



Bill Pranty

For the second fall season in a row, Florida was ravaged by hurricanes, although not nearly as badly as last year—and not nearly as badly as areas on the Gulf Coast farther west. Hurricanes *Katrina* (25–26, 29 August), *Ophelia* (7 September), *Rita* (20 September), and *Wilma* (24 October) all affected the state and its avifauna. Worst was *Katrina*, which heavily damaged the w. Panhandle coast; *Wilma* also caused great damage in the Keys and s. peninsula. Much of Flamingo, Everglades N.P. was flattened by *Wilma*. The Duncans report that the effects of multiple recent hurricanes is converting oak hammocks to oak scrub habitat along the w. Panhandle coast.

Rarities were numerous this season, but few of these can be attributed to storm activity. Many rarities were found around the banding station at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. off Miami. Two birds—one native (Lesser Sand-Plover) and one exotic (Harris's Hawk)—were newly verified in the state this season. One of Florida's most ardent bird conservationists, Rich Paul, died 1 November 2005 at the age of 59. Rich and his many contributions to the cause of Florida bird conservation will be greatly missed. This column is dedicated to his memory.

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

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Breeding Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* (DF, AV), Emerald Marsh Conservation Area, *Lake* (PMA), and *Lorida*, *Highlands* (P&LG et al.), with 2 others at Withlacoochee River Park, *Pasco* 20 Aug (RoS), 300 at Ft. Drum, *Oke-*

chobee 4 Nov (P&LG), and 204 at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, *Orange* 25 Nov (HR). Snow Geese were fairly widespread, with the earliest report at Bald Pt., *Franklin* 24 Oct (JMu). An apparently pure Ross's Goose was at Lake Apopka, *Lake* 18 Nov (DG, GB et al.), while an apparent Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid was at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 19 Nov+ (TC et al.). Rare in the cen. pen., single American Black Ducks were at Lake Apopka 30 Oct (HR) and Merritt Island N.W.R., *Brevard* 13–15 Nov (TD, AV et al.). Mottled Ducks are rare but increasing

in the w. Panhandle; this season, singles were at Pensacola, *Escambia* 18 Aug (B&LD), Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa* 1 Sep (BD), and n. *Escambia* 6 Nov (LC). Two Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrids were at Alachua, *Alachua* 10–20 Sep (ph. BW et al.). Cinnamon Teal drakes graced Gainesville, *Alachua* 14 Sep (AV, TD), Emerald Marsh 15 Oct (DF, MG et al.), Merritt I. 24 Nov (2; AV et al.), and St. Marks 25 Nov (AV et al.). Two Northern Shovelers at Merritt I. 31 Aug (TD) were early. High counts of ducks included 5000 Northern Pintails at Merritt I. 15 Nov (DF, MG) and 2300 Green-winged Teal and 1375 Hooded Mergansers at Polk phosphate mines 12 Nov (PF, EL). Casual inland, 3 Greater Scaup were surprises at Lake Apopka 9 Nov+ (HR). Rare s. to *Miami-Dade* were a White-winged Scoter 18 Nov and a Black Scoter 25 Nov (RT); other Blacks were in mid-*Pinellas* 28 Nov+ (3; JuF) and Bald Pt. 29 Nov (40; JMu).

A Pacific Loon molting out of alternate plumage at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 31 Aug (B&LD) provided a rare summering report. *Katrina* drove 3 Sooty Shearwaters to Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 26 Aug (RD), one Wilson's Storm-Petrel to Gulf Breeze 29 Aug (B&LD et al.), and White-tailed Tropicbirds to Indialantic Beach, *Brevard* 26 Aug (*fide* TW, *) and Pensacola Beach 30 Aug (*fide* BD, *; local first), while *Rita* drove 26 Cory's and 2 Audubon's Shearwaters to Boynton Beach Inlet, *Palm Beach* 20 Sep (MBe). A Manx Shearwater was found at New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 7 Sep (*fide* TW). Hurricane-driven Magnificent Frigatebirds included 7 at St. Marks 27 Aug (TC), 9 at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 29–30 Aug (JMu et al.), and one inland at Sebring, *Highlands* 21 Sep (CW et al.); 2 at Ponce Inlet, *Volusia* 29 Nov (MBr) were late. An American Bittern at Emerald Marsh 11 Aug (PMA) was early or summered, while 22 at Lake Apopka 23 Oct and 9 Nov (HR) repre-

