Florida



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espite the absence of apparently "significant" weather systems this fall, the largely lackluster migration season held several mega-rarities, including three state firsts, one of which represents a first for North America.

Definitions: report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Single Eared Grebes were at Springhill W.T.P., Leon 28 Sep and 15 Oct, with 2 birds there 25 Oct (GM, BA et al.); another was at L. Apopka 24 Nov (HR). Pelagic trips off Ponce Inlet. Volusia netted 120 Cory's Shearwaters and 5 Audubon's Shearwaters 7 Sep (BA, DSi et al.), and 130 Cory's and 40 Audubon's Shearwaters and single Masked and Brown Boobies 15 Sep (MG et al.). Trips off Hillsboro Inlet, Broward 3 Nov found one Leach's Storm-Petrel 4 Aug, and 8 Audubon's Shearwaters and 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 3 Nov (MB). Sixteen Cory's were observed from shore at Lloyd S.P., Broward 20 Sep (MB). A Brown Booby was at Alligator Pt., Franklin 26 Sep (JMu). Summering American White Pelicans included 41 at L. Apopka 7 Aug (HR) and 96 at Newnans L., Alachua to 18 Aug (RR), while 1700 were at Polk mines 20 Nov (PF). Seven Magnificent Frigatebirds at St. Marks NW.R. 24 Sep were the result of Tropical Storm Isidore (JC). An American Bittern at L. Apopka 25 Aug was early, while 10 there 22 Sep was a good count (HR). Fifteen-hundred Great Blue Herons passed Ft. Clinch S.P. in three hours 10 Oct (PL), while a Great White Heron was n. to Viera, Brevard 25 Aug (DSi).

A Greater Flamingo was at Grassy Key 10 Nov (BM, GP). The explosive colonization of the peninsula by Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continues. Three were seen at Guana R. S.P., St. Johns 11 Aug (CA), 2 broods were among 60 at Newnans L. 27 Aug ([Be), and 3 juvs. were at Springhill Road W.T.P., Tallahassee 30-31 Oct (GM). A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Hague, Alachua 20-22 Nov (PB et al.). Simpson reported the following ducks: one Cinnamon Teal at Viera 14 Sep: one Longtailed Duck, 26 Black Scoters, and 7 Surf Scoters at Apollo Beach, Volusia 8 Nov; and another Long-tailed Duck at St. Marks 27 Nov+. Other Surf Scoters were at Springhill Road W.T.P. 2 Nov (ME et al.), St. Marks 6 Nov (JD); Indian Shores, Pinellas (2 birds) 16 Nov (JF); and Bunche Beach, Lee 25 Nov+ (fide CE). Whitewinged Scoters were s. to Mims, Brevard 7-17 Nov (DSi) and (6 birds) Pine Island C.P., Hernando 27 Nov (AK). At Alligator Pt. 19 Nov, Krummrich observed a flock of scoters that contained 4 Surfs, 2 White-wingeds, and 2 Blacks.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Kettles of 43 Swallow-tailed Kites were over L. Apopka 4 Aug (HR) and Key Largo 24 Aug (BM), while single Snail Kites were at L. Apopka 14 Aug (HR) and sw. Collier 4 Oct+ (JBo, TD, KOD). Two juv. Mississippi Kites were seen at Frog Pond W.M.A., Miami-Dade 26 Aug (DL, MD). Other raptors at L. Apopka included one Northern Harrier 4 Aug, 21 Cooper's Hawks 7 Aug, and one Swainson's Hawk 17 Nov (HR). Four Broad-winged Hawks were over Moses Cr., St. Johns 5 Oct (BP, GBa, HL). Thirteen Short-tailed Hawks were seen (m. ob.), including 2 at Ft. Drum, Okeechobee 2 Oct (MG), and singles at Gainesville 9 Nov (B&JB), Captiva I., Lee 20 Nov (VM), and Ten Thousand Is. 30 Nov (TD et al.). Twelve Crested Caracaras were seen along 16 km of S.R. 60 e. of L. Wales, Polk 17 Aug (BA). A Peregrine Falcon at Polk mines 21 Aug (PT) was early. Hawkwatches at Ft. Clinch S.P. tallied 75 Peregrines in 4 hours 9 Oct, and 93 in 3 hours 10 Oct (PL), while a total of 141 passed the Guana R. station 27 Sep-12 Oct (BSt et al.). One Black Rail was inland at Buck I. Ranch, Highlands 22 Aug (MMc), and 2 were at Paynes Prairie 31 Aug-3 Sep (HA, JHi, BSi).

