

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Florida Field Naturalist 27(3):130-140, 1999.

Winter report: December 1998-February 1999.—The observations listed here are based on rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds reported to the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Field Observations Committee (FOC). As these reports are not reviewed formally, they may be considered tentative.

Significant reports are welcomed for inclusion in future issues of this section. Reports should include the following information: species, number of individuals, age and sex of the bird(s), color morph if applicable, location (including county), date, observer(s), and significance of the report. Reporting periods are winter (December-February), spring (March-May), summer (June-July), and fall (August-November). Submit reports to regional compilers within 2 weeks after the close of each period, or to the state compiler within 1 month. Reports may be E-mailed to the state compiler at bill-pranty@hotmail.com.

Following the examples set by *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List* (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, FOS Spec. Publ. No. 6) and *The Birdlife of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Univ. Press of Florida), sight-only observations are considered "reports," while only those supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio tapes, or specimens) are called "records."

The FOS Records Committee (FOSRC) revised the list of birds for which they require documentation, in *FFN* 24(4):132-133, 1996. These species are marked in this report with an asterisk (*) to alert the observers of their need to supply the FOSRC with details of their sightings. (Some reports that lack documentation may have been omitted from this report).

A county designation (in italics) accompanies the first-time listing of each site in this report; further listings of the same site lack the county name. Abbreviations used are as follows: CP = county park, EMCA = Emerald Marsh Conservation Area (*Lake*), ENP = Everglades National Park, EOS = end of season, FWBSTF = Fort Walton Beach STF (*Okaloosa*), HISRA = Honeymoon Island SRA (*Pinellas*), MINWR = Merritt Island SRA (*Brevard*), NWR = national wildlife refuge, PPM = *Polk* phosphate mines, PPSP = Paynes Prairie State Preserve (*Alachua*), R&W 1992 = Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, S&A 1994 = Stevenson and Anderson 1994, SMNWR = St. Marks NWR (*Wakulla*), SP = state park, SRA = state recreation area, SRCA = Seminole Ranch Conservation Area (*Brevard, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia*), STF = sewage treatment facility, SRSTF = Springhill Road STF (*Leon*), TRSTF = Tram Road STF (*Leon*), and N, S, E, W, etc. for compass directions. Bold-faced species, if any, denote birds newly reported or verified in Florida.

We thank Doty and Hank Hull and Rick West for sharing information with us. R&W 1992 and S&A 1994 were used to determine the regional and seasonal status of many species. Todd Engstrom assisted with the editing of the manuscript.

SUMMARY OF THE WINTER SEASON

The biggest news this winter was the continued use of the proposed Zellwood Shorebird Management Area by tens of thousands of birds (and the die-off that occurred there as a result of organochlorine pesticide poisoning). The following summary is based on information presented to the FOS Board by Bill Pranty and Gian Basili in April 1999.

After acquiring nearly 5200 hectares of farmland along the north shore of Lake Apopka by mid-1998, the St. Johns River Water Management District shallow-flooded many of the fields as a means of weed control. These conditions created ideal habitats for resident wading birds, and migratory and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and other

aquatic species such as American White Pelicans. Under the schedule maintained by farmers for the past 50 or more years, the fields produced vegetable crops from November through June, and were flooded from July through September or early October. This year, some fields remained flooded into January. Unflooded fields quickly succeeded to weedy areas that supported sparrows and other grassland birds.

Fall and winter bird use at Zellwood was phenomenal, and the site was called one of the best birding areas in the southeastern U.S. At least 110,000 individuals of over 215 species of birds visited the fields between mid-August 1998 and mid-February 1999. The first Zellwood/Mount Dora Christmas Bird Count tallied the astounding total of **174** species, which apparently is the highest inland CBC total obtained anywhere in North America in the 99-year history of the CBC.

Birders visited Zellwood on a regular basis through 17 February 1999, when the area was closed to all public access. In particular, Harry Robinson visited Zellwood 43 times during this period, and made careful counts of all birds present. This information has enormously aided our efforts to understand the avian response to the initial restoration phase along the north shore of Lake Apopka, and also proved invaluable in helping to secure bird habitat at the former farms. Daily counts of birds at Zellwood reached 10,000 individuals by mid-September, 15,000 by mid-October, 25,000 by early November, and nearly 35,000 birds by mid-November. The highest total was obtained on 8 December, when over 41,000 birds were counted.

Unfortunately, not all the news from Zellwood is positive. In early November, a few carcasses of American White Pelicans were visible in the fields, and by early December, it was evident that a die-off was in progress. This die-off was virtually restricted to fish-eating birds, and lasted through the end of February, at which time no water remained on the fields, and most aquatic birds had dispersed to other areas. As of 8 March 1999, nearly 500 bird carcasses had been salvaged from Zellwood, of which 403 were American White Pelicans. Additionally, over 350 other pelican carcasses were found off-site, including some as far away as Key Largo and Jackson, Mississippi, and it is likely that these pelicans were associated with the die-off at Lake Apopka. We recovered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands from 20 of the pelicans salvaged at Zellwood, and all the birds were banded in Minnesota and North Dakota. We anticipate that American White Pelican mortality will increase as the >4000 birds observed at Zellwood migrate northward toward their breeding areas.

Investigators of the US Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that organochlorine pesticides, specifically dieldrin, toxaphene, and DDT derivatives, had killed the birds. While these compounds have been banned for the past 10 to 30 years, they are chemically stable and persist in the soil. They are also well known for their ability to accumulate in the tissues of aquatic organisms, and it is believed that the birds received lethal doses from eating toxic fish. The source of such high levels of these compounds remains unclear, and it is hoped that the investigators will determine whether the problem is pervasive throughout the site, or is associated with one or more previously unidentified pesticide "hot spots."

