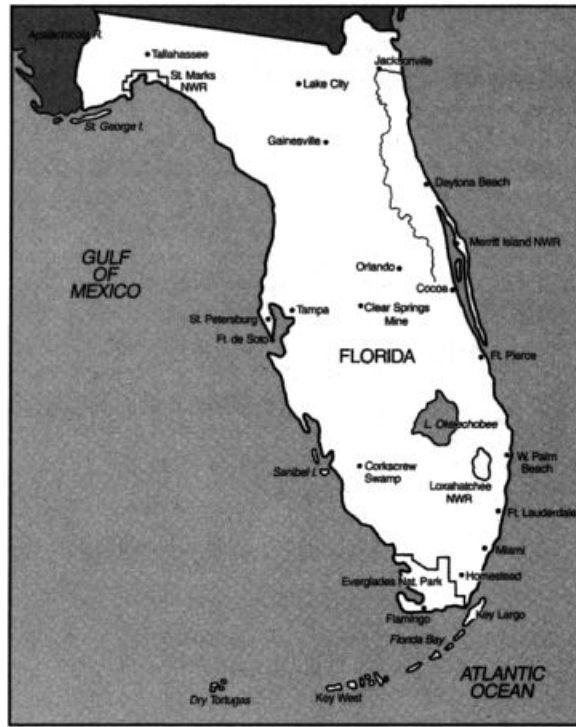


Florida



Elbert airport 5 Dec (BDu), 3 at Andrews I., Brunswick 3–5 Dec (BW, sev. obs.), and 2 at E.L.H. 10–12 Dec (EBe, GB et al., AS). Very rare in winter, a Blue Grosbeak was found on the Litchfield-Pawleys I., SC C.B.C. 28 Dec (CH, *fide* JPe). A good winter bunting was the Indigo found on the Macon, GA, C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* JA). Dickcissel reports included one at Buxton, NC 27 Dec until at least 14 Jan (PS et al., PM) and one at Conway, SC 18 Jan (GP). Georgia had a lock on Yellow-headed Blackbirds, with 2 in *Baker* 18 Feb (BDu) and up to 3 in *Seminole* 27 Dec–11 Feb (EH, PS, BB, MB et al.). Excellent totals for Brewer's Blackbird were had this year, with up to 150 in *Baker*, GA 13 Jan (JFl, EH, sev. obs.), 200 near Bowman, *Orangeburg*, SC 9 Dec (LG), and nine in *Carteret*, NC 16 & 26 Jan (JF, JFe, sev. obs.). Only one Red Crossbill was found this winter, a male at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC 31 Jan (DS). And finally, the 6 Evening Grosbeaks reported on the Jordan Lake, NC C.B.C. 31 Dec (*fide* NB) were certainly out of place, since the species was practically absent from the Region the entire winter.

Contributors: Jerry Amerson, Keith Andre, Donna Bailey (DBa), Giff Beaton, Michael Bell, Eric Beohm (EBe), Brad Bergstrom (BBe), Bill Blakeslee, Ed Blitch III, Molly Bonnell (MBo), Norm Budnitz, Dennis Burnette, Susan Campbell (SCb), Steve Calver, Brad Carlson, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Andrea Ceselski, Walt Chambers, Paul Champlin, Mike Chapman, Steve Compton (SCo), Sam Cooper (SCp), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, John Dole, Bruce Dralle, Billy Dunbar (BDu), Tom Egan, Jack Fennell (JFe), Jim Flynn (JFl), Dennis Forsythe, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Lex Glover, Debbie Grimes, Chris Hill, Joel Hitt, Bob Holmes, Hop Hopkins, Earl Horn, Wayne Irvin, Terry Johnson, Diane Kelsey, Nathan Klaus, Pete Laurie, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Lewis, Barry Lowes, Greg Massey, Mary McDavit, Fred Moore, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Rick Murray, Perry Nugent, Jim & Melissa Pappas (J&MP), Brian Patteson, Jack Peachey (JPe), Gary Phillips, Joe Poston (JPo), Frank Rheindt, Josh Rose, Jamie Sasser (JSa), Aubrey Scott, Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Craig Smith, Gordon Smith, Robert Smith (RSm), Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Mike Tove, Rusty Trump (RTr), Russ & Patricia Tyndall (R&PT), Emil Urban, Steve Wagner, Judy Walker (JWa), Anne Waters, Joe Williams (JWi), Brad Winn, Bob Zaremba.

Bruce H. Anderson
2917 Scarlet Road
Winter Park, Florida 32792
(scizortail@aol.com)

This season was not as warm as other recent winters. In Orlando, there were seven nights of freezing temperatures or below, and for at least one night, frost warnings extended the entire length of the peninsula. The cold damaged much of the exotic flora in the northern and central regions of the state, but birds remained plentiful in most areas. The Florida peninsula experienced drought, with central Florida recording a 19" rainfall deficit by the end of the period. The falling water levels did not attract the large numbers of wading and water bird species that they did last winter. The abundance of wintering Wilson's Warblers that seemingly "plagued" much of the Southeast included Florida, where unprecedented numbers were reported throughout the state. If accepted by the F.O.S.R.C., three species will be new for Florida's list of verifiable species: Red-necked Grebe (Central Southern Region), Zone-tailed Hawk, and Bullock's Oriole.

