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St. Augustine Christmas Bird Count 1988

ROBERT W. LOFTIN

University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd., South,
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Due to circumstances beyond the control of most of the participants, the St. Augustine, Florida, Christmas Bird Count for 1988 was not submitted on time and failed to be published in *American Birds*. One of the values of the annual Christmas bird counts is they can provide a sample of winter bird populations in a given area on a long-term basis. Therefore, a hiatus in the data for an entire year lessens the value of the entire mass of data by an appreciable amount. For this reason it is desirable to make these data available to investigators. The results of the 1988 St. Augustine count were as follows:

Date: 17 December, 1988; 05:00-19:45 hrs. Temperature 30 to 52 F. (-1 to 11.1 C.), wind N-NW, 10-23 mph (16-37 kph). Twenty-two observers in 8 parties: owling 5.5 miles (8.8 km), non-owling 31.3 miles (50 km). Total party hours: 76.5; total party miles 370.5 (592.8 km); 18 hours and 315.5 miles by car (507.2 km); 50 hours and 19 miles (30.4 km) on foot; 34 miles (54.4 km) and 8.5 hours by boat.

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 8; Pied-billed Grebe 24; Northern Gannet 19; American White Pelican 26; Brown Pelican 596; Double-crested Cormorant 391; Great Blue Heron 125; Great Egret 137; Snowy Egret 104; Little Blue Heron 70; Tricolored Heron 53; Cattle Egret 2; Green-backed Heron 8; Black-crowned Night-Heron 152; White Ibis 245; Wood Stork 37; Wood Duck 11; Green-winged Teal 7; Am. Black Duck 2; Mallard 50; Ring-necked Duck 3; Lesser Scaup 10; Hooded Merganser 72; **Common Merganser** 1 (careful study, Loftin party); Red-breasted Merganser 128; Ruddy Duck 1; duck sp. 7; Black Vulture 17; Turkey Vulture 129; Osprey 19; Bald Eagle 3 (2 adult, 1 immature); Northern Harrier 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 2; accipiter sp. 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 32; American Kestrel 29; Merlin 1; Northern Bobwhite 1; Clapper Rail 48; Sora 4; Common Moorhen 33; American Coot 8; Black-bellied Plover 99; Wilson's Plover

5; Semipalmated Plover 141; Piping Plover 10; Killdeer 48; American Oystercatcher 18; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Lesser Yellowlegs 41; Willet 253; Spotted Sandpiper 5; Whimbrel 22; Ruddy Turnstone 219; Red Knot 9; Sanderling 103; W. Sandpiper 83; Least Sandpiper 6; Purple Sandpiper 1; Dunlin 535; peep sp. 3; Short-billed Dowitcher 692; Common Snipe 4; Woodcock 1; Laughing Gull 2187; Bonaparte's Gull 35; Ring-billed Gull 2598; Herring Gull 1043; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 23; gull sp. 350; Caspian Tern 46; Royal Tern 589; Sandwich Tern 13; Forster's Tern 972; Black Skimmer 1030; Rock Dove 252; Mourning Dove 448; Common Ground-Dove 18; Black-hooded Parakeet 2; E. Screech-Owl 9; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 46; Red-bellied Woodpecker 34; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Northern Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Eastern Phoebe 18; Tree Swallow 55; Blue Jay 72; American Crow 22; Fish Crow 14; Carolina Chickadee 3; Tufted Titmouse 25; Carolina Wren 25; House Wren 7; Sedge Wren 3; Marsh Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 73; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6; E. Bluebird 11; Hermit Thrush 3; Am. Robin 26; Gray Catbird 10; Northern Mockingbird 72; Brown Thrasher 1; Cedar Waxwing 1; Loggerhead Shrike 12; European Starling 323; White-eyed Vireo 5; Solitary Vireo 5; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1421; Yellow-throated Warbler 2; Pine Warbler 7; Palm Warbler 21 Black-and-white Warbler 2; Common Yellowthroat 4; Northern Cardinal 73; Rufous-sided Towhee 21; Bachman's Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow 58; Vesper Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 32; Seaside Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 5; Swamp Sparrow 3; sparrow sp. 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Red-winged Blackbird 1076; E. Meadowlark 2; Rusty Blackbird 150; Boat-tailed Grackle 243; Common Grackle 289; Brown-headed Cowbird 25; American Goldfinch 7; House Sparrow 6.

A total of 17,901 birds of 137 species were observed during the count. The following individuals participated in the 1988 Christmas bird count: Pete and Jessica Ahmed, Paul Beiderwell, Mary Davidson, Ruth Erke, Greg Gilbert, Rhoda Josephson, Robert Loftin, Cliff Petit, Peggy Powell, Diane Reed, Bob Richter, Bud and Skeeter Rottman, Loren Stein, Irene Stone, Esther and Robert Vermouth, Diane and Robert Wears, Terry West, Jim Wheat.

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Predation of Domestic Fowl Eggs by Red-bellied Woodpeckers

SAMUEL P. RODGERS, JR.
Route 3, Box 398,
Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

At my farm in Beulah Community, Kingstree, Williamsburg County, South Carolina, during 1957 and 1964, I found Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes carolinus*) eating the contents of the eggs of Domestic Fowl (*Gallus gallus*). During the first period (June-August 1957) I found 72 eggs punctured by two female Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The chickens were nesting in an array of 16 open-sided wooden nest boxes placed on the side of a small shed (average height of the boxes = 1.5 m). On numerous occasions, the woodpeckers were seen flying directly to unattended nests from nearby trees. They then pecked holes (5-7 mm in diameter) in the sides of the eggs, and consumed the eggs' contents while perched