A task force of numerous agencies and organizations has been assembled in an attempt to solve the remaining mysteries about the die-off, and to recommend future research and management actions at Zellwood. Included in the group are some of the world's top experts on organochlorine pesticides. What we learn from this episode will help us with future management of Zellwood, and will have ramifications for restoration of other former agricultural lands in the Everglades and throughout the U.S. Although the bird die-off at Lake Apopka during the winter of 1998-1999 was an unfortunate situation, we believe that in the long-term, much good will result from this experience.

Temperatures this winter were mostly mild and dry statewide. The weather apparently was responsible for a number of lingering Neotropical migrant species observed in the state, as mentioned by Bob Duncan in the western Panhandle, and Rex Rowan in the Gainesville area.

FOSRC rarities reported this season were 7 Ross's Geese at three sites, White-cheeked Pintails of unknown origin in *Hillsborough* and *Palm Beach*, 2 Common Mergansers at Pensacola, the South Polar Skua at Boynton Inlet, Iceland Gulls at Fort Clinch and Jacksonville, the Black-headed Gull in Jacksonville, the Thayer's Gull at Pompano Beach, and the MacGillivray's Warbler at Orlando. The best bird of the winter was unquestionably the Gray-hooded Gull that was seen and photographed by two observers at Apalachicola for one day only. This represents the first record for North America. Other interesting observations were 5 male Cinnamon Teals plus a hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal found at Zellwood and two other sites, 1 or 2 Yellow Rails at Avon Park Air Force Range, 29 Franklin's Gulls at 9 sites, increasing numbers of White-winged Doves along the Gulf Coast, Lesser Nighthawks at Zellwood and Paynes Prairie, up to 5 Eastern Kingbirds at Tallahassee, 9 Vermilion Flycatchers statewide, 8 Black-throated Green Warblers and 6 Summer Tanagers in northern and central Florida, the "Western" Stripe-headed Tanager at Everglades National Park, and the sparrows extravaganza at Zellwood.

Several unusual exotics also were reported, including the first state reports of Abdim's Stork (apparently 3 individuals at widely-scattered locations in South Florida), Dusky Lory at Kendall, and African Gray Hornbill at Brooksville. The population of Purple Swamphens at Pembroke Pines, censused in February, was 134 birds plus 1 road-kill.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- RED-THROATED LOON: 3 on the Perdido Bay CBC (*Escambia*) 26 Dec (P. Tetlow); 1 at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) 7 Feb (M. Coker).
- COMMON LOON: 2 at Crowder Landing (*Leon*) 20 Jan (G. Menk, D. and J. Devlin).
- PACIFIC LOON: 1 at Big Lagoon (*Escambia*) 10 Dec (P. Tetlow et al.).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE: 555 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).
- EARED GREBE: 2 at FWBSTF 2-31 Dec (B. Duncan); 1 at PPM 21 Feb (P. Timmer, C. Geanangel); up to 4 at Zellwood to 10 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- SHEARWATER SPECIES: 1 all-dark bird at the S Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier (*Manatee*) 6 Jan (L. Snyder).
- SOOTY SHEARWATER: 1 at the S Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier 3 Jan (L. Atherton).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: up to 37 in N *Duval* to 10 Jan (R. Clark); 4370 at Zellwood 29 Jan (H. Robinson).
- BROWN PELICAN: 2 adults at Mulberry (*Polk*) 19 Feb (T. Palmer).
- GREAT BLUE HERON: 395 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).
- "GREAT WHITE HERON:" 1 at Honeymoon Island SRA (*Pinellas*) 27 Dec-EOS (W. Yusek et al.).
- GREAT EGRET: 810 at Zellwood 5 Feb (H. Robinson).
- SNOWY EGRET: 1513 at SRCA 20 Dec (*vide* L. Malo).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1512 at SRCA 20 Dec (*vide* L. Malo).
- TRICOLORED HERON: 202 at SRCA 16 Jan (*vide* L. Malo).
- REDDISH EGRET: up to 7 immatures at SMNWR 23 Jan-17 Feb (B. Bergstrom, J. Dozier, F. Rutkovsky).
- CATTLE EGRET: up to 19 at TRSTF 10-19 Dec (G. Menk); 1 in *Gulf* 26 Jan (D. and J. Devlin).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: 200 at Zellwood 20 Dec (B. Pranty, G. Basili et al.).
- GLOSSY IBIS: 1037 at SRCA 20 Dec (*vide* L. Malo); 1010 at Zellwood 8 Jan (H. Robinson); 50 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 12 Feb (B. Bergstrom).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL: 2 at Talbot Island SP (*Duval*) 26 Dec (H. Belcher).
- ABDIM'S STORK** (*Ciconia abdimii*): 1 at Flamingo, ENP (*Monroe*) 26 Nov-11 Feb (*vide* P. Hinchcliff, videotaped); 1 banded on the left leg at Immokalee (*Collier*) in Jan (Bev-

