

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!

**Contributors:** Jerry & Marie Amerson, Van Atkins, Susan Barrell, Giff Beaton, R. Gifford Beaton, Rich Boyd, Dave Brinker, Ned Brinkley, Patrick Brisse, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Hartsell Cash, Doris Cohrs (DCo), James Coman, Albert Conway, Will Cook, Sam Cooper, Larry Crawford, Haynes Currie (HCu), Kevin Danchinen (KDa), Kelly Davis, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Trip Dennis, Oscar Dewberry, Steve Dinsmore, Billy & Brenda Dunbar, Caroline Eastman, Steve Ehly, Larry & Carol Eldridge (L & CEI), Frank Enders, Chuck Flint, Eric Fulcher, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Sid Gauthreaux, Georgia Audubon Society (G.O.S.), Lex Glover, Ren & Nancy Gobris, Steve Gross (SGr), Bob Hader (BH), Bruce Hallett (BHL), Herb Hendrickson, Mal Hodges, Bob Holmes, Pierce Howard, Gene Howe, Bill Huff (BH), Wayne Irvin, Cam Keppler, Kitty Kosh (KKo), Ken Knapp, Rick Knight, Harry LeGrand, Henry & Elizabeth Link (H & ELi), Bob Manns (BMn), Kevin Markham, G. Mayfield, Pete & Bob Maxwell, Lin McClean, Dennie McClure (DMc), Don McGowan, Roger McNeill, Faye Metzler, Jimi & Nell Moore, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Ocmulgee Audubon Society (O.A.S.), Paul O'Neill, John Parrish (JP), Barbara Passmore (BP), Hunter Patterson, Steve Patterson, Brian Patteson, Jerry Payne, Jack Peachey (JPe), Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Phippen (JPi), Jewel Reavis, Mike Resch, Carol Rickards, Barbara Sams, Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Tonya Spires, Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Anne & Vernon Waters, Ralph Widrig (RWi), Russ Wigh, Sheila Willis, Bob Wood, Cole Woodruff, Pete Worthington, John & Paula Wright, Lee Yoder.