sented high counts. A Great White Heron was n. to Cape Canaveral, *Brevard* 17 Sep (EK), and single White-faced Ibis, increasing in Florida, enlivened *Escambia* 30 Aug (LC) and St. Marks 20 Nov (TC). Roseate Spoonbills were widespread, with notable reports of 17 at Cedar Key, *Levy* 21 Aug (RR, SCo et al.), one at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa* 9–16 Sep (DW et al.), and 97 at Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 9 Sep (PL). A huge migratory movement of 1076 Turkey Vultures was noted over Lake Apopka 30 Oct (HR).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The high count of Swallow-tailed Kites at Lake Apopka was 341 on 3 Aug (HR). Fifteen Mississippi Kite nestlings that were blown out of nests during Hurricane Dennis in Jul were released at Tallahassee 17 Aug (*fide* GM). A Harris's Hawk of unknown provenance (but presumably an escapee) was photographed at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 13 Nov (DMA). A kettle of 75 Broad-winged Hawks over Dunedin, *Pinellas* 15 Oct (SP) was a surprise. There were 18 reports of 20 Short-tailed Hawks statewide (8 dark, 5 light, and 7 undescribed), with birds n. to O'Leno S.P., *Columbia* 17 Sep (CP), Micanopy, *Alachua* 25 Oct (DSt), and Alachua, *Alachua* 27 Nov (MW). A Zone-tailed Hawk over Curry Hammock S.P., *Monroe* 26 Oct (†MH) may have been the same individual photographed elsewhere in the Keys in Dec 2000. A Golden Eagle enlivened St. Marks 4 Nov (TC). Falcon migration included 14 Merlins and 7 Peregrine Falcons in three hours at Bald Pt. 1 Oct (A&JW), and 10 other Peregrines at St. George I., *Franklin* 5 Oct (JCa). Notable raptor reports from Lake Apopka included one Mississippi Kite 28 Aug, 109 Bald Eagles 13 Nov, single Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned Hawks 10 Aug, 84 Red-shouldered Hawks 15 Nov (HR), and a Swainson's Hawk 15 Nov+ (HR).

Large numbers of rallids were 295 King Rails 15 Aug and 238 Soras 18 Oct at Lake Apopka (HR) and 875 Common Moorhens at Emerald Marsh 15 Oct (DF, MG et al.). American Coots bred at New Port Richey, *Pasco*, with 10 birds 2 Aug (RaS). Limpkin concentrations on 20 Nov were 16 near the Sarasota Celery Fields, *Sarasota* (JeD et al.) and 25 near Devil's Garden, *Hendry* (VM). A flock of 227 Greater Sandhill Cranes was over Lake Apopka 30 Nov (HR), while singles were at St. Marks 16 (TC) & 27 Oct (JCa) and Gulf Breeze 23 Oct (LD). There were 10 reports of American Golden-Plovers statewide 13 Sep–13 Nov, all of singles. Furnishing the first report for Florida was the Lesser Sand-Plover at St. Marks 17–21 Sep (TC, B&LD et al., ph.). High counts of Wilson's Plovers were 114 at Huguenot Park, *Duval* 26

Aug (RC) and 375 at Dunedin Causeway 11 Nov (MG), while there were 300 Semipalmated Plovers at New Port Richey 31 Aug (KT) and 225 at Huguenot Park 8 Sep (RC). Good counts of Piping Plovers were 17 at Nassau Sound, *Duval* 16 Oct (PL) and 21 at Disappearing I., *Volusia* 30 Nov (MBr). An American Oystercatcher at Pensacola Beach 23 Sep (AS) was casual in the w. Panhandle. Freeland and Gardler estimated 1100 Black-necked Stilts at the Everglades Agricultural Area, *Palm Beach* 21 Aug. American Avocets inland were singles to the Everglades Agricultural Area 27 Aug (BH) and Moon Lake Park, *Pasco* 22 Nov (KT), plus 342 at *Polk* mines 12 Nov (PF, EL). Upland Sandpipers made a good showing in the se. pen., with 15 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 14 Aug (MBe), 31 there 27 Aug (MBe), and 38 in *Miami-Dade* 24 Aug (LM).