- erly Anderson et al., photo to FOC). Another stork over "Ding" Darling NWR (*Lee*) 29 Apr (L. Baker) apparently is a *third* individual, and reportedly had been present on Sanibel Island for over a year (D. Konz *vide* L. Baker). These are the first Florida reports of this African species.
- WOOD STORK: 1 on the Pensacola CBC (*Escambia* or *Santa Rosa*) 19 Dec (D. Ware, H. Huddleston); 86 on the Tallahassee CBC 1 Jan (*vide* G. Menk); 815 at Zellwood 29 Jan (H. Robinson).
- GREATER FLAMINGO: 40 wintered at Snake Bight, ENP (*Monroe*) (*vide* D. and H. Hull); 1 adult at the salt ponds, Key West (*Monroe*) 18 Dec through early Jan (*vide* D. and H. Hull).
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: 189 at Zellwood 8 Dec (H. Robinson).
- BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 8 in N *Hillsborough* 6 Dec (S. Gross); 2 wintered at PPSP (J. Weimer); 1 shot by a hunter in *Manatee* 17 Jan (*vide* E. Martin, wing to Office of Migratory Bird Management). The Office has a wing from another Black-bellied Whistling-Duck shot in Florida in 1983 (*vide* E. Martin). These are the first "specimens" from Florida, and the 1983 "specimen" constitutes the earliest verification of the species in the state (S&A 1994).
- TUNDRA SWAN: 1 at Lake Seminole (*Jackson*) 1 Jan (J. Pitts *vide* G. Sprandel); 2 at SM-NWR 10 Jan (P. Berry).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 at Zellwood 4-11 Dec (H. Robinson et al.); up to 17 at FWBSTF through 21 Jan (D. Ware, B. Duncan et al.); 1 at TRSTF 31 Dec (G. Menk, J. La Via, J. Cavanagh [photo]); 1 at Gulf Breeze (*Santa Rosa*) 15 Jan-15 Feb (B. Bremser); 3 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 19 Dec (M. Manetz, G. McDermott, J. Ault).
- SNOW GOOSE: 2 at HISRA 15 Dec (W. Yusek); up to 90 at Zellwood to 28 Dec (H. Robinson et al.); 1 at MINWR 16 Jan (D. and H. Hull); 230 wintered at FWBSTF (B. Duncan, P. Tetlow); 5 at St. Joseph (*Pasco*) 6 Feb (B. Pranty [photos to FOC], D. Goodwin, R. Grant).
- *ROSS'S GOOSE: 2 adults at Zellwood 6-16 Dec (C. and K. Radamaker, H. Robinson et al.); 4 (3 adults) at FWBSTF to 23 Feb (B. Duncan, P. Tetlow et al.); 1 at Shalimar (*Ocala*) 21 Dec (M. and R. Rose).
- CANADA GOOSE: 3 wintered at Zellwood (H. Robinson et al.).
- BRANT: 2 at Mosquito Lagoon, MINWR 26 Feb (L. Snyder et al., photos).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 12,565 at Zellwood 18 Dec (H. Robinson); 880 at PPM 17 Jan (P. Timmer, C. Geanangel); 520 at EMCA 27 Feb (*vide* J. Marburger).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK: up to 3 at Zellwood to 12 Jan (H. Robinson et al.); 5 at Lake Lafayette (*Leon*) 31 Dec (D. Morrow).
- MALLARD: 21 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL: 420 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson); 51 at PPM 17 Jan (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer).
- *WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL: 1 at Wakodahatchee Wetlands (*Palm Beach*) 19 Dec (B. Hope); 1 shot by a hunter in *Hillsborough* (!) 27 Dec (*vide* E. Martin, wing to Office of Migratory Bird Management).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 6580 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL X CINNAMON TEAL: 1 hybrid male at Zellwood 10 Feb was like a Cinnamon Teal but had the white facial crescent of a Blue-winged Teal (H. Robinson).
- CINNAMON TEAL: 1 male at Sarasota 19 Dec-19 Feb (J. Kopitzke et al.); 1 male at Myakka River SP (*Sarasota*) 26 Dec (C. Ewell, N. Pettis, W. Dirks); up to 3 males at Zellwood to 10 Feb (L. Manfredi, H. Robinson et al.).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER: 200+ at Weedon Island Preserve (*Pinellas*) 13 Dec (B. Hoffman, P. Blair, R. Smith); 645 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson); 2200 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 19 Dec (M. Manetz, G. McDermott, J. Ault).
- GADWALL: 89 at Zellwood 12 Jan (H. Robinson).