Abbreviations: E.N.P. (Everglades National Park), F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee), L.A.R.A. (Lake Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange*), P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*).

Loons Through Waterfowl

A Pacific Loon was seen off St. George I., *Franklin* 10 Jan (AWK). Red-throated Loons appeared along the Florida coasts in unprecedented numbers, with 4 reported as far south as Canaveral National Seashore, *Volusia* 4 Feb (JP). On the Gulf coast, 12 Red-throateds were at Alligator Point, *Franklin* 14 Feb (DS), and 3 at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 23 Feb (PBl) One high report was the 282 seen in 30 min off Talbot Is. S.P., *Duval* 19 Jan (RCI)—a spot always good for this species, but never in this number. Lake Weir, *Marion* hosted 94 Common Loons 17 Jan (ES). At *Polk Phosphate Mines*, 22 Eared Grebes were found 25 Feb (PT, CG), and another was reported at St. Marks N.W.R., 11 & 14 Feb (KA, DS). An *Aechmophorus* sp. at Sanibel I., *Lee* 12–18 Jan, Florida's 3rd to be documented, was considered a Western Grebe by most who saw the bird (Jim Williams, Walt Winton, ph. LA, ph



CE et al.). A late Cory's Shearwater was off Talbot I. 16 Dec (CBu). Single Brown Boobies were noted at Boca Grande Pass, Lee 14 Jan (Shepard Krech) and Cape Canaveral 4 Feb (DS). Again this winter, large numbers of Northern Gannets were seen close to shore: 2477 were counted 3 Dec at Canaveral National Seashore (JP). Eleven Brown Pelicans wintered at L. Hollingsworth, Polk (TP), one was at L.A.R.A. 28–31 Jan (HR), and another at L. Kissimmee 16 Feb (DF, JoC). The Great Cormorant discovered at Titusville remained to 3 Dec (CE). Forty Magnificent Frigatebirds were tallied on the St. Petersburg C.B.C. 16 Dec (fide RSm). Again E.N.P. hosted a probable White x Scarlet Ibis at Eco Pond, Monroe (m.ob.), while another was in *Brevard*, 5 Feb (†DS). A subad. **Scarlet Ibis** roosted at Ft. Myers Beach (m.ob.), presumably an escapee. Small numbers of Glossy Ibis wintered at St. Marks N.W.R., where they were joined by up to 3 **White-faced Ibis** 11 Feb+ (†KA, ph. LA, B. Atherton, BBe et al.) for Florida's 10th published report. The flock of Greater Flamingos at Snake Bight, E.N.P., did not exceed 12 individuals (Mike Rosenthal, m.ob.).

At Emerald Marsh Conservation Area, *Lake*, the count of 298 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks tallied 28 Dec was a high number so far north (fide John Stenberg). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to increase locally in the n. peninsula; 35 were counted 3 Dec (DHa) at Paynes Prairie State Preserve. Up to 4 Greater White-fronted Geese visited St. Marks N.W.R. 1–17 Jan (John Hintermister, Nan Lloyd et al.), and one was found at Gainesville 2 Feb (Bliz Feldherr, Mary Landsman). Eight Snow Geese visited Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola* 8 Dec (CG), and 3 were at Lake Woodruff N.W.R., *Volusia* 25 Jan (Wes Biggs, MG). Farther south, 2 were at Chekika, E.N.P. 12–18 Dec (LaM, JHB), one there 14–23 Jan (Buck and Linda Cooper, DS), and 5 were at Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach* 25 Jan (BHo). A Canada Goose at Viera, *Brevard* 7 Jan+ (m.ob.) was thought to be a wild bird. A lone Brant paused at Long Point, *Brevard* 20 Dec (Doug Johansen fide TM), and the next day 2 were at Black Point Park, *Miami-Dade*, where one remained to 24 Dec (†LaM, Jan, John & Chadda Shelly). A male Eurasian Wigeon was n. of Mims, *Brevard* 3–9 Jan (DS, RKH et al.) and another at Merritt I. N.W.R. 17 Dec & 2 Jan (Paul Marvin, DS). Rare in the cen. peninsula, an American Black Duck visited L.A.R.A. 3–12 Dec (HR), and a pair was at Longpoint Park, *Brevard* 11 Jan (DS). A cinnamon-colored teal with "a diffuse white crescent between the eye and bill" at Merritt I. N.W.R. 26 Dec was considered a Blue-winged x Cinnamon hybrid (†DS). Single ad. male Cinnamon Teal were

