

al) was more unusual—it was species #276 for the Hart-Miller list—and another was at John Brown Rd., *Queen Anne's* 25 Sep (D. Poet). Away from the coast, where regular in small numbers, Clay-colored Sparrow was found in at Oxon Hill Farm, *Prince George's* 7 Oct (DM), in *Howard* 14-15 Oct (†BO et al.), at Mt. Pleasant 27 Oct (HH), at Meadowbrook, and at Western Regional Park 4 Nov (BO, NM, RC). One on the C.B.B.T. 4 Sep (CB et al.) and 2 there 6 Sep (KK) provide evidence that this species is arriving slightly earlier in the Region as its regularity increases as a migrant. Lincoln's Sparrow arrived early too, with one at Western Regional Park 1 Sep (BO) providing Maryland's 2nd earliest; several 9-11 Sep (v. o.) in Maryland's Piedmont and D.C. were likewise quite early. A **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow** (p. a.) at Rachel Carson Conservation Park, *Montgomery* 23 Nov (PO, M. O'Brien, L. Zemaitis, G. H. Rosenberg) provided the first Maryland record for a non-*iliaca* subspecies; Virginia has one report of this form, which is recognized as a species by some authorities but not yet by the American Ornithologists' Union. Maryland's 2nd Oct record (first was 23 Oct 1977) for Le Conte's Sparrow was garnered 20 Oct (p. a. MH et al.), when one was flushed from the same n. Vaughn strip of grass that has held at least one wintering bird since 1998; it was seen again 11 Nov (p. a. KF, MH et al.). A search of the same area 15 Oct (MJI) did not find the bird. Is this the same long-lived bird, or is this tiny section of habitat so good that it hasn't gone vacant in four years? A **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Sky Meadows S.P. 20-21 Oct (p. a. S. Eccles, †TMD) provided a *Fauquier*, VA first and one of the only seven Piedmont records for the state.

An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Oyster, *Northampton*, VA 3 Sep was seen amidst the spectacle of 34,000 Bobolinks going to roost here; a Dickcissel was also in the mix (ESB, SWH). Brewer's Blackbirds included 2 at Hart 27 Oct (EJS et al.) and one male on Rte. 309, *Queen Anne's* 9 & 11 Nov (MH, KF, JLS). A good count of 210 Baltimore Orioles was noted at Sunset Beach 12 Sep (ESB). There was some evidence of winter finches on the move again this year, including a Common Redpoll at a Middleton, *Frederick* feeder (ph. J. Alexander), and single Red Crossbills at Kipt. on several dates 30 Oct-23 Nov (CB). Even rarer were White-winged Crossbills: one at a Columbia, *Howard* feeder 1 Nov (J. & T. D. Coskren, ph. R. Solem, v. o.), 3 flybys at Kipt. 23 Nov (CB), and 12 at Chinc. feeding in scrub pines along the dunes 25 Nov (Rosemary Jagus *vide* GM). Pine Siskins and Purple Finches staged respectable invasions this year, and there was the usual smattering of Evening Grosbeak reports in Nov, including Kipt. sightings by Brennan on 2 Nov (2) and 13 Nov (3).

Corrigenda

Patty Craig pointed out that I miscounted the fly-catcher species known from *Saint Mary's* (N. A. B. 55: 287); the real total is 15. In the same issue, note also that the date for the Ruff at Deal (N. A. B. 55: 286) should be 14 Apr 2001.

Observers (area compilers in boldface): Bob Abrams, Robert L. Ake, Bill Akers, Henry T. Armistead, Stan Arnold, Zach Baer, **Debbie Bennett** (*Caroline*, P.O. Box 404, Denton, MD 21625), Michael Bowen, Calvin Brennan, Edward S. Brinkley, Danny Bystrak, **Patty Craig** (*Saint Mary's*, P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Ralph Cullison, Dave Czaplak, Todd M. Day, Joan DeCarli, Samuel H. Dyke, Wendy Ealding, Fred Fallon, Kevin Fehskens, Kurt Gaskill, Mary Gustafson, Matt Hafner, Steven W. Hairfield, Rob

