plumage was a surprise at Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (BH, WF). Georgia had another state first when a Spotted Towhee was present in a Marietta yard 18-22 Apr (R&NCo, v.o.). Photos should add this species to the official state list, pending acceptance by the Georgia BRC.

Rare in spring, Clay-colored Sparrows were found twice on 30 Apr, at Cape Lookout, NC (ph. BC), and heard singing in Jasper, GA (JFl). Henslow's Sparrows of note included singles at Ft. Stewart, GA, 22 Mar (LCa), Santee N.W.R., SC, in mid-April (TK), and Stewart, GA, 3 Apr (NK). The large number of wintering Le Conte's Sparrows found in all three states continued into the spring. The latest departure dates reported included 3-4 in Mecklenburg, NC, 15 Apr (TP et al.) and 2 at Broad R. W.M.A., SC, 30 Apr (TK at al.). Other Le Conte's of note involved singles at Raven Rock S.P., NC, 24 Mar (PH) and along Mid-Pines Rd., Raleigh, NC, 17 Apr (JM). A Nelson's Sharptailed Sparrow on St. Catherine's I., GA, 19 May (MHo, TSc) was possibly the latest ever for that state. Four Lincoln's Sparrows were reported in the Region, the latest in n. Greene, GA, 22 Apr (PS). The sparrow of the season had to be the ad. Harris's Sparrow at Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (BH, WF), for the 4th or 5th report for that state.

Rare away from the immediate coast in North Carolina, an ad. male Painted Bunting was a surprise at a feeder near Falls L., Wake, NC, 29 May (fide MP). Dickcissels were found at several locations throughout the Region, indicating a better-than-average movement in the east. The best counts included up to 4 at the usual Henry, GA, site 7 May and 4 in Carroll, GA, 14 May (MB et al.). An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at a Morehead City, NC, feeder 2-11 Apr (MW, JF et al.), provided the only report for the spring. Shiny Cowbird reports seem to be increasing each year now. Apart from several in Georgia and South Carolina, North Carolina sightings included 2 at N. Topsail I. 14 May (JC) and one near Bodie I. Lighthouse 26 & 29 May (JL, RD). Red Crossbills continued to be found at Pine Log W.M.A., Bartow, GA, with 4 there 24 Apr (GB et al.). This area hosted a rather large number of crossbills during the winter. And finally, the latest Evening Grosbeaks reported involved a flock of 9 on North Carolina's Outer Banks(!) at Salvo 29 Apr (SR).

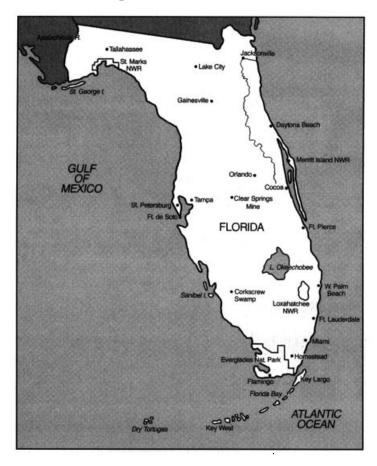
Contributors: Ken Allen, John Argentati, Giff Beaton, Michael Bell, Brad Bergstrom (BBe), Bill Blakeslee, Norm Budnitz, Steve Calver, Susan Campbell (SCb), Jamie Cameron, Larry Carlile (LCa), Brad Carlson, Robin Carter, Walt

Chambers (WCh), Richard & Nancy Cole (R&NCo), Will Cook, Larry Crawford, Ricky Davis, Brian Van Druten (BVD), Caroline Eastman, Frank Enders, Jim Flynn (JFI), Dennis Forsythe, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Barbara Gearhart, Lex Glover, Paul Hart, Steve Hawk, Joel Hitt, Malcolm Hodges (MHo), Bob Holmes, Milton Hopkins, Ty Ivey, Mark Johns, Paul Johnson, Tim Kalbach, Gene Keferl, Nathan Klaus, Kitty Kosh, Jeff Lewis, Tom Lorenzin, Chris Loudermilk, Greg Massey, Pat Moore, Terry

Moore, Jim Mulholland, Brian Patteson, Jack Peachey, Magnus Persmark, Taylor Piephoff, Russell Roberson, S. Ryan, Georgann Schmalz (GSc), Todd Schneider (TSc), Aubrey Scott, Ted Seckinger, Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Ramona Snavely, Stephen Stewart, Gail & Keith Sutton (G&KS), Danny Swicegood (DSw), Paul Sykes, Eugenia Thompson, Mike Tove, Rusty Trump, McDuffy Wade, Anne Waters, Keith Watson, Brad Winn, John Wright, Bob Zaremba.



