BP *et al.*), once again proving that both species can be found off North Carolina during winter.

The Am. White Pelican was found in North Carolina at Pea I., Dec. 29 & 31 (HL); C. Hatt., Feb. 10. (SD) and Feb. 26–27 (*fide* PM); and at L. Mattamuskeet Jan. 26 (NM). In Georgia, one was at Jekyll I., Dec. 2 (JS, PH) and the large flock continued in the Cumberland I. area with a peak of 43 Dec. 18 (MH). Much rarer was the Brown Pelican found at L. Lanier, GA



Feb. 12 (BHu, *fide* JS) for about the 8th inland state record. Another rare inland record was provided by an imm. Great Cormorant near Goldsboro, NC Dec. 17 (HL), only about the 3rd or 4th ever found away from the coast in that state. Inland noteworthy winter Anhingas were singles at Santee N.W.R., SC Jan. 6 (GB, RGB); near Waynesboro, GA Jan. 13 (JPa); and at Eufaula N.W.R., GA Jan. 28 (HG, TM).

The Great "White" Heron found at Pea I., NC last summer was still present throughout the winter season (m.ob.). Just how long this individual will stay in its favorite spot on N. Pond remains to be seen. Reddish Egrets have become expected in the Region during spring to fall months, but winter records are extremely unusual. This season one was at Jekyll I., GA Dec. 31 (R&NG) and one adult and one immature were in the H.B.S.P., SC area Dec. 29–Feb. 2 (JPe). A very rare winter report was of a single Wood Stork at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Feb. 4 (RC, CE).

Waterfowl to Raptors

Among the multitudes of Tundra Swans at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, a **Trumpeter Swan** was found Jan. 21 (DC, KD *et al.*). The origin of this individual was a mystery, and this first report for North Carolina is awaiting review by the N.C.B.R.C. Greater White-fronted Geese are always noteworthy in our Region. This year one was at Santee N.W.R., SC Jan. 1–Feb. 7 (SP) and one–two were in n. *Greene*, GA Feb. 20–Mar. 1 (BD, PS) for a very rare inland state record. Snow Geese were found in several areas throughout the Region, with more reports than normal coming from Georgia. The Ross' Goose was found only at Pungo N.W.R., NC with two Jan. 28 (DC, RD, JW *et al.*) and three there Feb. 13 (SD, SB). In North Carolina five Brant at Ft. Fisher late December–Jan. 10 (MR, KM) and one "inland" at L. Mattamuskeet Jan. 24 (A&VW) provided locally rare reports.

The only report of Green-winged Teal (Eur.) came from *Onslow*, NC, where one was present Jan. 20–Feb. 26 (J&NM, v.o.). There were 3 reports of Cinnamon Teal. A male was in *Onslow*, NC Feb. 14 (NM, SD); a male was at St. Marks N.W.R., GA Jan. 14 (G.O.S.); and two–three (two males, one female) were at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Feb. 4–18 (LG, BW, RC, CE). Eurasian Wigeon reports included a male that spent the winter near Raleigh, NC (BH_a, sev. ob.), a male at Orton Pond, *Brunswick*, NC Dec. 31 (RD), and two (male and female) at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Jan. 2–Feb. 3 (A&VW, L&CEI, RC, CE, PW). Diving ducks were reported in about average numbers, with the exception of Redheads, which were found inland in several places. The best count was

42 at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA Feb. 18 (O.A.S.). The only Com. Eider reports involved a female at Garden City, SC Jan. 22 (RC, CE), an imm. male at Wrightsville Beach, NC Feb. 4–24 (m.ob.), and another imm. male at Topsail Beach, NC Feb. 14–26 (NM, SD, HL *et al.*). Harlequin Duck reports were up this season, with the best counts coming from South Carolina. Two females were in the Murrell's Inlet area Jan. 19–Feb. 11 (SP, RC, CE) and two males were in the Myrtle Beach area Feb. 5–12 (LG, PW, BM, SG). In North Carolina a male was at Topsail Beach Dec. 21–Feb. 16 (m.ob.), a female was at Oregon Inlet Feb. 12 (ED), and one was at Duck Feb. 19 (SD, SB). Some of the more unusual Oldsquaw records included an inland bird on the Rum Creek, GA CBC Dec. 19 (JP), up to five birds at Murrell's Inlet, SC Dec. 11–Feb. 11 (RC, CE, JPe, SP, PW), and a possible record count for Georgia when eight were found on the Cumberland I. CBC Dec. 17 (SW, *fide* JS). There were a handful of Com. Merganser reports, with the farthest south being a female at Garden City, SC Dec. 29 (*fide* JPe).