found at Myakka River S.P. 13–21 Jan (Don and Marcia Fairbanks, DP) and P.P.M. 20–25 Jan (KA, PF et al.). Scoters were scarce. One Surf was off Canaveral National Seashore 3 Dec (JP); 3 were off Matanzas Inlet, *St. Johns* 16 Dec (ES); and 2 were on the St. Johns R., S. Jacksonville 10 Jan (Peggy Powell). A White-winged Scoter was viewed from St. George Causeway 10 Jan (AWK). A Black Scoter at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau* 8 Jan (DS) was the only report. One Long-tailed Duck stopped at St. Marks N.W.R. 8 Dec (IH), while another visited Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon* to 9 Jan (DHa, GEM et al.). *Brevard* hosted 2 at Merritt I. N.W.R. 2–19 Dec (Bob Sicolo, Meret Wilson), and farther south, one at Eau Gallie Causeway 7–16 Jan (Julie and Anthony Trott, RP). One at Ft. Clinch S.P. loitered near the fishing pier 1–8 Jan (PL, DS). Rare inland, Bufflehead visited *Polk*, *Orange*, and *Miami-Dade* at Hialeah (PF, LFA, HR, Mary Wheeler, ph.JHB). Single Common Goldeneyes were at Gainesville 30 Nov+ (RR) and Ulumay Wildlife Refuge, *Brevard* 6 Jan (DS), while 200+ at Fort Island Gulf Beach, *Citrus* 29 Jan (MG) was a high number. Two goldeneyes and 1200 Hooded Mergansers visited Punta Gorda, *Charlotte* beginning 6 Dec (JeB).

Hawks Through Shorebirds

The first Swallow-tailed Kites were at E.N.P. 23 Feb (CJG) and s. *Jefferson* and Alligator Point, 25 Feb (JD). Two White-tailed Kites, casual in the Big Bend, frequented L. Miccosukee, *Jefferson* 6 Jan+, sometimes engaging in "courtship flight" (Michael Miller, ph. Eliza Hawkins et al.). Farther south, other White-taileds were reported from *Brevard*, *Collier*, and *Miami-Dade* (RP, TM, VL, LaM et al.). Extralimital Snail Kites wandered to Gemini Springs Park, *Volusia* 7 Dec (RP), Harney Canal, *Hillsborough* 27 Dec–4 Jan (KA, IH et al.), and Chekika 12 Dec–29 Jan (LaM, KA). Migrant Short-tailed Hawks were first noted at Saddle Creek C.P., *Polk* 7 Feb (PF), and Gainesville 19 Feb (David Steadman). One male with a transmitter was located with its probable mate near Gulf Hammock, *Levy* 23 Feb (Ken Meyer); it left s. Florida between 6–15 Feb. Lone Swainson's Hawks at L.A.R.A. 20 Dec (HR) and near Holey Land W.M.A., *Palm Beach* 26 Feb (DS) may have been migrants. A very rare Golden Eagle was identified at L.A.R.A. 12 Dec (HR). This season's most unusual rarity was a **Zone-tailed Hawk** observed over Big Pine Key 3 Dec and again ca. 50 mi w. over Boca Grande Key, Key West N.W.R. 12 Dec, when it was videotaped as it soared over the mangrove-covered island in the company of frigatebirds (v.t. Tom Wilmers). Two Black Rails were discovered at Bayonet Pt., *Pasco* 29 Dec. (DR, D P, P. Young).



An astonishing find was this Zone-tailed Hawk at Boca Grande Key 12 December, a vagrant hardly known in the East. Photograph from videotape by Tom Wilmers.

One American Golden-Plover visited Chekika 31 Dec–7 Jan (LaM, JHB). Eleven Black-necked Stilts lingered at P.P.M. to 2 Dec (PF, LFA) and 4 at L.A.R.A. to 15 Dec (HR). A Solitary Sandpiper in Gainesville 6 Dec (RR) was late, while wintering birds were reported in Zephyrhills, *Pasco* 21 Dec (DP et al.); *Volusia* 30 Dec (LoM); Sarasota 19 Jan–5 Feb (JP), *Miami-Dade* 23 Jan (Buck Cooper, ph. Linda Cooper), and 2 e. of Immokalee 21 & 25 Feb (VM). Two Sanderlings were late at P.P.M. 2 Dec (PF, LFA) With fewer than 20 winter Florida reports (including one by J.J. Audubon), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** in celery fields in *Sarasota* 13–18 Jan provided the first verifiable winter record (Alison Bishop, VL, Ray Webb, ph.LA) Purple Sandpipers wintered at their usual e coast sites: 15 at Ft. Clinch S.P. 8–14 Jan (DS, DR, JP); 2 at Matanzas Inlet, *Flagler* 9 Feb (Bert Charest fide DR); and 3 at Smyrna Dunes Park, *Volusia* 15 Jan–9 Feb (John Burke, DF et al.).

Numerous observations of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers were made from shore along the Atlantic coast south to *Brevard* (JP, DS, RP, DW & LS). Along the Gulf coast, 2 Parasitics were at Ft. De Soto C.P. 29 Dec–19 Jan (RSm, JeB et al.), and 2 were at Sanibel I. 19–22 Jan (DP, JP, DS). An ad. Franklin's Gull stopped at St. Marks N.W.R. 16 Dec (Tom Curtis), while another remained at Redington Beach, *Pinellas*, where one wintered last season (m.ob.). The **Heermann's Gull** that arrived at Ft. De Soto C.P., *Pinellas* last fall remained in the vicinity to at least 19 Dec (LA fide Margie Wilkinson). The bird became a tourist and was reported s. at Anna Maria I. 25–27 Dec (Mike Sefton), at Ft. De Soto C.P. 29 Dec–16 Jan (CBu, Steve Thornton et al.), at Longboat Key, *Sarasota* 18 Jan (Ron McCulloch), at Ft. De Soto C.P. 19 Jan (JeB), and approx 100 mi. s. at Sanibel I. 28–30 Jan (Lillian and Don Stokes, Bev and Claire Postmus). Its whereabouts after that remained a mystery until it returned to Ft. De Soto C.P. 22 Feb+ noticeably molting flight feathers (ph.LA et al.). Along both coasts, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in *Brevard*, *Broward*, *Lee*,

