

Florida



Bill Pranty

Avian Ecology Lab

Archbold Biological Station

123 Main Drive

Venus, Florida 33960

(billpranty@hotmail.com)

It was an unprecedented fall season: four hurricanes struck Florida. *Charley*, a Category 4 storm, hit Fort Myers and exited at Daytona Beach, on Friday the 13th of August, causing over \$14 billion in damage; it was the second-costliest hurricane in U.S. history. Next was *Frances*, a Category 2 storm that came ashore near Stuart on 4 September, exited near Hudson, then reentered the state (as a tropical storm) at St. Marks the following day. *Ivan*, a Category 3 hurricane that made landfall near Gulf Shores, Alabama on 16 September, caused extensive damage to

the Pensacola area, outside the reporting area of this Region. *Ivan's* damages were in excess of \$13 billion. Finally, there was *Jeanne*, a Category 3 storm that came ashore near Stuart—some 5 km from the center of *Frances*—on 25 September, traced the peninsula's coast to the northwest, and exited into Georgia the following day. Damages totaled nearly \$7 billion. Polk County, which suffered direct hits by *Charley*, *Frances*, and *Jeanne*, received over 32 inches of rain, causing flooding that persisted in some areas for months. Despite widespread damage and lack of electricity for days or weeks after each storm, some birders were able to get out and find pelagic species along the coasts and coastal species inland; several Greater Flamingos may have been among the species displaced by these storms. Consult *Florida Field Naturalist* for the fine details of each tropical storm and for notes on a fallout of migrants 15–16 October unrelated to the hurricanes.

We note with sadness the death of Howard Langridge on 14 November at the age of 81. For more than 30 years, Howard chronicled the birdlife of Palm Beach County and be-

yond, and he worked as a Regional Editor of *American Birds* from 1986 through 1994. His contributions and company will be missed.

Abbreviations/definitions: L.A.N.S.R.A. (Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

GREBS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Hurricanes apparently wreaked havoc on pelagic species off the Atlantic coast. A Black-capped Petrel was pushed inland to Newnans L., *Alachua* 27 Sep (JHi et al.), one of few such state reports. Cory's Shearwaters suffered seemingly high mortality: 35 were found dead at Cape Canaveral, *Brevard* 6 Sep and 61 others were there 27 Sep (DF); 5 tideline corpses were at Smyrna Dunes, *Volusia* 13 Sep (BM). Five live Cory's were off John Lloyd S.P., *Broward* 24 Sep (BRo). Shearwaters seen from Port Canaveral, *Brevard* 17 Nov were 2 Greater, one Manx, and 8 Audubon's (MG, JeB). Single Sooty Shearwaters were off Jupiter Inlet, *Palm Beach* 12 Aug and 22 Sep (JaH, LH), and another was inland—a state first—at L.A.N.S.R.A. 15 Aug (HR). Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found at Sanibel I., *Lee* 14 Aug (PD) and Charlotte Harbor 6 Sep (JeB). A juv. Red-billed Tropicbird that beached at Sanibel I. 14 Aug later died (PD), while a Red-footed Booby that beached at Naples 26 Sep recovered (*vide* JF). Rounding out the sulids were a Masked Booby at Cape Romano, *Collier* in mid-Nov (TB) and a Northern Gannet 15 km inland over Port of the Is., *Collier* 5 Nov (TeD).

Two Brown Pelicans at Newnans L., *Alachua* 9 Sep–3 Oct (SC) probably were hurricane-related. Large counts of Anhingas were 143 at L.A.N.S.R.A. 1 Sep (HR) and 110 over Saddle Creek, *Polk* 30 Oct (BSn). Not surprisingly, storm-driven frigatebirds—presumably all Magnificents—were frequent: 26 over L. Okeechobee, *Palm Beach* 14 Aug (MB), 2 over Altamonte Springs, *Seminole* 4 Sep (PHu), 2 at Huguenot Park, Jacksonville 6 Sep (BRi), one at Paynes Prairie, *Alachua* 6 Sep (HA), 2 at Gainesville 7 Sep (MJ, BE), one at Guana R., *St. Johns* 11 Sep (DR), 3 over *Wakulla* 16 Sep (SM), 18 over Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 16 Sep (JM), and one over Avon Park, *Highlands* 26 Sep (JT, BP).

