



Bruce H. Anderson

It was another rather mild winter, with barely freezing temperatures reaching south to Orlando only once, in February. The season was also drier than normal, the central and southern regions of the peninsula ending the season with a deficit of about 8 cm, which sparked wildfires fueled by the debris of two brutal hurricane seasons. In some areas of the western panhandle and southern peninsula, where vegetation has been severely impacted by recent hurricanes, resident birds were extremely scarce. Conspicuously absent were any Bahamian and/or Antillean vagrants.

Abbreviations/definitions: E.N.P. (Everglades N.P.); F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); N.S.R.A. (North Shore Restoration Area, Orange); report (any observation); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); UF (Florida State Museum).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CARACARA

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to increase in the n., with high counts of 17 in Leon (Don Bethancourt, *vide* TE) and 159 in Alachua (Dan Pearson). Greater White-fronted Geese were widespread, with one in Okaloosa 10–19 Dec (DWA, RAD et al.), 2 in Hamilton 12 Nov (JK), 2 in Levy 2 Dec (Jape Taylor), 5 in Orange 17 Dec–7 Jan (Gian Basili et al.), 5 in Hendry 27 Jan at Diner Island Ranch W.M.A. (Tim & Lesa Pan-

to), and one in Palm Beach 25 Feb at Loxahatchee N.W.R. (ph. John J. Lopinot). Snow Geese penetrated s. to Highlands in Dec (C.B.C.) and to n. Sarasota, where about 30 were in flight 17 Jan (Tina Mossbarger). One Snow Goose was seen captured by an American Alligator at St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla (Harry Hooper)! Unprecedented, 9 Ross's Geese were in Okaloosa 10–19 Dec (L&RAD et al., ph. PJ), while singles visited Wakulla Nov–17 Dec (PLh et al.) and Brevard 17 Dec–3 Jan (DF et al., ph. Tom Dunkerton). One small white goose in Pasco (BP et al.)

was believed to be a Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrid (F.O.S.R.C.). If accepted by the F.O.S.R.C., a small white-cheeked goose in Okaloosa 10 Dec–14 Jan will be Florida's 3rd verified Cackling Goose (L&RAD et al., ph. PJ). Nearly annual, an American Brant was at Canaveral N.S., Volusia 18 Feb (Tad Fyock, BW). Single Eurasian Wigeons were in Brevard 13 Jan (BR) and Polk 18–20 Dec (LAI), with 2 in Collier 9 Nov (AM). Lone Cinnamon Teal visited Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., Orange 4 & 9 Dec (HR) and Brandon, Hillsborough 18 Dec–2 Feb (EK et al.).

For a 2nd year, a male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was at Gainesville, Alachua 27 Jan–10 Feb (BRo, PBU et al.), while another paused at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 22 Jan (HR). Inland, 4 Greater Scaup were at Hamilton

Gulf, while on the Atlantic, 2 Surfs were found far s. at Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade 23 Dec (Roberto Torres et al., ph. TR), and there was a high count of 42 at Cocoa, Brevard (C.B.C.). The season's only White-winged Scoter was at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Pinellas 18 Dec (Wilf Yusek et al.). In good numbers on the Atlantic coast, 320 Black Scoters were s. to Hutchinson I., St. Lucie 17 Dec (J&EH); most unusual were 2 Black Scoters in downtown Pensacola, Escambia 17 Dec (RAD et al.), and a high count of 520 came from waters off Amelia I., Nassau 14 Dec (PLh). The only reported Long-tailed Duck was one inland at Hamilton mines 12–17 Dec (JK, PLh). A female Bufflehead 21 Jan+ was only the 2nd for Broward (MBe). Common Goldeneyes staged a minor inland invasion, with 2 at Hamilton mines 14 Dec (PLh) and singles at Tallahassee, Leon 30 Dec (SM), Gainesville 14–15 Dec (Scott Flamand, RR et al.), Tangerine 20 Dec–8 Feb (ph. AV, DR et al.), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 Dec–28 Jan (HR, ph. AV), and Viera Wetlands, Brevard 10 Dec (Diane Reed).

