

upstream from known locations at L. Moultrie. Three Shiny Cowbirds were reported: one at the S.S.S. 1 Apr (SC), one at Jekyll I., GA 15 Apr (AL), and one photographed at a feeder in *Early*, GA 26 May, providing the first inland documentation of the species for the state (*fide* TJ). Finches continued their sparse presence in the Region from the winter with Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks being reported just a handful of times.

### CORRIGENDUM

The hummingbird that wintered at Gibsonville, NC was named incorrectly. The bird, first found during the preceding fall

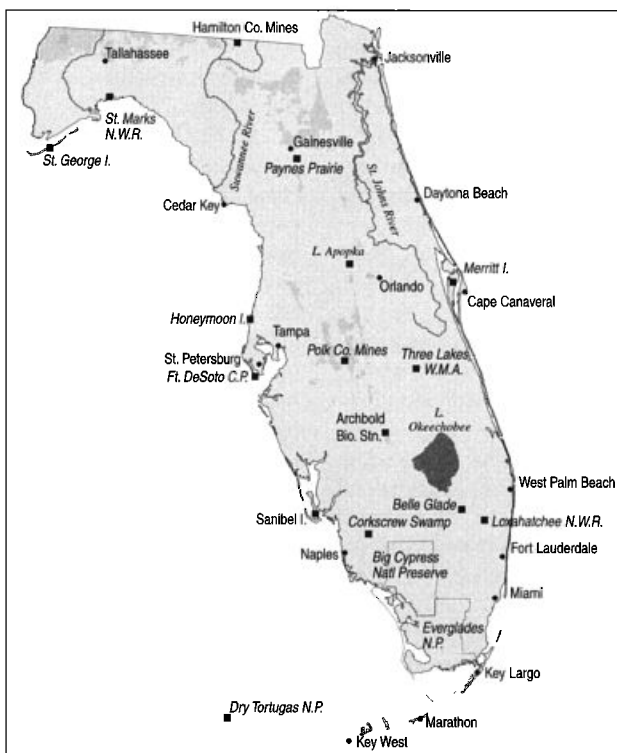
season, was North Carolina's first **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, not Broad-billed Hummingbird as printed in *N.A.B.* 56: 167.

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# Florida



**Abbreviations/definitions:** F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; information provided by Reed Bowman, Secretary); L.A.R.A. (L. Apopka Restoration Area; *Orange*); report (any observation); and record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

### LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

*Hamilton* phosphate mines hosted a Red-throated Loon and an Eared Grebe 20–27 Apr (BBe), while 16 other Eared Grebes were at *Polk* phosphate mines 18 Mar (PF). Over 120 Audubon's Shearwaters were encountered en route to Dry Tortugas N.P. 3 May, where an imm. White-tailed Tropicbird was seen the following day (DG, GSt et al.). Sulids at the Tortugas included 32 Masked Boobies, including one large chick, in Apr (PL et al.), and 65 Brown Boobies 22 Apr (MG). Largest counts of American White Pelicans were 1220 at L.A.R.A. 3 Apr (HR), 350+ at L. Jessup, *Seminole* 15 May (RG et al.), and 328 at L. Monroe, *Seminole* and *Volusia* 11 May (RG) Brown Pelicans seem to be increasing inland This season 2 were at Lakeland 8 Mar (TP), one at L.A.R.A. 10 Mar (HR), 3 at Newnans L, Gainesville 15 Apr (MMe), one at L. Istokpoga, *Highlands* 8 May (MMc), and 2 at L. Jackson, *Leon* 27 May (GSp).

The 1250 Anhingas at *Hamilton* mines 11 May (JK) must have been an amazing sight Rare in the Keys, a Glossy Ibis was at Boca Chica Key 18 Apr (PL et al.), while a **White-faced Ibis** at L. Hollingsworth, Lakeland 28

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**S**ustained east winds for much of the season resulted in a dearth of migrants throughout the Region. Some comments received were: "the slowest migration I have ever experienced" ... "migration was almost invisible" ...

"the worst migration we have ever had" ... and "an almost birdless migration." However, despite the weather—or perhaps because of it—the spring was excellent for Caribbean strays, with a Zenaida Dove, Key West Quail-Dove, four La Sagra's Flycatchers, one Bananaquit, five Western Spindalises, and a Yellow-faced Grassquit. Two "first" successful breeding records added further interest to the season.