Pinellas, and *Monroe*, including one at Key West 28 Feb (JO). Inland, one was at L.A.R.A. 24 Jan (HR). First-year Glaucous Gulls were discovered at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 10–13 Dec & 28 Dec–19 Jan (BR, Howard Adams), the Pompano landfill, *Broward* 11 Feb+ (J. Villamil, K Sarsfield et al.), and Key Biscayne, *Miami-Dade* 28 Feb (RD). Winter Gulf coast reports of Great Black-backed Gulls continue to increase: in *Pinellas*, 7 were identified at Redington Beach, 3 at Ft. De Soto C.P. (m.ob.) throughout the period, and 3 at Sanibel I. from 14 Jan+ (CE, Dick Beeler). Seven Gull-billed Terns at Hernando Beach South, *Hernando* 19 Dec (BP, BA) were late migrants; however, 3 were found at nearby Pine I. 10–13 Jan (MG), where 2 were located last winter. Orlando Wetlands Park, *Orange* is closed until 31 Jan, so 2 there 4 Feb (Cheri Pierce) may have wintered, but 2 at Viera 22 Feb were probably early migrants (DF, G. Beaton). *Polk* hosted 6 Royal Terns at two locations 6 Jan (PT, CG) and 28 Jan (B. and L. Cooper). In first-winter plumage, Florida's 2nd **Elegant Tern** was found at Ft. De Soto C.P. 2 Dec–6 Jan (ph.LA, ph. Clay Kelsey, BS et al.), not far from where the first (a different individual) was verified in fall 1999. One hundred Common Terns at Ft. De Soto C.P. 2 Dec were late (LA), while one there 6 Jan and one at Anna Maria I. 31 Jan (PBI, WY) probably wintered.

Doves Through Woodpeckers

A Eurasian Collared-Dove nest at Minneola, *Lake* contained two fresh eggs 2 Feb (Ross Shafer, Jerry Cline, BHA), indicating that breeding may be year-round. Single White-winged Doves were at St. George I., *Franklin* 2 Dec (Howard Horne), and Lutz, *Hillsborough* 23 Dec (JoAnne Hartzler). In Jan, on a microwave tower at Safety Harbor, *Pinellas*, several pairs of Monk Parakeets tended a nest on top of which a pair of Bald Eagles tended their nest (KT). Casual in the peninsula, a Groove-billed Ani was between Gibsonton and Apollo Beach, *Hillsborough* 15 Dec (ph. KA). Single Short-eared Owls were at L. Jackson, *Leon* 8 Dec (Richard Perry), at L.A.R.A. 1, 14, & 24 Jan and 7 Feb (HR), and near Okeechobee and Pahokee, *Glades* 3 Feb (JD). Up to 20 Lesser Nighthawks were reported near Flamingo, E.N.P., *Monroe* 10 Dec–4 Feb (CJG, †KR, TM et al.), and 9 at Loxahatchee N.W.R., *Palm Beach* 13 Dec–4 Jan (BHo et al.). Not verified in winter, a Common Nighthawk was "heard and seen" 21 Feb (BHo). The first singing Chuck-will's-widows were heard at Lutz 10 Feb (Dave Bowman) and Naples, *Collier* 11 Feb (Terry Doyle). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were identified in *Leon* (3), *Franklin* (1), *Seminole* (3), *Hillsborough* (2), *Miami-Dade* (3) and *Monroe* (1) (Harry

Hooper, JD, BHA, SB, LaM, JO); single Black-chinneds were identified at Alligator Pt. throughout the season (JD) and at Spring Hill, *Hernando* 12 Feb+ (LA, DG). Single *Selasphorus* were found at Cedar Key, *Levy* 9 Dec–9 Jan (D. Henderson), Melrose, *Alachua* 17 Dec–18 Jan (ph. Jan Bolte), Valrico, *Hillsborough* 18 Dec+ (SB), and Crystal River, *Citrus* 24 Jan (TR). Two were at Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 7 Dec–2 Jan (LaM), and 5 were in the Tallahassee area 1 Jan–25 Feb (*fide* GEM). An ad. male Rufous was at S. Jacksonville 25 Dec+ (L. Bremer) and an imm. male at Spring Hill 12 Feb+ (LA, DG).

