

NOTES

Recent occurrences of "storm waifs" in Polk County, Florida.—In the wake of hurricanes and severe storms, birds rare for a region frequently occur in Florida's coastal areas. Such bird displacements are much less common in interior areas; however, in recent years there have been three such instances in central Polk County. Some of the following birds sighted have been published in *American Birds* and elsewhere (*Lake Region Audubon Society Newsletters* and *Lake Region Naturalist*, 1985-1986), but others have not. This note presents a summary of the sightings, and except where noted, are my own.

On 18 June 1982, the day of a violent storm, six Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*), third county record, were observed flying low over Dundee by T. Palmer.

Tropical storm Isadore passed through Polk County on 27 September 1984. The next day, a Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), rare locally, and a Blackpoll (*Dendroica striata*), rare locally in the fall, were sighted at Saddle Creek Park east of Lakeland. On the same date, a Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), first county record, was present at the Clear Springs Phosphate Mine in Bartow. On 30 September, an American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*), first interior central Florida sighting, was seen on a Lake Ariana (Auburndale) boat dock (Atherton and Atherton 1985, *Amer. Birds* 39: 43-46).

Hurricane Elena stalled just off Florida's west coast from 31 August to 1 September 1985. Strong winds swept the Tampa Bay area and Polk County. A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen by K. Reusch near Lakeland Highlands late on 31 August. That evening, J. Edscom noted 15 frigatebirds roosting in trees at a small remote lake northwest of Lakeland. On the following day, observers reported at least 127 frigatebirds (Atherton and Atherton 1986, *Amer. Birds* 40: 100-104). Most were flying at treetop level into a stiff breeze out of the south. The birds were seen throughout the day at eight separate locations by several people: 4 birds at 0800 hr, downtown Winter Haven (S. Bassett); 1 bird at 0900 hr, Lake Hollingsworth, Lakeland (T. Palmer); 6 birds at 1000 hr, east of Bartow (T. Palmer); 13 birds at 1030 hr, southeast Winter Haven (S. Bassett); 5 birds at 1130 hr, northeast Winter Haven (H. Eastman); 64 birds at 1300-1345 hr, Saddle Creek Park and vicinity east of Lakeland (P. Fellers, C. Geanangel, B. and L. Cooper); 13 birds at 1500-1600 hr, downtown Winter Haven (H. Eastman); 16 birds at 1600-1700 hr, Winter Haven to Homeland along Route 17 (H. Eastman and O. Hendrickson); 4 birds at 1600 hr, Kosuthville (T. Palmer); and 1 bird at 1900 hr feeding over Lake Alfred (C. Geanangel). Other apparent storm-driven birds found 1 September were a Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*), rare inland, and a Common Tern (*S. hirundo*), first record for Polk County (Atherton and Atherton 1986), on a Lake Ariana boat dock (P. Fellers, B. and L. Cooper). An hour later, C. Geanangel observed a second Common Tern on the same dock. On 2 September, a Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) and 19 Wilson's Phalaropes (*Phalaropus tricolor*) were seen at the Clear Springs Phosphate mine by P. Fellers and S. Bassett; both species are nearly annual visitors to the area but both the timing of these sightings and the exceptionally high numbers of phalaropes suggested that their occurrence was due to the storm.

In summary, several rare species of birds, some in large numbers, have been reported in Polk County as a result of recent severe storms. Three of these sightings represented first county records.

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