The only N. Goshawk reported was an adult in *Alleghany*, NC late January into February (JC). A Broad-winged Hawk in e. *Rutherford*, NC Dec. 3 (GM, *fide* RK) was absurdly late and an amazing count of 40–50 near Atlanta, GA Feb. 26 (SE, JS) provided an early spring record.

SA **The presence of two dark-morph *Buteos* in one area in Onslow, NC January+ caused much amazement, excitement, and most of all, confusion! One was first thought to be a Swainson's, then a Red-tailed. Another definitely smaller bird (Red-shouldered size) was thought to be a Short-tailed, which has never been documented in the Region! The birds proved to be hard to locate on a daily basis and often were seen only at great distances. Various observers have commented on the identities and there is considerable disagreement. The occurrence of dark-morph hawks in our Region is very rare at best and this no doubt has added to observer uncertainty over the two birds. Photos of the smaller bird were obtained, but not the larger one. Further review and discussion will be conducted, but it is possible that the real identity of these birds may never be known.**

The always exciting Golden Eagle was found twice, with adults at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Jan. 7 (RC, CE) and in *Onslow*, NC Jan. 29 (J&NM, TS, LM). American Kestrel numbers were reported to be about average

and Merlin numbers were up somewhat. The best Peregrine Falcon reports included inland birds at Greensboro, NC Feb. 22 (HH) and Atlanta, GA (m.ob.).

Chachalaca to Phalaropes

The introduced population of Plain Chachalaca on Sapelo I., GA continued to survive. A good count of 25 was seen Feb. 19 (HP). The subversive Yellow Rail was found once, at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, SC Feb. 5 (CE). In Georgia the fall migration of Sandhill Cranes was a little late, with most flocks seen heading S in December. Also, the spring northward movement seemed to peak in late February.

There were more winter reports of Wilson's Plover than normal, with the most northern being found near Morehead City, NC Dec. 18 (SC, KM). In Georgia six were at Jekyll I., Dec. 4 (GB, BHI) and two were there Feb. 24 (PH); an amazing ten were on the Cumberland I. CBC Dec. 17 (SW, *fide* JS). Piping Plover numbers seemed about average compared to the last several years. Long-billed Curlews were found at the usual spots, with one on Cumberland I., GA Dec. 18 (LT, SW), two on St. Catherine's I., GA Jan. 15 (HP), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC Jan. 14 (GH, SGr). Warm weather no doubt had an influence on some coastal shorebird numbers, as evidenced by the 480 Willets on the Pea I., NC CBC Dec. 29 (PS) and the >600 Red Knots on Jekyll I., GA Dec. 2 (JS, PH). A W. Sandpiper on the Augusta, GA CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* A&VW) provided a rare inland Regional winter report. Also unusual inland were the 30 Least Sandpipers on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* WC), the 45 Least in *Putnam*, GA throughout the winter (BD, PS, m.ob.), and the single Dunlin in *Putnam*, GA (BD, PS), which also overwintered. The best Long-billed Dowitcher reports included two slightly inland on the New Bern, NC CBC Dec. 19 (JF) and 30 at the Yawkey W.M.A., *Georgetown*, SC in December (LG, MR). A very late bird was the Wilson's Phalarope at New Bern, NC Dec. 1 (BH), a first *Craven* record and possibly the latest report ever for the state. The best Red Phalarope count was 97 off Currituck Banks, NC Feb. 18 (BP, *et al.*).