Flycatchers Through Pipits

Three Least Flycatchers were at L.A.R.A. to 14 Feb (HR). Singles were heard calling at Eco Pond, E.N.P. 21 Jan+ (RSm, JHB et al.) and in w. Kendall, *Miami-Dade* 26 Jan+ (JHB). Lone Vermilion Flycatchers visited Quincy, *Gadsden* 31 Dec (*fide* M. Collins) St. Marks N.W.R. 24 Dec–16 Feb (Bob and Sandy Donner, AWK); s. L. Jackson 15 Feb (GEM); DeBary, *Volusia* 14 Jan (LoM), and Goodwin W.M.A., *Brevard* to 7 Feb (BHA, Don Feuss); and 2 females frequented L.A.R.A. 3–25 Feb (DS, JP). One Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Paynes Prairie S.P. 3 Dec+ (DHa et al.), one at Ocklawaha Prairie, *Marion* 19 Jan (ES), 4 at L.A.R.A. throughout the season (HR, BHA, ph.LA et al.), and one in *Palm Beach* 3–18 Jan (BHo et al.). Brown-crested Flycatchers were identified at L.A.R.A. 14 Jan–11 Feb (HR, †DF, †ph.JoC) and Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P. 15 Jan–4 Feb (LaM, DS). A silent **Tropical Couch's Kingbird** was at Ft. Myers Beach, *Lee* 13–16 Jan (CE, LA); at the same location 17 Jan one heard was dubbed a Tropical Kingbird (†Tom Hince). Another kingbird at Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P. was vocal but not audiotaped; observers did not agree about its identification (†LaM, †PBI, †Mike Forman et al.). The state's 8th and 9th **Cassin's Kingbirds** came from L.A.R.A. 14 Jan+ where one wintered last year (HR), and L. Poinsett, *Brevard* 26 Dec (Paul Marvin, BHA, RD et al.). Wintering Western Kingbirds were plentiful throughout much of the cen. and s. peninsula, with up to 24 at L.A.R.A. (HR, m.ob.). A late Eastern Kingbird was in Homestead 2 Dec (LaM). One Scissor-tailed Flycatcher wandered to Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 4–14 Dec (PL). In the c. peninsula individuals were at L.A.R.A. 14 & 28 Jan (HR) and in w. *Pasco* 16 Jan (KT). A Bell's Vireo was at Eco Pond, E.N.P. 7 Feb (LaM). One Yellow-throated Vireo at Matheson Hammock 11 Dec (Linda and Buck Cooper) was likely a late migrant. Other Yellow-throateds were found at Spanish River Park 4 Jan (BHo) and at E.N.P. at Snake Bight 21 & 28 Jan (DS, JHB) and 2 at Royal Palm, *Miami-Dade* 28

Jan (JHB). Not verified in winter, a Warbling Vireo was independently seen and identified by two observers at Camp Owaissa Bauer *Miami-Dade* 29 Jan (†DS, Roger Hammer). The first Purple Martins were at Odessa, *Pasco* 11 Jan (DW) and at Port St. Lucie 18 Jan (Dotty Hull). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow in the Apalachicola N.F. 25 Feb was early (JD). A Cave Swallow and "several" Cliff Swallows were found at Chekika 22 Dec (JHB). Lone Cave Swallows wandered north to two *Palm Beach* locations: Wakodahatchee Wetlands and Loxahatchee N.W.R. 4 Jan (BHo). Lone migrant Barn Swallows were seen at Spring Road WTP. 3 Dec (GEM, Paul Conover) and L.A.R.A. 25 Feb (JP), while one appeared at Flamingo, E.N.P. 29 Jan (VM). At nine sites in *Leon*, *Gadsden*, and *Jefferson*, "numerous" Winter Wrens were found 3 Dec+ (*fide* GEM). Two Brown Creepers were counted in *Leon* in Jan (Marvin Collins *fide* GEM). Single Golden-crowned Kinglets wandered south to L.A.R.A. 20 Dec (HR), Geneva, *Volusia* 22 Dec (Gary Minor), and Lakeland 25 Feb (BS), while 4 were in *Pasco* 29 Dec (DR, DP). A Wood Thrush remained at Ft. Lauderdale 29 Jan+ (†WG et al.). A Northern Mockingbird nestling, estimated to be three days old, was in a very early Gainesville nest 15 Feb (Michael Meisenburg). Up to 5 Sprague's Pipits were flushed at Apalachicola Municipal Airport, *Franklin* 3 Dec–14 Jan (DS et al.).

Warblers Through Finches

Twenty-seven species of wood-warblers were reported this season; some were late or early migrants, and others are rare or casual in winter. Not verified in winter, single Blue-winged Warblers were at West Lake, E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 4 Feb (RD & Bill Boeringer), and Key West all winter (JO). A late Tennessee Warbler was at W. Boynton Beach, *Palm Beach* 3 Dec (BHo, Chuck Weber). A Nashville Warbler at Matheson Hammock 13 Dec (LaM) was late, others were reported near Oviedo, *Seminole* 30 Dec (BHA), at W. Boca Raton 14 Jan+ (BHo et al.), at L.A.R.A. 24 Jan (HR), at Fern Forest Nature Center, *Broward* 17 Feb (WG), and near Loxahatchee N.W.R. 25 Feb (DS). The first singing Northern Parulas were noted at Weekiwachee Preserve, *Hernando* 16 Feb (BHa). A late Yellow Warbler visited Lakeland 16 Dec (Linda & Buck Cooper). Single Magnolia Warblers were at two E.N.P. locations 28 & 29 Jan (JHB, DS). A late Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Gainesville 17 Dec (MM), while others were at West Lake, E.N.P. 28 Jan (JHB) and at Matheson Hammock 24 Feb (DS). A Black-throated Gray Warbler visited Matheson Hammock 3–16 Dec (JHB et al.). Lone Black-