—Ricky Davis, P.O. Box 277, Zebulon, NC 27597

# 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*).

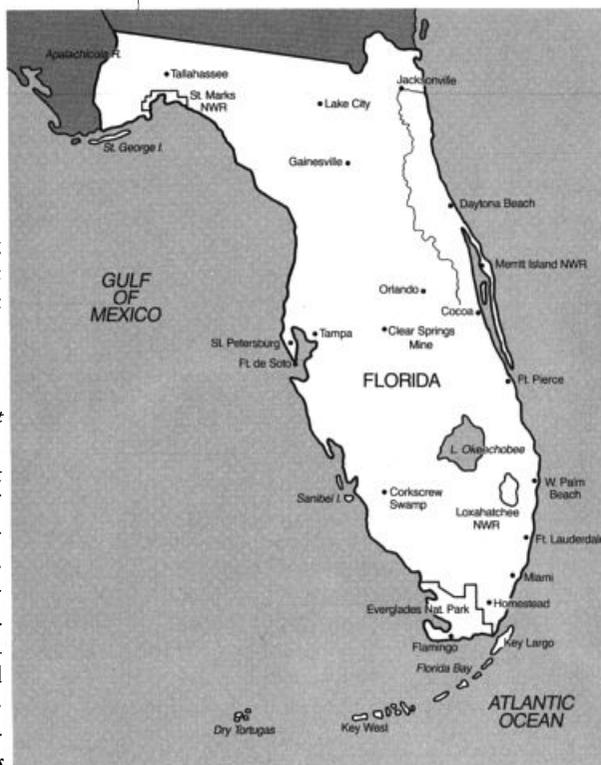
## Loons to Ducks

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



inland *Dixie* Jan. 28 (NW), and a blue morph at Alafia Banks Feb. 2–3 (ND, MZ). Two ♂ Cinnamon Teal wintered in the Tallahassee Region, one in S.M.N.W.R., Dec. 2–Feb. 24 (JR *et al.*) and one on L. Jackson, *Leon*, Jan. 18+ (GM). A ♂ Gadwall on L. Pasadena Dec. 20 was one of very few *Pasco* reports (BP, PY, DR, AB). A raft of 1400 Redheads was found at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Jan. 29 (DGa, WY) and 6225 Ring-necked Duck (mostly on L. Pierce) on the Lake Wales CBC, *Polk*, Dec. 31 (*fide* PF). Numbers of Lesser Scaup in Hillsborough Bay have apparently stabilized at less than 5000 birds, which is only 5–10% of numbers up to the early 1970s (RP). Winter rarities found included a ♀ Harlequin Duck in Ft. Clinch S.P., Dec. 2 & 24 (RC), a ♀ Oldsquaw there Jan. 22 (RN), and another ♀ Oldsquaw at Cedar Key, *Levy*, Feb. 19–20 (S&SB). Black Scoters were especially widespread this winter—among numerous reports were 250 off Amelia I., *Nassau*, through December and January (EC); 15 off Ft. Clinch S.P., Jan. 16 (A&RSm); 14 off Merritt Island N.W.R., *Brevard*, Jan. 2 (RSm, PB, B&BW); 849 in 17 S-bound flocks off L. Worth Pier Jan. 3, 160 S-bound Jan. 4 (both HL), and one as far s. as Big Pine Fish Camp, *Monroe*, Dec. 17 (RSa, RT). They were also reported off the Gulf coast: four off Bayport Park, *Hernando*, Dec. 22 (DGo, CB) for the first county report; two ♀ or imm. Blacks in Hillsborough Bay Dec. 31 (RP, ASc); 30 off Madeira Beach, *Pinellas*, in January (KN); 20 off Ft. DeSoto C.P., *Pinellas*, Jan. 6 (LA); and one in *Sarasota* 14 and Jan. 21 (JP; AR). A White-winged Scoter was off the L. Worth Pier Jan. 3 (HL, GH), two were there Jan. 4 (ALi), and two more were seen at Little Talbot Island S.P., Feb. 22 (RC). A Com. Goldeneye on the S. Brevard CBC Jan. 1 was the first for that count (*fide* JT), and a female at Palm Harbor sewage ponds Jan. 22–30 (DGa *et al.*) was s. of its usual range. A flock of 90–100 Red-breasted Mergansers at Casey Key, *Sarasota*, Jan. 23 and Feb. 17 included at least 12 ad.males (ASt). A good local count of 203 Ruddy Ducks was made at L. Jackson Jan. 1 (GM), higher than recent reports but down from the thousands that occasionally occurred there in the 1970s.

### Kites to Cranes

The vanguard of the Am. Swallow-tailed Kite migration was marked by one which flew in from the Gulf over Dog I., *Franklin*, and continued N at 5 p.m., Feb. 24 (DE, LMe); the next day three were seen in Little-Big Econlockhatchee S.F., *Seminole* (*fide* LMa). Four White-tailed Kites remained throughout the period in the e. Everglades