Skuas to Alcids

Three Great Skuas provided much excitement on a pelagic trip off the Currituck Banks, NC Feb. 18 (BP, *et al.*). This species is rarely seen in North Carolina waters, although it no doubt is present most winters in small numbers. Inland Laughing Gulls included a first-winter bird Dec. 3 and a 2nd-winter bird Dec. 15 at the Raleigh, NC landfill (BH_a), and an individual on the York/Rock Hill, SC CBC Dec. 17 (AC)

The only Little Gull report away from the usual North Carolina Outer Banks area was of an adult at H.B.S.P., SC Jan. 21 (LG, TP, *et al.*) for only the 3rd or 4th state record.

SA This winter Cape Hatteras, NC was the place to go to observe an amazing variety of gulls. Even though the winter was not very cold, rare species were present in above-average numbers. Also present was an amazing assortment of gulls which have put birding circles in a state of mass confusion. Starting with the C. Hatt. CBC Dec. 30 and continuing into March, observers found four different California Gulls (three adult, one first-winter); at least two ad. Thayer's Gulls; up to four Iceland Gulls (two adults, two first-winter); an impressive peak of ≥ 39 Lesser Black-backed Gulls; and two Glaucous Gulls (one adult, one first-winter). Also present were multiple "yellow-legged" gulls which caused much debate as to specific identity. There were at least five birds with obvious yellow legs and mantle color slightly darker than normal *smithsonianus* Herring Gulls. The size, shape, head streaking, and wing patterns differed, leading many to consider possible Herring x Lesser Black-backed hybrids, "yellow-legged" variant Herring Gulls, or true Yellow-legged Gulls. There were two Herring x Glaucous hybrids (Nelson's Gull) present that most everyone agreed on, and also an apparent Herring x Great Black-backed hybrid seen several times. Adding further debate was the possibility of one adult and one imm. Slaty-backed Gull, both of which were photographed and are still being reviewed. Many have wondered why the inability to come to some agreement; those folks most likely never got to C. Hatt. to experience the spectacle! Let's hope new light will be shed upon the situation soon, and one wonders what will happen next year!

Away from the Outer Banks, Iceland Gulls were found at Morehead City, NC Jan. 20 (DC) and Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 27 (LG, MR). Lesser Black-backed Gull reports continued to increase, with inland records being noteworthy now. The farthest inland were one adult at the Raleigh, NC landfill Dec. 17-Feb. 14 (BHa) and a first-winter bird at L. Lanier, GA Feb. 19 (JS, PB, RW). Glaucous Gulls also showed up inland, with immatures at Raleigh, NC Dec. 14 (BHa), near Greensboro, NC Dec. 16-22 (HLi), and L. Lanier, GA Jan. 18 (GB, KDa). There was also several scattered coastal Glaucous Gulls in all 3 states, suggesting a much better than

average season for the species. The farthest inland Great Black-backed Gull was the adult at L. Townsend near Greensboro, NC Dec. 13 and Feb. 2 (HLi).

The only Dovekie reported was a single individual off the Currituck Banks, NC Feb. 18 (BP). The only verifiable Thick-billed Murre was one near Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 13 (SP) and Jan. 28 (CE). Compared to last year, Razorbills were back to more reasonable numbers. The best count was five off Hatteras, NC Feb. 11 (BP); and the farthest south was one at H.B.S.P., SC Jan. 21-30 (m.ob.). The Region's 2nd Atlantic Puffin was found off Currituck Banks, NC Feb. 18 (BP *et al.*). This record was more expected than the first, which was found off Hatteras, NC in August 1993! The most unexpected bird of the season was the Marbled Murrelet, found twice! One was photographed at H.B.S.P., SC Nov. 19 (FM, JR *et al.*) and most likely the same individual was at Jordan L., NC Dec. 9-11 (RD, m.ob.). After reviewing the photos of the South Carolina bird, Davis felt that the birds were similar in all respects. All evidence points to the birds as being of the Siberian (*perdix*) race and not the nominate (*marmoratus*) form. Previously there were >12 e. North American records of this species and practically all have been *perdix*!