Three Red-throated Loons were in Duval and one was at Merritt I., Brevard in Dec (C.B.C.). Gulfside, up to 4 visited Franklin in Jan (JM, Rodney Cassidy et al.). Common Loons strayed far s. to Monroe, with 2 in the Florida Straits off Long Key 20 Jan (BHA et al.) and 2 at Key West 31 Dec (C.B.C.). Mulroony reported that Commons were unusually plentiful in Florida Bay, with 6 near Cow-



Florida's first European Herring Gull (split from North American *smithsonianus* by European ornithologists) frequented a Volusia County landfill 11–21 (here 15) February 2006. Photographs by Lyn Atherton.



mines 14 Dec (PLh), 2 were at L. Dora, Lake 20 Dec (AV, DR), and up to 5 were s. in the Zellwood/Tangerine area, Orange 2 Dec–19 Feb (HR, AV et al.), these reports roughly approximating the species' s. limits along both coasts. A lone Surf Scoter at St. Marks N.W.R. 13 Dec (PLh) was the only report from the

pens Key 16 Dec.

Apparently no Eared Grebes wintered; singles visited Hamilton mines 12 & 14 Dec (JK, PLh) and Auburndale, Polk 20 Dec (PF, LA). Very rarely reported, 4 Manx Shearwaters were seen 74 km off Ponce Inlet, Volusia 1 Jan (BW, MBr). A moribund Masked Booby at

SA Florida's migratory **Whooping Crane** population increased by 19 this season, as ultra-light aircraft guided these yearlings to Chassahowitzka N.W.R., *Citrus* from Wisconsin's Necedah N.W.R. Of the presumed still-extant 41 Whooping Cranes that had been led to Florida during the previous four years, 33 returned to Florida this season, while others wintered in Tennessee (4), North Carolina (one), South Carolina (one), and 2 were lost to tracking after reaching Alabama and Tennessee. The first 2 cranes to return to Florida reached *Madison* 15 Nov, with 5 more arriving in *Citrus* four days later. The first 2 cranes to begin their return flight left Florida on 2 Feb (<www.operationmigration.org/Field_Journal.html>).

Ponce Inlet 9 Dec died the same day (*fide* MBR; *UF 45042, *fide* TW). Farther s., at Jupiter Colony Inlet, *Palm Beach*, a live Brown Booby was seen 20 Dec (J&EH). At Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe*, 32 Masked and 48 Brown Boobies were counted 4 Jan (C.B.C.). Lone Brown Pelicans were inland in *Leon* 25 Jan and 10 Feb (GM et al.), *Alachua* 27 Dec (Helen Warren), and *Polk* 2 Dec (Tom Palmer). Stunning in alternate plumage, a Great Cormorant remained on Doctor's L., *Clay*, off the St. Johns R. 23 Feb+ (Dianne Wears et al., ph. AV). A tardy Magnificent Frigatebird was over coastal *Duval* 15 Dec (RCI). A brightly plumaged Scarlet Ibis photographed at Ft. Myers Beach, *Lee* this season was likely the same one seen sporadically over several years and believed to be an escapee (ph. John Dougherty, *fide* CE). Now annual, a White-faced Ibis was identified at St. Marks N.W.R. 8 Dec (Andy Wraithmell et al.), and 3 were at Micanopy, *Alachua* 25 Feb+ (JoH, AK et al.). Greater Flamingos were not located anywhere in Florida this season and have not been reported in the state since the passage of Hurricane *Wilma* (*fide* BM). The species has been reported nearly annually since the 1950s at Snake Bight, E.N.P., but *Wilma* devastated the Park 24 Oct 2005.