between Chekika and Homestead Airport, *Dade*, (PWS, SS *et al.*); an adult in n. *Lafayette* Dec. 11 (D&KD) was the first reported for the county. Two adults (one harassed a Bald Eagle) were reported on the L. Placid CBC, *Highlands*, Dec. 27, for the 4th consecutive year (BP *et al.*), and one was e. of Sebring, *Highlands*, Jan. 18 (B&MK); they were also reported from s. *Brevard* Dec. 10–Feb. 12 (B&SHi *et al.*), *Glades* Jan. 12 (DL), *Sarasota* Jan. 23 (AR *et al.*), and *Palm Beach* Jan. 23 (SF *et al.*). A N. Harrier was in Key West Feb. 1 (JAO), where rare. A Broad-winged Hawk reported in Tree Tops C.P., *Broward*, Jan. 7 (MM *et al.*) and an adult at Parker I., Jan. 18 (BP, LMi, MC-M) were n. of their usual winter range. Only 5 Short-tailed Hawk reports were received: a single dark morph in West Lake Park, *Broward*, Jan. 12 and Feb. 1 (both JB), a dark morph in E.N.P., Jan. 22 (SM) and a light morph there Jan. 29 (SM) and Feb. 18 (A,L&RSm), and at least two wintering in Key West (JAO). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk flew over Lower Matecumbe Key, *Monroe*, Dec. 18 (H&SR), and an ad. light morph was seen at Archbold Biological Station, *Highlands*, 3 days in February (BKe, BY). "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawks were identified at Tram Road sewage treatment plant, *Leon*, Dec. 2 (GM) and Feb. 2 (JCa) and in S.M.N.W.R., Jan. 4 (JR). Crested Caracaras in w. *Broward* Dec. 26 (PWS, SS) and Feb. 10 (JB) are apparently the first reported for *Broward*; an immature was in central *Brevard* Jan. 27 (SM, NW). A Merlin at Tram Road sewage treatment plant Dec. 2 (JCa) provided a rare inland winter report for n. Florida.

The rarely seen Yellow Rail was found at Crooked L., *Polk*, Dec. 31 (GC) and in South Venice, *Sarasota*, Jan. 27 (AR). Nice flocks of 3000 Am. Coots were in Valrico, *Hillsborough*, Feb. 10 (RP, ASc), 18,000 (mostly on L. Pierce) on the L. Wales CBC Dec. 31 (*fide* PF), and 30,000 in *Polk* mines through the period (PF *et al.*). Six Limpkins in Freedom L. Park and 3 others elsewhere on the St. Petersburg CBC, *Pinellas*, Dec. 17 provided the all-time high count there, (*fide* DGo). A recently plowed field in *Highlands* held 500 Sandhill Cranes Dec. 19 (FL); good, but lesser, numbers reported from the Panhandle this winter included 13 over East R., *Wakulla*, Dec. 7, five over Newport, *Wakulla*, Jan. 13 (both JSt), and 25 over S.M.N.W.R., Feb. 2 (DM).

### Plovers to Gulls

High plover counts included: 123 Black-bellieds inland in a recently planted agricultural field near the entrance to E.N.P., *Dade*, Dec. 5 (PWS), 22 Snowys on Shell Key, *Pinellas*, Jan. 1 (PB), 30 Wilson's on

Ohio Key, *Monroe*, Jan. 21 (SM), 300 Semipalmateds on Ohio Key Jan. 21 (SM), 200 on Shell Key Feb. 1 (PB), and 25 Pippings on Shell Key Jan. 13 (PB). Ten Am Avocets were in Occidental W.M.A., *Hamilton*, Dec. 17 (*fide* JK) and 15–20 in n. Jacksonville December and January (RC, BRi). A winter Solitary Sandpiper was identified at Snake Rd., Feb. 17 (JB). Four-thousand Red Knots were photographed on Shell Key Jan. 13 (PB), and one at L. Jessup, *Seminole*, Feb. 8 (HK) provided the first inland report in winter. A White-rumped Sandpiper, a species unverified in Florida in winter, was reported on the Econlockhatchee CBC, *Seminole*, Dec. 31 (DF, BW). A Pectoral Sandpiper, casual in winter, was reported at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Feb. 24 (DGa, WY). Purple Sandpipers, as usual, wintered at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau*, (RSm *et al.*); individuals were also found at 3 locations in the s.e. part of the state: Lower Matecumbe Key Dec. 18 (H&SR), Naples Dec. 30 (BJA), and on the Venice jetties Nov. 26 (J&AC, ph. SR) through the period (ASt *et al.*). High Dunlin counts of 3000 were reported on Shell Key Feb. 1 (PB, BW) and 150 inland at L. Jessup Feb. 8 (HK). A concentration of 2000 Short-billed Dowitchers were recorded on Shell Key Jan. 13 (PB). Five Long-billed Dowitchers were calling s. of L. Istokpoga Dec. 19 (FL); >50 were found in flooded pastures in w. *Broward* Dec. 26 (PWS, SS), 52 at Springhill Rd. sewage treatment plant, *Leon*, Feb. 1 (GM), and 40 at S.M.N.W.R., Feb. 12 (NW). A Red-necked Phalarope which lingered at Spring Hill sewage treatment ponds, Aripeka, *Hernando*, Jan. 19–23 (A&BH, PY *et al.*, v.t. B. Atherton Jan. 22) furnished the first county record.