Doves to Shrikes

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to make news with the Brunswick, GA and Myrtle Beach, SC populations increasing in numbers. New outposts were found in Georgia, with four in *Lawrens* Jan. 12 (HP), two in *Early* Dec. 13 (BMn, *fide* JS), and five at Calloway Gardens Dec. 18 (SW, *fide* JS). The rare White-winged Dove was found once with a single bird at the e. end of Ocracoke I., NC Dec. 10 (HL, JW, *et al.*). A Com. Ground-Dove was found on the Clemson, SC CBC Dec. 17 (DM, CF) for a very rare up-state record. Up to three Long-eared Owls were located in a pine stand at the VOA-A site in *Beaufort*, NC Jan. 13-March (JW, ED, GH, *et al.*) and were seen by several patient, lucky observers throughout the period. These individuals probably had the distinction of being the most watched Long-eareds ever in the state! Not to be outdone, Georgia had a Long-eared, but it was unfortunately found shot in *Berrien* Jan. 13 and later died (BP, *fide* JS). Short-eared Owls were found in the usual North Carolina spots, but the two-three in *Sumter*, GA Dec. 13-Feb. 2 (JS, CL, PH, CW) were noteworthy. In North Carolina Saw-whet Owl reports included one in *Hali-fax* Dec. 13 (FE), three banded in *Dare* during the winter (DB, *fide* FE), and one heard

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near L. Mattamuskeet in mid-February (KD). In South Carolina, three were heard on the McClellanville CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* FE).

Hummingbirds once again were found in all 3 states this winter, and in good numbers. There were too many reports of *Selasphorus* and *Archilochus* types to mention here, but the count of at least four *Archilochus* in the Buxton, NC area and 49 *Selasphorus* in Georgia indicate the magnitude of wintering hummers. In Georgia some of the rarer birds included a probable Allen's in Brunswick December–Feb. 16, the continued presence of the state's 2nd Broad-tailed (first found in the fall) at Kennesaw, and up to three probable Black-chinneds returning to Fitzgerald, Thomasville, and McIntosh.

One of the best birds in Georgia this winter was the Vermilion Flycatcher found on the Albany CBC Dec. 17 (*fide* AA), which remained through the period. Photos were taken of this individual, which was the first known to have spent the entire winter in the state. Wintering W. Kingbirds are noteworthy, thus of interest were singles at Aiken, SC Dec. 24 (L&CEL, *fide* A&VW); Bainbridge, GA Dec. 27 (OD); Ft. Fisher, NC Jan. 1–10 (RWi, KM); and St. Simon's I., GA Feb. 19–25 (DMC, PS, BD). Cave Swallow was found again in North Carolina this year when one was photographed in Onslow Feb. 5 (J&PW, J&NM). Let's hope the photos can document this 3rd sight report for the state. Red-breasted Nuthatches were in extremely low numbers this winter with only about 10 reports totaling less than 15 individuals for the entire Region! Another species down in numbers was Golden-crowned Kinglet, with many observers commenting that the flocks encountered were less than half their normal size. On the opposite end of the scale, higher than normal numbers of Am. Robins and Cedar Waxwings were reported from across the Region. The warm winter weather, along with the excellent food crop, no doubt played a part in these population fluctua-

tions. The rare Sprague's Pipit was found again at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Feb. 4 (RC, CE). This was the only sighting this year, at the spot where one spent last winter and was seen by several observers. One of the most exciting birds this winter was the imm. Northern Shrike found on the Pea I., NC CBC Dec. 29 (CR, KK, WI *et al.*). This individual proved hard to relocate, although some lucky birders did so during its one-day stay. There had not been a report of this species in North Carolina since the early 1960's!



About the third documented winter record for Georgia was provided by this male Tennessee Warbler in Walton County January 8, 1995. Photograph/Brenda J. Dunbar.