Tardy American Golden-Plovers were at Crandon Beach, Miami 7 Nov (RD), Jetty Park, Brevard 17 Nov (MG), and the e. Everglades 23 Nov (LM). A Snowy Plover returned to Nassau Sound, Duval by 20 Oct (PL), while Pinellas sightings included 12 at Ft. De Soto C.P. 13 Sep

SA For decades, ornithologists and birders have debated the provenance of the Greater Flamingos that occur regularly at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P. Opinion is mixed on whether the birds represent natural movements from Cuban or Bahamian breeding colonies or intrastate movements from the unpinioned captive flock at Hialeah, Miami. This fall, at least part

of the riddle finally was solved. On 24 Oct, Wood photographed a colorbanded flamingo among the Snake Bight flock. The color-band was yellow with "DFJV" in black. Mexican ornithologists banded this individual as a hatchling at Ria Legartos Biosphere Reserve, Yucatan, Mexico on 12 Aug 2000. It later was observed twice at Punta Cajun, Celestun, Yucatan before its arrival in Florida (Mexican data provided by RMi).



This color-banded Greater Flamingo was photographed among the Everglades flock in Florida 24 October 2002; Mexican ornithologists had banded it at Ria Legartos Biosphere Reserve, Yucatán, Mexico 12 August 2000. This is the first evidence of wild provenance for at least some of the Everglades' flamingos. Photograph by Roy Wood.

(DSi), 15 at Honeymoon I. 21 Sep (EK), and 25 at Three Rooker 1. 22 Sep (EK). Good counts of Wilson's Plovers were 42 at Huguenot Park, Duval 1 Aug (RC) and 25 at Campbell Causeway, Hillsborough 28 Sep (EK). Black-necked Stilts bred at Newnans L., where 5 young were seen 4 Aug (RR). American Avocets were widely reported, with 11 observations (m. ob.). Single Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers were at Hague 29 Nov (AK). The top counts of Upland Sandpipers were 23 in sw. Palm Beach 22 Aug (DSi), 7 at Frog Pond 13 Aug (MD, DL), and 7 at Tallahassee 29 Aug (GM, JC). Twelve Whimbrels were found at St. Augustine 10 Nov (JHo, JBa), while 3 Long-billed Curlews were at Alafia Bank, Hillsborough 11 Nov (RiP). Possibly the same juv. Hudsonian Godwit found at Springhill Road W.T.P., Tallahassee 14-17 Oct (GM et al.) was located nearby at L. Jackson 5 Nov (MHi, ph.). Uncertainty surrounded a possible Sharptailed Sandpiper photographed at Belle Glade, Palm Beach 1 Sep (MK et al., ph. DCl); examination of the photograph could not rule out other species but did not preclude identification as Sharp-tailed. Six Wilson's Phalaropes were at Springhill Road W.T.P. 15 Sep (JS). Pelagic trips noted one Red and 3 Red-necked Phalaropes off Ponce Inlet 7 Sep (BA), one Red and 6 Redneckeds there 15 Sep (MG), and 10 Redneckeds off Hillsboro Inlet 2 Sep (MB).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Long-tailed Jaeger was spied off Ponce Inlet 7 Sep (BA, DSi et al.), while Simpson observed 67 Pomarine and 3 Parasitic Jaegers from Apollo Beach 8 Nov. A "tight flock" of 17 Pomarines was seen from Lloyd S.P. 9 Nov

(MB). A Franklin's Gull was found at Alligator Pt. 18 Nov (JMu). As proof of their increase in Florida, 97 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted at Jetty Park 17 Nov (MG). A long way from home was Florida's first Slaty-backed Gull, at Key West 21 Sep-17 Oct (MHe, GP, A&BH et al., ph. JW, GP). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake was observed from Turtle Mound, Brevard 29 Nov (BM). Four Gull-billed Terns were at Polk mines 20 Nov (PF), while 92 Sandwich Terns were seen there 21 Sep (PT). Terns at Huguenot Park 21 Aug included 1500 Royals, 225 Sandwiches, 195 Commons, and 275 Blacks (RC). Other notable Common Tern reports were 1500 at Honeymoon I. 21 Sep (EK), 4 at Jetty Park 13 Nov (MG), and one at Ft. Myers Beach 30 Nov (CE). An Arctic Tern was off Islamorada, Monroe 24 Aug (†BM et al.). A survey of Least Terns along the Pinellas coast 3 Aug tallied 675 ads. and 892 juvs. (JKi et al.); 350 were nearby at Gandy Causeway, Hillsborough 9 Sep (EK). Twenty Bridled and 75 Sooty Terns were found off Ponce Inlet 7 Sep (BA, DSi et al.), while storm-driven Sooties were 2 at St. Marks (JC) and one at Bald Pt., Franklin 25 Sep (JD).