The earliest Swallow-tailed Kites were 2 noted in *Pinellas* 26 Feb (JF). Single White-tailed Kites, scarce in Florida, were spotted at Hole-in-the-Donut, E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 4 Dec (JHB), near Lake Placid, *Highlands* 29 Dec (C.B.C.), on Sanibel I., *Lee* 15 Jan (Kay & Paul Kiefer), along Canoe Creek Rd., *Osceola* 8 Feb (B&LC), and in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* 22 Feb (GQ). A Snail Kite remained far n. at L. Tsala Apopka, *Citrus* 18 Jan (Frank Aumack), where at least one pair nested last summer. The only Broad-winged Hawks reported n. of the s. peninsula were 3 at Ft. De Soto C.P., *Pinellas* (LAt), one in *Hillsborough*, and 2 in s. *Brevard* (C.B.C.). A Short-tailed Hawk at I.M.C. Peace River Park, *Polk* 21 Jan was early (PF et al.). Rare in the panhandle, a migrant Swainson's Hawk was at Ft. Walton Beach Sewage Facility 10 Dec (RAD et al., ph. PJ), while up to 2 lingered at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20 Dec–16 Jan (ph. AV). A Swainson's at Brandon 5 Feb (Chris Rasmussen) was likely an early migrant. A very rare Golden Eagle was seen attempting to kill a Wild Turkey at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

S.P. 20 Feb (GQ). A Crested Caracara at Turtle Mound, Canaveral N.S., *Volusia* 23 Feb (ph. PH) was ne. of its known breeding range.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Surprising were single Yellow Rails flushed at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 28 Jan (Jim McGinity et al.) and 23 Feb (GQ et al.). A



This apparent Cackling Goose in Okaloosa County, Florida 10 December 2005 (here) through 14 January 2006, pictured here with one of nine Ross's Geese also present, will provide Florida's second record. Photograph by Paul Johnson.

Sandhill Crane over Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 1 Dec (PL) was far e. of usual areas.

Rare in winter, up to 3 American Golden-Plovers were at Hole-in-the-Donut, E.N.P. 21–22 Dec (RD et al.), and singles were at St. Marks N.W.R. 1 Dec–29 Jan (JCa et al.) and Merritt Island N.W.R. 19 Dec (C.B.C.) and 1 Feb (DF). Rare on the Atlantic coast, a Snowy Plover visited Talbot Island S.P., *Duval* 23 & 26 Dec (PL). For the 2nd year, the high count of Piping Plovers (38) occurred at Crandon Beach, *Miami-Dade* 31 Jan (RD). Rare in the panhandle, lone American Oystercatchers were found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 8 Dec

(RAD) and Pensacola 17 Dec (Jan Lloyd) Black-necked Stilts were widespread, with up to 19 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., *Lake* (AV, BHA) and Sarasota (C.B.C.) throughout the season. Other stilts were reported at Merritt Island N.W.R. (DF, PH), *Polk* mines (PT, CG) Myakka S.P., *Sarasota* (BHA et al.), and on C.B.C.s in *Wakulla*, *Seminole/Volusia*, *Manatee*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Monroe*. Two Long-billed Curlews were spotted at Cedar Key, *Levy* 29 Dec (DH et al.), one was found at Ft. Myers Beach 17 Jan (BHA et al.), and 2 wintered at Ft. De Soto C.P. (LAt). Purple Sandpipers occupied the usual jetties along the Atlantic coast as far s. as Sebastian Inlet S.R.A., *Indian River* (one bird; Frank Haas, *fide* Dotty Hull) American Woodcocks were very much in evidence this season, with reports from *Santa Rosa* (RAD), *Jackson* (RoS), *Wakulla* (SM), *Levy* (DH), *Hernando* (A&BH), *Seminole* (BHA), *Orange* (HR), *Pinellas* (JF), and *Miami-Dade* (MBe et al.), as well as on C.B.C.s in *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Bay*, *Leon*, *Franklin*, *Alachua*, *Duval*, *Pasco*, *Brevard*, and *Highlands*