throated Green Warblers were north at L.A.R.A. 22 Dec (HR) and N. Jacksonville 30 Dec (PP). Up to 3 Prairie Warblers lingered in e *Leon* through 30 Dec (John Murphy, Jim Cox, GEM et al.), while one was found at St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 27 Jan (DR). A Prothonotary Warbler spotted 19 Dec Ft. Lauderdale was late (Paddy Cunningham, WG) Single Worm-eating Warblers were at two E.N.P. locations 3–28 Jan (LaM, JHB), and another was at Matheson Hammock 24 Feb (DS) Lone Northern Waterthrushes remained north at Paynes Prairie State Preserve 17 Dec (S Flamand, R. Leonard), at Gainesville 10 Feb (M. Meisenburg), and Black Hammock, Oviedo 30 Dec (BHA). Three Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P. 18 Jan–18 Feb (LaM, DS), while an early migrant reached L.A.R.A. 11 Feb (HR). Fern Forest Nature Center, at Pompano Beach, hosted the Region's 4th **MacGillivray's Warbler** 17 Feb+ (†WG, m.ob.). Numbers of Wilson's Warblers have increased in recent years; from Tallahassee to Jacksonville and s. through the peninsula, **61** individuals (12 in *Palm Beach*, BHo) were reported in twelve counties (m.ob.). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were in *Taylor*, *Marion*, *Orange*, *Pinellas*, *Collier*, *Palm Beach*, and *Miami-Dade* (A. Kent, C. Graham, ES, HR, PBl, JJ, BHo, SB); the *Collier* chat was banded and ph. at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 17 Feb and recaptured 24 Feb; it was identified as "a western race...a beautiful brilliant orange-breasted bird!" (JJ). A late female/imm. Summer Tanager paused in n. *St. Johns* 3–12 Dec (PP), while farther s. a male remained at Ponte Vedra Beach 17 Jan+ (S. Wakefield); others wintered at Spanish River Park 15 Dec+ (BHo), and S. Jacksonville 24 Dec+ (J. Cocke). Spanish River Park attracted a male Western Tanager 28 Dec–6 Jan (†LaM, BHo et al.), as did Ft Myers Beach 14–16 Jan (LA et al.) and Newport, *Wakulla* 22 Feb (RG *vide* RCh), the latter birds being females or immatures. It was a three-tanager winter at Spanish River Park when a female **Western Spindalis** visited 9 Dec–4 Jan (DS, BHo et al.). A study of an ad. male **Cuban Grassquit** at Miami Beach 10 Dec (David LaPuma) was too brief to speculate about its origin; it was the Region's 11th report. All of the state's reports are presumed to be of escaped cage birds. Rarer still, and representing the Region's 5th report, a male West Indian **Yellow-faced Grassquit** lingered at Eco Pond, E.N.P. 20 Jan–5 Feb (†CJG, ph. LS, m.ob.).

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Talbot Is. S.P. 3–12 Dec (RCI) was likely migrating, while others remained later in the season in *Wakulla*, *Orange*, *Palm Beach*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Polk*, where 9 wintered (TK, TP, LFA, DS, LaM, JHB