Hilton, Hans Holbrook, David L. Hughes, Karen Kearney, Elliot Kirchbaum, Bev Leeuwenburg, **Larry Lynch** (VA-BIRD internet group), Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Holly Mercer, Dave Mozurkewich, Paul, O'Brien, Bonnie Ott, Brian Patteson, **Helen A. Patton** (*Montgomery*, 429 Hamilton Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901 <helen@dataprompt.com>), Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth Pitney** (*Wicomico*, 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Steve Rottenborn, Robert F. Ringler, **Norm Saunders** (MDOsprey internet group), Eugene J Scarpulla, Rob Simpson, **Jo Solem** (*Howard*, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723), James L Stasz, **Paula Sullivan** (Voice of the Naturalist), Sherman Suter, Craig Tumer, Roberta Vallone, Jerry Via, **Les Willis** (Virginia Birdline).



Southern Atlantic Coast



Ricky Davis

608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804
(RJDNC@aol.com)

The fall season was one of contrasts. Weather patterns were relatively average in August, but in October and November, temperatures were mild and precipitation was way below normal. Some areas received practically no measurable rain for over a month! With this

warm, dry period, major frontal passages were not very prevalent. This meant that much of the migration was unspectacular and went unnoticed by many observers, especially in the first half of the period. Things changed in October and November. Many observers commented on more migrants, probably a result of the delayed early migration. Also quite a few rarities were found, making for a very exciting last half of the season.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E L H (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); L.M. (L. Mattamuskeet, NC), P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC); W.P.L. (West Point L., GA).

LOONS THROUGH WOOD STORK

The loon migration was uneventful except for an inland Red-throated at Jordan L., NC 10 Nov (DS et al.) and a good count of 130 Commons at WPL 6 Nov (WC). The most dependable location for **Pacific Loon** in the Region is Figure Eight I., NC. This year Pacifics were present 18-25 Nov with a peak of 3 on the 24th (DC et al.). Grebes were well represented this fall with an early Red-necked at Falls L., NC 31 Oct (BB) and Eareds at the usual locations. A **Western Grebe** at Falls L., NC 11-17 Nov (RD, v. o.) provided about the 5th or 6th for that state. Pelagic highlights from North Carolina included one or 2 Herald Petrels off Manteo 25 Aug, a peak of 4 Manx Shearwaters off Hatteras 5 Aug, a peak of 2 White-tailed Tropicbirds off Hatteras 4 Aug, and a Masked Booby off Manteo 25 Aug (BP et al.). Elsewhere a White-tailed Tropicbird was a good find out of Murrell's Inlet, SC 1 Sep (JP, RL). American White Pelicans were present in se. South Carolina in unprecedented numbers, with 200 over Donnelley W.M.A. 27 Oct (CR et al.) being the highest count reported. Other notable sightings included at least 6 at L.M. 30 Nov (R&SB), and inland singles at Falls L., NC 11-18 Nov (RD, v. o.) and L. Seminole, GA 11-12 Nov (MB) A Magnificent Frigatebird seen heading s. at Capers I., SC 26 Nov (AZ) was very late.

Long-legged waders of note included a very early American Bittern in *Horry*, SC 15 Aug (S&BTh), a Least Bittern found in downtown Winston-Salem, NC 3 Oct, which later died (RS et al.), and the usual smattering of Reddish Egrets from all three states. The peak count was 3 on Sapelo I., GA 18 Sep (DCo), and the latest one was on Jekyll I., GA 30 Nov (LT et al.). Outside of the usual se. GA area, Roseate Spoonbills were found at James I., SC 15 Aug (*fide* DF), Cape Romain N.W.R., SC 22 Oct (PN et al.), and Skidaway I., GA 10-11 Nov (RW et al.). Wandering Wood Storks were good finds: one at Townville, SC 12 Aug (JE et al.), 2 at L.M. 14 Aug (JPa), and 2-8 in n. *Greene*, GA 9-16 Sep (PS).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The waterfowl migration was generally uneventful and late, with numbers being down for most species. Exceptions to this were the 56 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Harris Neck

N.W.R., GA 6 Oct (EH), 250+ Snow Geese flying over S. Peachtree Creek Nature Pres., GA 25 Oct (*fide* JS), 2100 Blue-winged Teal at the S.S.S. 6 Oct (PS, SC), and 200 Red-breasted Mergansers at W.P.L. 21 Nov (WC). Some of the rarer reports included a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck of unknown origin at Andrews I., GA 15 Sep (BW), a Ross's Goose in a large Snow Goose flock in n. *Forsyth*, GA 26 Oct. (JFI), and a Long-tailed Duck on L. Hickory, NC 28-29 Oct (D&LM). Inland scoter reports were down from past fall seasons, but several individuals of all three were located.