# florida



### **Bill Pranty**

Audubon of Florida 410 Ware Blvd., Suite 702 Tampa, Florida 33619 (billpranty@hotmail.com)

nce again the Region was crippled by severe drought, the worst on record in some areas. Mean rainfall amounts for January through May compared with the first five months of 2000 (all measurements in inches) for selected cities follow: Tallahassee-25.03 and 8.44; Tampa-12.17 and 3.12; and Miami-15.51 and 10.74. The

effects of the drought were most severe in central Florida, where aquifers supply most of the water for human consumption and where many lakes are rainfall-fed. Consequently, hundreds or thousands of shallow wetlands dried up completely and lakes were much reduced. Decreased water levels attracted concentrations of wading birds and shorebirds, especially at Newnans L., which recorded its lowest water level in over 60 years. Other impressive shorebird counts came from L. Hollingsworth in Lakeland and L. Jackson at Tallahassee. Fortunately, rainfall in June and July broke

the drought and surface water is returning to most areas.

Strong w. winds for many days in late April caused fallouts of birds virtually Regionwide. Wally George was astounded by the hundreds of wood-warblers per hour that moved through Birch S.P. in Ft. Lauderdale during 22-26 Apr. Primary species involved were Northern Parulas, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats. John Boyd watched a similar spectacle of Blackthroated Blue, Cape May, and Blackpoll Warblers, American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats streaming through Cape Florida near Miami 30 Apr; he estimated at least 1000 wood-warblers/hour for close to four hours. At Fort De Soto C.P., migrants were common 22-27 April, with 25 species of wood-warblers 25 Apr.

**Abbreviations:** D.T.N.P. (Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe*); F.D.C.P. (Fort De Soto County Park, *Pinellas*); L.A.R.A. (Lake Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange*); S.R.W.T.P. (Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon*), and S.R.A. (state recreation area).

#### LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A Common Loon was inland at Gainesville 8 Mar (AKr), as were 4 at L. Arietta, Polk, 22 Mar (LAI). An Eared Grebe was at a Polk mine 1 Apr (PT, CGe, DM). A Yellow-nosed Albatross photographed 50 km w. of Tarpon Springs 1 May provided the Region's 3rd verifiable record (RPo, fide GW). Over 400 Audubon's Shearwaters were found between D.T.N.P. and Key West 21 Apr, including 300 in one flock (PaL et al.). At DTN.P., a White-tailed Tropicbird was seen 5-6 May (KR, KK et al.) and 45 Masked Boobies, including at least 3 chicks, were on Hospital Key in Apr (PaL et al.). A holdover from the winter were the hundreds of N. Gannets at F.D.C.P. 4 Mar (EH), with another at Passage Key, Manatee, 23 May (RPa, ASc) Nine American White Pelicans over Conch Key 26 Apr (PaL et al.) were unusual for the Keys. Brown Pelicans are now routine ınland in parts of the cen. peninsula, but the 5 at Newnans L. 7-13 May (LD, RR et al.) were rare. A flock of 66 Anhingas was over Talbot I. S.P., Duval, 21 Apr (PLe). Also at Newnans L. were 2 Great White Herons 9 May+ and up to 8 Roseate Spoonbills 16 Apr+. Other spoonbills were 29 inland at Polk mines 23 Mar (PF et al.). A mixed brood of Great Blue and Great White Herons was found at Bayshore Gardens, Bradenton, 20 Mar (RPa). High numbers of Wood Storks—courtesy of the drought—were 250 at L Jackson 25 Apr (GM) and 390 at Micanopy, *Alachua*, 13 May (MMa). The escaped Greater Flamingo in Hillsborough Bay was seen 11 Mar and 29 May (RPa, ASc).