- CANVASBACK: 1 at Bivens Arm (*Alachua*) 7-8 Jan (M. Landsman, R. Rowan); up to 5 at Zellwood to 10 Feb (H. Robinson et al.); 18 at PPM 21 Feb (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer).
- REDHEAD: 650 at Holiday (*Pasco*) 31 Dec (K. Tracey et al.); 750 at HISRA 8-15 Jan (W. Yusek); up to 8 at Zellwood to 5 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- RING-NECKED DUCK: 11,900 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).
- GREATER SCAUP: 1 male at Driggers Road (*Highlands*) 2 Dec (B. Pranty et al.); up to 5 at Zellwood to 5 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- LESSER SCAUP: 279 at Zellwood 12 Jan (H. Robinson); 1100 at PPM 21 Feb (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer).
- COMMON EIDER: 1 at Port Canaveral (*Brevard*) 8 Dec (*vide* D. and H. Hull).
- OLDSQUAW: 1 at Port Orange (*Volusia*) 19-22 Jan (*vide* D. and H. Hull).
- BLACK SCOTER: 216 off Lauderdale-By-The Sea (*Broward*) 12 Dec (W. George); 12 at Sanibel Island (*Lee*) 24 Dec (B. Postmus et al.); 4 at Port Charlotte (*Charlotte*) 26 Dec-EOS (J. Bouton, C. Ewell et al.).
- SURF SCOTER: 13 at Sanibel Island 23 Dec (B. Postmus et al.); 1 at Cape San Blas (*Gulf*) 10 Jan (H. Horne, T. Kennedy).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 4 at Madeira Beach (*Pinellas*) 13 Dec (K. Nelson).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE: 1 at SRSTF 14 Dec (G. Menk); 1 female in *Citrus* 31 Dec (A. and B. Hansen); 10 at SMNWR 14 Jan (M. Coker); 1 male at Port Orange 25 Jan (*vide* D. and H. Hull); 1 female at TRSTF 29 Jan-5 Feb (H. Horne, G. Menk, S. Borderieux); 1 at Lake Weir (*Marion*) 4 Feb (E. Scales); 2 wintered at Gainesville (R. Rowan).
- BUFFLEHEAD: up to 5 at Zellwood to 5 Feb (H. Robinson et al.); 4 at PPM 21 Feb (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer).
- HOODED MERGANSER: 125 at TRSTF 4 Dec (G. Menk).
- *COMMON MERGANSER: 2 females at Pensacola Naval Air Station (*Escambia*) 4 Dec (C. Henning, P. Tetlow et al.).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: singles at Gainesville 5 Feb (J. Hintermister) and 28 Feb (S. Flamand).
- RUDDY DUCK: 517 at Zellwood 8 Dec (H. Robinson); 1800 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 19 Dec (M. Manetz, G. McDermott, J. Ault); 390 at Lake Weir 10 Feb (E. Scales).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 at Weekiwachee Preserve (*Hernando*) 27 Feb (C. Black); 2 at SRCA 27 Feb (*vide* L. Malo); 2 near Loughman (*Polk* and/or *Osceola*) 28 Feb (T. Palmer).
- WHITE-TAILED KITE: 2 at CR-832 (*Hendry*) 18 Dec (*vide* D. and H. Hull); 1 in *Lee* near the *Hendry* line 19 Dec (N. Pettis); 1 in the St. Johns River marsh in S *Brevard* 2 Feb (S. Rowe, J. Bryan), and 2 there 3 Feb (S. Rowe).
- SNAIL KITE: 1 in *Lee* near the *Hendry* line 19 Dec (N. Pettis).
- BALD EAGLE: 19 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- NORTHERN HARRIER: 27 at Zellwood 20 Dec (H. Robinson).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK: 1 at Sarasota 26 Dec (L. Saul, D. Wassmer).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: 1 dark morph near Tiger Creek (*Polk*) 2 Jan (T. Palmer); 3 dark morphs (1 with nesting material) at Lake Istokpoga (*Highlands*) 13 Feb (M. McMillian); 1 dark morph at Lake Arbuckle (*Polk*) 14 Feb (M. McMillian); 1 light morph at Saddle Creek CP 18 Feb (M. Chakan, J. Rudd); 1 at Lettuce Lake Park (*Hillsborough*) 27 Feb (R. Webb); 3 dark morphs (2 adults) wintered at Key West (J. Ondrejko).
- SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 adult at FWBSTF 14 Dec (D. Ware et al.).
- GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 immature at SMNWR 1 Jan (D. and K. MacVicar); 1 adult at Zellwood 17 Dec (R. and T. Rogers) and 3-30 Jan (B. Pranty, D. Reed et al.).
- PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 at Zellwood through 5 Feb (H. Robinson et al.); 1 at Fort Clinch SP (*Nassau*) 29 Jan (T. Palmer); 1 male wintered at Bradley Junction (*Polk*) (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer et al.).
- YELLOW RAIL: singles 500-1000 m apart at Echo Range, Avon Park Air Force Range (*Highlands*) 6 Dec (D. Barber) and 20 Dec (R. Harrison).

- BLACK RAIL: 1 responded to a tape at Hernando Beach (*Hernando*) 23 Dec (B. Pranty, D. Goodwin); 1 heard ca. 1.6 km S of the turn-off to Mahogany Hammock, ENP (*Miami-Dade*) 31 Dec (L. Manfredi).
- PURPLE GALLINULE: 5 on the Gainesville CBC 20 Dec (*vide* B. Muschlit).
 PURPLE SWAMPHEN: 134 at Pembroke Pines (*Broward*) 21-22 Feb (B. Pranty, H. Lovell, K. and K. Schnitzius), plus a road-killed bird 20 Feb (to Archbold Biological Station).
- SANDHILL CRANE: 1 at Gulf Breeze 9 Dec (B. Bremser); 13 at SRSTF 10 Dec (G. Menk); 3 at Lake Jackson (*Leon*) 11 Dec (G. Menk); 3 at FWBSTF 11 Dec (B. Duncan, P. Tetlow et al.), and 5 there 29 Dec (B. Duncan et al.); 30 at SMNWR 28 Dec (J. and K. Sunderslin); 1 found injured in N *Escambia* 9 Jan later died (L. Duncan); 2 flying ESE over Key West 23 Feb (J. Ondrejko).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: 346 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: 2 at Zellwood 12 Dec (E. Kwater, K. Radamaker et al.), and 1 there 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- PIPING PLOVER: 172 on 8 barrier islands in *Pinellas* and *S Pasco* 11-19 Jan, included 70 at Three Rooker Bar (*Pinellas*) 13 Jan (P. Blair, W. Yusek). This count compares favorably with the 179 birds counted in Jan 1996.
- KILLDEER: 756 at Zellwood 1 Jan (H. Robinson).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: 1 at the Wakulla Springs SP dock (*Wakulla*) 30 Dec (S. Stedman et al.) was only the second inland Florida report (S&A 1994).
- AMERICAN AVOCET: 1 at SMNWR 9 Dec (T. Kennedy); up to 35 in N *Duval* to 10 Jan (R. Clark); 75 at Zellwood 11-12 Jan (H. Robinson).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS: 415 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 1195 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 at ENP [*county?*] 28 Dec (*vide* D. and H. Hull); 1 at Gainesville 28 Feb (M. Manetz).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER: 1 at the Marsh Flow-way, Lake Apopka (*Lake*) 20 Dec (B. Pranty, G. Basili, J. Peterson).
- WHIMBREL: 13 at HISRA 8 Feb (G. Sprandel).
- MARBLED GODWIT: 1 at Zellwood 28 Dec and 27 Jan-10 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- SANDERLING: 1 at Zellwood 12 Dec (E. Kwater, K. Radamaker et al.).
- LEAST SANDPIPER: 2450 at Zellwood 31 Dec (H. Robinson).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1 at Zellwood 9-10 Feb (H. Robinson).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER: 2 at the Venice Jetty (*Sarasota*) 3 Jan-15 Feb (C. Sample, J. Kopitzke et al.); up to 18 wintered at Fort Clinch SP (R. Clark et al.).
- DUNLIN: 145 at Zellwood 31 Dec (H. Robinson).
- STILT SANDPIPER: 156 at Zellwood 19 Jan (H. Robinson).
- RUFF: 1 at Zellwood to 19 Jan (H. Robinson).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: 1200 at Cedar Key (*Levy*) 13 Feb (G. Sprandel).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 1890 at Zellwood 12 Dec; no Short-billed Dowitchers were identified there after 25 Nov (H. Robinson); 1 at FWBSTF 6 Jan (B. Duncan), 10 there 21 Jan (P. Tetlow et al.), and 3 there 25 Jan (D. Ware); ca. 100 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 12 Feb (B. Bergstrom).
- COMMON SNIBE: 898 at Zellwood 28 Dec (H. Robinson).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK: 1 at Brooker Creek Preserve (*Pinellas*) 9 Jan (D. Goodwin et al.).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 1 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).
- POMARINE JAEGER: 2 (1 dark, 1 light) at the St. Johns River mouth (*Duval*) 17 Jan (R. Clark).
- PARASITIC JAEGER: 1 immature light morph at the St. Johns River mouth 17 Jan (R. Clark).
- *SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 1 at Boynton Inlet (*Palm Beach*) 2 Dec-23 Jan (B. Hope et al.).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1 immature at Fort Pickens (*Escambia*) 2 Dec (B. and L. Duncan); 1 at FWBSTF 3 Dec (P. Tetlow et al.); 1 at *Hamilton* phosphate mines 18 Dec (R. Rowan,