Single Long-billed Curlews were seen at Marco I., *Collier* 31 Aug (TB), Caxambas Pass, *Collier* 2 Sep (DSu), Destin 6 Sep (DM), and Huguenot Park 6–11 Sep (EK et al.). Very rare in Florida, single Hudsonian Godwits brightened Cutler Ridge, *Miami-Dade* 8 Aug (RT) and Marco I. 15 Sep (SCa). High counts of Red Knots were 600 at Ft. George Inlet, *Duval* 20 Aug (PL), 116 at Little Estero Lagoon, *Lee* 20 Aug (CE), and 400 at St. Marks 20 Sep (AV, DRi). A Sanderling at Alachua 5 Sep (PBu, BW) was most unusual inland. White-rumped Sandpipers were reported in good numbers, with 3 at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 8 Sep (MBr), 8 at Alachua 10–18 Sep (JH, AV et al.), 4 at Ponce Inlet 13 Sep (MBr), 9 at St. Marks 20 Sep (AV, DRi), and one at Ft. De Soto 13 Oct (AV, DRi). Very rare in Florida, there were three reports of Baird's Sandpiper this season, with singles at Destin, *Okaloosa* 6 Sep (DM) and Lake Apopka 8 Oct (HR), and 2 at Alachua 12–18 Sep (BW et al., ph.). A nice count of 480 Stilt Sandpipers came from the Everglades Agricultural Area 21 Aug (DF, MG et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were surprisingly well represented, with 14 reports of 51 individuals from the e. Panhandle to the s. pen.; largest counts were 17 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 18 Sep (BH, MBe) and 10 at St. Marks 20 Sep (AV, DRi). Ruffs at the Everglades Agricultural Area 21 Aug and 18 Sep (BH, MBe et al.) and Merritt I. 27 Aug (AV, DRi) were more than usual. One hundred Long-billed Dowitchers provided a first for Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* 19 Nov (GQ). Early returning Wilson's Snipe were found at Emerald Marsh 13 Sep (PMa) and Lake Apopka 22 Sep (7; HR). Reports of multiple Wilson's Phalaropes were 30 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 27 Aug (BH) and 4 at Cutler Ridge 16 Sep (RT). There were single Red-necked Phalaropes in n. *Escambia* 30 Aug (LC) and at

Ponce Inlet 13 Sep (MBr), with 14 others off Miami 16 Sep (RT et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Bankert counted 100 Pomarine and 40 Parasitic Jaegers at Coconut Pt., *Brevard* 27 Nov, while Hope had 105 Pomarines at Delray Beach, *Palm Beach* 13 Nov. A type reported annually in Florida in recent years, an aberrant Laughing Gull with an orange bill and legs was photographed at Bunche Beach, *Lee* 30 Sep (KB). Franklin's Gulls were quite widespread and numerous, with 11 reports from *Walton* to *Miami-Dade*. All counts were singles except for up to 18 at Cutler Ridge 22 Oct–3 Nov (MBe et al.) and up to 12 at Lake Apopka 11–15 Nov (HR). A genuine rarity anywhere in the state, a juv. Black-headed Gull was photographed at Cutler Ridge 19–23 Oct (RT, MBe et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers continue to increase, with one at St. George I. 1 Aug (TL), 106 at Huguenot Park 23 Oct (BR), 83 nearby in Nassau Sound 6 Nov (PL), 35 at Port Canaveral, *Brevard* 13 Nov (AV, DRi), and one ad. inland to Lake Apopka 30 Nov (HR).