Mar—6 May (KR et al.) provided one of the few Peninsular records. Rounding out the threskiornithids were 4 Sacred Ibises, thought to be free-flying birds from Miami MetroZoo, at Homestead 23 Mar (JHB et al.). Wood Storks at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary had their best season since 1976, producing 3600 fledglings from 1240 nests (*vide* RP). Following numerous breeding reports in the n. Peninsula this past fall, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued at Gainesville (JHi), while *Polk* reports included 33 at Bartow 18 Mar (PF) and 35 at L. Hancock 28 Apr (TP). A presumably exotic Canada Goose at Brandon, *Hillsborough* 14 Apr—late May (BP, HL, DP) was seen last pursuing a female Muscovy Duck! Lingering waterfowl included 3 Snow Geese at L. Jackson 9 Mar (GM), 4 Blue-winged Teal and 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Newnans L. 28 May (JHi, RR et al.), 2 Blue-wingeds and 2 Redheads at St. Marks N.W.R. 29–31 May+ (DS et al.), 3 Redheads at Holiday, *Pasco* 13 May (KT, LT), and a Ruddy Duck at L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR). Lesser Scaup lingered at Ruskin, *Hillsborough* 25 May (EK), L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR), and Springhill Road W.T.P., Tallahassee to 16 Jun (2 birds; GM). Up to 2 Greater Scaup were at L.A.R.A. 27 Mar—7 Apr (HR).

### RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A melanistic Osprey present at Chokoloskee Pass, *Monroe* throughout the season (SN, JMc) was thought to be the same individual photographed by others in 1994—1997 (Clark 1998, *Wilson Bulletin* 110: 289–290). New breeding raptors for *Broward* were the Swallow-tailed Kite pair that fledged 2 young 6 Jun (JHa, WG et al.) and the Cooper's Hawk nest at Ft. Lauderdale that was not successful (A&MS, TH). White-tailed Kites continue to reclaim historic prairie breeding areas; four pairs nested at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* in May (CT, PSm et al.). Counts of 20 Bald Eagles were tallied at L. Monroe 9 Mar (LoM et al.) and L.A.R.A. 3 Apr (HR). Ten Short-tailed Hawks were found at seven sites, including a light morph at Lakes Park, Ft. Myers 26 Apr (JeB). Meanwhile, last year's radio-tagged nestling from New Port Richey was found 25 km away 9 May (GZ *vide* KT). An intermediate-morph Swainson's Hawk was observed at *Hamilton* mines 12 Apr (BBE), while 2 Crested Caracaras copulated near L. Monroe 11 May (LoM); an active nest was found nearby in Feb (RG). A Ring-necked Pheasant was at L.A.R.A. 7–23 May (HR), and a Chukar enlivened Lakeland 30–31 May+ (JR). A tame Purple Swamphen at Carnestown, *Collier* 10–13 Apr (DP, TD, BP, HL) was a surprise.

**SA**In 2000 and 2001, Whooping Crane pairs laid eggs at sites in the Peninsula, including two in 2000 that hatched. This year, a pair that nested in a wetland at Leesburg, *Lake* laid two eggs by mid-Feb, which hatched 12 and 14 Mar. Incredibly, the second chick was killed by a Bald Eagle hours after hatching, and the eagle itself was injured (requiring rehabilitation!) when it was attacked by the parent cranes as it tried to capture the first chick. The surviving chick made its first flight on 7 Jun, becoming the first Whooping Crane to successfully fledge in the United States in 63 years—and the first known fledgling in Florida. This event offers hope that the Non-Migratory Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project will be successful (<<http://floridaconservation.org/whatsnew/whoopermilestone-st.html>>).

A high count of Semipalmated Plovers inland was 134 at L.A.R.A. 15 May (HR); 2 others were at Springhill Road W.T.P. 31 May (GM). Four Piping Plovers at Crandon Beach, Key Biscayne 3 May (RD) were rather late, while one inland at L.A.R.A. 20 May (HR) was extremely rare. Other notable shorebirds at L.A.R.A. were a Solitary Sandpiper 19 Mar, 4 Willets 24 Apr, one Curlew Sandpiper 6 May, one Red Knot 15 May, 5 Sanderlings 20 May, and 1540 Semipalmated and 37 White-rumped Sandpipers 23 May (HR). Sightings at *Hamilton* mines included 139 Black-necked

Stilts, 8 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 Sanderlings, 3 White-rumped Sandpipers, one Dunlin, and 3 Red-necked Phalaropes 11 May (JK). Single Pectoral Sandpipers were very early at Springhill Road W.T.P. 4 Mar (D&S) and L. Jackson 5 Mar (GM), while an Upland Sandpiper was a good find for Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 22 Apr (PSm).

### JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Six light-morph Pomarine Jaegers were at Dry Tortugas 14 & 22 Apr (MG), while an ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was off Miami 5 May (PB). Casual in Florida, an **Iceland Gull** appeared s. to Pompano Beach 2–9 Mar (MB, WG et al.). Two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls and one Great Black-backed Gull remained at Crandon Beach, Miami to 9 May (RD), while a first-year Glaucous Gull was found at St. George I. 9 Apr (JD). Notable tern counts at *Polk* mines were 727 Caspians and 12 Royals 18 Mar and 10 Gull-billed 17 Apr (PF). Another Royal was at Gainesville 5 May (MMA, RR). Robinson again found 2 **Arctic Terns** inland at L.A.R.A. 23 May Rounding out the larids were 200 Roseate Terns in the Florida Straits 22 Apr (MG) and one Black Noddy at Dry Tortugas 14 Apr—31 May+ (MG et al.).

White-winged Doves continued their northward colonization of the Peninsula. This season, there were duos at Archer, *Alachua* 6–28 Mar (MMe), Brooksville 1–28 May (SD), and Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area, *Brevard* 11 May (DS, ABa), with a single at Little Talbot I. S.P., *Duval* 14 May (PSy, JS) Providing only the 5th verifiable North American record was the **Zenaida Dove** at Key



Not observed in Florida since spring of 1999, Black Noddies were again seen this spring from 14 April onward on the Dry Tortugas, where this bird (at far right) was photographed on Garden Key 17 May 2002. No more than one Black Noddy was seen at one time this year. Photograph by Joe B. Milosevich

**SA**In Apr 2001, an Elegant Tern was observed copulating with a Sandwich Tern at Ft. De Soto Park (N. A. B. 55: 292); this record was accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. In fall 2001, there were observations of Elegant and "Elegant-type" terns in the area that suggested successful breeding (N. A. B. 56: 45), but these records have not yet been reviewed by the F.O.S.R.C. This year, nesting of an Elegant Tern in Florida was documented in a colony of Royal and Sandwich Terns. On 23 May, an Elegant Tern, evidently a male based on bill structure, was found incubating an egg at an Audubon sanctuary in Hillsborough Bay, Hillsborough, about 35 km northeast of Ft. De Soto (RP et al.). Its mate apparently was a Sandwich Tern, and they evidently produced one chick, which was videotaped 7 Jun (BP). This record, accepted by the F.O.S.R.C., established the first documented breeding record of an Elegant Tern in North America east of the Gulf of California. Amazingly, there are also breeding records from France and the Netherlands.

Largo 3–6 May (LaM et al., ph. JP). Not far away, a **Key West Quail-Dove** at Elliott Key, *Miami-Dade* 9–26 May (BR, DO) reportedly had been present for some time. For the 3rd year in a row, Doyle surveyed coastal habitats in and adjacent to Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R., *Collier* and found Mangrove Cuckoos to be numerous. This year he found 29 cuckoos at 101 point counts; previous surveys netted 24 individuals at 101 points last year and 64 cuckoos at 88 points in 2000. Rare in *Pinellas*, especially coastally, was the Barn Owl at Honeymoon I. 15 Mar (WY), as was a road-kill in the Keys at Bahia Honda 22 Apr (PL et al.). At least four of seven Great Horned Owl pairs that nested on power poles at *Polk* mines produced young (PF). Two Caribbean Short-eared Owls were at Dry Tortugas in mid-Apr (MG et al.). Whip-poor-wills were in song in n. *St. Johns* 17 Mar (PP) and at Ft. George I., *Duval* 17–19 Mar (CC). A Chimney Swift returned to New Port Richey, *Pasco* 20 Mar, and a nearby roost contained 83 birds by 1 Apr (KT). A Black-chinned Hummingbird lingered at Gainesville to 30 Mar (SB), a Rufous remained at Tallahassee to 29 Mar (FR), and a *Selasphorus* visited a feeder at Eastpoint, *Franklin* 26–28 Mar (SK). Unexpected was the Red-headed Woodpecker at Ft. De Soto 20 Apr (SL et al.). Four Hairy Woodpeckers at Babcock–Webb W.M.A., *Charlotte* 15 Mar (JeB) were good news for sw. Florida.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Two Eastern Wood-Pewees at Sanibel Lighthouse 19 May (VM) were rather late. A Least Flycatcher remained at Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* to 22 Apr (PL et al.), while a Brown-crested Flycatcher was seen there to 30 Apr (RD). Two Vermilion Flycatchers were at L.A.R.A. 4 Mar (HR). Considered casual as recently as 10 years ago but now observed annually, Ash-throated Flycatchers were at Emerald Marsh, *Lake* to 10 Mar (JP), Government Road, *Hendry* 16 Mar (TD), Ocala N.E., *Marion* 19–25 Mar (JP), and L.A.R.A. to 17 Apr (HR). Four La Sagra's Flycatchers also were found this season: Delray Beach to 21 Mar (BH et al.), Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach* 6 Apr (BH, JoH), Matheson Hammock, Miami 6 Apr (RD, PB et al.), and Elliott Key 26 May (DO, DL). The apparent **Tropical Kingbird** that wintered at St. Marks N.W.R. remained to 19 Apr (GM, JMu et al.), while the L.A.R.A. **Cassin's Kingbird** was seen last 3 Apr (HR). Also at L.A.R.A. were 34 Western Kingbirds 10 Apr (one remained to 9 May) and 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers 24 Mar (one remained to 6 May; HR). Single Gray Kingbirds were inland to L.A.R.A. 27–31 Mar and 15 May (HR), Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area 11 May (DS, ABa), and Buck I. Ranch, *Highlands* 30 May (MMc). Another Gray Kingbird at Green Key 28 Mar (KT) was early.