Waterfowl at L.A.R.A. included 676 Green-winged Teal 3 Mar and an American Black Duck, 2 Blue-winged Teal, and a Northern Shoveler through the season (HR). A White-faced Whistling-Duck (Dendrocvgna viduata) there 7 May (HR) was the 4th reported in Florida, all in the past 10 years. This native of Tropical America and Africa was more likely an escapee—nearly every theme park and zoo in the Region has one or more-but who knows? Of unquestioned exotic origin was the Philippine Duck (Anas luzonica) photographed at Pembroke Pines in late May or early Jun (K&KS) and apparently seen sometime in Apr (LM). Two Mottled Ducks were far n. at St. Marks N.W.R. 10 Mar (TCu). Newnans L. had 9 Blue-winged Teal 27 May (LD, RR). At Port Canaveral, 2 Common Eiders remained through spring (v.o.), while a female Longtailed Duck was nearby at Titusville 13 Apr (TF).

Insular Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from F.D.C.P. 22 Mar (A&TM et al.) and 9 Apr (KH), and D.T.N.P. 18 Apr (PaL et al.). Two pairs of White-tailed Kites attempted to nest at Buck I. Ranch, Highlands, in Mar, but a prescribed fire deterred one pair and the other abandoned their nest in late Mar, probably due to the drought (MMc). Fate was not indicated for a nest at Three Lakes W.M.A., Osceola, (TD). A Mississippi Kite spent the season at Jacksonville (JCo), where nesting has been suspected in previous years. Ad. Bald Eagles in the Lower Keys were at Key West 26 Apr (PaL et al.) and Boca Chica Key 12 May (GS, CRe). Raptor watches at Talbot I. S.P. 26 Mar-25 Apr yielded seasonal counts of 63 Northern Harriers, 123 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 279 American Kestrels, and 171 Merlins, with 83 of the last 21 Apr (PLe). At L.A.R.A., two of Florida's first three documented Rough-legged Hawks were seen to 19 Apr and 4 Northern Harriers and a Sharp-shinned Hawk remained through the season (HR et al.). Cooper's Hawks again nested in the middle of St. Petersburg, at Boyd Hill Nature Park (fide RS), while one at D.T.N.P. 18-22 Apr was a rarity there (PaL et al.). A female Cooper's seen persistently at Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach, 25 May-20 Jun (J&LH) was s. of the known breeding range. Short-tailed Hawks were reported widely in the central peninsula (v.o.), with the northernmost report of one at Cedar Key 16 Apr (CGr). A pair courting over Crews L. C.P., Pasco, 28 Mar (DR) was in an area of suitable habitat but no previous breeding-season reports. A Merlin at Newnans L. 29 May (MMa) was late. Black Rails at a phosphate mine 1 Mar (TJC) and 2 at Kicco W.M.A. 21 Apr (PF, TJC) were the first known for *Polk*. An American Coot swimming on the ocean ±40 km wsw. of Key West 21 Apr (PaL et al.) must have been an interesting sight. For the first time, released Whooping Cranes in Florida produced young, but one chick was lost quickly, and the other was killed by a Bobcat just days before gaining flight (SN, see paper in this issue).