White-winged Doves continue to make news on the peninsula, as the resident population expands rapidly northward. Among many reports were 30+ at Gainesville 1 Aug+ (RR et al.); 15 at Lake City, Columbia 9 Aug (fide JA); 25 at Newberry, Alachua 23 Aug-15 Oct (JHi); 15 at L. Apopka 25 Aug (HR); and 9 at L. Poinsett, Brevard 13 Nov (DSi). Psittacids included 68 Budgerigars at Bayonet Pt., Pasco 16 Sep (KT), 15 Rose-ringed Parakeets at Cape Coral, Lee 27 Nov (CE), 25 Monk Parakeets at

Auburndale, Polk 3 Aug (LAl), 20 Red-masked Parakeets at Upper Key Largo 3 Aug (C&KR), and 60 Red-maskeds at Ft. Lauderdale 30 Nov (DSi). A Black-billed Cuckoo at Gainesville 2-3 Aug (RN) was early; in addition to six other reports (m. ob.) were 2 at Starkey Wilderness Park 19 Oct (KT et al.) that furnished the first for Pasco. Twenty-five Yellowbilled Cuckoos were found at Ft. Drum 1-3 Oct (MG), and 20+ were at Paynes Prairie 16 Oct (ML, PB et al.). All three Smooth-billed Ani reports were from the Lower Keys (DSi, BM et al.). A Lesser Nighthawk was found at Scotsmoor, Brevard 15 Nov (DSi), and 3 were at their recent wintering spot at Eco Pond, Everglades N.P. by 22 Nov (LM). Large flights of Common Nighthawks were noted: 2094 in 75 minutes over New Port Richey 11 Sep (KT), 1233 over L. Apopka 11 Sep (HR), and thousands e. of Brooksville 14 Sep (MG). Likewise, thousands of Chimney Swifts were over Tallahassee 16 Oct (JS). A Chaetura swift at Viera 21 Nov (GBe et al.) probably was a late Chimney Swift. Two male Rufous Hummingbirds were at Gainesville 29 Aug+ (fide RR), while others were at Spring Hill, Hernando 3-6 Sep (A&EM et al.), and in Franklin 28 Nov+ (JMu, JD). Eleven other Selasphorus were in Alachua variously this fall (GH, PB et al.), with additional singles at Jacksonville 12 Sep (PP), Leon 21 Sep (RL), Spring Hill 1 Oct-5 Nov (A&EM et al.), and Everglades N.P. 19 Nov+ (JHB et al.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Regular but rare in the Region, Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Honeymoon I. 14 Sep (†DSi) and Lochloosa W.M.A., Alachua 21 Sep (G&RK, PO). Eleven Eastern Wood-Pewees at Dunedin Hammock, Pinellas 14 Sep (PF, SR) furnished a nice count, while singles at L. Apopka 9 Nov (HR), Bill Baggs/Cape Florida S.P. 11-12 Nov (RD, MD), and Largo, Pinellas 12 Nov (IF) were rather late. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were identified at Bald Pt. 13 Sep. (JD, JMu), Tallahassee 16 Sep (†JC), and Key Largo 27 Sep (BM). Eight Acadian Flycatchers were totaled at Dunedin Hammock 14 Sep (PF, SR), and 7 were at Saddle Creek C.P., Polk 30 Sep (PF). Two Traill's Flycatchers were found at Emeralda Marsh, Lake 11 Sep (JP). An Eastern Phoebe at New Port Richey 31 Aug (KT) was early, while a migrant Vermilion Flycatcher at Bald Pt. 8 Oct (JMu) was on schedule. A Tropical Kingbird at St. Marks NW.R. 19 Oct+ (TC et al.) presumably was the same individual that wintered there last year, while a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was in Palm Beach 3 Aug (JHB et al.). A Cassin's Kingbird returned to L. Apopka 9 Nov for its 4th winter (HR). Migratory flocks of Eastern Kingbirds were noted over Ft. George I., Duval (200) 27 Aug (RC), Key Largo (500) 5 Sep (BM), and Merritt I. (165) 14 Sep (DSi). One at Ft. De Soto 25 Nov (LAt, IH, ph.) was extremely late. Twenty Gray Kingbirds at Cedar Key 23 Aug (JHi) represented a high number, while inland observations came from L. Apopka 25 Aug (HR) and On 18 Nov, Gardler discovered an unfamiliar swallow among Barn, Cave, and Tree Swallows at Viera. It was similar to Tree Swallows but had an all-white rump, a pale forehead, and white tertial edges. Three observers photographed the swallow, which remained to 21 Nov. After examination of guides and discussion on the ID-Frontiers listserve, the bird was determined to represent either a Mangrove Swallow (Tachycineta albilinea) or White-rumped Swallow (T. leucorrhoa), neither documented previously in North America. (Tumbes Swallow [T. stolzmanni], recently split from Mangrove Swallow and endemic to nw. Peru, presumably can be ruled out by range.) The species are nearly identical but are widely allopatric, so identification has never before been an issue. Mangrove Swallows are resident from Mexico to Panama, while White-rumped Swallows are long-distance austral migrants from Brazil south through Uruguay. Sykes, Atherton, and Gardler have examined museum specimens and conclude that the Viera swallow was a Mangrove Swallow.