- G. McDermott); up to 21 at Zellwood to 28 Dec (H. Robinson); 1 adult at Port St. Joe (*Gulf*) 28-29 Dec (S. Stedman, G. Menk, S. Borderieux); 1 at Lake Jackson 1 Jan (D. and S. Jue); 1 at SRSTF 14 Jan (H. Horne); 1 at Boynton Inlet 21 Jan (B. Hope); 1 at Fernandina Beach (*Nassau*) 20 Jan-13 Feb (P. Leary et al.).
- *BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 in N Jacksonville 26-27 Dec (R. Clark, photos to FOSRC).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL: 1000+ at Lake Weir 10 Feb (E. Scales).
- RING-BILLED GULL: 1603 at Zellwood 29 Jan (H. Robinson).
- *ICELAND GULL: 1 first-winter bird at the St. Johns River mouth 17 Jan (R. Clark); 1 at Fort Clinch SP 7 Feb (J. Krummrich).
- HERRING GULL: 88 at Zellwood 3 Feb (H. Robinson).
- *THAYER'S GULL: 1 first-year bird near the Pompano Beach Landfill (*Broward*) 10 Jan (G. McCaskie, M. Patten).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: 2 adults at Zellwood to 17 Feb (H. Robinson, B. Pranty [photos to FOC] et al.); 2 at Snake Bight, ENP 7 Jan (G. McCaskie, M. Patten); 6 (2 adults) at Port Charlotte (*Charlotte*) 10 Jan (J. Bouton); 8 (5 adults) near the Pompano Beach Landfill 10 Jan (G. McCaskie, M. Patten); 1 adult at St. Cloud (*Osceola*) 26 Feb (W. Biggs).
- *GRAY-HOODED GULL: (*Larus cirrocephalus*): 1 adult at Apalachicola (*Franklin*) 26 Dec (D. McNair [photos], T. Lewis [photos], manuscript in prep.) was not seen again. This is the first North American record of a species native to South America and western Africa.
- GLAUCOUS GULL: 1 at Fort Clinch SP 21 Dec-EOS (*vide* P. Powell).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 immature at the S Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier 29 Dec-EOS (N. Gobris et al.); 1 at Fort Clinch SP 30 Jan (A. Turner, S. Flamand et al.).
- SABINE'S GULL: 1 near MINWR 2 Feb (*vide* D. and H. Hull).
- CASPIAN TERN: 208 at Zellwood 10 Feb (H. Robinson).
- ROYAL TERN: 1 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson).
- FORSTER'S TERN: 280 at Zellwood 18 Dec (H. Robinson).
- BLACK SKIMMER: 20 at Lakeland (*Polk*) Jan-Feb (T. Palmer); 120 at Zellwood 3 Feb (H. Robinson).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 adult incubating, another pair nest-building, and other birds courting at Hudson Beach CP (*Pasco*) 7 Feb (K. Tracey, B. Pranty).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 1 at Tierra Verde 2 Dec (L. Atherton); 58 on the Choctawhatchee CBC 21 Dec (E. Case, A. Knothe); 4 at Spring Hill 23 Dec (C. Black, K. Tracey [photos to FOC] et al.), and 1 there through 31 Jan (C. Black); 11 at Cedar Key 2 Jan (*vide* D. Henderson).
- MOURNING DOVE: 2 juveniles at Gulf Breeze 25 Feb (B. Duncan).
- DUSKY LORY** (*Pseudeos fuscata*): 1 adult red morph at Kendall (*Miami-Dade*) 19-23 Jan (B. Pranty, W. Biggs et al.) was the first Florida report.
- PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD: 1 (with a yellow face) at Port Richey (*Pasco*) 7 Feb (K. Tracey [photos to FOC], B. Pranty).
- MANGROVE CUCKOO: 1 seen and heard on SR-92 ca. 3 km S of US-41 (*Collier*) 21 Jan (L. Manfredi).
- GROOVE-BILLED ANI: 2 at FWBSTF to 2 Dec (D. Ware et al.).
- BARN OWL: 1 at Altha (*Calhoun*) 24 Feb (M. Hill).
- SHORT-EARED OWL: 1 at Zellwood 3 Dec-25 Jan (H. Robinson, A. and T. Mason et al.).
- LESSER NIGHTHAWK: 1 at Zellwood 16 Dec (H. Robinson); 1 found dead at PPSP 11 Jan (H. Adams, R. Ozmore, specimen to Florida Museum of Natural History).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 banded at Pensacola in 1995 was recaptured at the same site 11 Jan (M. J. Pfeiffer, F. Bassett et al.).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 at Gulf Breeze 21 Dec had been banded in Metairie, Louisiana in Nov 1997 (M. Esmond, F. Bassett et al.); 1 banded at Pensacola in Jan 1997 was recaptured at the same site 5 Jan (S. Roberts, F. Bassett et al.); 1 immature