#### **SHOREBIRDS THROUGH LARIDS**

The drought created shorebird habitat at a number of inland sites this spring. Nowhere was this more apparent or impressive than at Newnans L., where 26 species were found, equaling the entire Alachua shorebird list for the previous 113 years! Some of the highlights follow: 100 Semipalmated Plovers 29 Apr, 35 Spotted Sandpipers 18 May, 15 Whimbrels 26 Apr, 6 Sanderlings 17 May, 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers 27 May, 600 Least Sandpipers 23 Apr, 31 White-rumped Sandpipers 29 Apr, 60 Dunlins 4 Mar, Ruff to 10 Mar, 130 Long-billed Dowitchers 23 Apr, Wilson's Phalarope 17 May, and 2 Rednecked Phalaropes 7-17 May (LD, JH, AKe, AKr, MMa, RR et al.). A good inland count of 75 Black-bellied Plovers was made at L.A.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). An American Golden-Plover was there 29 Apr (KR, CP), while another was at S.R.W.T.P. 27-28 Mar (G&SH). Good inland counts Semipalmated Plovers were 19 at L. Jackson 25 Apr (GM) and 21 at L.A.R.A. 26 Apr (HR); the 395 at Talbot I. S.P. 3 May (RC) was an amazingly high count for the Region Six Whimbrels and 3 pairs of Snowy Plovers at Anclote Keys 17 May (RPa, ASc et al.) provided excellent counts for Pasco. Locally rare shorebirds were an American Oystercatcher at D.T.N.P. 17 Apr (PaL et al.), 8 American Avocets at S.R.W.T.P. 5 Mar-21 Apr (GM et al.), a Whimbrel at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR), a Red Knot at L.A.R.A. 3 Apr (HR), and a Sanderling at East L. Tohopekaliga, Osceola, 6 May (LD). Upland Sandpipers were reported widely, with one at L.A.R.A. 21 Mar (HR), "three small flocks" at L. Jackson 4 Apr (FI), 3 in n.-cen. Pasco 12 Apr (BP, SP), one at D.T.N.P. 14-20 Apr (CE et al.), and a leucistic individual in s.-cen. Pasco 19 May (ph. LW). Notable shorebirds at S.R.W.T.P this spring were 20 White-rumped Sandpipers 25 Apr (DH), a Baird's Sandpiper 27 Apr (JCa), and a male Ruff 23 Mar-3 Apr (G&SH et al.). An impressive spring count of 1426 Stilt Sandpipers was made at L. Hollingsworth 21 Apr (B&LC)

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Table 1. The eight most recorded landbirds from point count surveys (n = 87) at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R. 2–26 May 2000 (data provided by Terry Doyle, U.S.F.W.S.).

Species	Total Birds	Birds/Point	% of Points
Mangrove Cuckoo	64	0.74	51
Red-bellied Woodpecker	174	2.00	93
Pileated Woodpecker	57	0.66	54
Great Crested Flycatcher	44	0.51	39
White-eyed Vireo	154	1.77	80
Black-whiskered Vireo	103	1.18	64
Prairie Warbler	53	0.61	48
Northern Cardinal	123	1.14	82

Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Black Hammock I., *Duval*, 13 May (RC) and one was at L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR). Single Rednecked Phalaropes were near D.T.N.P. 23 Apr (PaL et al.) and L.A.R.A. 16 May (HR), and 2 were at Merritt I. N.W.R. 7 May (TR).

Two ad. Parasitic Jaegers were off Key West 24 Apr (PaL et al.). Rare gulls this spring were a Franklin's in Okeechobee 23 Apr (TP), a Little at Titusville 13 Apr (IM), a Black-headed at Newnans L, to 4 May (BSi, LD et al.), and a Great Black-backed at Tigertail Beach, Marco I., 15 Mar (KB). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Key West 7 Mar (JOn) was a great find. Gull-billed Terns were well-represented, including 28 at Four Corners mine, Hillsborough/Polk, 25 Apr (PF) and individuals at Jupiter Inlet 25 Apr (J&LH), Brandon 28 Apr (EK), Anclote, Pasco, 24 May (KT), and Newnans L. 27 May (RR, LD, MMa). Coastal terns at Polk mines were 12 Royals 1 Apr (PT, CGe, DM) and 9 Sandwiches 22 Apr (PT, CGe); another Royal was at Newnans L. 9 Apr-9 May (LD, JH et al.). An Arctic Tern found on Pompano Beach, Broward, 19 May later died (fide \*WG). Jupiter Inlet hosted a Roseate Tern 1-2 May and a Sooty Tern 31 May (J&LH). Three Least Terns at Tallahassee 29 Mar (GM) were rather early. Last year, I reported that Black Noddies were absent from D.T.N.P. in spring 1999, but I recently heard that birds indeed were present (SBs). This year however, they did appear to be absent (WB, SBs et al.).