Glades 28 Nov (JHa). Nine reports were received of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers beginning 6 Oct (m. ob.). Single Bell's Vireos enlivened Half Moon W.M.A., Sumter 2 Oct (JKr), Birch S.P., Ft. Lauderdale 4–18 Oct (WG, RMa), Frog Pond 12 Oct (MB), and Deering Estate, Miami 25 Oct (JR, MWh). Warbling Vireos' were found at Key West 5 Oct (†DSi) and Deering Estate 11 Oct (MWh), while a Philadelphia Vireo tarried at Bill Baggs/Cape Florida to 1 Nov (MD). Yellowgreen Vireos, casual in Florida, were reported at Key West 9 Sep (†BM) and Ft. De Soto 11 Sep (†LAt et al.).

Swallows were much in evidence this fall. Simpson tallied 22 Banks, 2 Cliffs, 3 Caves, and 915 Barns in sw. Palm Beach 22 Aug, and 30 Banks, 20 Cliffs, and 1200 Barns at Stick Marsh, Brevard and Indian River 28 Aug. Elsewhere, 41 Bank Swallows were at L. Apopka 4 Sep, and 840 Barns were there 8 Sep (HR), and up to 13 Cave Swallows, apparently of the sw. taxon pelodoma, were at Viera 18-23 Nov (MG et al.). Cliff Swallows were widely reported (m. ob.), including 10 at McIntosh, Marion 20 Aug (RR); one near New Port Richey 15 Sep (KT), and 4 at Spring Hill 19 Oct (A&BH). At L. Apopka, Robinson tallied 264 House Wrens 20 Oct and 23 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 77 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 24 Nov. It was a good season for Golden-crowned Kinglets (m. ob.), with 3 at Anclote, Pasco 10 Nov+ (RS, KT et al.), one at Honeymoon 1. 15 Nov (IH et al.), and 2 at Walsingham Park, Pinellas 27 Nov (JF). Foreshadowing a winter irruption, Eastern Bluebirds were at Cedar Key (4 birds) 14 Nov+ (DHe), Ft. De Soto (3 birds) 25 Nov (LAt, IH), and w. Kendall (one) 15 Nov (JHB). Over 100 nocturnal calls of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard over Eustis, Lake 17 Oct (JP).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

There were eight reports of Blue-winged Warblers (all but one of singles) 14 Aug—11 Oct, and nine reports of Golden-winged Warblers (all singles) 8 Aug—15 Nov (m. ob.). The latter Golden-winged, at Tallahassee (GM), represented a very late date. Thirty-five Tennessee Warblers were at Bonner Park, Pinellas 12 Oct (JF). Of eight Nashville Warbler reports, one at New Port Richey 24 Nov (KT) was apparently wintering. Five Chestnut-sided and 24 Blackburnian Warblers were found at Dunedin Hammock 14 Sep (SR, PF), and 6 Chestnut-sideds