et al.). A Lark Sparrow visited L.A.R.A. 12 Dec (HR), while 2 remained at Lake Wales 1–30 Jan (TP, Byron Bratlie et al.). Three Henslow's Sparrows were at Paynes Prairie State Preserve 17 Dec (Adam Kent), and up to 20 were at Doe Lake, Ocala N.F., *Marion* 6 Jan+ (JP, ph. ES). Six Le Conte's Sparrows were at Paynes Prairie 17 Dec (A. Kent), 2 at N. Jacksonville 30 Dec (RR), one at Weekiwachee Preserve 14–19 Jan (BHa, A. Hansen, CBl), 2 at Doe Lake 20 Jan+ (JP), and one at *Sarasota* celery fields 27 Jan (PBl, WY). Outnumbered by Nelson's along the Gulf coast, single Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported at Fort Island Beach, *Citrus* at 11 Jan (TR) and Eco Pond, E.N.P. 28 Jan (JHB). One Fox Sparrow wandered south to San Felasco Hammock, *Alachua* 7 Jan (MM), as did 2 at Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration Area, *Marion* 9–10 Feb (JP, ES). In the Big Bend 3 were at Leon Sinks 1 & 7 Jan (DHa, RKH), one at Bald Point, *Franklin* 5–6 Dec (JD), and two in *Jefferson* at Lamont 10 Jan (GEM) and L. Miccosukee 28 Jan (BBE et al.). Two Song Sparrows at Eco Pond, E.N.P. were far south (CJG, JHB et al.). Lincoln's Sparrows were found in *Wakulla*, *Alachua*, *Pasco*, *Orange*, *Brevard*, *Palm Beach*, and *Broward* (RR, BA, AS, RSm, HR, WG, DS). White-crowned Sparrows continue to increase in abundance: in *Wakulla* (3, GEM et al.), *Jefferson* (3, GEM et al.), *Nassau* (24, RCI), *Alachua* (22, RR), *Citrus* (11, TR, MG et al.), *Pasco* (3, RSm, AS, BA), *Seminole* (6, BHA), *Orange* (19, HR), *Brevard* (14, DS), and *Miami-Dade* (1, JHB). At least 8 Dark-eyed Juncos wintered in the Tallahassee area (GEM). One was far south at West Lake, E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 1 Dec (LaM ph.); others were seen in S. Jacksonville 2–3 Dec (PP) and Crystal River, *Citrus* 6 Dec (TR); where did these migrants winter? There were two reports of Lapland Longspur: one at Apalachicola Municipal Airport 3 Dec (DS, Kurt and Cindy Radamaker), and 7 roaming the dunes at Huguenot Memorial Park 28 Dec–31 Jan (DHa, BR et al.). An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in *Franklin* 21 Feb (RG *vide* RCh). Single Blue Grosbeaks at Bald Point 5 Dec (JM), at Alligator Point and Bald Point 21 & 26 Feb (JM, JD), respectively, and at L.A.R.A. 12 & 17 Dec were late and early. One wintering Blue was near Oviedo 30 Dec (†BHA), and 4 were w. of Kendall 6 Feb+ (†JHB). Three Painted Buntings were found at two *Leon* and one *Jefferson* sites 13 & 15 Jan, with one remaining in *Leon* through the end of the season (DHa, Barbara Buford, JD). Two Painted Buntings at Gainesville 24 Feb (RR, Scott Duncan) and an Indigo Bunting at Newberry, *Gilchrist* 25 Feb (B. Giambrone) were early. A Dickcissel visited L.A.R.A. 12 Dec (HR), while

one at Rotenberger W.M.A., *Palm Beach/Broward* 27 Jan (BHo) and 2 at W. Kendall 6 Feb+ (JHB) wintered. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at L.A.R.A. 7 Jan & 4 Feb (HR) and W. Boca Raton 14 Jan+ (BHo). Up to 22 Rusty Blackbirds wintered in n. *Leon* (DHa), while one wandered south to near Oviedo 30 Dec (BHA). One Brewer's Blackbird was at L.A.R.A. 3 Feb (DS). At least 6 Shiny Cowbirds were reported at Briggs Nature Center, *Collier* 1 Jan+ (VL). Up to 4 Bronzed Cowbirds wintered at a *Polk* golf course 2 Dec–22 Feb (LFA, Bob Wallace et al.), while 5 remained in *Sarasota* 10 Dec–5 Jan (JP et al.) An Orchard Oriole in s. *Miami-Dade* 2 Dec (PBi) was late. Recently, the **Bullock's Oriole** was removed from the list of verified species in Florida following F.O.S.R.C. review of the previous evidence. This season Bullock's were reported in the panhandle and peninsula an imm. male was at Flamingo, E.N.P. 13 Jan+ (†AKr, ph. BP, CJG et al.), and another was at Gainesville 18 Feb (†AKr, RR). One oriole in the company of the E.N.P. Bullock's was identified as a Bullock's x Baltimore hybrid (AKr) Up to 4 Purple Finches visited feeders in *Leon* 30 Dec–25 Feb (Fran Rutkovsky, TC). Two Pine Siskins wintered in *Franklin* (JM), 6 in Gainesville remained 3 Feb+ (L. Hensley, RR), and farther s. one was at Spring Hill 25 Feb+ (M. Lytle, CBl).

Addendum

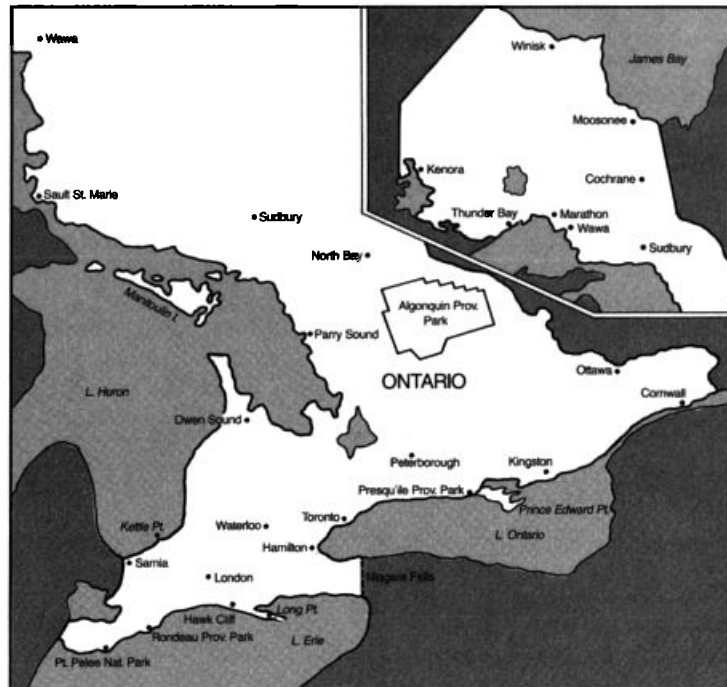
The previously published report of a probable California Gull in *Franklin* 11–14 Dec 1999 was not accepted by the F.O.S.R.C.