- at Tallahassee 11 Jan (N. Fichter, J. Cavanagh); 1 male at Tallahassee to 23 Jan (M. Lidell, P. Conover); 1 wintered at Palm Bay (*Brevard*) (D. Novier); 2 (male and immature) wintered at Oviedo (*Seminole*) (L. Orr).
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 banded at Niceville (*Okaloosa*) 21 Dec, 2 banded at Pensacola 5 Jan, and 2 others banded at Pensacola 11 Jan (all F. Bassett et al.); 1 at Tallahassee to 31 Jan (J. O'Malley, P. Conover); 1 wintered at Gainesville (D. Beatty et al.).
- RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 banded in Jan 1998 at Niceville was recaptured at the same site 8 Dec (F. Bassett).
- SELASPHORUS SPECIES: 1 at Orlando 21 Dec (Bruce Anderson); 1 at Lakes Park, Fort Myers (*Lee*) 24-31 Dec (L. Atherton, C. Ewell et al.); 1 wintered at Kanapaha Prairie (*Alachua*) (E. Perry); singles at Gainesville 4 Jan and 27-28 Feb (both B. Roberts).
- AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (*Tockus nasutus*): 1 on the Brooksville CBC (*Hernando*) 26 Dec (C. Black, E. Sperry, photos to FOC) had been present for 10-12 months, and is the first Florida report.
- EASTERN PHOEBE: 49 at Zellwood 9 Feb (H. Robinson).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 1 male at Buck Island Ranch (*Highlands*) for at least the fifth year was seen through 23 Feb (M. McMillian et al.); 1 at Hickory Mound Impoundment (*Taylor*) 8 Dec (J. Cavanagh); 1 female at Micanopy (*Alachua*) 13 Dec-EOS (C. Lanciani et al.); 1 female at PPSP 20 Dec-8 Jan (G. McDermott, R. Rowan); 1 female at MINWR 12 Feb (M. and R. Sampere); 1 female at Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area (*Brevard*) 19 Feb (D. Novier); up to 2 at FWBSTF to 23 Feb (B. Duncan, P. Tetlow et al.); 1 adult male at Grand Ridge (*Jackson*) 24 Feb (M. Gray *vide* G. Wallace).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 1 at FWBSTF through at least 30 Jan (D. Ware et al.), the third year a bird has wintered there.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: 2 calling at Venus Flatwoods Preserve (*Highlands*) 15 Jan (J. Greenlaw, B. Pranty et al.); 1 at PPSP 7 Feb (R. Rowan, D. Wahl).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD: 2 at Banana Lake Park (*Polk*) 14 Dec (T. Palmer); 4 at CR-833 (*Hendry*) 3 Jan (*vide* D. and H. Hull); 1 at FWBSTF 30 Jan (D. Ware) and 6 Feb (N. Gobris); 22 at Homestead (*Miami-Dade*) 14 Feb (L. Manfredi); up to 20 wintered at Zellwood (B. Pranty, C. Pierce, H. Robinson et al.).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD: up to 5 at Lake Jackson 2 Dec-3 Jan (G. Menk, P. Conover et al.).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 at Lake Alfred (*Polk*) 18 Jan (P. Timmer); 1 at Okeechobee (*Okeechobee*) 19 Feb (C. and M. Tucker); 1 at St. Joseph SP (*Gulf*) 20 Feb (T. Kennedy); 5 at Homestead 14 Feb (L. Manfredi); 1 wintered at Seven Springs (*Pasco*) (K. Tracey [photo to FOC] et al.); 3 wintered at Zellwood (H. Robinson et al.).
- BELL'S VIREO: 1 on the Tallahassee CBC 1 Jan (J. LaVia, J. Cavanagh et al.).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1 at PPSP 26 Jan (B. and H. Dowling).
- FISH CROW: a peak of 16 wintered at Key West (J. Ondrejko).
- PURPLE MARTIN: 3 at Spring Hill (*Hernando*) 24 Jan (A. and B. Hansen); 2 at Gainesville 26 Jan (B. Dowling, H. Dowling).
- TREE SWALLOW: 1,000,000 along Lake Istokpoga in Feb (M. McMillian, J. Johnson).
- CAVE SWALLOW: 25 at the Cutler Ridge breeding site (*Miami-Dade*) 6 Jan (G. McCaskie, M. Patten), and 50+ there 23 Jan (B. Pranty et al.).
- BARN SWALLOW: singles at TRSTF 1 Dec (G. Menk, D. and K. MacVicar, B. Henderson) and SRSTF 4 Dec (G. Menk); 1 at Zellwood 16 Dec, and 2 there 31 Dec-1 Jan (H. Robinson).
- BROWN CREEPER: 1 at Black Swamp (*Leon*) 11 Jan (M. Coker).
- HOUSE WREN: 26 at Zellwood 9 Feb (H. Robinson).
- WINTER WREN: 1 at Swift Creek (*Hamilton*) 19 Dec (M. Manetz); 1 at Black Swamp 4-8 Jan (G. Menk, S. Borderieux).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: 1 at San Felasco Hammock SP (*Alachua*) 6 Dec (M. Manetz); 1 at SRCA 20 Dec (*vide* L. Malo); widespread in *Leon* this winter (G. Menk).