Warblers to Finches

As could be expected during a warm winter, warblers lingered in good numbers. The most surprising record involved a Tennessee Warbler at Social Circle, Walton, GA Dec. 24–March (BS, B&BD, PS). The bird was photographed and provided about the 3rd documented winter record for the Region, all in Georgia. Other good lingerers were the N. Parula and Yellow Warbler on the C. Hatt., NC CBC Dec. 30 (HLi, EF, LY); an ad. Cape May at Durham, NC Feb. 25 (WC, DS, *et al.*); a female-plumaged Am. Redstart in Cobb, GA Jan. 18–Feb. 2 (*fide* TM); a ♂ Wilson's at St. Matthews, Calhoun, SC Dec. 20 (CE); and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Richlands, Onslow, NC Jan. 30 (NM). Other good warblers included the rare Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) near Summerton, Clarendon, SC Dec. 31 (RC, CE); and the ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler found in Wilmington, NC Jan. 31–Feb. 16 (TD, m.ob.), which provided the 4th state record.

The ad. ♂ W. Tanager which returned to the same yard in Wilmington, NC during the fall remained throughout the winter period (KKo, m.ob.). Winter grosbeak reports are always noteworthy, thus of interest was the ♀ Rose-breasted at Wilmington, NC Dec. 31 (RM) and the imm. ♂ Black-headed at Perry, Houston, GA Jan. 14–Mar.

12 (NG, J&MA). The Black-headed was photographed and represented Georgia's first record since 1973! The two Indigo Buntings present near Rocky Mount, NC from December–March (RD) were definitely rare winter lingerers that far inland. In North Carolina Painted Buntings also remained throughout the winter in good numbers, with up to four different birds in the Buxton area and four more in the Carteret area (JF). Two were in Southern Shores (LY), one was at New Bern (*fide* BH), and one was on the Wayne County CBC Dec. 17 (JF, ED).

Sparrow populations seemed to be up slightly, with many observers in Georgia and South Carolina commenting on how Chipping Sparrows were in good supply. Clay-colored Sparrow was found twice, with one near L. Phelps, NC Feb. 25 (RD) and one at Simpsonville, SC Feb. 7 (PW). The only Lark Sparrows reported were singles on the Stone Mt., NC CBC late December (HC, *fide* JC) and in Clarke, GA mid-December (CK, *fide* JS). The Grasshopper Sparrow was found once with a single at McBee W.M.A., Chesterfield, SC Feb. 19 (RC, CE). In Georgia Henslow's Sparrows were found in good numbers, with two on the St. Catherine's I., CBC Dec. 17 (A&VW) and five–six at Paulk's Pasture, Glynn Dec. 2 (JS, PH) and Jan. 1 (MH, R&NG, HCU). In South Carolina, one was found in s. Dorchester Feb. 5 (RC, CE). Above-average numbers of LeConte's Sparrows were found at Paulk's Pasture, Glynn, GA when up to five were seen Dec. 2–3 (JS, PH, GB, BHI). Other LeConte's reports involved one at the Yawkey W.M.A., Georgetown, SC Dec. 21 (LG) and up to three at the New Bern, NC airfield Dec. 1–late February (BH, m.ob.). Of the numerous Lincoln's Sparrow reports, the most interesting was the individual found on the Clemson, SC CBC Dec. 17 (PW) for a late upstate record. The sparrow highlight of the season was the ad. Harris' found near the Santee N.W.R., SC Jan. 3 (RC, CE), seen by many until last reported Feb. 25 (TK, *fide* RC). This furnished about the 3rd South Carolina record. A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco was found at Jordan L., NC Dec. 13 (NB, SC) for a rare report of this w. form. The only Lapland Longspurs reported were five at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Dec. 17 (LG) and Jan. 3 (RC, CE), and two near L. Phelps, NC Feb. 25 (RD). Seldom found inland, a Snow Bunting was at Jordan L., NC Dec. 11 (WC, SB, m.ob.).