A Franklin's Gull was found near Sanibel 14 Jan (CE). The *Volusia* landfill attracted an unprecedented 3 Iceland Gulls (2 first-winter birds and Florida's first verified second-winter) 11–21 Feb (ph. AV, ph. BW et al.). Also present were at least 8 apparent Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrids and Florida's first European Herring Gull (*Larus [a.] argentatus*; second-winter) 11–21 Feb (ph. AV, ph. LAt et al.) Only casual inland, a Great Black-backed Gull was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 Jan (HR) More than 5 Great Black-backed wintered along the Gulf in *Pinellas* (LA), and one wintered as far s. as Key West (C.B.C.). A Black Tern at Merritt Island N.W.R. 6 Dec (RD), and a Common Tern in *Pinellas* 17 Dec (DP) were late. Rare in winter, 3 Sooty Terns were observed on 4 Jan at Dry Tortugas N.P. (C.B.C.)

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A White-crowned Pigeon strayed n. to Ft. Lauderdale, *Broward* 18 Dec (C.B.C.). White-

SA During the 1980s, the Smooth-billed Ani population in Florida began a steady decline; causes for this crash are a matter of speculation, but a series of strong cold fronts may have been responsible for at least some of the local extirpations (see Mlodinow, S. G., and K. T. Karlson. 1999. Anis in the United States and Canada. *N.A.B.* 53: 237–245). The northward flow of immigrants, probably from the West Indies through the Dry Tortugas and the Keys, has apparently abated, as anis have rarely been reported at those locales since the decline began. More recently, the once reliable flock in *Broward* known to many birders was reduced to a single pair that bred last summer; the ads. and their 4 young survived Hurricane *Wilma* in Oct, but they have not been reported more recently. The Tropical Audubon Society Miami Bird Board (<www.tropicalaudubon.org>) has posted several recent Smooth-billed Ani sightings: at least 2 were seen near Miami Springs, *Miami-Dade* in Nov; one was seen near Loxahatchee N.W.R. 16 Dec; and one was photographed near Cutler Ridge, *Miami-Dade* in Apr. In addition, a single was located at Kendall in Mar (Bill Boeringer). An unidentified ani in *Brevard* 18 Dec may have been Smooth-billed (RP et al.). Single Groove-billed Anis were seen at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 9 Dec (HR) and 29 Jan (RCI). Smooth-billed Ani is holding on, but at present, there appears to be no reliable location where this species can be found. Although still widespread in the Caribbean, the species should be considered endangered in the United States.

winged Doves continue to expand their range northward in *Alachua* and westward to Bronson, *Levy*, where 2 were found 13 Feb (RR). Apparent w. migrant White-wingeds were in *Wakulla* 17 Dec (C.B.C.) and at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 19 Jan (SM).

A Burrowing Owl was captured 13 Feb in a parking lot on a barrier island at Vero Beach, *Indian River* (*vide* Billi Wagner), where the species is not known to breed. A census of the very isolated Eglin A.F.B., *Okaloosa* colony on 15 Jan turned up 15 Burrowing Owls (Lenny Fenimore). A Lesser Nighthawk briefly paused at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 Dec (HR). On 3 Dec, at least 12 Lessers returned to Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* (BRo), and 2 were at nearby Long Pine Key, E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 20 Dec (C.B.C.), both traditional wintering sites. One Lesser was found n. on a *Broward* C.B.C. 28 Dec. Reported almost annually, **Common Nighthawks** have eluded verification until this season, when 2 were seen, heard and video/audio-recorded in Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 14 Dec (*vr.* LM). Elsewhere, up to 3 nighthawks were seen at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 28 Dec+; a Common was heard there 2 Jan (BHA, AV). From farther s. near Kissimmee, *Osceola* came a report of up to 9 nighthawks in Jan (*vide* BP). Rare in winter in the n., a Chuck-will's-widow was flushed at St. Marks N.W.R. 29 Dec (RoS), while the first of the season reported singing was at Merritt I. 27 Feb (DF). Reports of *Chaetura* swifts came from *Alachua* (up to 20, 9 Dec–5 Jan; SC, JoH et al.), *Wakulla* (one, 17–20 Dec; ES), and *Hernando* (one, 10 Dec; Clay Black); all birds were identified as Vaux's by one or more of the observers; however, the F.O.S.R.C. has not accepted any reports of this species that it has reviewed. One must consider the possibility that at least some of these swifts were Chimney Swifts left over from Hurricane *Wilma*.