Jaeger reports included a Pomarine off Madeira Beach Dec. 17 (KN), three off Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Dec. 18 (DGa, LK), one in Little Talbot Island S.P., Feb. 11 (RC), and single Parasitics in Ft. Clinch S.P., Dec. 2 and Jan. 2 (both RC). A first-year Little Gull was identified Jan. 1 at Port Canaveral, *Brevard*; one remained (m.ob.) until Feb. 25 and was molting into breeding plumage (GSt, WB). The 3100 Herring Gulls on Marco I., *Collier*, Feb. 1 provided the highest count in over 600 censuses over the past 20 years (TB, BJA). An ad. Thayer's Gull was identified at Pompano Beach landfill, *Broward*, Jan. 23 (†SM). Great Black-backed Gulls are increasing along the *Pinellas* coast, where six–eight wintered (PB, LA, KN, MWi); an adult was found Feb. 26 on Dog I. (DE, LMe), where rare. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake identified in Ft. Clinch S.P., Jan. 16 (RSm) provided apparently the first *Nassau* report.

## Doves to Hummingbirds

Eurasian Collared-Doves are uniformly reported as increasing. A late migrant White-winged Dove was at Shell Pt., *Wakulla*, Dec. 17 (RK, FKz, KNeS). There was a small invasion of >50 Monk Parakeets in coastal *Citrus* (BS). The two Red-masked Parakeets and six Mitred Parakeets found in downtown St. Petersburg Dec. 2 (LA) furnished firsts for *Pinellas*. Fifteen Black-hooded Parakeets were seen Jan. 23 at Van Wezel Hall, *Sarasota* (RP). The Chestnut-fronted Macaw seen in St. Petersburg Dec. 10 (J&LH) was probably the same bird first seen near there Feb. 15, 1993 (*vide* RSm).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found on the South Brevard CBC Jan. 1 (†EW) and reidentified Jan. 5. A Groove-billed Ani was found at Paynes Prairie, *Alachua*, Dec. 5 (BRo); another in Delray Beach, *Palm Beach*, Dec. 1–Jan. 1 (BHo) was probably the same individual that wintered there last year. Smooth-billed Anis are “getting very hard to find” in Broward (JB).

A Short-eared Owl was on Lanark I., *Franklin*, Jan. 15 (GSp). An unidentified nighthawk was seen in n. Jacksonville Jan. 25 (MD); one at Flamingo Feb. 18 was thought to be a Lesser Nighthawk (RSm). A Com. Nighthawk was calling over a St. Petersburg high school campus Jan. 27 (RSm)—this species is unverified in Florida in winter. The first migrating Chuck-will’s-widow was reported on Dog I., Feb. 26 (DE, LMe). The six or seven *Chaetura* swifts over the University of Florida campus, Gainesville, *Alachua*, Jan. 9 & 11 were believed to be Vaux’s (both DA).