An American Bittern pair and juv. were seen together at L.A.N.S.R.A. 1 Aug (HR); breeding in Florida is unverified. Another bittern flying s. over Land O' Lakes, *Pasco* 10 Sep (DBo) was early, while a Great White Heron was n. to Ruskin, *Hillsborough* 24 Sep (BA). Flooded conditions created foraging habitat for thousands of wading birds at L.A.N.S.R.A., with 1755 Great Egrets and 520 Little Blue Herons 28 Nov, 2585 Snowy Egrets 7 Nov, 385 Tricolored Herons 17 Nov, 208 Black-crowned Night-Herons 13 Oct, 236 Green Herons 16 Aug, and 2910 Glossy Ibis 23 Nov (HR). Five

Table 1. Hurricane-driven terns in Florida, August–September 2004. Locations are inland unless marked by an asterisk.

Species	Number	Location	Date	Observers
Royal Tern	5; 6	L. Eustis, <i>Lake</i>	5 Sep; 13 Sep	JP
Royal Tern	4	Newnans L.	7–18 Sep	JHi, RR
Sandwich Tern	3; 5	L. Eustis	5 Sep; 6 Sep	JP
Sandwich Tern	1; 1	Newnans L.	14 Aug; 6–18 Sep	JHi, SC, RR
Common Tern	2; 11	L. Eustis	5 Sep; 6 Sep	JP
Common Tern	1; 2	Newnans L.	14 Aug; 6–10 Sep	JHi, RR
Common Tern	2000	*St. Johns R.	25 Sep	BRI
Sooty Tern	2	L. Eustis	6 Sep	JP
Sooty Tern	1; 4	Newnans L.	14 Aug; 6–7 Sep	RR
Sooty Tern	1	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve	14 Aug	PMi
Sooty Tern	1	Sanibel I.	14 Aug	PD
Sooty Tern	5	*Alligator Pt.	16 Sep	JM
Sooty Tern	1	L. Lochloosa	27 Sep	RR
Bridled Tern	1	Port Charlotte	6 Sep	JeB
Bridled Tern	1	*Jupiter Inlet	14 Sep	JaH
Bridled Tern	4	Tierra Verde	27 Sep	EH
Black Tern	200	*Merritt I.	18 Aug	DF
Black Tern	2	L. Eustis	6 Sep	JP
Black Tern	20	L. Gem, <i>Lake</i>	6 Sep	JP
Black Tern	57; 129	Newnans L.	7 Sep; 18 Sep	RR
Black Tern	1	*New Port Richey	28 Sep	KT
Brown Noddy	1, 1	*Jupiter Inlet	15 Aug, 13 Sep	JaH
Brown Noddy	1	*Blowing Rocks Preserve, <i>Martin</i>	11 Sep	JaH
Brown Noddy	1	*Smyrna Dunes	13 Sep	BM
Brown Noddy	4; 1	*Alligator Pt.	16 Sep; 17 Sep	JDo
Black Skimmer	1	Tallahassee	16 Sep	GM
Black Skimmer	2	Newnans L.	27 Sep	JuB

Reddish Egrets were n. to Huguenot Park 25 Sep (BRI). Other Glossy reports were 3 at Tavernier, *Monroe* 6 Aug (BM) and 580 at Merritt I. 19 Oct (DF). Good counts of Roseate Spoonbills were 67 at New Port Richey, *Pasco* 14 Aug (RaS), 250 at the Everglades Agricultural Area, *Palm Beach* 22 Aug (DF, GH), and 300 at Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 19 Sep (PL). A juv. Greater Flamingo at Matanzas Inlet, *St. Johns* 18–23 Sep (ph. GB et al.) was apparently storm-driven from the Bahamas; 2 others at Boca Chica, *Monroe* 1 Oct (MH) may have been from Cuba.

