

Brise, Dick Brown, Allen Bryan, Norm Budnitz, Dick & Marion Burk (D&MBu), Dennis Burnette, Steve Calver (SCa), Lyle Campbell (LCa), Derb Carter (DCa), Robin Carter, Doris Cohrs (DCo), Will Cook, Dwight Cooley, Leto Copeley (LCo), Sam Cooper, Larry Crawford, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Kevin Danchisen, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Doug DeNeve, David Donmoyer (DDo), Bruce Dralle (BDr), Billy Dunbar, Caroline Eastman, Jere Eggleston, Frank Enders, Chris Eley (CEI), Shawnee Finnegan, Bert Fisher, Jim Flynn (JFI), Dennis Forsythe, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Charles Gambill, Norman Giles (NGI), Lex Glover, Nancy Gobris, Joe Greenberg, Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn, Bob Hader (BHd), Bruce Hallett (BHa), Tom Hankins, Dot Hedrick, Herb Hendrickson, Bob Holmes, Fran Hommersand, Royce Hough, Pierre Howard, Brock Hutchins (BHu), Ty Ivey, Donna Johnson, Paul Johnson, Terry Johnson, Tim Kalbach, Lois Kath, Kenn Kaufman, Cam Kepler, Doris Kingdon, Kitty Kosh (KKo), Carol Lambert, Harry LeGrand, Paul Lehman, Jeff Lewis, Charles Lynch (CLy), Merrill Lynch, Kathleen Mallard, Adam & Phyllis Martin (A&PMa), Bob & Barbara Maxwell (B&BM), Roger McNeill, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Randy Newman, Mark Oberle, Len & Esther Pardue (L&EP), Barbara Passmore (BPa), Hunter Patterson, Steve Patterson, Tommy Patterson, Brian Patteson, Jack Peachey, Taylor Piephoff (TPi), Jeff Phippen (JPi), Dave Provencher, Lloyd Ramsey, Paul Raney, Allen Rhodes, Larry Ross (LRo), Georgann Schmalz, Jeff Sewell, Julia Shields (JSh), Roger Smith (RSm), Ramona Snavely, Gary & Nancy Sowell (G&NS), Tonya Spire, Wendy Stanton, Lee Sterrenburg, Paula & George Sutton (P&GSu), Paul Sykes, John Swiderski (JSw), Edith Tatum, Simon Thompson, Les Todd, Mike Tove, Phil & Sharon Turner (P&STu), Russ Tyndall, Anne Waters (AWa), Audrey Whitlock, Tommy Willard, Brad Winn, David Wright, John Wright, Susie Wright, Bob Zaremba, Tony & Ann Ziccardi (T&AZ).

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# Florida Region

## H. P. LANGRIDGE

March was colder and wetter than usual, with record rains in the North Peninsula. April was dry in the south, wet in the north, and very wet in spots in the central area. May was dry until very disturbed weather brought much rain late in the month. The Central West Coast area reported three good fallouts: March 30–31 (no fallout in the upper Keys), April 16–20 (Dry Tortugas was poor), and April 30, with excellent numbers of grosbeaks and tanagers, such as at Cedar Key. One observer at Fort DeSoto commented that “Hummingbirds are thicker than mosquitoes.” Also on this date, the lower East Coast and St. George Island had good warblers. The Dry Tortugas experienced a good fallout, with rain, on April 7–8: Tanagers, many kingbirds, and a very large flock of mixed shorebirds flying around Garden Key.

Ted Below reported that the red tide, starting in late January and ending in mid-April, was the “largest, strongest, and longest” in his forty years of experience in Naples. Although the tide killed “manatees, turtles, and thousands and thousands of fish” (mostly catfish), there appeared to be little physical evidence reported of any effect on birds, except one heron and one gull staggering. With no discernible ill effect, the Ospreys fed catfish to their young and Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings pecked at the beached fish.

