

Key, Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R. 14 Jun (TDo). A male **Masked Duck** at Sarasota, Sarasota 6–7 Jun (TE et al.) represented a very rare central peninsula report.

Ospreys are common in Florida, but 102 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 3 Jul (HR) made an especially high count. Hundreds of Swallow-tailed Kites fed on abundant dragonflies at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. in Jul, with a peak of 856 on 17 Jul (HR). At the Fisheating Creek, Glades roost, 1954 were counted 30 Jul (BP, PG et al.). White-tailed Kite is a scarce species in Florida, so two reports is about normal. Snail Kites nested at Inverness Pool, Citrus (FA), the northernmost nesting in many decades. Significant reports of Mississippi Kites were one at Merritt Island N.W.R., *Brevard* 1–4 Jun (TDo et al.), 5 near Green Cove Springs, *Clay* 15 Jun–17 Jul (LeM), and a pair at s. Jacksonville, *Duval* 7–17 Jul (JCo). Five Mississippis at Belleview, *Marion* 20 Jun (SB) were more expected. Cooper's Hawks continue to spread southward in the state, with many reported from the Tampa Bay area and others reported from *Miami-Dade* and *Collier*. Six reports of Short-tailed Hawk were received, about normal for this scarce species. The only American Kestrel report was one at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 26 Jun (HR).

A Black Rail 10 Jul at *Polk* mines (CG, PT) was a rare inland report. Robinson had an impressive 175 King Rails at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 31 Jul. An American Coot photographed feeding young 18 Jun established the first confirmed breeding for *Pasco* (KT). With the number of overwintering shorebirds in the state, the first southbound birds are often difficult to detect. A Black-bellied Plover at Little Estero Lagoon, *Lee* 21 Jun (CE) was likely the first "fall" migrant. A Wilson's and 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Crandon Beach, *Miami-Dade* 30 Jun (RD) were also thought to be fall arrivals. Ewell had 3 ad. and 23 young American Oystercatchers at Little Estero Lagoon 5 Jul, including 2 birds banded in North Carolina and one banded in Virginia. This is the 3rd consecutive year that banded oystercatchers have turned up at this location. An apparently overwintering American Avocet was at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., *Monroe* 13 Jun (AB, EE), while 32 others were at *Polk* mines 23 Jul (PT, CG). The first reported Greater Yellowlegs for the fall was at Springhill Rd. W.T.P. 5 Jul (GM), while the first Lesser Yellowlegs was in mid-*Pinellas* 9 Jul (JF). Another migrant Lesser was 111 km off Ponce Inlet 29 Jul (BW). The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was one at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 23 Jul (HR). The first southbound Spotted Sandpipers were 6 at Springhill Rd. W.T.P. 21 Jul (GM). An apparent late northward migrant Whimbrel was found at Playalinda Beach, *Brevard* 3 Jun (AV). At Little Estero Lagoon, 7 Marbled Godwits 14 Jul

SA Hurricane *Dennis* moved through the Straits of Florida and into the Gulf of Mexico in mid-Jul, bringing 2 Sooty Terns and the above-mentioned frigatebirds inland to Newnans L., *Alachua* 10 Jul (SC, GP). Another Sooty was inland at Tallahassee, *Leon* 11 Jul (MS). Dozier and Murphy had one Bridled and 11 Sooty terns at Alligator Pt. 10 Jul, and 24 Sooty and 3 Bridled Terns there 12 Jul. Another Sooty Tern was at Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 10 Jul (EK).

Less obvious, but also apparently related to *Dennis*, was a significant influx of pelagic terns to the s. Atlantic coast 9 Jul. Hope, Berney, and others observed 120+ Bridled Terns, 100+ Sooty Terns, and 2 Brown Noddies at Boynton Inlet, while 2 Sooty Terns were off Crandon Beach (RD) and 6 Brown Noddies at Boot Key, *Monroe* (AW). In addition to the terns, one or 2 White-tailed Tropicbirds were at Boynton Inlet 9 Jul (BHo, MBe et al.). The effects of the storm were short-lived, as Diaz found only 2 Bridled and 5–6 Sooty Terns at Boynton Inlet 10 Jul, along with one Brown Noddy at Lloyd S.P. The last report from this event was a Bridled Tern at Jupiter Inlet Colony, *Palm Beach* 11 Jul (J&LH).