A Swallow-tailed Kite was a good find at Ft. Fisher, NC 8 Sep (SCo), and an excellent count of 26 migrating Mississippi Kites was had at the Congaree Bluffs, SC hawk watch 16 Aug (DB). The rare Northern Goshawk was found twice this fall with an ad. at Pocosin Lakes N.W.R., NC 11 Nov (R&SB) and an imm. on Roanoke I., NC 24 Nov (R&PT). Other hawks of note included a late Broad-winged at Winston-Salem, NC 5 Nov (DD) and a Rough-legged back at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 1-30 Nov+ (RD, v. o.). Always noteworthy in the region, Golden Eagle reports included an imm. at Congaree Swamp Nat. Mon., SC 22 Nov (*fide* RC) and an ad. at Capers I., SC 23 Nov (AZ).

Black Rail reports away from typical locales included individuals seen at Savannah N.W.R., SC 25 Aug (AC), at Andrews I., GA 29 Oct (WC), at L.M. 26 Nov (MM), and one heard at Long Beach, NC 31 Oct (SCo). The **Limpkin** continued its presence in the Region, with one at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 9-15 Sep (PC, JS, CL) and 2 at Gamecock L., Altamaha R., GA 8 Oct (MH, v. o.) until at least 3 Nov (JS et al.). The only Sandhill Crane report of note was of 2 flying over the Croatan N.F., NC 30 Oct (JF et al.).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

American Golden Plovers were reported widely from all three states. The best count was four at the Orangeburg sod farms, SC 22 Sep (SCa et al.). A Piping Plover was very rare inland at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond, *Monroe*, GA 16 Aug (TJ; TS et al.). Excellent seasonal totals were: 22 Piping Plovers at Ocracoke, NC 11 Sep (RH), a probable record count of 1,131 American Oystercatchers at Cape Romain N.W.R., SC 20 Sep (CH et al.), over 400 American Avocets at P.I. 17 Nov (HW et al.), and 6000 Sanderlings on St. Catherine's Bar, *Liberty*, GA 8 Aug (PS). The best inland avocet reports included 15 at L. Auman, *Moore*, NC 19 Oct (DDo) and 6 at L. Katherine, Columbia, SC 22 Sep (RSA et al.). Another

noteworthy inland shorebird was the Willet at the Legacy sod farm, GA 12-13 Aug (JG, BD, GB, JFL) and one at the Winslow sod, *Halifax*, NC 19 Aug (RD). The best Upland Sandpiper total reported was of 20 at the Orangeburg sod, SC 16 Aug (VA et al.). Also rare inland, Marbled Godwits were found at the Legacy sod, GA 4-5 Aug (BD; BZ et al.) and at L. Don T. Howell, *Cabarrus*, NC 17 Aug-9 Oct (TL, m ob.). Baird's Sandpiper reports of note included an excellent count of 4 at the Legacy sod farm, GA 1 Sep (WC et al.) and one at L M 24 Nov being very late (R&PT). The only Curlew Sandpiper reported was at P.I. 4-23 Aug (JL, ST et al., R&SB). Stilt Sandpipers were widespread; 6 at L.M. 10 Nov were rather late (BH) Buff-breasted Sandpipers were once again found throughout the Region. The best total was of 8 at Turfgrass America, *Floyd*, GA 2 Sep (MD). This season's Ruffs were at C. Hatt., a female 7 Sep (vt. BP), and inland at Turfgrass Group sod farm, Marshallville, GA 1 Sep (JS, CS), the latter providing the first for that state since the early 1980s. Other reports of note involved 30 Short-billed Dowitchers at the Winslow sod farm, NC 14 Aug (EE) and 4 Wilson's Phalaropes at the Super sod farm, *Macon*, GA 14 Aug (WC).