#### **DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS**

Continuing the trend in recent seasons, White-winged Doves were reported at nine widely scattered locations in the Region (v.o.). Individuals of the rapidly declining Smooth-billed Ani were reported from Bahia Honda S.P., Monroe, 16 Mar (G&JH) and in Martin 23 May (B&LC); a Groove-billed Ani was found at Ocklawaha, Marion, 23 Mar (ES, RL). Up to 2 West Indian Shorteared Owls were at D.T.N.P. 12 Apr-7 May (WB, PaL et al.) and a Lesser Nighthawk there 7 May (MP, KR et al.) was well-

described. Wintering Black-chinned Hummingbirds departed Gainesville 10 Mar (DB) and Tallahassee 10 Mar (PC) and 19 Mar (JOM), while a "very fat" female visited a Key West feeder 8 Apr (JOn). Movements of woodpeckers were noted at three islands this spring, with single Red-headeds at Honeymoon I. 11 Apr (WY) and F.D.C.P. 15 Apr (fide RS), and a rare Hairy at Sanibel Lighthouse 2 Apr (VM).

A calling Eastern Wood-Pewee at Shady Hills, Pasco, 10 Mar (DR) was the earliest Florida report by two weeks, and 2 Acadian Flycatchers in Wakulla 1 Apr (JE) also were early. The wintering Least Flycatcher remained at F.D.C.P. to 11 Apr (RS, BA et al.) and the wintering Vermilion remained at Micanopy to 7 Mar (RR). Ash-throated Flycatchers at Emeralda Marsh, Lake, 3-11 Mar (ph. PM) and near L.A.R.A. 21 Mar (CRa, KR) probably also wintered, but the Great Crested Flycatcher in Levy 7 Mar (AKr) more likely was an early spring arrival. A wintering Brown-crested Flycatcher at Everglades N.P. was seen to 13 Mar (LM et al.). La Sagra's Flycatchers were at Birch S.P., Broward, 16 Apr (WG, SE et al.) and Key Largo 21 Apr (AB). A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at F.D.C.P. 16 Apr (SBc). At L.A.R.A., 33 Western Kingbirds were counted 3 Mar, the wintering Cassin's Kingbird remained to 26 Apr, and a Gray Kingbird was seen 6 Apr (HR). The count of 16 Gray Kingbirds at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR) seems surprisingly high. Thirteen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported in the Region (v.o.) and single Fork-tailed Flycatchers appeared simultaneously at two sites in the Keys: Boot Key 3 May (JG et al.) and D.T.N.P. 3-4 May (SBs et al.).

Six Yellow-throated Vireos were at Crystal R. 19 Mar (TR), 3 Red-eyed Vireos were early at San Felasco, *Alachua*, 12 Mar (MMa, AKe), and a Black-whiskered Vireo graced St. Marks N.W.R 23 Apr (D&JW). Cliff Swallows were surprisingly numerous (v.o.), with 8 reports, including one at S.R.W.T.P. 27 Mar (G&SH), 2 at Crews L. 28

Mar (DR), singles at Sanibel Lighthouse 4, 8, & 22 Apr (VM), F.D.C.P. 10 Apr (LAt), and L.A.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). Meanwhile, Cave Swallows were found at St. George I. 20 Mar (JCa), Tram Road W.T.P., *Leon*, 6 Apr (DH, GM), and D.T.N.P. 17–19 Apr (1) and 25 Apr (3) (PaL et al.). One of the D.T.N.P. swallows was described by Lehman as having a "fairly pale rusty-buff rump (close to that of a typical Cliff) and dull grayish-white sides."