The Buff-bellied Hummingbird returned again to winter in Ft. Lauderdale for the 5th of 6 winters (TC). Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds wintered in Tallahassee: an imm. male with some black feathers in its throat Dec. 1–Feb. 2 (NW) and a female in another part of the city early December+ (*vide* NW). At least four *Archilochus* hummers wintered in Gainesville and ≥two were in Jacksonville through the period, none identified to species (both *vide* PP). One in Sebastian, *Indian River*, Jan. 1–4 was probably a Ruby-throated (BHi, EW). At least two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds wintering in Tallahassee could not be identified as to species (*vide* GM), three females or immatures were in *Alachua* through the period (*vide* PP); one ad. female, probably a Rufous Hummingbird, wintered in s. Jacksonville Dec. 12+ (PP) and “several” other females or immatures were in Jacksonville variously through the period (*vide* PP). In addition, an imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird wintered in Tallahassee (FS, NW *et al.*), and another in Lutz, *Hillsborough*, Jan. 3+ (DGr, v.t. BA)

provided the first county record. An Anna’s Hummingbird wintered in Tallahassee (GR, v.t. NW, ph. JCa).

## Flycatchers To Vireos

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher that wintered in Delray Beach last year was observed Jan. 19+ (BHo) and its voice recorded. An ad. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher wintered on Buck Island Ranch, *Highlands*, Jan. 18–Mar. 13 (LMi *et al.*, ph. RB), and another near L. Marian on the Adams Ranch, *Osceola*, Jan. 31 (MF, JSc). Five Vermillions (two ad. males, two imm. males, and one female) seen in S.M.N.W.R. variously through the period (DB, JR, JG *et al.*) may be the highest Florida concentration. The Ash-throated Flycatcher wintering in Turkey Cr. Sanctuary, *Brevard*, Dec. 2–Feb. 24 (B&SH, NS *et al.*) furnished the first county report; another wintered in Paynes Prairie State Preserve, *Alachua*, Dec. 6–Feb. 7 (RR, BM, † to F.O.S.R.C.); and one in *Seminole* Dec. 31 (BHA). The La Sagra’s Flycatcher first found Nov. 12 in Tree Tops C.P., Davie, remained to the first week in January (JB *et al.*). Western Kingbirds were found from Jacksonville (BRi) to Key West (JAO); ≤12 were at a traditional wintering site s.w. of Florida City, *Dade*, Dec. 29. The roost is “a narrow zone less than a mi wide but at least 6 mi long... It is increasingly evident that there is only one wintering population in the [site]... sometimes gathering, sometimes splitting, depending on food sources (primarily *Ficus*)” (PWS, SS). A molting ad. E. Kingbird at Parker I., *Highlands*, a traditional *Tyrannus* wintering site, Dec. 27–early January (m.ob., ph. and † to *Fla. Field Nat.* by R. Bowman *et al.*, v.t. B. Atherton Jan. 1) was the first verified winter occurrence in Florida, and possibly N. America. A silent Tropical or Couch’s Kingbird in Delray Beach Dec. 25–Feb. 23 (BHo, FB) was at the same site where a Couch’s Kingbird wintered last year. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher numbers seemed up: 14 at Key West, up from 9 last winter (JAO); a maximum of eight at the same wintering site s.w. of Florida City (see W. Kingbird) Dec. 29 (PWS, SS); three on the Venice CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* ASt); four near Ruskin, *Hillsborough*, through the period (SBa, DT); and a good scattering of others.

Winners in the annual Purple Martin race go to twomales moving N at Key West Jan. 13 (JAO), a male at S.M.N.W.R., Jan. 14 (NW), and a male at Parker I. Jan. 18 (BP). A Cliff Swallow was “carefully identified (buffy rump, dark throat; not Cave)” in the e. Everglades Jan. 8 (PWS, SS). Lingerer Barn Swallows were at Wellington Dec. 10 (HL, GH), and in Jacksonville Dec. 26 (ALA).

High counts of Fish Crows were 5000 at Gore’s Dairy, Zephyrhills, *Pasco*, Dec. 20 (A&RSm, LK, B&BW) and 12 in Key West, up from nine in 1994 (JAO).