- VEERY: 1 at Tallahassee 17 Jan was mist-netted and examined in the hand (with a few body feathers salvaged), but not photographed (P. Homann, S. Jue).
- AMERICAN PIPIT: 570 at Zellwood 8 Dec (H. Robinson).
- COMMON MYNA: 2 at Rolling Oaks, Pembroke Pines 22 Feb (B. Pranty, Kim Schnitzius, H. Lovell).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1 at Lake Jackson 15 Dec (G. Menk); 1 at HISRA 27 Dec (E. Kwarter); 1 of the W race at Zellwood 10 Jan-10 Feb (K. Radamaker, C. Paine, C. Pierce et al.).
- NORTHERN PARULA: 1 at FWBSTF 4 Dec (B. Duncan); 1 at Kanapaha Prairie 20 Dec (R. Rowan, S. Cimbaro); 1 at PPSP 6 Jan (B. Muschlitz et al.); fairly common and singing at Gainesville the first week of Feb (A. Kratter, H. Adams et al.).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1 at S Jacksonville 3 Dec-EOS (J. Cocke).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: 1 at Gainesville 8-15 Dec (A. Kratter, A. Kent); 1 at S Jacksonville 14 Dec-8 Feb (J. Cocke); 1 at Weedon Island Preserve 19 Dec (B. Hoffman et al.); 3 on the Zellwood/Mount Dora CBC 20 Dec including 1 at Zellwood (H. Robinson); 1 at St. Leo Golf Course (*Pasco*) 22 Dec (D. Robinson, P. Young) and 6 Feb (D. Goodwin, B. Pranty, R. Grant); 1 at Kanapaha Prairie in mid-Jan (M. Meisenburg); 4 at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (*Collier*) 17 Feb (B. and L. Cooper).
- PALM WARBLER: 370 at Zellwood 8 Dec (H. Robinson).
- AMERICAN REDSTART: up to 2 at Zellwood to 28 Dec (H. Robinson et al.); 1 in female-plumage at Crews Lake CP (*Pasco*) 23 Dec (D. Robinson et al.); 1 female at Loxahatchee NWR 3 Jan (N. Pettis); 1 adult male wintered at Gainesville in the same yard where an immature male wintered last year (M. Manetz).
- OVENBIRD: 1 at Lake Overstreet (*Leon*) 17 Dec (S. Borderieux, B. Kicklighter), and 3 there 1 Feb (M. Coker).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1 at PPSP 8 Dec (C. Parenteau); 1 at Fort Pickens 15 Dec (B. Duncan) and 8 Jan (S. and S. Tagatz); 1 N of St. Joseph 22 Dec (W. Biggs, B. Pranty); 1 at Zellwood 31 Dec-30 Jan (H. Robinson, P. Fellers et al.); 1 at Weedon Island Preserve 7 Feb (R. Smith); 1 at SRCA 27 Feb (*fide* L. Malo).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: 1 at Newnans Lake (*Alachua*) 20 Dec (J. Bryan).
- *MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: 1 at Turkey Lake Park (*Orange*) remained to 1 Dec (N. Sekera, D. Novier).
- WILSON'S WARBLER: 1 male at Rainbow Springs SP (*Marion*) 26 Dec (B. Roberts); 1 at Bivens Arm 16 Jan (S. Duncan).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 in *Hillsborough* 20 Dec (R. Smith).
- SUMMER TANAGER: 1 at Saddle Creek CP 6 Dec (L. Albright); 1 at Newnans Lake 20 Dec (J. Bryan); 1 female at Spring Hill 22 Dec-EOS (A. and B. Hansen); 1 female at St. Leo Golf Course 22 Dec (B. Pranty, W. Biggs, G. Stoccardo) and 6 Feb (B. Pranty, D. Goodwin, R. Grant); 1 in female-plumage at Port St Joe 29 Dec (B. Henderson, D. Wells); 1 at Gainesville 3 Jan (S. Duncan).
- WESTERN TANAGER: 1 immature male at Fort Walton Beach 19 Jan (C. and D. Ware, H. King); 1 at Lakes Park, Fort Myers 30 Jan-EOS (R. Miller, J. Greenlaw et al.).
- STRIPE-HEADED TANAGER: 1 black-backed male at Gumbo Limbo Trail, ENP (*Miami-Dade*) 1 Feb (L. Manfredi).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 at Lake Wales (*Polk*) 18 Jan (P. Timmer); 1 N of Mims (*Brevard*) 31 Jan (K. LaBorde); **46** at Zellwood 3 Feb (H. Robinson).
- VESPER SPARROW: 11 at Zellwood 11 Jan (H. Robinson).
- LARK SPARROW: 1 at Auburndale (*Polk*) 16 Dec (P. Timmer); 1 on the Pensacola CBC 19 Dec (M. and R. Rose); 1 at Talbot Island SP 26 Dec-4 Jan (M. Dolan); 1 at Sarasota (*Sarasota*) 24 Jan-EOS (J. Carlock, photo to FOC); 1 at Zellwood 9-17 Feb (H. Robinson); 1 at Pensacola 25 Feb (A. Forster).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW: **860** at Zellwood 8 Dec (H. Robinson).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 8 at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson).