The Bell's Vireo that wintered at Frog Pond remained to 23 Apr (*vide* JHB), and Philadelphia Vireos were nice finds at Cedar Key 5 May (DHe) and Ft. George I. 6 May (PSy). "Tens of thousands or more" Tree Swallows swarmed St. Marks N.W.R. 27–28 Mar (JD et al.), while one at Springhill Road W.T.P. 30 May (DS) was late. Thirty-five Northern Rough-winged Swallows at *Polk* mines 10 Mar (PT) may have been breeding locally, but there were no further observations. Three Cliff Swallows at L.A.R.A. 20 May (HR) were rather late, while a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Eastpoint 26 Mar—5 Apr (SK) was the only report. Single Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen at two Gainesville sites 9 Mar (RR, JaH). Considered a late migrant was the American Robin at St. Marks N.W.R. 29 May (DS). Brown Thrashers are irregular at Dry Tortugas, so one seen there beginning 19 Apr was notable (PL et al.). Two Common Myna nests were reported this spring: a nest under construction at Sanford, *Seminole* 24 Mar (MW) and a nest with 3 nestlings at Kendall 31 May (JHB).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The Traceys again conducted a stationary survey of Neotropical migrants at Green Key, New Port Richey. This year, surveys were conducted every day 3 Mar—15 May, from 0630–0830 hours. No large fallouts were noted; the three highest counts were of 342, 263, and 198 birds, on 24 Apr, 7 Apr, and 30 Mar, respectively. Seasonal totals of selected warblers were 207 Prairies, 676 Palms, and 4033 that were not identified. A Nashville Warbler at High Springs, *Alachua* 10 Apr (DR) was the only report. A family of Northern Parulas at Jupiter 27 May (CW) furnished the first *Palm Beach* breeding report, while 6 singing males along the Pinecrest B.B.S. route, *Collier* and *Monroe* 30 May (TD) were at their sw. breeding limit. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Gainesville 19 May (AK) was rather late. Warblers at L.A.R.A. included 1210 Yellow-rumped 6 Mar, a Blackburnian 20 May and 18 Blackpolls 1 May (HR). Prairie Warblers in *Leon* at Tallahassee (2) and Black Swamp (one) 16 Mar (GM, ME) were locally early, while 2 Magnolia Warblers at Sanibel Lighthouse 19 May (VM) were rather late. Two singing Prothonotary Warblers were at their s. limit on the Pinecrest B.B.S. route 30 May (TD). Migrant Swainson's Warblers were found at Birch S.P., *Broward* 2 Apr (WG), Dry Tortugas 19 Apr (PL et al.), and Ft. George I. 10 May (PSy). An Ovenbird in song at Tallahassee 24 Apr (JC) was notable. Lingered Wilson's Warblers were observed at Snake Bight Trail, Everglades N.P. 9 Mar (JHB), Emerald Marsh 10 Mar (JP), and Frog Pond to 21 Mar (*vide* JHB). Migrant or wintering Yellow-breasted Chats graced Frog Pond to 11 Apr (*vide* JHB) and Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 5 Apr (RD), while breeders were found at L.A.R.A. 21 Apr (6 birds; HR), O'Leno S.P., *Alachua* 2 May (one; JHi), Steinhatzee Springs W.M.A., *Lafayette* 6 May (one; JHi et al.), and Paynes Prairie 28 May (2; JHi et al.).