Again this winter, Fred Bassett canvassed n. and cen. Florida, banding hummingbirds. Handling six species, he banded 68 of the 82 that he captured (the remainder were recaptured Ruby-throated [7] and Rufous Hummingbirds [7]). Single Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were banded in *Okaloosa* and *Leon*. Twenty-two of 31 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 30 of 39 Rufous Hummingbirds and 6 of 7 Black-chinned Hummingbirds captured ranged from Pensacola to Tallahassee. Bassett banded other Rufous in *Alachua* (7) and *Hernando* (2), one Black-chinned in *Hernando*,

one Calliope Hummingbird in *Leon* (26 Jan), and 2 Allen's Hummingbirds in *Leon* (14 Jan and 22 Feb). Another Buff-bellied (20 Jan+; ph. Mark Faherty, LM et al.) and at least one Black-chinned (31 Dec+; LM et al.) were at Miami. A Ruby-throated visited Fernandina Beach 18 Jan (PL), where the species is occasional in winter. Other Rufous/Allen's were reported at *Orange* (Helen Dowling), *Brevard* (ph. RP), and *Hillsborough* (EK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Least Flycatchers were reported n. to *Orange*, with a high count of 9 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Dec (HR) and *Seminole*, where a



This Iceland Gull was one of three at a Volusia County landfill 11-21 (here 11) February 2006 and was the first in second-winter plumage to be verified for the state. Photograph by Alex Vinokur.

total of 5 was counted at two locations (BHA; C.B.C.). Vermilion Flycatchers returned to previous winter territories in *Miami-Dade* (JHB), *Hamilton* (JK et al.), *Alachua* (JS, RR et al.), and *Wakulla* (ES, JM et al.). Elsewhere, migrant Vermilions were at *Santa Rosa* 11–12 Dec (Larry Tilley et al.) and St. Vincent I., *Franklin* 9 Dec (Thomas E. Lewis). Ash-throated Flycatchers were not widely reported this season, although a high count of 12 came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 23 Dec (HR). Single Ash-throateds were found in *Seminole* (BHA), *Santa Rosa* (DWa), and *Okaloosa* (RAD). Also at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., 2 Brown-crested Flycatchers were seen 28 Dec-9 Jan (BHA, HR). Another Brown-crested was at Black Point Marina, *Miami-Dade* 24–26 Dec (LM et al.).

A **Tropical Kingbird** was audio-recorded at Apalachicola, *Franklin* 27 Dec–8 Feb (TE et al.). Up to 2 Cassin's Kingbirds were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 11 Dec+ (HR), with another in s. *Hillsborough* 18 Dec–6 Feb (BP, ph. LA et al.). The best-known kingbird roost in the cen. peninsula is located near Lake Apopka

N.S.R.A., where up to 36 Westerns and 8 Scissor-taileds gathered 11 Dec+ (HR, BHA et al.). Two new roosts were discovered this season: one to the s. near Bartow, *Polk* was not revealed until 15 Mar, when 32 Western and 5 Scissor-taileds were reported (CG et al.), and up to 37 Westerns and 4 Scissor-taileds used a roost at The Villages, *Marion*, noted 18 Jan+ (James Dinsmore, Al Rouch), the northernmost kingbird roost known in Florida. Only of casual occurrence farther n., a Western Kingbird visited Tallahassee 28 Dec–21 Jan, as did a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 7–22 Jan (SM et al.). A Scissor-tailed was n. at Gainesville 29 Jan (Dee Thompson). The most exciting flycatcher of the season was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 10 Dec–15 Jan (ph. AV, DR et al.), the first for winter in Florida.