Eight Gull-billed Terns at New Port Richey 31 Aug (KT) furnished a high count. The *Polk* mines hosted 230 Caspian Terns 12 Nov (PF). Kwater noted large numbers of terns at Huguenot Park/Nassau Sound following *Ophelia* 7 Sep: 3000 Royal, 400 Sandwich, 1500 Common, 500 Black, and 7 Sooty. Other concentrations of terns were 100 Sandwich at St. Marks 27 Aug (TC) and 400 at Ft. De Soto Park 5 Nov (PS); 260 Least at Crandon Beach 15 Aug (RD); and 100 Blacks at St. Vincent N.W.R., *Franklin* 16 Aug (TL) and 223 at New Port Richey 31 Aug (KT). With all the tropical storm activity, it is not surprising that Bridled and (especially) Sooty Terns were seen widely along both coasts. Largest numbers of Sooties were 100+ off Crandon Beach 26 Aug (RD), 10 at Gulf Breeze 29 Aug (B&LD et al.), 10 at Ponce Inlet 8 Sep (MBr), 10 off Cocoa Beach, *Brevard* 8 Sep (DF), and 85 at Boynton Beach Inlet 20 Sep (MBe); another Sooty at Sawgrass Mills, *Broward* 24 Oct (MBe) was inland. A storm-driven Brown Noddy graced Gulf Breeze 29 Aug (B&LD et al.), and another was at Boynton Beach Inlet 20 Sep (MBe). Triple-digit counts of Black Skimmers were 656 at *Polk* mines 29 Aug (PF), 450 at Fred Howard Park, *Pinellas* 11 Nov (MG), and 375 at Dunedin Causeway 11 Nov (MG).

White-winged Doves continue to explode in numbers throughout Florida, with 50 at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 2 Oct (PMi), 26 at Bald Pt. 24 Oct (JaD), 300+ at Mims, *Brevard* 15 Nov (MG), and 2 at Marco I. 22 Nov (SCa). Not reported previously, a Key West Quail-Dove was photographed at John Pennekamp

Coral Reef S.P., *Monroe* Apr–Nov (JiD). Expanding their range into *Pasco*, Black-hooded Parakeets were seen at New Port Richey (2) and Bayonet Pt. (4) 11 Aug (KT), with 60 Monk Parakeets nearby at Hudson Beach 19 Nov (KT). Scarce migrants, Black-billed Cuckoos were detected at St. George I. 30 Sep (JCa) and Lake Apopka 21 Oct (HR), while Yellow-billed Cuckoos tarried at Tallahassee 14 Nov (RL) and Hatbill Park, *Brevard* 17–19 Nov (AB et al.). Single Groove-billed Anis were one-day wonders at Lake Apopka 12 Oct (HR) and Bald Pt. 22 Oct (JMu), while another lingered at Ft. Walton Beach 27 Oct–11 Nov (BD et al.).

The far-isolated colony of Burrowing Owls at Eglin A.F.B., *Okaloosa* numbered 11 individuals 5 Nov (LF). Increasingly seen in Florida, 3 Lesser Nighthawks were discovered at Bald Pt 8 Nov, with one lingering until 10 Nov (JaD) and another reported at Apalachicola, *Franklin* 23 Nov (KM); 6 at Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* 13 Nov (JBo) were less surprising. A widespread movement of Common Nighthawks was noted in early Sep, with 100 at Alligator Pt. (JaD), 430 in w. *Pasco* (KT), and 250 at Temple Terrace, *Hillsborough* (BAh), all 1 Sep, and 250 at Tampa, *Hillsborough* 3 Sep (DSu). An amazing total of 83 Chuck-will's-widows was reported along Key Largo, *Monroe* 11 Sep (BM). Thousands of Chimney Swifts were seen in the eye of *Wilma* over Jupiter Inlet Colony, *Martin* 24 Oct (J&EH). Notable hummingbird observations were Buff-bellied 27 Sep+ and Rufous 14 Aug at Gainesville (HB), 15 Ruby-throateds at Mead Garden, *Orange* 2 Oct (BAn), and one Black-chinned at Alligator Pt. 10 Oct (JMu). Duos of *Selasphorus* were found at Merritt I. 19 Aug (BPa) and Castellow Hammock Park, *Miami-Dade* 11 Sep–15 Oct (RT et al.), with singles at Alligator Pt. 10 Oct (JMu) and in *Leon* 19 Oct (JA). Backes's suburban Valrico, *Hillsborough* yard is well landscaped and this season attracted 7 Ruby-throateds, a Black-chinned, and a Rufous in the first week of Nov, in addition to Rufous/Allen's 23–27 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Reported regularly in Florida solely in the Duncans' Gulf Breeze neighborhood, Olive-sided Flycatchers were found there 2, 10, 15, 23, & 29 Sep. Eastern Wood-Pewees tarried at Mead Garden 2 Nov (BAn) and Lake Apopka 9 Nov (HR). Uncharacteristically, non-Acadian em-pids were reported widely this season (although mostly without details), with Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Tallahassee 2 (RL) & 3 Sep (FR), at Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach* 29 Sep (2; BH), at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., *Alachua* 8 Oct (JBr), at Lake City, *Columbia* 8 Oct (JKr), at Lake Apopka 8 Oct (HR),