Undocumented Rarities

These reports were received with little or no supporting documentation: A Western Grebe was reportedly photographed at Ft. Clinch S P 2 Jan. At L.A.R.A., a Little Gull was recorded 7 Jan. Florida's 4th report of a Chestnut-collared Longspur came from N. Jacksonville 23 Jan. A male and female Bullock's Oriole were reported at Key West 27 Feb.

Contributors cited: I thank the F.O.S. Field Observations Committee for sharing many reports: Bill Pranty, state compiler, John H. Boyd III, Linda Cooper, Bob and Lucy Duncan, Charlie Ewell, Bev Hansen, Gail E. Menk, and Peggy Powell. The following contributors were cited more than once in the text: Brian Ahern (BA), Larry F. Albright (LFA), Ken Allen (KA), Bruce Anderson (BHA), Lyn Atherton (LA), Steve Backes (SB), Brad Bergstrom (BBE), Paul Bithorn (PBi), Clay Black (CBl), Paul Blair (PBl), Jeff Bouton (JeB), John H. Boyd (JHB), Charles Buhrman (CBu), Ron Christen (RCh),

Ontario



Roger Clark (RCI), Joie Clifton (JoC), Tom Curtis (TC), Robin Diaz (RD), Jack Dozier (JD), Charlie Ewell (CE), Paul Fellers (PF), Dot Freeman (DF), Murray Gardler (MG), Chuck Geanangel (CG), Wally George (WG), Red Gidden (RG), Debbie Grimes (DG), C.J. Grimes (CJG), Bev Hansen (BHa), David Harder (DHa), Robert K. Henderson (RKH), Irene Hernandez (IH), Brian Hope (BHo), Jerome Jackson (JJ), Alan W. Knothe (AWK), Andrew Kratter (AKr), Pat Leary (PL), Vincent Lucas (VL), Travis MacClendon (TM), Lorne Malo (LoM), Mike Manetz (MM), Larry Manfredi (LaM), Paul Marvin (PM), Vince McGrath (VM), Michael Meisenburg (MM), Gail E. Menk (GEM), John Murphy (JM), Joe Ondrejko (JO), Jeff Palmer (JP), Tom Palmer (TP), Roy Peterson (RP), David Powell (DP), Peggy Powell (PP), Bill Pranty (BP), John Puschock (JP), Kurt Radamaker (KR), Diane Reed (DR), Bob Richter (BR), Don Robinson (DR), Harry Robinson (HR), Tommie Rogers (TR), Rex Rowan (RR), Lilian Saul (LS), Earl Scales (ES), David Simpson (DS), Austin Smith (AS), Ron Smith (RSm), Bob Snow (BS), Lee Snyder (LS), Pete Timmer (PT), Ken Traey (KT), Doug Wassmer (DW), and Wilfred Yusek (WY).



Hugh G. Currie
385 Delaware Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6H
(currie@pathcom.com)

Recent winters in Ontario have been mild, but this winter we saw a return to normal temperatures. Snowfall was heavy, and snow cover remained on the ground for a record length of time. Feeder birds were few. Despite the cold, there were some early spring arrivals. Indeed, Ontario is such a vast province that observers experience very different avian events simultaneously. Great Gray Owls left the Rainy River district in December and were just beginning to arrive at locations in central and southern Ontario in the same month. Finch numbers varied widely across the province, with a notable absence at Rainy River of White-winged Crossbills but a major influx of breeders in southern Ontario.

Abbreviation: Soo (Sault Saint Marie).

Loons Through Waterfowl

A Western Grebe was discovered 3 Dec at Jordan Harbour (JL), where it remained through at least 15 Dec. A Pacific Loon off Wolfe I. 17 Dec (GFV, RDW) was an excellent

find. Common Loons are scarce in winter, so one inland from the Great Lakes at Peterborough (WC) 1 Dec was especially noteworthy. An Eared Grebe at Kingston 17 Dec (CG, LSW et al.) was the only one of this species reported. A juv. Northern Gannet was at Stoney Creek 1 Dec (JO, RS).

The Lake Ontario Mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory was conducted 7 Jan under good conditions except for the eastern half of the lake. The count of 250,446 waterfowl was the 3rd highest ever but lower than in 1999 or 2000. Record highs were set for Redhead, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser. Comparatively low counts were noted for Canada Goose, Mallard, and American Black Duck. A Tundra Swan was unusually far north and late at the Soo through 24 Dec (m.ob.). A Ross's Goose at Kingsville remained until 6 Dec (DW et al.), with another on the Oshawa C.B.C. A single Brant remained at Cobourg until 7 Dec (CEG, MB), and another was at Simcoe 1 Dec (GP). A female Blue-winged Teal could still be seen at Dufferin I. in the Niagara R. 7 Jan (WD'A). A count of 6414 Redheads on the Long Point C.B.C. was very high. A female Common Eider of the *dresseri* race was occasionally seen at Stoney Creek (JN) before it moved to

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout North American Birds are keyed on page 139.