The season’s highlights included an outstanding hummingbird, an ultra-rare pewee, exciting strays, and some ho-hum strays. Way south on the peninsula at Lakeland, the finding and photographing of a ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in the spring was phenomenal, and a Cuban Pewee on the Dry Tortugas in late May was sensational, although a Zenaida Dove and Fork-

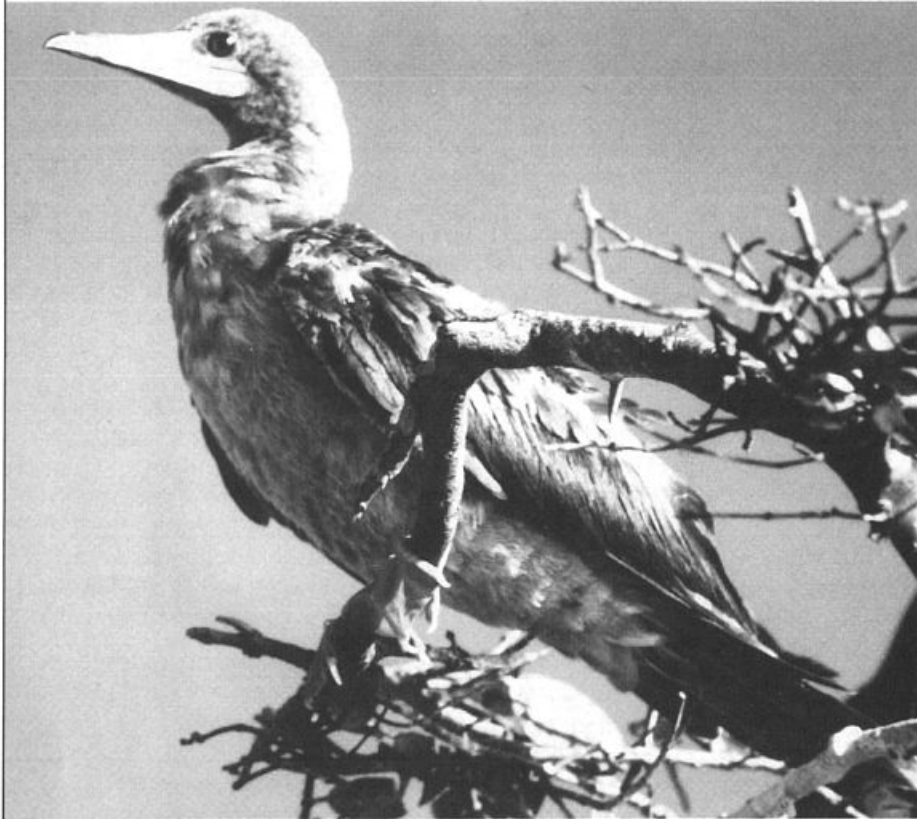
tailed Flycatcher on the Keys weren’t shabby, either. Humdrum strays—like two LaSagra’s Flycatchers and a record number of Bahama Mockingbirds—hardly raised one’s blood pressure.

Abbreviations: D.T. (*Dry Tortugas N.P.*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*), Ft. DeSoto (*Ft. DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.*), Jax (*Jacksonville, Duval Co.*), P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*), U.C.F. (*University of Central Florida, Orlando*).

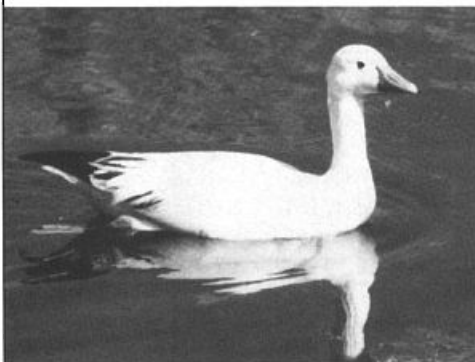
## Loons to Raptors

A Com. Loon over Gainesville May 22 (SD) and two at Santa Rosa I., May 23 were very late (GS). The only White-tailed Tropicbird this spring turned up at Key West Apr. 28 (JAO). On Mar. 13, 17 mi s.e. of D.T., a Red-billed Tropicbird rested on the water (PM, *vide* CWB) for the 2nd spring sighting and 12th overall record. Six young Masked Boobies on Hospital Key, D.T., and an adult covering 2 eggs Apr. 19 (KTK *et al.*) were good news, but a dead young was collected Apr. 3. Three rare Red-footed Boobies were seen on Bush Key, D.T.: one in March with a White-tailed Tropicbird (WBR), one Apr. 6–May 31 (HPL, m.ob., ph. KTK), and another Apr. 26–May 17 (GWL, PL, m.ob., ph. GWL). The latter two were seen together May 15–17 (MP, HP). This species has occurred with erratic regularity the last few years, so F.O.S.R.C. no longer