and at St. Marks 22 Oct (TC). Alder Flycatchers were heard calling at Ft. George I. 15 Sep (RC), Cape Florida 25–29 Sep (RD, MD, LG), Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area, *Miami-Dade* 30 Sep–1 Oct (LM, v.r.), and Key West, *Monroe* 28 Oct (AH), while a calling Willow Flycatcher was reported at Lake Apopka 21 Aug (HR). Two Least Flycatchers at Lake Apopka 31 Aug (HR) were early. Single Vermilion Flycatchers turned up at Lake Apopka 2 Oct & 25 Nov (HR), Bald Pt. 15 Oct (JMu), St. Marks 6 Nov (TC), and Ft. Walton Beach 15 Nov (PBa), with 2 at Alligator Lake Park, *Columbia* 30 Nov (DRo). Single Ash-throated Flycatchers were identified at Lake Apopka 12 Oct (HR), Tavernier, *Monroe* 25 Oct (BM), Ft. Walton Beach 2 Nov (BD), and Merritt I. 25 Nov (AB). A wintering Brown-crested Flycatcher arrived at Lake Apopka by 20 Nov (HR). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher banded at Cape Florida 8 Oct (ph. RD et al.) was one of the outstanding rarities from there this season. A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was a one-day wonder at Ft. De Soto 18 Aug (ph. LA). Eight Western Kingbirds at Bald Pt. 24 Oct (JMu) was the largest count reported. A very late Eastern Kingbird was spied at St. Marks 24 Nov (TC), while Gray Kingbirds were inland to South Bay, *Palm Beach* 21 Aug (DF, MG), Lake Apopka 25 Aug (HR), and the Seminole Indian Reservation, *Hendry* 20 Nov (VM). There were 15 reports of 23 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers statewide beginning 18 Oct.

North America's fourth verified **Thick-billed Vireo**—with three of these records since Oct 2004—was banded at Cape Florida 7 Nov (ph. RD et al.). Scarce winter residents in the extreme s., Bell's Vireos were detected at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., *Broward* 1–15 Oct (MBe et al.), Key West 27–28 Oct (AH), and Southern Glades 25 Oct–11 Nov (LM, JBo). A Warbling Vireo enlivened Spanish River Park 10 Oct (BH). There were 14 reports of Philadelphia Vireo 26 Sep–23 Oct, all singles except for 2 at San Felasco Hammock Preserve S.P., *Alachua* 10 Oct (RR). Some 3000 Northern Rough-winged Swallows were at Matanzas Inlet, *St. Johns* 30 Oct (RoS), while large numbers of Bank Swallows included 250 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 14 Aug (BH) and 264 at Lake Apopka 7 Sep (HR). Rare in the state, high counts of Cliff Swallow were 4 at Weekiwachee Preserve, *Hernando* 19 Sep (A&BH) and 18 at Bald Pt. 1 Oct (A&JW). Fourteen *pelodoma* Cave Swallows were found at Lake Apopka 28 Oct, with one there through 4 Nov (HR) and 2 others at Lighthouse Point Park 22 Nov (MBr). Barn Swallows noted in the quadruple-digits were 2400 at the Everglades Agricultural Area 21 Aug (DF, MG et al.), 1000 at Bald Pt. 6 Sep (JaD), and 2400 at Lake Apopka 7 Sep (HR).