and an alternate-plumaged Red Knot among 150 overwintering basic-plumaged knots 5 Jul were thought to be fall migrants (CE). Leary observed 120 Red Knots, including one banded in Argentina, at Bird I., Nassau Sound, *Duval* 24 Jul, and 700 there, including 2 banded in Chile, by the end of the month. The first southbound Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Springhill Rd. W.T.P. 11 Jul (GM), while the first fall-arrival Western Sandpipers were 3 in alternate plumage at Little Estero Lagoon 5 Jul (CE). Ewell had his highest count of overwintering peeps at Little Estero Lagoon, with 160 Western/Semipalmated Sandpipers in basic plumage 5 Jul. An impressive 8100 Least Sandpipers were at *Polk* mines 23 Jul (CG, PT). White-rumped Sandpipers continue to move northward into early Jun, with 5 at Fort De Soto Park, *Pinellas* 1 Jun (LA) and 3 there 2 Jun (JG). Berney found 80+ Pectoral Sandpipers near Belle Glade, *Palm Beach* 31 Jul. Lingering Dunlins were seen at Ft. De Soto Park 1 Jun (AB, DS) and St. Marks N.W.R. 4–5 Jun (DS, AB). Two Stilt Sandpipers at *Polk* mines 23 Jul (PT, CG) were the only report. Alternate-plumaged Short-billed Dowitchers at Little Estero Lagoon 6 Jul (CE) and Crandon Beach 8 Jul (RD) were thought to be migrants. Three early Red Phalaropes were about 128 km off Ponce Inlet 29 Jul (BW).

Clark had 8000 Laughing Gulls, including many fledged young, and 2–6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* in Jul. Two imm. Lesser Black-backed and 3 imm. Great Black-backed Gulls were at Crandon Beach 4 Jul (RD). Up to 4 Gull-billed Terns were at *Polk* mines 19 Jun–23 Jul (PT, CG), with 2 others at John Lloyd S.P. 11 Jun (MBe). Clark had 1100 Royal Terns at Huguenot Memorial Park during the end of Jul. Single Roseate Terns were at Lloyd S.P. 11 Jun (MBe) and Boynton Inlet 12 Jun (BHo). A surprising 55 Common Terns were inland at *Polk* mines 10 Jul (CG, PT). A single Arctic Tern was at Boynton Inlet 11 Jun (BHo). For a species that does not breed in Florida, 920 Forster's Terns at *Polk* mines 23 Jul (CG, PT) was an impressive mid-summer count. Up to 225 Least Terns were at Key Biscayne, *Miami-Dade* 15–21 Jul, an unusually high

number for this location (RD); at *Polk* mines, Least numbered 274 on 19 Jun (PT, CG). A fishing trip about 20 km off Hillsborough Inlet, *Broward* 19 Jun found 2 Bridled Terns (MBe). A Sooty Tern was picked up alive on a *Volusia* beach 25 Jun (MBr). A fishing trip 170 km off Ponce Inlet found 300+ Sooty Terns, 15+ Bridled Terns, and 4 Brown Noddies 29 Jul (BW).

The first southbound Black Tern was at Bald Pt., *Franklin* 4 Jul (JM). Large numbers of Black Skimmers were inland to *Polk* mines, with 412 on 19 Jun, 690 on 10 Jul, and 650 skimmers 23 Jul (CG, PT). Three hundred Black Skimmers were at Bird Is., Nassau Sound 24 Jul, where their colony was washed out by high spring tides (PL).

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

White-crowned Pigeons are primarily birds of the Keys; 68 at Southern Glades W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* 12 Jul (RD) was an unusually high number on the mainland. White-winged Doves are becoming more common in the Tampa Bay area, with 29 at Brandon, *Hillsborough* 20 Jul (DP) the highest number reported. Burrowing Owls were present throughout the season at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee*, where 19 was the highest count 13 Jul (PM). Very local nesters, Common Nighthawks nested unsuccessfully at Fort Clinch S.P., *Nassau* in Jun (PL). The only report of Antillean Nighthawks was of 3 at Cudjoe Key, *Monroe* 24 Jun (AB, MH). At least 2 Whip-poor-wills were heard and seen at Bald Pt. 5–16 Jun (JM, JDo); there are no breeding reports for Florida. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are scarce in Florida away from the extreme north, so four reports from the mid-pen. were about normal. A Belted Kingfisher at St. Marks N.W.R. 8 Jun (JDo) may have been a summering bird. The first apparently returning Belted Kingfisher was one at Ocklawaha, *Marion* 30 Jun (AL). Single Western Kingbirds were in mid-*Pinellas* 2 Jun (JF) and Bald Pt. 5 Jun (JDo). Two Yellow-throated Vireos heard singing at Mead Garden, Winter Park, *Orange* 10 Jun+ (BA et al.) were at the s. edge of their range. A Red-eyed Vireo at Sarasota 2 Jun (JDu, EM) was likely a late migrant; the first southbound Red-eyed was at Coconut Pt., *Brevard* 26 Jul

(AB). A Black-whiskered Vireo was n. of normal in mid-Pinellas 6 Jun (JF). This species used to occur regularly in Pinellas but is now rare there.