An imm. **Bananaquit** was a one-day wonder at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas 29 Apr (LaM). Single Summer Tanagers were at Tallahassee Jan–5 Mar (DHo) and Gainesville 15 Mar (RR). Five Western Spindalises were found males at Key Largo 21 Apr—5 May (SJ, KE, JP), Spanish River Park 27–28 Apr (BH, MR et al.), and Cape Florida S.P. 6 May (RD), and females at Crandon Park 26–27 Apr (RD et al.) and Boca Raton 10 May (BH). A singing male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** at Loggerhead Key, Dry Tortugas 2–4 May (ABi, DG, GSt et al.) was about 100 m from where a male was seen 9 May 2000. Of four reports of Clay-colored Sparrows (v. o.), all were of singles except for 2 at L.A.R.A. to 14 Apr (HR); one at Honeymoon I. 4 May (WY) was late. Very high

counts of Field Sparrows were 16 at Apopka, *Orange* 6 Mar (MG, JG) and 12 at L.A.R.A. 14 Mar (HR). A lingering Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in song at Pine I., *Hernando* 29 Apr (A&BH), while 30 singing Seaside Sparrows within the last 300 m of CR-361, *Dixie* 22 Apr (JHI) made an impressive breeding total. Lincoln's Sparrow reports were 2 at Paynes Prairie 9 Mar (AK, RR) and singles at Frog Pond to 2 Apr (RD) and Emerald Marsh to 6 Apr (JP). Twenty-two White-crowned Sparrows at Apopka 6 Mar (MG, JG) was an impressive count, while Dark-eyed Juncos were found at Spring Hill, *Hernando* 8 Mar (PY) and Gainesville 11 Mar—1 Apr (MJ). L.A.R.A. supported 209 Northern Cardinals 17 Mar, 9 singing Painted Buntings 9 May, 2 Dickcissels 21 Apr, and an amazing 7060 Bobolinks 1 May (HR). Wintering Painted Buntings lingered at feeders at Tallahassee to 5 Apr (BBu) and Jacksonville to 30 Apr (PP). Two male Dickcissels were on territory at Frog Pond 12 Apr—31 May+ (MG et al.); Florida's only documented breeding records were established at L.A.R.A. in 1999.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at Frog Pond for a single day 9 Mar (PB et al.). Shiny Cowbirds were rather widespread, with 7 or 8 singles from Eastpoint to Dry Tortugas (v. o.). Bronzed Cowbirds were found at three sites: up to 6 at Tampa 6–22 Mar (LS, DW), 2 at Apalachicola in mid-Mar (KM), and 2 at Lakeland 30 Mar (RW). An Orchard Oriole arrived at Eastpoint 22 Mar (SK). A House Finch nest at Ft. Lauderdale produced five nestlings 8 Apr (SE); it is not known whether these birds represent local escapees or birds from northern populations. A **Common Redpoll**, unverified in Florida, was photographed (facing away from the camera) at a feeder at Land O' Lakes, *Pasco* 15 Mar (DB), but the F.O.S.R.C. ruled that a *Carpodacus* finch could not be ruled out from the photograph. A Pine Siskin appeared at a Tallahassee feeder 5–6 Mar (DHo).

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# Ontario



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**A**lthough every spring seems to have some peculiarity with respect to timing of migration and weather conditions, this spring was certainly aberrant. Unseasonably warm weather in February and parts of March was followed by snow and much colder temperatures throughout much of the spring. A brief and bizarre heat wave in mid-April was followed by snowstorms in some areas a few days later, but warmth returned to Ontario toward the end of May. Delays in the progression of the season were apparent in local flora, with

flowering dates of many species appearing to be two to four weeks behind the norm; this was mirrored by many returning birds. However, although migration was somewhat delayed by the weather, returning dates for most species were close to normal.

Certainly in some areas, unusual mixtures of wintering birds and returning migrants provided memorable day lists. While some birds lingered much later than usual in southern areas, other returning species were noted in southern Ontario on record early dates. May 9 produced an amazing event of reverse migration at Pelee I. and Point Pelee, with thousands of birds migrating southward in response to cool temperatures and thick fog. For those who were present despite the conditions, the movement was astounding.