In *Miami-Dade*, a Bell's Vireo wintered at Frog Pond W.M.A. (RD, LM et al.), as did a Yellow-throated Vireo (JHB), while an early migrant Bell's appeared at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 28 Feb (RD). On C.B.C.s, Yellow-throateds were in *Pinellas*, *Hillsborough*, *Sarasota*, *Collier*, *Miami-Dade* (3), and *Monroe* (3). Smith reported the season's earliest Purple Martins (3) at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. 14 Jan and first Northern Rough-winged Swallows (2) at Lake City, *Columbia* 28 Jan. The last Bank Swallow was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 13 Dec (HR), and the earliest to return was 28 Feb at Viera Wetlands (DF). A Cave Swallow of the subspecies *pelodoma* was at Cantonment, *Escambia* 8 Jan (Laura Catterton, *vide* RAD), and farther e., one was at St. Marks N.W.R. 22 Feb (GM et al.). Three Barn Swallows were late in *Alachua* 19 Dec (RR, G. McDermott). Early Barns were singles in *Brevard* 27 Feb (DF) and *Hernando* 28 Feb (A&BH), while "several" at Homestead 15 Jan (JHB, BM) may have wintered. More than 322 km s. of its nearest known breeding range, a Carolina Chickadee continued at Greynold's Park, *Miami-Dade* throughout the season (AHR, PBI et al.). Lone Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Alligator Pt. 12 Dec–17 Jan (JM) and Gainesville 10–30 Jan (Steve Daniels). Winter Wrens were reported at their usual haunts in *Jackson* (PF, DB), *Leon* (PLh), and *Columbia* (PBu et al.). Two Marsh Wrens at Dry Tortugas 4 Jan were the first for the N.P. (RD). Two Hermit Thrushes were far s. at E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 16 Jan (RD), as were several American Pipits heard at Frog Pond W.M.A. 7 Jan (JHB).

Twenty-three species of warblers were reported this season. Single late Blue-winged Warblers were in *Broward* 11 Dec (AHR, PBI et al.) and at Weeki Wachee, *Hernando* 23 Dec (BH, Rita Grant), while one at West L., E.N.P., *Monroe* 22 Jan and 14 Feb (MBe, Monte Stickel) may have wintered. Tennessee Warblers were late on 17 Dec in *Brevard* (DF et al.), *Seminole* (C.B.C.), and *Miami-Dade* (JHB, Greg Jones). Single Tennessee Warblers at two locations in *Miami-Dade* 10 Jan (JHB) and 5 Feb (TR) may have wintered. Lone wintering Nashville Warblers were found in *Seminole* 5 Jan (ph. PH), Jacksonville, *Duval* 6 Jan and 25 Feb (JCo), Matheson Hammock, *Miami-Dade* 8 Jan (AHR), Mashes I., *Franklin* 8 Jan (JM), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20 Jan+ (HR), and L. Washington, *Brevard* 21 Jan (AB). Five Nashvilles reported from *Okaloosa* to *Miami-Dade* 11–19 Dec (Jim Kowalski, AV, AHR et al., JHB et al., C.B.C.) may have been late migrants. The earliest migrant Northern Parulas were in *Miami-Dade* 31 Jan (RD). Yellow Warblers were reported on C.B.C.s n. to Lake Placid, Apalachicola, and Pensacola. Three Black-throated Blue Warblers at Merritt I. 17 Dec (DF et al.) were late. A fall Black-throated Gray Warbler at New Port Richey, *Pasco* was last seen 16 Dec, and there was a one-day wonder at Gainesville 13 Feb (Grace Kiltie).