Two Winter Wrens were in River Rise State Preserve, *Columbia*, Jan. 11 (JK), where rarely reported. Sedge Wrens were reported in increased numbers: 72 were on the Lakeland CBC Dec. 17 (*vide* PF), and 188 (mostly around Crews L.) on the Aripeka-Bayport CBC (*Hernando* and *Pasco*) Dec. 22 (DR *et al.*) furnished the highest Florida count and was likely the result of increased water levels. Late winter multi-party surveys found 83 Sedge Wrens in approximately 2500 acres of Little-Big Econ S.F., *Seminole*, Feb. 10 (LMa) and 24 in approximately 12,000 acres of Rock Springs State Reserve, *Orange/Lake*, Feb. 11 (PS). Cedar Waxwing numbers were reported “down,” but >2000 finally arrived in Lake Alfred, *Polk*, Feb. 28 (PF), and 30 reached Key West Feb. 26 (JAO). A Yellow-throated Vireo found in Ichetucknee Springs S.P. Dec. 11 (JK) provided the first winter report for *Columbia*.

## Warblers to Finches

An ad. ♂ Yellow Warbler was far n. of its usual range in *Alachua* Dec. 31 (RR). Black-throated Green Warblers, a species still unverified in Florida in winter, were widely reported: one in Weedon Island County Preserve Dec. 17 (LH); 3 winter reports from *Broward* and *Monroe* Jan. 21–28 (SM); three in Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P., *Dade*, Jan. 17 checkand Feb. 24 (A&RSm, SBa); a male in s. Jacksonville through the period (JuC). Seven were in Delray Beach Feb. 26, seemingly too early for spring migration (BHo). A Louisiana Waterthrush in Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., *Dade*, Jan. 22 was a good find (SM).

A ♀ W. Tanager was photographed in *Hernando*, *Citrus*, Feb. 16–21 (HE, PFi, ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). A ♂ Indigo Bunting in mixed basic and alternate plumage was found in S.M.N.W.R., Jan. 14–15 (NW); lack of previous reports suggests the bird was probably not wintering. Another was seen along the *Wakulla* R., Feb. 7–10 (JE). A Lark Sparrow in n. Jacksonville Dec. 3–4 was the only one reported this winter (RC). A Henslow’s Sparrow was identified in Seven Springs, *Pasco*, Dec. 30 (BP); five were in *Duval* Jan. 7 (RC) and one in J. W. Corbett W.M.A., Feb. 3 (DL). Lone Lincoln’s Sparrows were found e. of their usual migration route and at the n. edge of their wintering range in S.M.N.W.R., Dec. 18 (SBa, DT); at Lake Alfred Jan. 22 (PT, CG); w. of Florida City Feb. 17 (RSm *et al.*); and in the e. Everglades Feb. 19 (PWS, SS). A Harris’ Sparrow marked with black from the top of its head down the front of its face and

throat was observed at a Gainesville feeder Feb. 22 (PE), but it did not remain to be seen by more experienced observers. A Snow Bunting, always a good find, was at Wards Bank (Huguenaut), *Duval*, Dec. 2 (RC).

The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported were single imm. males in Holiday, *Pasco*, Dec. 30 (PH) and s.w. of Florida City Jan. 11 (PWS, SS *et al.*). The 100 Boat-tailed Grackles at L. Jackson Dec. 3 (GM) was indicative of unusually high winter numbers in n. Florida and s. Georgia (*vide* JiC). Four Bronzed Cowbirds were found on the Lake-land CBC Dec. 17 for the 6th consecutive year (*vide* PF); a male s.w. of Florida City Dec. 24 was the only other reported (PWS, SS, MWh). Two Orchard Oriole were at Belle Glade Marina, *Palm Beach*, a recent wintering site, Feb. 25 (CW, HL *et al.*). Northern Oriole reports include two ♀ "Bullock's" on the East Pasco CBC, *Pasco*, Dec. 20 (BP, PY, DR) but females are hard to distinguish in the field or hand; three "Baltimore" Orioles at Parker I., Jan. 1 (B&LA); ≤12 (six ad. ♂ "Baltimores") at a Tallahassee feeder through the period (NW) and five Northern wintering in Key West (JAO). A ♀ Purple Finch found intermittently in Tallahassee Dec. 20–Feb. 11 (NW) was the only report for the Region. House Finches continue to spread with a male at Cedar Key Jan. 30 (DH) and males singing regularly at 3 locations in Gainesville in February (TW).