Lingering Barns included one at Tallahassee (AW) and 3 at Lake Apopka (HR), both 30 Nov.

A Carolina Chickadee strayed to Greynolds Park, *Miami-Dade* 17 Sep+ (JKi, AH), while a less-rare Tufted Titmouse was nearby at A.D. Barnes Park through 1 Oct (JBo et al.). Unexpected was the White-breasted Nuthatch at San Felasco Hammock 1 Oct (BC). Lake Apopka supported 354 House Wrens 21 Oct and 211 Marsh Wrens 9 Nov (HR). A Winter Wren at O'Leno S.P. was at its s. limit 27–30 Nov (PBu). Three Wood Thrush reports fell within the narrow window of 15–17 Oct, but another at Gulf Breeze 22–26 Nov (SD) was very late or perhaps wintering. An American Robin was early to Gainesville 9 Sep (MM). Evidently a colonizer from farther s., a Common Myna was seen at Bradenton Beach, *Manatee* 6 Aug+ (JeF).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Statewide, there were 10 reports of 11 Blue-winged Warblers 30 Aug–5 Oct, and 17 reports of 20 Golden-winged Warblers, with multiple counts of 3 at Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 8 Oct (KT) and 2 at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P. 15 Oct (MBe). A Lawrence's-type Warbler graced Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. 29 Sep–1 Oct (CB, JS et al.), and a Brewster's Warbler was nearby at Gainesville 16 Oct (LH). Early was the Orange-crowned Warbler at Gainesville 17 Sep (MM et al.), while one at Castellow Hammock 25 Nov was identified as *celata* (BAh, DP), perhaps the first report in Florida of this subspecies. Nashville Warblers were numerous, with 14 reports 24 Sep–24 Nov from St. Marks to Key Largo; duos were at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P. 1 Oct (JPe et al.) and Key Largo 1–5 Nov (BM et al.). Common inland during early fall, there were 84 Yellow Warblers at Lake Apopka 3 Aug (HR) and 56 at Emerald Marsh 18 Aug (PMA). Five hundred Black-throated Blue Warblers at Coconut Pt. 14 Oct (AB) must have been an amazing sight. An ad. male **Audubon's Warbler** at Ft. De Soto 28 Sep (ph. LA et al.) provided only the 5th Florida record. Four reports of Black-throated Gray Warbler in a season is phenomenal, with singles at Eglin A.F.B., *Okaloosa* 8 Sep (JKo), Gainesville 9 Oct (RR), New Port Richey 31 Oct+ (JMc, KT, ph. et al.), and Ft. Walton Beach 7–11 Nov (BD, DW et al.). Eight Black-throated Green Warblers at Dunedin Hammock 23 Oct (MG) was a nice count of this scarce migrant. Casual in Florida, **Townsend's Warblers** were surprises at Ft. De Soto 3–4 Sep (ph. LA et al.) and Cape Florida 4 Nov (b. RD et al.).

A warbler at Lake Apopka 16 Oct (AV, BPr et al.) was identified as a **Bay-breasted Warbler** × **Yellow-rumped Warbler** hybrid, a very rare combination. Rarely detected along the Gulf Coast in fall, a Blackpoll Warbler was notable