A Black-throated Green Warbler was found far n. in *Columbia* 21 Jan (JS). A Prairie Warbler at St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 17 Feb (Jacqueline Kern) was early, as was an American Redstart at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 14 Feb (HR). A redstart was late at Gainesville 18 Dec (Scott Robinson), and one wintered n. at Oakland Nature Preserve, *Orange* (TR). An Ovenbird was discovered n. at Orange Park, *Clay* 10 Jan (Lenore McCullagh). Northern Waterthrushes wintered n. to *Alachua* (Mike Paczolt et al.); Robinson counted 13 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 15 Jan. Very rare in winter, a Louisiana Waterthrush remained throughout the season at Gumbo Limbo Trail, E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* (JHB et al.), and one was seen father s. at Coot Bay, *Monroe* on the C.B.C. Wilson's Warblers were reported from *Duval* (JCo), *Hamilton* (JA), *Alachua* (MM, RR), *Seminole* (BHA), and *Orange* (HR). Yellow-breasted Chats were found n. to *Alachua* (A. Kent). Wintering Summer Tanagers were reported n. to Tallahassee (2; Peter Homann, RM), Pensacola (RAD et al.), and *Polk* (PF et al.); one in

Alachua 18 Dec (PBu) was late. A Western Tanager photographed at Pensacola remained 24 Jan+ (fide RAD).

Up to 8 Clay-colored Sparrows were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 9 Dec+ (HR), while one in *Hillsborough* wintered at a feeder (Steve Backes). A Vesper Sparrow was far s. at Frog Pond W.M.A. 7 Jan (JHB). Unexpected were 26 Henslow's Sparrows banded at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. (PMi et al.); others were reported on Christmas counts in *Hamilton*, *Alachua* (2), and *Hillsborough*. Up to 4 Le Conte's Sparrows were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 18–21 Dec (BHA, AV); one was identified at *Polk* mines 9 Jan (PT, CG), and



Probably annual in winter in extreme southern Florida, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully documented by the photographer this season (here 28 February 2006) in Florida Bay. Photograph by Brennan Mulrooney.

2 were banded at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 20 Jan and 22 Feb (GQ). The only Fox Sparrows reported were 2 at O'Leno S.P., *Columbia* 5–25 Feb (PBu, MM). Lincoln Sparrows were widespread, with reports from *Levy* (MG), *Orange* (HR, AV), *Polk* (PF et al.), *Palm Beach* (MBe, B. Hope), *Miami-Dade* (JHB), and on counts in *Franklin*, *Alachua*, *Brevard*, and *Sarasota*. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa* 19 Dec (Pat Baker) and Research Rd., E.N.P., *Miami-Dade* 22 Dec (RD) were late, whereas singles at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 5 & 14 Feb (HR) were likely early migrants. Three rare Black-headed Grosbeaks were found in the e. panhandle: at Panama City Beach, *Bay* (Tony Menart) 29 Dec, at Apalachicola the same day (JaD, JM, ph. John Spohrer), and at East Point, *Franklin* 10 Jan+ (ph. Sheila Klink, fide JaD). Photographs of the *Franklin* grosbeaks show them to be different individuals. With winter numbers increasing annually, an unprecedented 30 Blue Grosbeaks at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 Dec was nevertheless almost predictable (AV); one was at Lake

Wales, *Polk* 31 Dec (PF, DB), and on the C.B.C., 2 were at Lake Placid and one at Key West. Dickcissels were reported in *Alachua* (A. Kent, SC), *Orange* (up to 3; BHA, AV), and *Sarasota* (Rick Greenspun).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was photographed at Joe Overstreet Landing, *Osceola* 18 Jan (Tom Tams), while one was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 26 Dec–6 Jan (HR). Also reported by Robinson at Lake Apopka was a very rare Brewer's Blackbird 6 & 22 Jan. Rusty Blackbirds reported included a loner in *Franklin* 11 Dec (RM) and 50 in *Hamilton* 17 Dec (C.B.C.). Bronzed Cowbirds were noticeably absent at their usual locations this season, with only one report of a single in *Collier* 28 Dec (AM). A female Bullock's Oriole was well studied at Tallahassee 18–28 Feb (Fran Rutkousky et al.). Pine Siskins were scarce, with singles reported in *Leon* (Jan Clark Jones) and *Alachua* (Becky Enneis, Bob Carroll, MM).

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