South Polar Skuas were found off Hatteras, NC four times in Aug, with the peak count being 4 on the 4th (BP et al.). Jaeger numbers were average offshore and from the beaches, but the always noteworthy Long-tailed Jaeger was found once—4 off Hatteras 4 Aug (BP et al.). Some interesting gull reports included a good early count of 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Wassaw I., GA 22 Sep (SC) and a first-winter Glaucous at Carolina Beach, NC 28 Nov (LG et al.). A Sabine's Gull off Manteo, NC 1 Sep was a good find (BP et al.). This species has been hard to come by the last several years. In Georgia, an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at W.P.L. 29 Nov+ (WC). This location is becoming one of the better areas to hope for inland kittiwakes in the region. Late, for inland locations, were a Caspian Tern at Falls L., NC 27 Oct (HL), and 2 Common Terns at L. Hickory, NC 24 Oct (D&LM). The best Bridled Tern total was of the 29 out of Savannah, GA in South Carolina waters 1 Sep (GB et al.), while the best Sooty Tern number was the 51 off Manteo, NC 1-2 Sep (BP et al.). Inland, Black Terns peaked at 8 on L. Hickory, NC 19 Aug (DM). And finally, an excellent count of 332 Black Terns was made on the pelagic trip out of Savannah, GA 1 Sep (GB et al.).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

From one to 2 White-winged Doves were once again present in Beaufort, NC during the perr-

od (m. ob.), and another one was found at near-by Ft. Macon, NC 10-17 Oct (R&SB, JF, BH). The only Black-billed Cuckoos reported were singles at Callaway Gardens, GA 18 Sep (WC) and at P.I. 26 Oct (JL, BC, BP). A **Snowy Owl** at Ft. Fisher, NC 25-30 Nov+ (BS; TP et al.; m. ob.) was one of the most obliging ever found in that state, with many observers locating the bird during its stay. The Short-eared Owls, present at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC through the spring and summer seasons were again found 15 Aug, when two ads. and one juv. were seen (KK et al.) North Carolina got its first **Broad-billed Hummingbird** this season, a subad. male at a feeder near New Bern 7-12 Oct (IP, SCb, m. ob.) There was one previous Regional record, from Seneca, SC 30 Jul 1985. Black-chinned Hummingbirds included a female banded at a feeder in Pawley's I., SC 10 Nov (GP) and a male returning for the 2nd winter in a row in Savannah, GA 18 Oct-30 Nov+ (SC). Calliope Hummingbirds also returned for a 2nd winter at Augusta, GA 10 Oct-30 Nov+ and at Lilburn, GA 29 Nov+ (RTr). An imm. male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** showed up near Gibsonville, Guilford, NC 22 Oct-30 Nov+ (MT; SCb, m. ob.) The bird, banded 11 Nov, provided another new species of hummingbird for North Carolina—the state's 9th documented species.

Always noteworthy in the Region, Olive-sided Flycatchers included singles at Pinckney I. NWR, SC 1 Sep (DT et al.), K. Mt. 11 Sep (GB et al.), Congaree Nat. Mon., SC 23 Sep (PW), Santee Coastal Res., SC 2 Oct (GP, JB, BM), and the Savannah R. Site, SC 6 Oct (*vide* PC). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported much more frequently than normal, with at least 20 sightings across all three states. Other *Empidonax* flycatchers included an Alder heard at Ocmulgee Nat. Mon., GA 20 Sep (EB), a Willow at Legacy sod farms, GA 13 Aug (GB et al.), and 2 calling Leasts at Augusta, GA 25 Sep (AW). Western Kingbirds found this season were singles at P.I. 27 Oct (JW et al.) and Kure Beach, NC 3-5 Nov (MG, BS). Other "yellow-breasted" kingbirds made news this fall. A **Tropical Kingbird** was at P.I. 29 Oct-18 Nov (RD, R&PT, m. ob.). This individual was seen by countless observers and well photographed, but never audio-taped. Descriptions of the voice point to Tropical. This was that state's 2nd definite Tropical, the first being at L. Mattamuskeet 29 Dec 1985-3 Jan 1986. Amazingly, a another kingbird was several miles away from the first one at P.I. 11 Nov (BH et al.). Seen in flight and perched, it was never heard and was identified as a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird! Also another Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was seen briefly but well, but also not heard, at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 21 Sep (PC et al.). This season's

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included an imm. at Mackay I. N.W.R., NC 18 Aug (DCI) and a male at Cartersville, GA 15 Sep (BD et al.). And last but not least in the flycatcher parade, North Carolina got its 2nd **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** when one was moving n. from P.I. to Nags Head, NC during the day 4 Nov (LTo, m. ob.).