- HENSLow's SPARROW: 1 at Zellwood 7-19 Jan (H. Robinson et al.); 11 in *Alachua* 18 Dec-12 Feb (*vide* R. Rowan), including 7 at PPSP 20-22 Dec (A. Kent et al.).
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW: 5 at three areas of Zellwood 6-20 Dec (R. Smith et al., R. and T. Rogers, B. and L. Atherton); 1 at PPSP 20 Dec (A. Kent et al.); 1 at Brooker Creek Preserve 27 Dec (A. Smith, R. Smith, P. Blair).
- SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 at Gulfport 5-18 Dec may be the second *Pinellas* report (R. Smith et al.).
- FOX SPARROW: 2 at PPSP 18-22 Dec (A. Kent, J. Hintermister); 1 at Jacksonville 26 Dec (R. Rowan).
- SONG SPARROW: 1 at HISRA 27 Dec (E. Kwater); 6 at Zellwood 5 Feb (H. Robinson).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 1 at Lake Placid Scrub Wildlife and Environmental Area (*Highlands*) 8 Jan (G. McCaskie, M. Patten); 1 at PPSP 31 Jan-2 Feb (B. Ahern et al.); up to 4 at Zellwood to 17 Feb (H. Robinson).
- SWAMP SPARROW: 100 at Zellwood 20 Dec (H. Robinson).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 51 at Zellwood 3 Feb (H. Robinson); 10 at Cockroach Bay (*Hillsborough*) 7 Feb (B. and L. Atherton); up to 15 at Talbot Island SP through 20 Feb (*vide* P. Powell); 4 at EMCA 27 Feb (*vide* J. Marburger).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO: 1 in *Wakulla* 31 Jan (J. Epler); 2 wintered at Gainesville (D. Beatty, E. Perry).
- SNOW BUNTING: 1 female at Canaveral National Seashore (*Brevard*) 8 Dec (N. Sekera, D. Novier).
- ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: 1 at Newnans Lake 2 Jan (C. Reno, I. Fromberg); 1 at Gainesville 22 Jan-14 Feb (S. Hellard).
- BLUE GROSBEAK: up to 3 at Zellwood to 5 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- INDIGO BUNTING: up to 7 at Zellwood to 17 Feb (H. Robinson et al.); 1 in *Hillsborough* 20 Dec (A. and R. Smith); 1 at Jacksonville 26 Dec (R. Rowan); 1 at Cockroach Bay 7 Feb (B. and L. Atherton).
- PAINTED BUNTING: 1 female in *Hillsborough* 20 Dec (A. and R. Smith); 1 at Jacksonville 26 Dec (J. Coker); 1 at Cross Creek (*Alachua*) 28 Dec-9 Jan (J. Edwards); up to 4 wintered at Zellwood (H. Robinson et al.).
- DICKCISSEL: up to 4 at Zellwood to 17 Feb (H. Robinson et al.).
- BOBOLINK: 1 at Zellwood 20 Dec (L. Atherton).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 female at Hernando Beach 23 Dec (B. Ahern, D. Goodwin, B. Pranty); 1 female at HISRA 30 Jan (D. Woodard, E. Kwater); up to 5 wintered at Zellwood (H. Robinson et al.).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD: 13 in a bayhead at Zellwood 3 Dec (H. Robinson); 38 at Micanopy 19 Dec-EOS (G. Kiltie et al.); 2 at Holiday (*Pasco*) 31 Dec (P. Young); 5 at FWBSTF to 26 Jan (D. Ware); 2 at Lakeland 28 Jan (E. Kwater).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 1 at Lake Seminole (*Pinellas*) 9 Dec (K. Nelson); 1 at Micanopy 19 Dec (G. Kiltie); 1 at the Wakulla River (*Wakulla*) 14 Feb (J. Cavanagh).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: 1 female *torreyi* at Gainesville 21 Feb (R. Rowan).
- SHINY COWBIRD: 18 at Briggs Nature Center (*Collier*) 16 Jan (L. Manfredi, B. Pranty et al.); 1 male at Captiva Island (*Lee*) 26 Jan (V. McGrath).
- BRONZED COWBIRD: 1 at Lassing Park (*Pinellas*) 19 Dec (D. Wassmer et al.); up to 6 wintered at Lakeland (*vide* D. and H. Hull).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: 3150 at Zellwood 5 Feb (H. Robinson).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE: 2 females at Fort Walton Beach 21 Dec (L. Fenimore); up to 2 at Zellwood 31 Dec-20 Jan (H. Robinson et al.); 11 wintered at Gainesville (D. Beatty et al.).
- PINE SISKIN: 1 at Holiday 31 Dec (P. Young).
- EVENING GROSBEAK: 1 at Havana (*Gadsden*) 24 December (L. Herring *vide* G. Menk).

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Summer 1998 report not published previously: Gray Crowned Crane: 1 at St. Augustine (*St. Johns*) 26-27 Jun had escaped "from a local aviary" (Tom Field, Peggy Powell).

Fall 1998 reports not published previously: Egyptian Goose: 7 in flight over Pembroke Pines (*Broward*) 26 Nov (Wally George); Sandhill Crane: 1 at Tram Road STF (*Leon*) 20 Nov (Jim Cavanagh) and 1 at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) 26 Nov (Jack Dozier).

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