Breeding of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was noted at Orlando Wetlands Park 24 Sep (TR), Gainesville 19 Oct (PB), and Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 5 Nov+ (DF). Casual in the peninsula were 9 Greater White-fronted Geese at Paynes Prairie 16 Oct (AK). A Tundra Swan at Fernandina Beach 12 Nov (PL) and 3 over Moses Creek, *St. Johns* 14 November (GB) were exceptional; 7 swans at Merritt I. 16 Nov (LGr) were presumably also Tundras. Drake Eurasian Wigeons enlivened Merritt I. 11 Nov (DSi) and Naples 29 Nov+ (WW). An American Black Duck at L.A.N.S.R.A. 24 Oct was at its s. limit (HR). Early were a Redhead at New Port Richey, *Pasco* 19 Sep (KT), Ring-necked Ducks at Smyrna Dunes 13 Sep (BM) and Tallahassee 19 Sep (AW), and a Lesser Scaup at Tarpon Springs, *Pinellas* 4 Aug (KT). Quite rare inland was a Surf Scoter at Winter Springs, *Seminole* 15 Nov (WB).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Snail Kite at Ridge Manor 19 Aug–16 Sep (JHa, ML) furnished the first for *Hernando*. Another first was the successful breeding attempt by Mississippi Kites at Brooksville; ads. were seen through 13 Aug (A&BH). Notable raptors at L.A.N.S.R.A. included an early Northern Harrier 9 Aug, 25 Cooper's Hawks 16 Aug, 76 Red-shouldered Hawks and one Broad-winged Hawk 19 Aug, and one Swainson's Hawk 31 Oct (HR). Another Swainson's was over Bald Pt., *Franklin* 16 Oct (JDo). Among 14 reports of Short-tailed Hawks were several in *Alachua* 13 Aug–11 Nov (AK, PF et al.), 3 at L. Jessup, *Seminole* 18 Sep (CPI), and 8 light morphs at Marco I., *Collier* 16 Oct (TeD). Daily watches at Guana R. tallied totals of 28 Merlins and 258 Peregrine Falcons 27 Sep–12 Oct (BSt et al.). Twenty-four Merlins counted in one hour at Fernandina Beach 20 Sep (PL) suggested that the Guana R. falconwatch overlooks numbers of birds due to its short span. L.A.N.S.R.A. supported 134 King Rails 19 Aug and 186 Soras 21 Nov (HR). Purple Gallinules lingered at Piney Z L., *Leon* 2 Nov (2; GM) and St. Marks N.W.R. 27 Nov (7; TH). Three Limpkins at Cape Florida, Miami 15 Aug+ (RD) were a surprise, as was Ft. De Soto Park's first 15 Oct (LA).

Most unusual were 3 American Golden-Plovers at Long Key, *Monroe* 27 Nov (JCa). Good counts of Wilson's Plovers were 131 at

Nassau Sound 5 Aug (PL) and 52 at Little Estero Lagoon, *Lee* 24 Nov (CE). Twenty-plus Piping Plovers at Crandon Beach 11 Sep represented an excellent count for the se. coast (RT, BBL). Belying their name, 32 Solitary Sandpipers were at Huguenot Park 6 Sep (BRI). A large count of American Oystercatchers was 140 in the Amelia R., *Nassau* 11 Nov (PL). Shorebirds in the Everglades Agricultural Area included 2400 Black-necked Stilts 22 Aug (DF, GH), 13 Upland Sandpipers 28 Aug (BP et al.), and 2 Hudsonian Godwits 8–11 Sep (KS, JV). Another Hudsonian graced St. Marks 10 Oct (TC). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Tallahassee 8–10 Sep (GM, JCa), with another at Everglades N.P. 7 Nov (RD). Barely annual in the state, a Curlew Sandpiper paused at L.A.N.S.R.A. 17–24 Oct (HR). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at New Port Richey 19–22 Sep (KT et al.) provided the first for *Pasco*. It is quite rare for all three phalaropes to be mentioned in the same Florida report, but it happened this season. Fifty Wilson's Phalaropes inundated Newnans L. 27 Sep (RR), Red-necked Phalaropes visited *Broward*, *Collier*, *Leon*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Orange*, and single Red Phalaropes were at Fernandina Beach 29 Oct (PL) and Port Canaveral 17 Nov (MG, JeB).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Presumably deposited by *Frances*, a Parasitic Jaeger at Newnans L. 7–8 Sep (JHi et al.) furnished Florida's first inland report. Rare larids at Ft. De Soto included Florida's four-year-resident *Heermann's Gull* 11 Aug+, one Franklin's Gull 20 Oct, and 2 *Elegant-type terns* (one juv. begged to a second-year bird) 15 Sep (ph. LA). Lesser Black-backed Gull remains rare inland, so one at L.A.N.S.R.A. 23 Nov (HR) was noteworthy. Possibly hurricane-related was the Sabine's Gull at Siesta Key, *Sarasota* 8 Sep (BH); 2 others were at Port Canaveral 17 Nov (MG, JeB). Good counts of Sandwich Terns were 136 at Howard Park, Tarpon Springs 11 Oct (KT) and 470 at Ft. De Soto 16 Oct (PSy); singles were inland to Viera 18–21 Nov (DF, CE) and L.A.N.S.R.A. 28 Nov (HR). The 10,000+ Common Terns at Honeymoon I. 9 Oct (MG, JeB) must have been an impressive sight; another Common was inland to L.A.N.S.R.A. 23 Nov (HR).