Always good finds in the Region, Warbling Vireos were at Roanoke I., NC 17 Sep (JL), K. Mt. 26-27 Sep (WC, TE), and in n. *Greene*, GA 23 Sep (PS). Philadelphia Vireo reports were down somewhat, with the best total being 3 at Ft. Benning, GA 3 Oct (WC). In the exceptionally early department was a Brown Creeper found near Greensboro, NC 16 Aug (R&SB). In the amazing numbers department was the report of 40+ Marsh Wrens at the Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 10 Nov (MB et al.). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in decent numbers across much of the Region this fall. Thrush migration as usual was a mixed bag of negatives and positives, low visual counts and high nocturnal counts. The best predawn counts came from K.Mt., where on 23 Sep 78 Veeries, 27 Gray-cheekeds, and 64 Woods were heard (GB et al.). The peak Swainson's count was the 712 heard at Marietta, GA 22 Sep (BZ). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded at Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC 27 Sep (SCb, CHe). This will hopefully document this species, which is notoriously hard to identify, for that state. And finally a **Sprague's Pipit** was at C. Hatt. 28 Oct-18 Nov (JW et al., vt. BP; m. ob.). Pending acceptance, the photos would provide the first physical evidence for the species in that state.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Always noteworthy, several of the Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids were found including a Brewster's at K. Mt. 30 Aug (BZ), a Brewster's near Ft. Benning, GA 3 Oct (WC), and a Lawrence's at Cochran Shoals, GA 22 Sep (BBe et al.). Two Nashville Warblers at Charlotte, NC 18 Oct (JB) provided a good one-day total for that area. Intriguing was the report of a bird heard giving a full spring song of a Kirtland's Warbler at Mayesville, SC 25 Aug (ED, JBe)! Unfortunately the bird was not visually verified. Connecticut Warblers were at Berry College, *Floyd*, GA 22 Sep (MD), on Roanoke I., NC 26 Sep (JL), and at Duck, NC 30 Sep (JL). Wilson's Warbler reports were down somewhat, and the best count was of 2 at Charlotte, NC 12 Oct (JB). Rare coastal Canada Warblers included singles at Bodie I., NC 2 Sep (JL) and Savannah, GA 23 Sep (GB et al.).

Always noteworthy in the Region, an American Tree Sparrow was at Cowans Ford

Ref., *Mecklenburg*, NC 3 Nov (DSw), for the only report this fall. Clay-colored Sparrows were found about normally, with sightings from all three states. The farthest inland were singles at Alpharetta, GA 30 Sep-3 Oct (BD, JFI) and in *Elbert*, GA 27 Oct (EH) Lark Sparrows also tend to be found coastally in the fall, thus of note was one inland in *Peach*, GA 26-27 Sep (MD, BZ). Excellent sparrow totals included 7 Grasshoppers in *Grady*, GA 24 Nov (MB), 14+ Henslow's at Paulk's Pasture, GA 23 Nov (EH, BZ, TE), and 6 Lincoln's near L. Don T. Howell, *Cabarrus*, NC 23 Oct (TL) Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 28 Oct (PC); Paulk's Pasture, GA 29 Oct-10 Nov (WC), Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield, GA 13 Nov (TK), and at the S.S.S. 7 Nov (SC). Always rare inland, 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 7 Oct (PC) One was still present there until at least 10 Nov (PC et al.). The only Lapland Longspurs reported involved singles at C. Hatt. 29 Oct (RD) and at H.B.S.P. 13 Nov (JP et al.). Single Snow Buntings were at C. Hatt and P.I. 29 Oct (RD) and again at P.I. 3 Nov (RD, v. o.).