were at Saddle Creek C.P. the following day (PF, BSn, LAl). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was a one-day wonder at Bonner Park 12 Oct (KN et al.), while another presumably was wintering at Royal Palm, Everglades N.P. 22 Nov+ (DCu). A Blackpoll Warbler attempted to winter at Bill Baggs/Cape Florida 4 Nov+ (RD). Nineteen reports of Cerulean Warblers 3 Aug-14 Oct were received (m. ob.), all singles except for 3 at Dunedin Hammock 14 Sep (DSi). "Very high numbers" of Prothonotary Warblers were noted in Broward 21 Aug-28 Sep (fide WG). There were eight Swainson's Warbler reports 4 Sep-14 Oct, 18 Kentucky Warbler reports 19 Aug-15 Oct, 12 Wilson's Warbler reports 21 Sep-29 Nov, and 15 Canada Warbler reports 7 Aug-15 Oct (m. ob.). Three Canadas were found in Franklin 13 Sep (JD, JMu). Up to 5 Yellowbreasted Chats were found at Frog Pond 16 Sep+ (MD et al.). Warblers at L. Apopka included 119 Yellows 28 Aug, 24 Prairies 15 Sep, 416 Palms 9 Nov, 102 Northern Waterthrushes 26 Sep, and 321 Common Yellowthroats 2 Oct (HR). At Key Largo, Mulrooney banded the following warblers: 134 Worm-eating, 51 Swainson's, and 338 Ovenbirds.

A white-throated Bananaquit—perhaps equally likely to have strayed from the Yucatan Peninsula as from the Bahamas—at Ft. De Soto 19-23 Oct (MWi et al., ph. BP) established a first for the Gulf Coast. Ten Summer and 4 Scarlet Tanagers were at Dunedin Hammock 14 Sep (PF, SR); 25+ Scarlets were at St. George I. 14 Oct (JC). Another Scarlet at Tallahassee 1 Nov (FR) was tardy. Western Tanagers enlivened Bald Pt. 13 Oct (JD) and Royal Palm, Everglades N.P. 25 Oct (DCu). Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were found in the Region beginning 2 Oct (m. ob.), with one s. to Cudjoe Key, Monroe 4 Oct (DSi). Two Lark Sparrows at Tram Road, Tallahassee 22-29 Aug (GM, JC et al.) were the first of 9 for the Region (m. ob.). A juv. Seaside Sparrow at Pelican Island NW.R., Indian River 10 Aug (DSi) had flown far s. of its breeding range. Lincoln's Sparrows were located in Franklin 28 Sep-1 Oct (JD, JMu), L. Apopka (5 birds) 17 Nov (HR), Paynes Prairie (2 birds) 1 Nov (MMa), and Key Largo 8 Nov (BM). Robinson counted 434 Swamp Sparrows at L. Apopka 29 Nov. White-crowned Sparrows made it s. to Loop Road, Monroe 2 Nov (JHB) and Flamingo 23 Nov (LM). Up to 2 Lapland Longspurs enlivened Springhill W.T.P. 18-19 Oct (JKr et al.). A fallout of 40+ Rose-breasted

Grosbeaks was noted at St. George I. 14 Oct (JC), while individuals lingered at Bald Pt. to 6 Nov (JD) and in Leon to 15 Nov (GM). Apparently 2 different Black-headed Grosbeaks were present at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Brevard 19–23 Oct (†DSi et al.), and 281 Indigo Buntings were tallied at L. Apopka 16 Oct (HR).

Blackbirds at L. Apopka included 10,375 Red-wingeds 15 Sep, one Yellow-headed 24 Nov, and 2 Rusty Blackbirds 30 Nov (HR). Another Yellow-headed was at Hague 10 Nov (MMa, RR, AK). A Shiny Cowbird visited Panacea, Wakulla 12 Sep (JD), while several were at Pembroke Pines, Broward 17 Nov+ (D&SH, ph.). Three Bronzed Cowbirds were found at Cedar Key 26 Oct (RR), while at least 5 were wintering at Naples, Collier 25 Nov+ (DSu et al.). Rarely seen in fall, Orchard Orioles were spotted at Jupiter Inlet (2 birds) 21 Sep (JHa), s. Miami-Dade (4 birds) 13 Aug-24 Sep (DL, MD, RD), and Bill Baggs/Cape Florida (one) 26 Aug (RD). House Finches continued their gradual colonization of the cen. and s. peninsula (m. ob.), and American Goldfinches reached Miami-Dade for the first time in several years (fide JHB).

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