Good counts of White-winged Doves were 12 at Bayonet Pt., *Pasco* 12 Sep (KT), 21 at Bald Pt. 19 Oct (JDo), and 54 at Sorrento, *Lake* 27 Nov (CPI). A *Zenaida Dove* strayed to Cape Florida 14 Oct–6 Nov (MD, RD). Recently added to the Florida list, Black-hooded Parakeets numbered 150 in one St. Petersburg yard 26 Aug (LS) and 30 at New Port Richey 18 Nov (RaS). Rarely detected during fall, Black-billed Cuckoos graced Ft. De Soto 13 Oct (LA) and L.A.N.S.R.A. 21 Oct (HR). Meanwhile, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo tarried at Frog Pond, *Miami-Dade* 14 Nov (JT, BP).

Southbound Groove-billed Anis passed through Ft. De Soto 29 Sep (LA) and Bald Pt. 3 Oct (JM, JDo). Lesser Nighthawks were found at Bald Pt. 6 Oct and 26 Nov+ (3; JDo, JM), St. Marks 4 Nov (one; DSi), and Everglades N.P. 26 Nov (5; MB). A flock of 6800 Chimney Swifts swarmed L.A.N.S.R.A. 11 Oct (HR). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds made news at Golden Gate, Collier 25–26 Sep (TeD, KOD), Gainesville 1 Nov+ (HB), and Palm City, Martin in early Nov (TT). More typical were the Black-chinned Hummingbird at Gainesville 28 Sep (IM) and Rufous Hummingbirds at Bald Pt. 8 Aug (JDo) and Tallahassee 7 Nov (FD, FB). *Selasphorus* species were found at Gainesville 24 Aug (HB), Ft. Lauderdale 11 Sep+ (MB), and St. Petersburg 27 Sep (EH). At Avon Park A.F.R., Highlands and Polk, hurricanes downed 78 Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees and killed at least 4 birds (LGi).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were heard calling at Saddle Creek 9 Sep (PF), Tallahassee 6 Oct (AW), L.A.N.S.R.A. 11–24 Oct (HR), and St. George I. 15 Oct (JCa). An Alder Flycatcher at Cape Florida 14 Oct–5 Nov (MD, RD) and a Willow Flycatcher at L.A.N.S.R.A. 22 Aug (HR) both called. Six Vermilion Flycatchers were reported Regionwide beginning 14 Oct. Ash-throated Flycatchers were spotted at L.A.N.S.R.A. 14 Nov (HR) and Paynes Prairie 21 Nov (ES). A silent Brown-crested Flycatcher paused at Frog Pond 6 Nov (BM), and a La Sagra's Flycatcher made a brief appearance at Cape Florida 8 Sep (RD). Florida's 4th record of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher entertained hundreds at Frog Pond 6–13 Nov (MW, BM, ph. LMa). Fifteen Gray Kingbirds were at New Port Richey 2 Aug (KT). Four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers enlivened L.A.N.S.R.A. 10 Nov (HR), with 10 at Stock I., Monroe 1 Nov (BM) and 4 in e. Polk 26 Nov+ (JDu).