A "few" Purple Martins at Tavernier, Monroe 24 Jun (BM) were thought to be southbound migrants. Noteworthy swallows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. were single Tree Swallows 6, 11, & 26 Jul, one or 2 Bank Swallows on seven dates during the season, and up to 3 Cliff Swallows 23–31 Jul (HR). Barn Swallows are continuing to expand as breeders in the state, so individuals at two locations in Everglades N.P. 4 & 5 Jun (BR) were intriguing. More expected, but still impressive, was the presence of at least 55 Barn Swallows on each of 14 dates at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., with a maximum of 260 on 23 Jul (HR). A House Wren at Clearwater, Pinellas 26 Jun (EH) was only the 3rd reported in summer in the state. Single American Robins at Cedar Key, Levy 2 Jun and 6–11 Jul (DH) were interesting. An out-of-season Gray Catbird was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 5–12 Jun (HR). Robinson observed the first Common Myna at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 11 Jul, further evidence of the expansion of this species in Florida.

A well-described Blue-winged Warbler at Ocklawaha Prairie R.A., Marion 21 Jul (AL) furnished only the 2nd summer report for Florida. The first southbound Yellow Warbler was at Cedar Key 25 Jul (DH). A Cerulean Warbler was at a water drip in s. Jacksonville 30 Jul (JCo). The first southbound Black-and-white Warbler was at the Seminole Environmental Center 9 Jul (AV, LoM). An American Redstart at Gainesville 9 Jun (GP) was likely a late northbound migrant, while one at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 16 Jul (PM) was the first southbound migrant. A Swainson's Warbler was heard in Tallahassee 26 Jun (GM). The first southbound Louisiana Waterthrushes were singles at Tallahassee 5 Jul (FR), Seminole Environmental Center 9 Jul (LaM, AV), and Newnans L., Alachua 10 Jul (JH, LD). The first southbound Hooded Warbler was in mid-Pinellas 25 Jul (JF). Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo and Painted Buntings were present throughout the season at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., with maximum daily counts of 25, 27, and 3, respectively (HR). A male Varied Bunting that hit a window at Siesta Key, Sarasota 1 Jun (MvD; *Archbold Biological Station) provided the first record of the species for Florida. Small numbers of Dickcissels have been present at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. in recent summers, but this summer's number of birds is unprecedented for Florida. Robinson found Dickcissels on all 14 of his surveys this year, with a maximum of 89 on 5 Jun and counts of 40+ until 20 Jul and 4 still present at the end of the season. Breeding was confirmed when a nest with eggs was found 19 May.

Out-of-season Bobolinks were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 5 Jun (HR) and Cedar Key 18 Jun (RoR). Blackbird numbers always increase at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. in Jul, but this year's numbers were nothing short of amazing, with counts of over 100,000 each for Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Boat-tailed Grackles, the maxima being 303,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 117,000 Common Grackles 17 Jul and 167,000 Boat-tailed Grackles 14 Jul (HR)! Numbers at the roost rapidly decrease by mid-Aug—where do these birds come from and where do they go? Shiny Cowbirds were reported in good numbers, with singles at Alligator Pt. 1–7 Jun (JDo), Bald Pt. 17 Jun (JDo), and Cedar Key 2 Jul (DH), duos at Fort De Soto 2 Jun (LA) and Flamingo, Everglades N.P. 5 Jun (BR), up to 7 at Redlands, Miami-Dade through 3 Jul (RT, MF, RD), and up to 13 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 19 Jun–28 Jul (HR). Up to 6 Bronzed Cowbirds, not yet confirmed to breed in Florida, were at Redlands, Miami-Dade through 12 Jul (RT, MF, RD). Orchard Orioles were present at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. all season, with a maximum of 24 on 1 Jul (HR). An American Goldfinch lingered at Gainesville until 1 Jun (LD). House Finches were present in good numbers in the cen. peninsula, with one in mid-Pinellas in Jul (JF), up to 6 at Altamonte Springs, Seminole all season (PH), one at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 4 & 14 Jul (BA, HR), and up to 6, including a female feeding a fledgling, at Mead Garden (AV, BA, JCl).

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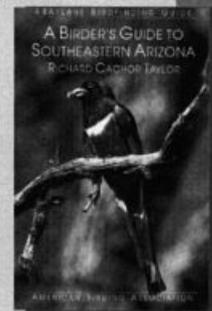


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