**Red-footed Booby at Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, April 27, 1996. One of three visiting there this spring. Photograph/Greg W. Lasley.**



**Present near Deland, Florida, from February 18 to March 7, 1996, this bird was identified as the state's fourth Ross' Goose [although the shape of the bird in the photo suggests the possibility of a Snow x Ross' hybrid, a fairly frequent hybrid combination]. Photograph/Chuck Potter.**

requires documentation. An unusually high count of 145 Brown Boobies was made Apr. 24 (ST, m.ob.) 30 mi s. of Key West. An Am. White Pelican in Naples Mar. 24 (THB, JLD) was late. Becoming rather regular inland, 11 Brown Pelicans were reported.

Two uncommon wintering Tundra Swans in *Leon* carried until Mar. 15 (JL). Found in late February near DeLand, a Ross' Goose, providing the 4th report in the state and first on the peninsula, was last seen Mar. 13 (CWB, ph. CP), establishing the first spring record. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was reported about

150 mi n.e. of its established range, near DeLand Apr. 19–23 (JLa) for the first *Volusia* report; four were reported May 13–18 (KM, HM) at Babson Park, *Polk*, for about the 3rd report there. An Am. Black Duck furnished *Polk* with its 4th record at P.P.M., Mar. 24 (PT, CLG). A ♂ White-cheeked Pintail was reported at Merritt Island N.W.R., May 11–26 (m.ob.). Two Surf Scoters, unusual this far south, were spotted at Honeymoon I. State Recreation Area, *Pinellas*, Apr. 20 (RJW, DMB), but 100 at Alligator Pt., *Franklin*, Apr. 25 (JD) with 25 Black Scoters were not surprising that far north. A pair of White-tailed Kites nested unsuccessfully in *Highlands* Mar. 21 (SC) for the first nesting attempt since 1930 in c. Florida. At L. Kissimmee Mar. 29 (CLG), 13 Snail Kites were a good number. The 70 Mississippi Kites May 2 & 15 (GEM) was considered the largest number ever for *Leon*. A very late ♂ N. Harrier was seen feeding on N. Mockingbirds nestlings in *Highlands* May 31 (RB). A very rare Ferruginous Hawk in *Leon* was reported Mar. 3 (JEC), Mar. 22 (ph. JEC, † to F.O.S.R.C.), and Apr. 1 (HH, JL) for only about the 6th report for the state.

A Yellow Rail was reported Mar. 10 at St. Marks N.W.R. (HH). A rare King Rail

paraded regularly on Bush Key beach, D.T., Apr. 10–17 (PL, m.ob.), and raised speculation about its origin, but a specimen years earlier proved to be the North American race.

### **Sandpipers to Alcids**

In *Leon*, 100 Lesser Golden Plovers Mar. 21 (GEM, JEC, DE, JL) and 200 Mar. 22 (GEM) were blown way off course by Arctic NW winds for a thrilling find. A single, normally rare, at Honeymoon I., *Pinellas*, Mar. 30 (DNG, WHY) and one in Jax Mar. 24 (RHC) were completely overshadowed by the *Leon* numbers. The highest count of Am. Avocets was 197 at P.P.M., March 24 (CLG, PT). Over 60 Solitary Sandpipers at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 30 (PMB *et al.*) was a "fantastic" number for *Pinellas*. The good number of 2000 wintering Willets at Shell Key, *Pinellas*, was still there Apr. 4 (PMB). Seven Upland Sandpipers, rare in *Oseola*, were spotted Apr. 2 (LFC, BWC *et al.*; ph. LFC). A Long-billed Curlew furnished *Leon* its first county record Mar. 22–23 (JL, JEC, DE, GEM). The high count this spring of Stilt Sandpipers was 23 at Jax Apr. 8 (RHC). Jax hosted 75 calling Long-billed Dowitchers Apr. 8 (RHC). In *Leon* Mar. 13 (DH), 60 Com. Snipe provided an excellent count, and one May 4 (GEM) there was very late. Shell Key, *Pinellas*, hosted 10,000 nesting pairs of Laughing Gulls in mid-May (PMB). The 390 Bonaparte's Gulls provided a very good number Mar. 21 (late) at Lakeland (PJF). A rare Glaucous Gull was reported in *Manatee* Apr. 27 (CF). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Ft. DeSoto May 1–2 (LFC, LAH, BRH *et al.*) furnished *Pinellas* its first documented record. Black Skimmers were unusually abundant this spring, with a peak of 500 Apr. 21 (JAO) at Key West and 355 May 18 (PJF, SS) at P.P.M. A dead Razorbill found on the J.U. Lloyd S.P. beach, *Broward*, Mar. 5 (BC, \*U.C.F., WG) represented about the 9th report for the state.