A meadowlark heard singing a "western" song at the VOA-A site in Beaufort, NC Feb. 27 and Mar. 3 (WE, RB, LC, JPi) provided a most interesting report. The bird was never seen, however, and since some meadowlarks



Vermilion Flycatcher near Albany, Georgia, March 4, 1995. Found in December, this was the first Vermilion known to have spent the whole winter in Georgia. Photograph/Brenda J. Dunbar.

have been known to sing both song types, the specific identity remains a mystery. A ♀ N. (Bullock's) Oriole was found in Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, SC Jan. 28 (ST) and Feb. 5 (RC, CE) for a rare report.

Winter finches were in extremely low numbers this year. Some observers did not see a single Purple Finch all year, and almost all reports involved single digit numbers! In contrast to Purples, House Finches are still increasing and have reached the most s. area in the Region with some at a feeder in Brunswick, GA from December into spring (DCo). Only 8 reports of Pine Siskin were received, with the best count being 22 on the Bainbridge-L. Seminole, GA CBC Dec. 27 (OD). And finally, Evening Grosbeaks were practically nonexistent, with only 3 reports (one from North Carolina and two from Georgia) the whole winter!

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Florida Region

RICHARD WEST AND BILL PRANTY

The mild weather and presumably good food supplies resulted in American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and American Goldfinches arriving in Florida later and penetrating less far south and in fewer numbers than in most years.. These same conditions were ideal for wintering hummingbirds: Five species were found in Florida this winter. The growing number of people who tend hummingbird feeders in winter, their increased knowledge, and the increasing number of people who publicize the presence of winter hummers has led to greatly increased knowledge of hummingbird vagrancy. Keep up the good work!

Abbreviations: C.P. (*County Park*); E.N.P. (*Everglades National Park*); F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*); S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R.*); S.R.A. (*State Recreation Area*).

Loons to Ducks

Up to 17 Red-throated Loons were along the coast from Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau*, s. to Little Talbot Island S.P., *Duval*, Jan. 22–Feb. 22 (m.ob., *fide* PP); one was off Dog I., *Franklin*, Feb. 27 (DE, LMe). Common Loon numbers were reported up near Naples, near the s. edge of their winter range, where they were about 5 times as common as their 20-year average (TB). Wintering Eared Grebes included two at Palm Harbor sewage treatment ponds, *Pinellas*, Dec. 3+ (DGa, LA, WY *et al.*), one at Tram Rd. sewage treatment plant, Leon, Nov. 18–early March (J.C. *et al.*); one in N Jacksonville, *Duval*, Dec. 3 (RC); and one at Tierra Verde, *Pinellas*, Dec. 17 (B&LA). A **Yellow-nosed Albatross** off the L. Worth Pier, *Palm Beach*, Jan. 5 (HL, accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. as a *Diomedea* albatross) provided only the 4th Florida report and the first winter report. Fifty-five N. Gannets Jan. 2 off Hon-eymoon Island S.R.A., *Pinellas*

(DGa, WY) was a very high local count. Two Brown Pelicans Jan. 19 at Newnans L., *Alachua* (JEs) provided an unusual inland report. A Great Cormorant found injured off Egmont Key N.W.R., *Pinellas*, Dec. 8 was released Jan. 17 after surgery that removed a fish hook from the bird's throat (*fide* RSm). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird in Huguenot City Park, *Duval*, Jan. 14 (BRi) was n. of its usual range.

SA A record-low number of herons and egrets (about 5825) were observed using 3600 square kilometers of impounded marshes in the Water Conservation Areas of the n. Everglades in January. Previous January estimates during the past 10 years of this standardized aerial survey conducted by Tavernier Research biologists have ranged from 32,000 in 1993 up to 126,000 in 1990. The proximate cause of the low numbers was the record high water levels caused by heavy rains and diversion of huge amounts of water from L. Okeechobee and the agricultural lands immediately n. of the Water Conservation Areas (RSa, WH).

A Greater White-fronted Goose was in S.M.N.W.R., *Wakulla*, Feb. 9–11 (RWi, RG). Few Snow Geese were reported this year, but eight were on Big and Little Talbot islands, *Duval*, Dec. 26 (m.ob., *fide* PP), five—three white and two blue morphs—in