A Thick-billed Vireo at Boot Key, Monroe 2–23 Oct (JeB et al., ph.) furnished perhaps only the 2nd firm U.S. record. Very rare in Florida, a Bell's Vireo graced L.A.N.S.R.A. 12 Sep (HR). The only count of multiple Philadelphia Vireos was of 3 at Ft. De Soto 16 Oct (LA). Extremely rare inland, a Black-whiskered Vireo at Gainesville 26 Sep was the result of Jeanne (†DSt). Forty-five Banks Swallows at L.A.N.S.R.A. 26 Aug (HR)

Table 2. Selected high counts of seven warbler species in Florida, mainly 15–16 October 2004.

Species	Number	Location	Date	Observers
Tennessee Warbler	24	Ft. De Soto	28 Sep	LA
Tennessee Warbler	21	"	16 Oct	LA, PSy
Tennessee Warbler	15	Sawgrass L. Park	9 Oct	RoS
Tennessee Warbler	14	Mead Gardens	16 Oct	AV
Tennessee Warbler	12	Evergreen Cem.	16 Oct	MB
Tennessee Warbler	"100s"	Jacksonville	17–19 Oct	JCo
Tennessee Warbler	29	L.A.N.S.R.A.	21 Oct	HR
Tennessee Warbler	10	Saddle Creek	21 Oct	PF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	25+	St. Petersburg	28 Sep	EH, DG
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15+	St. George I.	15 Oct	JCa
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15+	Chesnut Park	16 Oct	JK
Magnolia Warbler	25+	St. George I.	15 Oct	JCa
Magnolia Warbler	20	Chesnut Park	16 Oct	JK
Magnolia Warbler	16	Ft. De Soto	16 Oct	PSy
Magnolia Warbler	11	Saddle Creek	16 Oct	BSn
Magnolia Warbler	18	Paynes Prairie	21 Oct	AK
Blackburnian Warbler	12	Ft. De Soto	9 Sep	LA
Palm Warbler	2000	Bald Pt. S.P.	15 Oct	AW
Palm Warbler	700+	Playalinda Beach	6 Nov	EK
American Redstart	40	Ft. De Soto	13 Oct	LA
Hooded Warbler	18	Ft. De Soto	9 Sep	LA
Hooded Warbler	20	Chesnut Park	16 Oct	JK

and 40+ Cliff Swallows at Birch Park, Broward 7 Aug (MB, BRo) were good counts. Cave Swallows of the subspecies *pelodoma* were reported from Frog Pond 6–7 Nov (several; BM), Tallahassee 18 Nov (one; JCa, GM), and Calusa Keys, Monroe 18 Nov (5; BM). Large numbers of Barn Swallows were 500+ at Birch Park 7 Aug (MB, BRo), 1230 at L.A.N.S.R.A. 19 Aug (HR), 3300 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 22 Aug (DF, GH), and 400 at Viera 31 Aug (DF). Single Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupted to Peck L., Martin 22–26 Oct (DF, BW), Eastpoint, Franklin 7 Nov (SK), Weeki Wachee, Hernando 13 Nov (MG), and Bristol, Liberty 27 Nov (TH).

L.A.N.S.R.A. was swarmed by 408 House Wrens and 174 Marsh Wrens 27 Oct and by 167 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 3 Oct (HR). At its s. limit was the Winter Wren at Gainesville 20 Nov (MM). A passage of Veeries over nw. Pasco 5 Nov (DSi) was on the late side. Thirteen Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at Cape Florida 12 Oct (MD). Multiple Swainson's Thrush reports included 20+ at Evergreen Cemetery 15 Oct (MB), 17 at Mead Gardens, Orlando 16 Oct (AV), and 12 at Birch Park 16 Oct (MB). An emaciated Swainson's was mist-netted at Tallahassee 20 Nov (PHo). Ten reports of 16 Wood Thrushes fell within the narrow period 11–16 Oct; foursomes were found at Ft. De Soto (LA) and Evergreen Cemetery (MB), both 15 Oct. Ten American Robins over Sebring, Highlands 5 Sep were

surprisingly early (BP, JT). Also quite early were 3 Cedar Waxwings at Fernandina Beach, Nassau (PL) and about 12 (perhaps all juvs.) at Washington Oaks, Flagler (JT, vt. BP), both 22 Sep.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