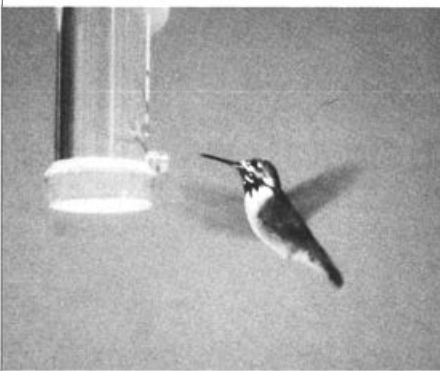
### **Pigeons to Mockingbirds**

A White-crowned Pigeon wandered N to Birch S.P., *Broward*, May 22 (WG). The wintering Zenaida Dove on Windley Key was last reported in mid-May (MiP *et al.*). A wintering Groove-billed Ani, rare but regular, was last reported in *Pasco* Apr. 29 (RJW, †SM). The first Antillean Nighthawk of the season was heard in Key West Apr. 5 (JAO) for the earliest ever by one day. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird furnished *Oseola* its first report at Kissimmee March–April (HM). The excellent >250 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Ft. DeSoto during a fallout Apr. 30 was considered a "safe estimate"

(RWS, LSA). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird, very rare in *Pinellas*, was reported at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 16 (LSA), and a male at Lakeland May 13 (JJM) furnished *Polk* its first report. Last winter produced a modest invasion of *Calliope Hummingbirds* (only one previous record before this winter), but the presence of a male at a feeder at Lakeland Mar. 29–Apr. 3 (JJM, ph. LFC, †BFC to F.O.S.R.C., PJF *et al.*) established the latest and most southerly record for the state, and was the first for spring. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird stayed near a feeder at Jax from March–April 1 (PCP), and another studied in the hand near a feeder (TW) at Gainesville carried until Apr. 1 (BBR). Two *Selasphorus* hummers were reported at Tallahassee: one March 10 (NW) and another Apr. 8 (LS). Another visited a Gainesville feeder Apr. 4 (BPM).

**SA** Dr. William Robertson, co-author of *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List*, reported the following about a Cuban Pewee on D.T., May 18: “Betty Robertson and I found a Cuban Pewee feeding from a buttonwood in the Ft. Jefferson parade ground. The bird was brownish (dull brown above, dusky whitish to buffy below) and seemingly smaller and slimmer than an E. Wood-Pewee, with a bill that seemed unusually broad at the base, light yellow lower mandible, distinct whitish to brownish wing-bars, a white half eye-ring behind the eye, and the odd habit of rapidly and briefly quivering its tail most times after it landed on a perch. Of the illustrations we’ve since looked at, it most closely resembled photographs “c” and “d” in the frontispiece of the paper by Reynard, Garrido, and Sutton [*Wilson Bull.* 105: 217–227. 1993]. We summoned Kathy Chisolm who took a dozen photographs with a 200 mm lens, but photo conditions were not favorable. The three of us stalked the bird from 3:30 to about 4:15 p.m. For the entire time, it fed very actively from low-shaded perches in several adjacent trees, apparently catching tiny, flying insects. All of us listened closely for vocalizations, but heard none. The pewee, much-ruffled when we first saw it, looked better by the time we lost sight of it. We searched Garden Key for several hours May 19 without finding the pewee again. For several days before, the weather had been blustery with mainly east winds.”