**Observers cited:** David Ackley, B. J. Anderson, Bruce H. Anderson, Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Steve Backes (SBa), Jocie Baker, Ted Below, Wes Biggs, Paul. Blair, Annie Boles, Sonia Bollinger, Steve Bollinger, Reed Bowman, Fred Broerman, Dana Bryan, Charlie Buhrman, John and Anne Carey, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Ted Center, Roger Clark, Julie Cocke (JuC), Jim Cox (JiC), Gordon Cratzat, Mary Crowe-Mitchell, David Dees, Kimberly Dees, Mark Dolan, Nancy Douglass, Helen Eagan, Phyllis Edelman, John Epler (JEp), J. Estes (JEs), Duncan Evered, Paul Fellers (PF), Peg Files (PFi), Marty Folk, Saul Frank, Dot Freeman, Dave Gagne (DGa), Chuck Geanangel, C. "Red" Gidden (RG), Dave Goodwin (DGo), Joe Greenberg, Debbie Grimes (DGr), Polly. Hanford, Al. and Bev. Hansen, Bill Hills (BHi), Shirley Hills, Wayne Hoffman, Brian Hope (BHo), Judi Hopkins, Larry Hopkins, Gloria Hunter, Herb Kale, Fran Kautz, Randy Kautz, Bill Keating (BKe), Lillian Kenney, Bruce Kittredge, Marion Kittredge, Howard Langridge, Andrea Lauricella (ALa), Dave Leonard, Al Liberman (ALi), Fred Lohrer, Lorne Malo (LMa), Mike

McMillian, Gail Menk, Lyla Messick (LMe), Larry Mitchell (LMi), Steve Mlodino, Don. Morrow, Barbara Muschlitz, Katy NeSmith (KNeS), Kris Nelson, Robert Norton, Joe A. Ondrejko, Jeff Palmer, Rich Paul, Peggy Powell, Bill Pranty, Arnold Rawson, S. Reed, Joe Reinman, Bob Richter (BRi), Gina Rico, Bryant Roberts (BRo), Don Robinson, Heather Rottenborn, Stephen Rottenborn, Rex Rowan, Rick Sawicki (RSa), Jim Schmidt (JSc), Ann. Schnapf (ASc), Nedra Sekera, Parks. Small, Austin Smith (ASm), Lori Smith, P. William Smith (PWS), Ron Smith (RSm), Susan Smith, Betty Smyth, Gary Sprandel (GSp), Annette Stedman (ASt), Jim Stevenson (JSt), Gene Stoccardo (GSt), Francie Stoutamire, Debbie Taylor, Jack Taylor, Pete Timmer, Noel Wamer, Tom Webber, Chuck Weber, Ellen Weigley, B. Wheeler, Micky Wheeler (MWh), Robin Will, Margie Wilkinson (MWi), Betty and Bob. Wotton, Paul Young, Wilfred Yusek, Mike Zeloski. Many others submitted reports.

—Richard L. West, 2808 Rabbit Hill Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312; and Bill Pranty, Archbold Biological Station, P.O. Box 2057, Lake Placid, FL 33862.

# Ontario Region

## RON RIDOUT

After experiencing the winter of 1993–1994, it would not be too much of an exaggeration to describe this past winter as near tropical by comparison. Temperatures in the mid-50s and 60s F. lingered well into December across much of the Region. January temperatures were well above normal and snow accumulations were well below normal. Winter did exert some force in February when temperatures dropped to near normal levels across the Region.

The result was that notable trends did not involve the usual winter species but instead focused on lingering "waterfowl" and passerines that remained well beyond their normal departure dates, often in good number. Outstanding rarities included two separate Ross's Gulls and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