Both *Vermivora* hybrids were noted at Ft. De Soto: Brewster's Warbler 28 Sep and Lawrence's Warbler 13 Oct (LA). Fourteen reports of 20 Golden-winged Warblers spanned 28 Sep–3 Nov, and there were 13 reports of single Nashville Warblers 12 Sep–8 Nov. Migration of Yellow Warblers peaked with 65 at L.A.N.S.R.A. 26 Aug (HR). Multiple counts of Cerulean Warblers were of 3 at Largo 7 Aug (KN), 4 at Manatee Springs, Levy 16 Aug (JHi), 2 at L.A.N.S.R.A. 19 Aug (HR), and 4 at Ft. De Soto 9 Sep (LA). A total of 97 Worm-eating Warblers was banded at Cape Florida 17 Aug–14 Oct (MD). Swainson's Warblers were reported in surprising abundance, with 16 reports in addition to the 22 banded at Cape Florida (MD). Record-high waterthrush totals for the state came from L.A.N.S.R.A.: 188 Northern on 28 Sep and 68 Louisianas on 26 Aug (HR). Four Mourning Warblers were surprising: 2 at Cape Florida 8 Sep (RD, MD) and singles at Ft. De Soto 29 Sep–1 Oct (LA) and Alligator Pt. 3 Nov (SM). Robinson's count of 856 Common Yellowthroats at L.A.N.S.R.A. 22 Sep was exceptional. The earliest of 14 Wilson's Warbler reports was 22 Sep, while eight Canada Warbler reports fell between 9 Sep and 4 Oct. High counts of Yellow-breasted Chats were 10 near Oak Hill, Volusia 3 Nov and 8 at Frog Pond 13 Nov (both DSi). Jeanne dropped 20+ Summer Tanagers at St. Petersburg (EH, DG) and 10 Scarlet Tanagers at Ft. De Soto 28 Sep (LA); another Scarlet at St. Augustine 23 Nov (JHo) was quite late. Four Western Tanagers were spotted in Miami-Dade 16–17 Oct, with another at Tallahassee 7–8 Nov (GF, FR).

Sixteen reports of Clay-colored Sparrows suggest an increase. Lark Sparrows were one-day wonders at Bald Pt. 29 Aug (JDo), Tavernier 23 Sep (BM), and Boot Key 24 Oct (BRo, CE). Lincoln's Sparrows paused at Fernandina Beach 8 Oct (PL), Hague, Alachua 7 Nov (MM), and L.A.N.S.R.A. 7 Nov+ (HR), with 2 at Frog Pond 13 Nov (MB). The mind-blowing count of 1126 Swamp Sparrows at L.A.N.S.R.A. 21 Nov (HR)

SA Four separate Western Spindalises were found this season: females at Cape Florida 14–22 Oct (RD) and Long Key, Monroe 26 Nov (MW), a black-backed male at Frenchman's Forest, Palm Beach 2–3 Oct (LMc), and a green-backed male, perhaps of the Cuban subspecies *pretrei*, at Key West 1 Nov+ (ph. BM et al.). The latter furnishes the first record of a green-backed Western Spindalis for the United States.

eclipsed all previous Florida counts. Ten White-crowned Sparrows were at Frog Pond 6 Nov (DSi), and 15 were counted at L.A.N.S.R.A. 21 Nov (HR). Dark-eyed Juncos were s. to Ft. De Soto 8–9 Nov (LA) and Everglades N.P. 26 Nov (MB). Very rare in Florida, single Lapland Longspurs were at Everglades N.P. 17–18 Oct (RH) and Emerald Marsh, Lake 13 Nov (ph. PMA). L.A.N.S.R.A. held 69 Blue Grosbeaks 12 Sep and 78 Indigo Buntings 17 Oct, along with 208,000 Red-winged Blackbirds 9 Aug, one Yellow-headed Blackbird 23 Nov, and 23,000 Common Grackles 1 Aug (HR). Another Yellow-headed was at Cutler Ridge, Miami 23 Oct (RT). Bronzed Cowbirds were at St. Marks 14 Aug (TC) and Miami 25 Aug (SS). Purple Finches irrupted, with one at Alligator Pt. 25 Nov (JM), birds at four locations in Apalachicola N.F. 26 Nov (TH), 4 at Bald Pt. 26–27 Nov (JDo), and one at Gainesville 29 Nov+ (RR). The most southerly House Finches were at Everglades City, Collier 30 Oct (RA) and Archbold Biological Station, Highlands 5 Nov (DSi). Pine Siskins too were on the move, with eight reports, including one at Cape Florida 30 Oct (MD, RD) and 2 at Plantation Key, Monroe 26 Nov (MW). An American Goldfinch at Gainesville 17 Aug (RP) was exceptionally early.