Many of last year's sparrow fields at L.A.R.A. had succeeded to this year's wren fields, where Robinson tallied a Bewick's Wren 14 Mar, 41 Sedge Wrens 3 Apr, and 61 Marsh Wrens 15 Apr. Golden-crowned Kinglets at Manatee Springs S.P., Levy, 3 Mar (RH et al.) and Lower Suwannee N.W.R. 7 Mar (AKr) probably were holdovers from the winter irruption. An Eastern Bluebird was a surprise at F.D.C.P. 6 May (NO et al.). A possible Bicknell's Thrush was reported from Sugarloaf Key 26 Apr (PH) and another was identified at L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR). Fourteen Wood Thrushes were reported (v.o.), with one somewhat early at F.D.C.P. 23 Mar (LAt et al.), four singles in Lee 4 Apr-4 May (VM et al.) and 3 at Honeymoon I. S.R.A. 23 Apr (WY et al.). At F.D.C.P. 23 Apr, >100 Gray Catbirds were estimated (BP et al.). Single Bahama Mockingbirds were at D.T.N.P. 12 Apr (WB et al.) and Matheson Hammock, Miami, 12 May (LM et al., ph. A&TM). Perhaps equally rare were the Brown Thrashers at Key West 26-29 Mar (JOn) and D.T.N.P. 17-19 Apr (PaL et al.)

## WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

With so many warbler observations, this report must, by necessity, concentrate on clearly significant reports. A rarity at D.T.N.P. was the Orange-crowned found 17-19 Apr (PaL). Twelve Chestnut-sideds and 6 Bay-breasteds at Sanibel Lighthouse beginning 23 Apr (VM et al.) provided excellent spring counts. A Magnolia at Bartow 23 Mar (PF) was early and a Yellow-rumped in Flagler 21 May (AKr) was late. The Townsend's Warbler that wintered at Merritt I. N.W.R. was seen to 2 Apr (B&RK et al.). A bird believed to be a Bay-breasted × Blackpoll Warbler hybrid was observed carefully at D.T.N.P. 22 Apr (ph. PaL et al.). Multiple counts of Cerulean Warblers were 5 at F.D.C.P. 25 Apr (fide RS) and 2 at Sanibel Lighthouse 25-30 Apr (VM et al.). Quite early was a Worm-eating Warbler at F.D.C.P. 20 Mar (ASm), Migrant Swainson's Warblers were plentiful this spring, with 23 reported (v.o.); the best count was 8 at F.D.C.P. 12 Apr (LAt et al.). Eleven N. Waterthrushes were at L A.R.A. 26–30 Apr (HR). Kentucky Warblers also were numerous at F.D.C.P., with one early 28 Mar (LAt et al.), 10+ on 23 Apr (BP, LW, CD et al.), and 12+ on 25 Apr (EK et al.); one that remained at Key West 28 Mar-21 Apr (JOn) was equally early; 3 others were at Sanibel Lighthouse 25 Apr-2 May (CE, VM). Yellow-breasted Chats were well-reported, with 2 singing males at Crystal River (TR, A&BH et al.), 4 at Paynes Prairie State Preserve, Alachua 13 May (MMe et al.), and 19 singing at L.A.R.A. variously this spring (HR).

Muschlitz found a female Western Tanager at Cedar Key 22 Apr. Only the 5th reported in the Region, and a one-day wonder, was the Yellow-faced Grassquit at DTN.P. 9 May (KK et al.); an excellent description and sketch were provided. Three Lark Sparrows were reported: singles at Melbourne 24 Mar (LJ), F.D.C.P. 15 Apr (LH et al.), and D.T.N.P. 17-19 Apr (PaL et al.). A Savannah Sparrow at L.A.R.A. to 30 May (HR) set the Region's latest spring date. McMillian found Le Conte's Sparrows far s. at Buck I. Ranch on six occasions late Jan-early Mar, while Paul saw one near the Alafia R., Hillsborough, 24 Mar. Rounding out the sparrows were single Lincoln's at L A R.A. 14 Mar (HR) and Birch S.P. 27 Apr (WG), the latter a first for the park.