An imm. male **Black-headed Grosbeak** was closely observed near Conway, SC 27 Sep (JP) If accepted by the South Carolina B.R.C., it would provide about the 7th report for that state. Dickcissel reports of note involved one at Webb W.M.A., *Hampton*, SC 13 Sep (CR) and 2 at Myrtle Beach, SC 10 Nov (STu). Georgia had the only Yellow-headed Blackbirds with 2 near Carter's L., *Murray* 10 Sep (PJ) and one at Lake Seminole S. P. 18 Nov (EH). This season's Shiny Cowbirds were singles at H.B.S.P. 16 Oct (JP et al.) and at St. Simons I., GA 24 Nov (*vide* EH). Purple Finches arrived in somewhat better numbers than last year, but by the end of the period, reports had dwindled. A few Evening Grosbeaks found their way to the Region this fall, with the best count being 6 at a feeder in Cary, NC 29 Nov (MJ).

Contributors: Van Atkins, Donna Bailey, Giff Beaton, Jim Beatty (JBe), Michael Bell, Eric Beohm, Brad Bergstrom (BBe), Brian Bockhahn, Rich & Susan Boyd (R&SB), John Buckman, Steve Calver, Susan Campbell (SCb), Brad Carlson, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Sandy Cash (SCa), Andrea Ceselski, Walt Chambers, Paul Champlin, David Clark (DCI), Doris Cohrs (DCo), Sam Cooper (SCo), Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Doug DeNeve, Marion Dobbs, Dick Dole (DDo), Bruce Dralle, Jim Edwards, Tom Egan, Elisa Enders, Jim Flynn (JFI), Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Mark Galizio, John Gatchet, Chris Helms (CHe), Chris Hill, Malcolm Hodges, Bob Holmes, Earl Horn, Royce Hough, Paul

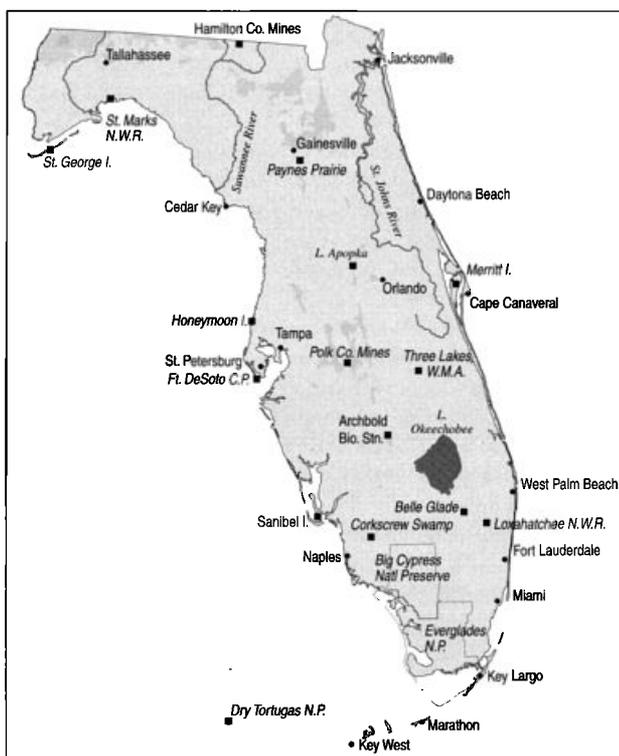
Jastram, Mark Johns, Terry Johnson, Tim Keyes, Kim King-Wrenn, Carol Lambert, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Lewis, Rich Lilly, Tomm Lorenzin, Dwayne & Lori Martin (D&LM), Bob Maxwell, Mary McDavit, Perry Nugent, Inge Parker, Jim Parnell (JPa), Brian Patteson,

Jack Peachey, Gary Phillips, Taylor Piephoff, Carroll Richard, Chuck Saleeby, Richard Sasnett (RSA), Todd Schneider, Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Bruce Smithson, Danny Swicegood (DSw), Paul Sykes, Stephen & Barbara Thomas (S&BTh), Lydia Thompson,

Simon Thompson, Les Todd (LTo), Monte Tickle, David Trently, Rusty Trump (RTr), Sharon Turner (STu), Russ & Patricia Tyndall (R&PT), Anne Waters, Russ Wigh, Haven Wiley, Brad Winn, Pete Worthington, John Wright, Bob Zaremba, Aaron Zaretsky.