at Ft. De Soto 6 Oct (LA), while a good count of 114 was made at Evergreen Cemetery, Fort Lauderdale 8–9 Oct (MBe). Six reports of Cerulean Warblers 13 Aug–7 Oct were received, all from the peninsula. All four species of *Oporornis* were reported, including one Connecticut Warbler banded at Cape Florida 21 Sep (RD et al.), single Mourning Warblers banded there 21 Sep & 8 Oct (RD et al.), and other Mournings at Spanish River Park 28 Sep (BH), Evergreen Cemetery 29 Sep (MSt), and Jacksonville 4 Nov (JCo, PP). Big news at Cape Florida was the **MacGillivray's Warbler** observed but not banded 22 Sep (†RD). There were 10 reports of Wilson's Warblers statewide 3 Sep–11 Nov, all singles except for up to 2 at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. 1–7 Oct (JBr, MM, AKr). Six single Canada Warblers 5 Sep–3 Oct seemed more than usual. Eight reports of 14 Yellow-breasted Chats were received, with multiples being 3 at Lake Apopka 21 Aug (HR) and 5 at Frog Pond 13 Nov (MBe et al.). Lingering warblers were a Magnolia at Ft. George I. 26 Nov (RC), a Cape May at Newnans L., *Alachua* 12 Nov (TS, RR), Black-throated Blues at Gulf Breeze 12 Nov (BD) and Cedar Key 18 Nov (DH), a Blackburnian at Frog Pond 19 Nov (RT), a Prothonotary at Gulf Breeze 10 Nov (BD), a Louisiana Waterthrush at Gainesville 16 Oct (RR), and a Hooded at Flatwoods Park, *Hillsborough* 5 Nov (BAh). High counts of *Seiurus* warblers at Lake Apopka were 50 Ovenbirds 22 Sep, 120 Northern Waterthrushes 22 Sep, and 23 Louisiana Waterthrushes 21 Aug (HR).

Five reports of Western Tanager were received, all singles: Coconut Pt. 2 Sep (AB), Matheson Hammock Park, *Miami-Dade* 10 Sep (JBo et al.), Ft. George I. 17 Sep (RC), Sarasota 7 Oct (JeD, JPa), and Mead Garden 24 Oct (ph. AV). Clay-colored Sparrows were surprisingly widespread, with 13 reports of 18 individuals beginning 21 Sep, with duos at Ft. Walton Beach 19 Oct (BD), Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. 30 Oct (MM), and Lake Apopka 7 Nov+ (HR), with 3 at Frog Pond 29 Oct–19 Nov (JBo). Lark Sparrows numbered 15 individuals in 10 reports beginning 21 Aug; multiple counts were 2 at Bald Pt. 9–12 Sep (JaD) and 5 at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 24 Sep (GQ). Three Henslow's and 2 Le Conte's Sparrows were at Hague, *Alachua* by 11 Nov (CB, RR et al.). Extralimital Seaside Sparrows were at Ponce Inlet 11 Sep (MBr) and Cape Florida 12 Sep (MD et al.). Lincoln's Sparrows were surprisingly numerous, with nine reports of 16 individuals beginning 15 Oct, the most being 4 at Frog Pond 13 Nov (MBe, JBo et al.). Robinson counted 478 Swamp Sparrows at Lake Apopka 30 Nov. A White-throated Sparrow was far s. to Cape Florida 11 Nov (RD), while

the only Dark-eyed Junco reported was at St. Vincent N.W.R. 11 Nov (TL).

A nearly wholly yellow (xanthistic) male Northern Cardinal was photographed at Coral Springs, Broward 31 Oct (SR). Late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Honeymoon Island S.P. 24 Nov (KN). Late or wintering Blue Grosbeaks were at Bald Pt. 26 Nov (JaD et al.) and Cedar Key 26 Nov (DH). High counts of Indigo Buntings were 115 at Emerald Marsh 18 Oct (PMA) and 300 at Hague 22 Oct (MM, AKe). A Bobolink at the Sarasota Celery Fields 13 Nov (JeD) was late. Rare but regular, Yellow-headed Blackbirds enlivened Ft. Walton Beach 13 Sep (DW) and Hague 11–12 Nov (MM et al.). Single male Shiny Cowbirds were at Cedar Key 21 Aug (RR et al.) and Lake Apopka 12 Sep–28 Oct (HR), while Bronzed Cowbirds were 2 at Cedar Key 21 Aug (SCo et al.) and 4 at Eagle Lakes Park 13 Nov (*vide* CE). A singing male House Finch at Cape Coral, Lee 4 Nov (JG) furnished a new location.