A rare Ash-throated Flycatcher, thought to be the same individual that wintered 3 previous years in the same area in *Brevard*,



**Male Calliope Hummingbird at Lakeland, FL, March 31, 1996. Very rare in Florida, this individual provided the southernmost and latest spring record for the state. Photograph/Linda F. Cooper**

was spotted Mar. 13 (AF, BPM). Two LaSagra's Flycatchers were sighted: one at hurricane-swept Bill Baggs S.P., *Dade*, Apr. 25 (†SF, MW), and another in Birch S.P., *Broward*, Apr. 6–8 (WG *et al.*). Near Florida City, a Gray Kingbird was very early Mar. 2 (LM). The wintering Cassin's Kingbird near Florida City, a 3rd state sighting, was last seen Apr. 24 (PWmS). A W. Kingbird in *Alachua* May 26 (TG) was the 2nd-lastest in spring. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher turned up Apr. 15 (ph. WHY, DMB, WAH, SM *et al.*) on Upper Matecumbe Key for about the 15th report.

A wintering Red-breasted Nuthatch on Cedar Key Apr. 5 (ML, DH) was late in leaving. The E. Bluebird nesting success was gratifying, with 291 young fledged from 100 nest boxes at Avon Park Airforce Range (DF, HW). Six Bahama Mockingbirds, an all-time high for spring, were found: Two singing at Spanish R. Park, Boca Raton—one Apr. 21–26 (BHH, †SE, PWmS, v.t., *et al.*) and another Apr. 25 (BHH); one singing at Key Largo Apr. 26–May 10 (LM, m.ob.); one singing at Key West Apr. 30 (ph. RTL) and May 5 (JAO); one singing at Hypoxuxo I., *Palm Beach*, May 13 (HPL, GSH); and one in Ft. Lauderdale May 1–8 (TH *et al.*).

#### Vireos to Warblers

At a *Sarasota* banding station March 31, many White-eyed Vireos were banded and seen moving N (AS). Several reports of the rare Warbling Vireo were submitted: At Key West, two singing Apr. 15 (JAO) and another singing Apr. 19 (JAO, † of both to F.O.S.R.C.); one at Ft. DeSoto May 1 (RC, v.t. to F.O.S.R.C., ph. LFC); and another at Seminole, *Pinellas*, at a bird bath May 3 (JMF). Five Philadelphia Vireos, remarkable in spring, were spotted: singles at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 21 (PMB, LSA *et al.*), May 3 (LSA

*et al.*), and May 1–2 (RWS, LDS, PMB); and two at St. George I., Apr. 30 (DoH, †JEC, DJ, SJ). An early Black-whiskered Vireo turned up at Key West Apr. 1 (JAO).

A “Brewster's” Warbler, rare on D.T., was seen there May 8–9 (TD, GG, m.ob.). More than 200 Palm Warblers on Key West Mar. 31 (JAO) revealed an impressive movement. An excellent number of 27 Bay-breasted Warblers was counted on St. George I., *Franklin*, Apr. 30 (ph. JEC, DJ, SJ), and 11 were reported at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 30–May 2 (RWS, m.ob.). Two uncommon Nashville Warblers were reported: one in *Leon* Mar. 13 (GEM, MC) and one in *Franklin* Apr. 22 (RiW, RC *et al.*). Swainson's Warblers were evident in numbers, with six in *Broward* and four at Ft. DeSoto. Without unsettled weather, >100 Com. Yellowthroats at Ft. DeSoto May 7 (RWS, LDS) represented a good number. Two Yellow-breasted Chats on Payne's Prairie, *Alachua*, May 1–13 (JHH) indicated “probable nesting” at its s. limit.

#### Grosbeaks to Cowbirds

A sub-ad. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was reported at Key West Apr. 30 (JAO, † to F.O.S.R.C.). The Apr. 30 fallout at Ft. DeSoto produced >25 Scarlet Tanagers, 40 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 17 Blue Grosbeaks, and >100 Indigo Buntings (m.ob.); there were also good numbers of the above at Cedar Key the same day (BM). A ♂ Bullock's Oriole was a good find in *Leon* March 10 (NW), but three visiting a feeder in Jax Apr. 10 (JPC) was better.