Florida



were 1050 at Flamingo, E.N.P. 9 Nov (BR) and 1200 at Polk mines 24 Nov (CGe, PT, LAl). Twelve Magnificent Frigatebirds w. of L. Wales, Polk 14 Sep (TP) and one at Belle Glade, Palm Beach 16 Sep (CW, GH) probably were related to Gabrielle. Other frigatebirds were 4 over Alligator Pt., Franklin 5 Aug (JM) and 13 Oct (JM, GS) and one at Crescent Beach, St. Johns 7 Oct (GB). L. Apopka attracted an early American Bittern 22 Aug, a Reddish Egret 9 Sep, and up to 2 White-faced Ibis 4–11 Nov (HR). Forty-eight first-year Roseate Spoonbills were at Holiday, Pasco 19 Aug (KT, LT), and the Snake Bight, E.N.P. flock of Greater Flamingos peaked at 27 (BR).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks made a strong showing this fall, and many broods were observed, including several in the n. Peninsula. Five broods with 7–15 chicks each were in Alachua 9 Aug–9 Sep (WW, LG et al.), 3 ads. and 12 juvs. were at Viera, Brevard 26 Aug (BPa), broods of 2, 6, and 8 were at the Sarasota “Celery Fields” 8 Sep (LS), one pair and 12 chicks were at Emerald Marsh, Lake 15 Sep (PM), and one ad and 9 chicks were at Bartow, Polk 6 Oct (PF). The 63 whistling-ducks at Paynes Prairie, Alachua 10 Nov (RR) established the highest count for n Florida. Three Greater White-fronted Geese visited L. Apopka 28 Oct (HR), while 75 Snow Geese were at St. Marks N.W.R. 26 Oct (JD, JC et al.), and 13 were s. of Dundee, Polk 3–30 Nov+ (BC, LC). Six broods of Muscovy Ducks were seen at Brandon, Hillsborough throughout Nov, and a Mallard brood was there 9 Nov (BPr). A Mallard s. of Dundee 3 Nov (BC, LC) was thought to be wild. American Black Ducks are rare in cen Florida, so singles at Merritt I. 8 Sep (BC, LC) and L. Apopka beginning 11 Nov (HR) were notable. Peak counts of Blue-winged Teal were 2459 at Polk mines 6 Oct (PF) and 3005 at L. Apopka 28 Oct (HR). An ad. male Cinnamon Teal livened up Honeymoon I. 7 Oct (JBo, CT), likewise another at L. Apopka 1–27 Nov (HR). Unverified inland, single Greater Scaup were identified carefully at L. Apopka 11–30 Nov+ (HR) and Polk mines 24 Nov (CGe, PT, LAl). Irregular so far s. were 17 Black Scoters at Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade 3 Nov and “many” at Red Reef Park 6 Nov (RD).

Bill Pranty

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

Abbreviations/definitions: C.P. (County Park); E.N.P. (Everglades N.P.); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Single Eared Grebes were found at L. Apopka 7 Oct (HR) and Springhill Road W.T.P., Tallahassee 9–23 Oct (GM, JD, JM), while different Polk mines held 11 on 7 Nov and 19 on 30 Nov (PF). Good counts of Cory’s Shearwaters were 25 at Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach 4 Nov (JHB et al.); 50 at Red Reef Park, Palm Beach 4 Nov (DL et al.); 3 definites and 90 probables at Turtle Mound, Canaveral National Seashore, Volusia 6 Nov (MG); and 90 off Port Canaveral, Brevard 7 Nov (KK et al.). Eleven Audubon’s Shearwaters were at Boynton Inlet 4 Nov (JHB et al.), and a Brown Booby was spied from Turtle Mound 6 Nov (MG). Largest counts of American White Pelicans

The Region’s long-term drought was eased somewhat by above-average rainfall. Tropical Storm Gabrielle made landfall along the south-central Gulf coast early 14 September and moved northeast across the Peninsula, exiting north of Daytona Beach just before midnight. On 15–16 September, there were predictable observations of coastal species inland, and several large counts of terns along the northern Atlantic coast. Hurricane Michelle, which missed the Region to the east, drove several pelagic species to the southern Atlantic coast in early November. Florida’s third verifiable Surfbird was the clear highlight of the season.