The fallout at F.D.C.P. 22-23 Apr brought down 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (RS, BP et al.) and "probably several hundred" Indigo Buntings (BH et al.). Part of the same fallout were 20 Blue Grosbeaks and 24 Indigo Buntings at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR). Other Indigos at Monticello, Jefferson, 17 Mar (RA) and Gainesville 18 Mar (MMa) were early. Singing males tallied at L.A.R.A. this spring were 59 Blue Grosbeaks, 32 Indigo Buntings, and 9 Painted Buntings (HR). The w. winds of late Apr brought a number of Dickcissels to the Gulf coast, with ≤8 at S.R.W.T.P. 23 Apr-13 May (GM et al) and singles at D.T.N.P. 20 Apr (CE et al.), at Sanibel Lighthouse 25-26 Apr (WW et al), in mid-Pinellas 27 Apr (JF), at F.D.C.P. 28 Apr (PB, WY et al.), and at Bald Point, Franklin, 24 May (JD). Nearly all of these were males. At L.A.R.A., the site of last year's unprecedented breeding, Robinson counted 8 singing males and a female beginning 30 Apr, but none after 9 Jun. Also at L.A.R.A. were 3140 Bobolinks 30 Apr (HR), one of the Region's highest spring counts.

Ahern found a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tampa 6 Mar. Twenty-eight Shiny Cowbirds were reported this spring (vo.), matching precisely the seasonal statewide mean since 1985 (BP). A Bronzed Cowbird at Panacea, Wakulla, 23 Apr (PC) was somewhat late. House Finches continue to colonize the peninsula at a slow pace. Rowan had a pair at Chiefland, Levy, 20 Apr and birds have been present nearby at Williston for "at least five years" (SL). Two singing males were at Ft. Lauderdale (WG, SE), where birds bred in 1997, but a local origin for these individuals cannot be ruled out. A Pine Siskin visited a Tallahassee feeder 18–19 May (BSc). At D.T.N.P., a female and a male House Sparrow were found 24 Apr-7 May (PaL, LM et al.); reports from the Tortugas are thought to represent birds that arrived naturally with migrant landbirdsbut from where? Lastly, 3 Zebra Finches built a nest in a backyard in Bayonet Pt., Pasco, 27 Apr (ph. JW), the first known to nest in Florida.

Cited observers: Brian Ahern, Larry Albright (LAI), Roger Atchison, Lyn Atherton (LAt), Steve Backes (SBc), Sonny Bass (SBs), David Beatty, Ken Behrens, Wes Biggs, Adrian Binns, Paul Blair, John Boyd, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Andy Cheadle, Roger Clark, T.J. Coburn (TJC), Julie Cocke (JCo), Paul Conover, Buck & Linda Cooper, Tom Curtis (TCu), Lloyd Davis, Tylan Dean, Carrie Dermer, Jack Dozier, John Epler, Susan Epps, Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Teresa

Fiorella, Judy Fisher, Chuck Geanangel (CGe), Wally George, Jeff Gordon, Chuck Graham (CGr), Jack and Liz Hailman, George & Judy Halleron, Gary & Sandra Hampton, Erik Haney, Al & Bev Hansen, David Harder, John Hintermister, Petra Hockey, Tom Hoctor, Brett Hoffman, Kelly Holland, Larry Hopkins, Rich Hoyer, Fran James, Leslie Jaquays, Bill & Rose Karnofsky, Adam Kent (AKe), Katrina Knight, Andy Kratter (AKr), Ed Kwater; Ruth Langer, Patrick Leary (PLe), Paul Lehman (PaL), Steve Lowrimore, Mike Manetz (MMa), Larry Manfredi, Anya & Tom Mason, Peter May, Vince McGrath, Jason McManus, Mike McMillian (MMc), Doug McNair, Michael Meisenburg (MMe), Gail Menk, Barbara Muschlitz, Steve Nesbitt, Julie O'Malley (JOM), Nancy Ogden, Joe Ondrejko (JOn), Tom Palmer, Michael Patten, Rich Paul (RPa), Steve Peacock, Cheri Pierce, Robert Powell (RPo), Bill Pranty, Cindy Radamaker (CRa), Kurt Radamaker, Cathy Read (CRe), Don Robinson, Harry Robinson, Tommie Rogers, Rex Rowan, Earl Scales, Ann Schnapf (ASc), Kevin & Kim Schnitzius. Brenda Scott (BSc), Bob Simons (BSi), Austin Smith (ASm), Ron Smith, Gene Stoccardo, Eric Tillman, Pete Timmer, Ken Tracey, Jamie Wagner, Lee Walton, Walt Winton, Glen Woolfenden, Dick &

Joanna Wright, Wilf Yusek.