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

A Zebra Finch was at Lake Apopka 7 Sep (HR), and a European Goldfinch, not yet verified in Florida, was at Milton, Santa Rosa in Aug

(MSc). An alternate-plumaged male Pin-tailed Whydah was at Sanibel Lighthouse 11 Sep (VM), and 2 others enlivened Lake Apopka 22 Sep (HR). Finally, a juv. munia of some species was at Frog Pond 28 Aug (JBo).

Cited contributors (members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee in boldface): Brian Ahern (BAh), John Armstrong, **Bruce Anderson** (BAh), Lyn Atherton, Steve Backes, Peggy Baker (PBa), Andy Bankert, Gian Basili, Ted Below, Hilda Bellot, Mark Berney (MBe), Kris Bowman, John Boyd (JBo), Michael Brothers (MBr), Judy Bryan (JBr), Chris Burney, Pat Burns (PBu), Steve Carbol (SCa), Laura Catterton, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Bruce Christensen, Roger Clark, Julie Cocke (JCo), Steve Collins (SCo), Tom Curtis, Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Jack Dozier (JaD), Jeanne Dubi (JeD), **Bob & Lucy Duncan** (B&LD), Scot Duncan, Tom Dunkerton, Jim Duquesnel (JiD), Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Lenny Fenimore (LF), Jeff Fisher (JeF), Judy Fisher (JuF), David Freeland, Liz Golden, David Goodwin, Paul & Laurie Gray (P&LG), Jon Greenlaw, Jack & Liz Hailman (J&LH), Al & **Bev Hansen** (A&BH), Alex Harper, Mark

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Bill Pranty, 8515 Village Mill Row, Bayonet Point, Florida 34667, (billpranty@hotmail.com)

Ontario



Margaret J. C. Bain

The fall was pleasantly mild over most of the province. August was rather hot and humid in the south, with little evidence of any start to migration. The immense strength with which Hurricane *Katrina* hit the Gulf Coast at the end of August had dissipated by the time the storm reached Ontario, and there were unexpectedly few hurricane-

blown strays. September remained warm and pleasant, and clear nights allowed vigorous southbound migration. A brief but intense cold front at the end of the first week of October brought a massive grounding of passerines in many areas and stimulated raptor movement. Milder temperatures returned and persisted through the first three weeks of November. The waters of the Great Lakes remained unusually warm through the fall, delaying the departure of many southbound waterfowl; the arrival of more northern species was likewise late. Bitterly cold winds and snow in the last week of November abruptly announced the arrival of winter even in the south of the province.

One of the most interesting features of the season was the huge chickadee flight, first noticeable in August but gathering momentum to peak in the second half of October. Thousands of birds streamed westward along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and the Bruce Peninsula—perhaps the largest flight ever recorded. Most of these birds were Black-capped, accompanied by only a few Boreal Chickadees. On treeless Gull Island in Lake Ontario, Merlins were catching and eating

chickadees on the wing, like dragonflies, and an observer found himself, his notebook, and his scope covered in frightened birds seeking shelter from the predators!

The chickadee flight may have been the result of an exceptionally good breeding season, mirrored by some other species, including Rusty Blackbirds, which appeared in gratifyingly high numbers after what has appeared to be a serious population decline in the past few decades; flocks of hundreds were seen at Point Pelee in November on an almost daily basis. The now-expected November Cave Swallow passage was the largest ever recorded in the province but still did not match the many hundreds seen just south of the border.

Hawk migration was sluggish early in the season because of continuing warm weather, but good flights later yielded some high numbers of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and American Kestrels. Two juvenile Swainson's Hawks lingered for several days in the Onion Fields at Point Pelee in September. A male Anhinga, Ontario's third, was an exciting find for hawkwatchers at Holiday Beach in late September. There was an intriguing report of a frigatebird over Lake Huron off the Bruce