A Clay-colored Sparrow stayed on Garden Key, D.T., Apr. 11–29 (BR, MM, HPL, m.ob., ph. KTK, GWL, v.t. RW) for only the 3rd spring report there. A Henslow's Sparrow on Payne's Prairie Apr. 8 (RKR) established a new late date for *Alachua* by 3 weeks. A flock of ten White-crowned Sparrows on the dunes near Jax carried until Mar. 24 (RHC). Wintering Bronzed Cowbirds were last seen in s. *Dade* Apr. 19 (PL *et al.*). In April, two Brown-headed Cowbirds at Nokomis, *Sarasota*, were the first ever banded in 10 years of operation.

#### Exotics

In Key West, four Red-crowned Parrots were feeding on Gumbo Limbo berries Mar. 17 (JAO), and two were working on a cavity in the top of a dead coconut palm May 5 (JAO).

#### Addenda

The 1995 *Leptotila* dates (*AFN* 49:4) were 7–8, not 2–8. Delete “About 20 sightings of” in the 1995 Curlew Sandpiper sentence.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Lyn Atherton, **Ted Below**, Wes Biggs, Paul Blair, David Bowman, Reed Bowman, James Cavanaugh, Brian Christ, Ron Christen, S. Christman, Roger H. Clark, J. P. Cocke, Mike Collins, Buck F. Cooper, Linda Cooper, J. L. Douglas, Jack Dozier, Tom Driscoll, Scot Duncan, Duncan Evered, Alice Farkash, **Paul Fellers**, Shawneen Finnegan, Judy Fisher, Craig Folis, Don Ford, Dave Gagne, Chuck Geanangel, Gary George, Wally George, Tony Gilyard, David Harder, D.H. Henderson, Ted Hendrickson, Doc Hill, Hohn Hintermister, Brett R. Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Brian H. Hope, Larry Hopkins, Howard Horn, Gloria Hunter, Dean Jue, Sally Jue, Kevin T. Karlson, B.K. Kittredge, M. Kittredge, Mary Landeman, **H.P. Langridge**, Rey Larson, Greg W. Lasley, Jay Lahart (JLa), Jay Lavia, Paul Lehman, Pete Maiuri, Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi, **Gail Menk**, Joe Mislaszek, Steve Mlodinow, H. Moore, Helen Morrison, Ken Morrison, Barbara Muschlitz, Joe Ondrejko, Miguel Padura (MiP), Tom Palmer, Helen Parker, Max Parker, Chuck Potter, **Peggy Powell**, **Bill Pranty**, Brian Rapoza, Bryant Roberts, William Robertson, **Rex Rowan**, Lavinia Short, Steve Sigman, P. Wm. Smith, Lori Smith, **Ron Smith**, Gary Spennel, Annette Stedman, Pete Timmer, Stu Tingley, Noel Wamer, R.J. Webb, Tom Webber, Rich West (RiW), Mickey Wheeler, Haywood Williams, Robbie Wooster, and Wilfred Yusek.

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# Ontario Region

## RON RIDOUT

It seemed that the winter of 1995-1996 would never end as it continued well into April and, in the northern regions, mid-May. Indeed, the season across the province was the coldest and wettest on record in nearly 50 years. Early to mid-spring migrants arrived in Ontario two to three weeks late on average and, for the most part, without any large waves noticed. The exception to this occurred May 18, when a warm front from the south pushed slowly into Ontario. The accompanying showers forced most migrants to ground, providing one of the best migratory fallouts in several years across a broad portion of the province. This date is mentioned repeatedly throughout this report.

Waterfowl numbers built in late March on the lower Great Lakes, but with such cold conditions were unable to move farther north, as open water could not be

found until late April on many lakes and, in the north, not until mid-May! The result was some very large numbers of waterfowl found in the south well into May.

While the season passed without any additions to the provincial list, outstanding rarities reported included Black-necked Stilt, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, two different Painted Buntings, and Spotted Towhee. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P. and vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory, Norfolk*); O.B.R.C. (*Ontario Bird Records Committee*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in italics refer to counties, districts, or regional municipalities.

## Loons to Herons

Red-throated Loon reports totaled 139, with a peak of 32 at Pt. Clark, *Bruce*, Apr. 27 (B&DF) and 60 at Hamilton Apr. 20 (JO). These lower-than-usual numbers may have been the result of the cool spring, or it may be that high counts in recent years at these hotspots may have been anomalies. The lone Pacific Loon of