EXOTICS

A banded Abdim's Stork was observed at Orlando 3 Oct (CPa). Perhaps the beginning of widespread colonization, a Purple Swamphen was documented at Emerald Marsh 10 Sep (PMA, ph.). Exotics newly verified were Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill (*Tockus flavirostris*) at Sanibel I. in Sep (ph. GV), Silvery-cheeked Hornbill at Miami 13 Oct (ph. AB), and Yellow-collared Lovebirds at Bradfordville, Leon in Aug (2; ph. DBE) and Kendall, Miami-Dade 8 Aug (one; ph. KM). A Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) at Gainesville 24 Aug (PSI) provided the first report.

Cited contributors: Bruce Ackerman, Howard Adams, Ralph Arwood, Lyn Atherton, Antonio Balladares, Gian Basili, Fred Bassett, Hilda Bellot, Ted Below, Mark Berney, Don Bethancourt (DBE), Wes Biggs, Jeff Bouton (JeB), Dave Bowman (DBO), Judy Bryan (JuB), Pat Burns, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Julie Cocke (JCo), Steve Collins (SC), Tom Curtis, Michelle Davis, P.J. Deitschel, Robin Diaz, Fred Dietrich, Terry Doyle (TeD), Terry Doyle (TeD), Jack Dozier (JDo), Jim DuBois (JDu), Becky Enneis, Charlie Ewell, Grayal Farr, Paul Fellers, Joanna Fitzgerald, David Freeland, Murray Gardler,

Lauren Gilson (LGi), Dave Goodwin, L. Graham (LGr), Jack Hailman (JaH), Liz Hailman, Roger Hammer, Erik Haney, Al and Bev Hansen (A&BH), Jeffrey Hayes (JHa), Mark Hedden, Tom Hince, John Hintermister (JHi), Jackie Holstein (JHo), Peter Homann (PHO), Paul Hueber (PHU), Bill Hull, Gloria Hunter, Marcy Jones, Sheila Klink, Joyce King, Andy Kratter, Ed Kwater, Patrick Leary, Mike Liberton, Karen Mabb, Ingvar Magnusson, Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LMA), Peter May (PMA), Linda McCandless (LMC), Sean McCool, Gail Menk, Paul Miller (PMi), Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy, Kris Nelson, Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Carol Paine (CPa), Ruth Palenik, Cheri Pierce (CPi), Bill Pranty, John Puschock, Diane Reed, Bob Richter (BRi), Bryant Roberts (BRo), Harry Robinson, Tom Rodriguez, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Kevin Sarsfield, Earl Scales, Susan Schneider, David Simpson (DSi), Pat Slattery (PSL), Ray Smart (RaS), Ron Smith (RoS), Bob Snow (BSn), Lee Snyder, David Steadman (DSi), Bob Stoll (BSi), Paul Sykes (PSy), Tom Tomlinson, Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, James Tucker, Juan Villamil, Alex Vinokur, Greg Vogel, Billi Wagner, Major Waltman, Walt Winton, Andy Wraithmell. 🌐

Margaret J. C. Bain

219 Albert Street

Cobourg, Ontario K9A 2R6

(mjcain@sympatico.ca)

After a disappointingly cool, wet summer, the fall was consistently warm and pleasant over almost the entire province. Many clear nights saw heavy migration under ideal flying conditions, but there were no significant cold fronts in August and September and very few in October. The first light snow appeared in more northerly areas in early November, but warm ground ensured that it soon melted. In the southwest of the province, the first hard frost did not occur until early November, with frost-prone Jewelweed still green and in bloom to the end of October. Water levels in the Great Lakes remained very high until late in the season, reducing shoreline feeding areas for southbound shorebirds.

As usual, some migrants appeared rather earlier than expected, some later, leading to speculation on the complex factors in the Arctic and across the continent behind these movements. Numerous waterfowl species were recorded exceptionally early, perhaps related to a very early breeding season in western North America, including the west-

Ontario

