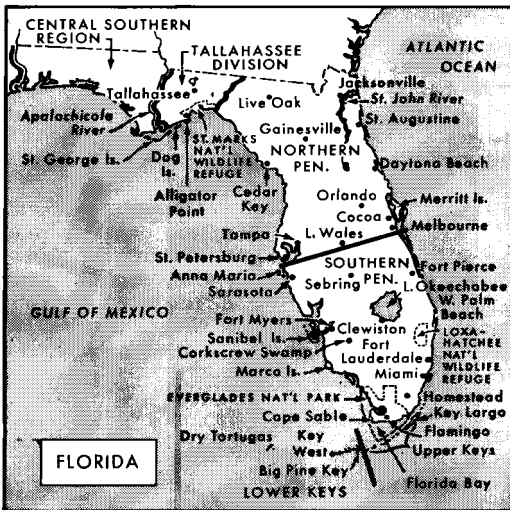


dauer, Merrill Lynch, Chris Marsh (CMA), Cecily Masters, Karl Mayer, Harriet Meadows, Wendell Metzzen, James Miller, Helmut C. Mueller, Frances Needham, Caroline Newhall, Lou Overman, James F. Parnell, Sebastian Patti, Mrs. Paul S. Payne, Mary Pickren, Eugene Pond, Frederick Probst, James O. Pullman, Stephen Putman, Tom Rial, Jay Robbins, Larry Robinson, Jay Shuler, Wendell Smith, Ramona Snavely, C. J. Spears, William F. Standaert, Roger H. Steiner, Elizabeth Teulings, Robert Teulings, L. A. Wells, Gail Whitehurst (GWh), Hal Wierenga, Gary Williamson, N. R. Williamson, Ray L. Winstead, Robert Witherington, John Wright, Gary Young, Samuel Young, Calvin Zippler. Other abbreviations: A.A.S., Atlanta Audubon Society; C.B.C., Carolina Bird Club; G.S.U. Georgia State University; N.C.S.M., North Carolina State Museum; U.N.C.W., University of North Carolina at Wilmington; *, specimen — **ROBERT P. TEULINGS, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.**

FLORIDA REGION

/ William B. Robertson, Jr.

The busy hurricane season (five at once in mid-September) made its mark in meteorological annals with the longest-lived tropical storm of record (Ginger, 31 days), the latest of recent years (Laura, third week of November), and one of the few to cross Central America and become a storm in the E. Pacific (Olivia,



née Irene). Drought-stricken peninsular Florida would have welcomed a mild, wet hurricane, but none of the storms got close enough to have much effect on Florida weather. Despite heavy rains across n. Florida in August and along the Gulf Coast in September and October, drought continued in s.e. Florida and the Everglades basin. Predictions of acute water shortages in the spring of 1972 were commonplace until unexpected rains in November and December somewhat eased the threat. Unusually warm weather persisted through the period with even Tallahassee reporting only local, light frost.

THE MIGRATION — Fall bird-watching in Florida typically consists of stretches of tedium broken by frantic episodes when bad weather causes fallout from the stream of night migrants passing overhead. This fall cold fronts were few and feeble and low pressure systems were mostly too remote to bring persistent cloud cover. As a result long dull spells predominated and the occasional breaks in the pattern perhaps shone more brightly by contrast. Cold fronts on Sept. 12-14, Oct. 6-8 and Oct. 10-12 produced most of the notable records of migrant landbirds. The September front brought a large influx of warblers at Gainesville on the 12th (CHC) and Lakeland on the 14th (JBE), and most observers in n. and c. Florida reported that the Oct. 6-8 front was the big event of the fall migration. Only the Oct. 10-12 front reached s. Florida where it grounded the season's only impressive numbers of migrants at Miami (ESD), Homestead (EJF) and Dry Tortugas (FO). This fall's migration was notable for unusual numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, Philadelphia Vireos, many warblers, particularly Tennessee, Magnolia and Chestnut-sided, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. As expected given the relatively settled weather, it was a rather quiet fall at Florida TV towers. Complete records were available only from WCTV n. of Tallahassee (WWB, RLC) which felled 409 birds, more than a third of these (152 of 41 species) killed on the night of Oct. 19-20. This kill, not associated with any large weather system, must have resulted from local rain or low overcast. Reports from observers included several especially notable contributions that figure prominently in the following account. In pursuit of a record year-list for Florida (ultimately 327 species), John Edscorn ranged the state from Pensacola to Key West and submitted particularly valuable comments on population trends. Mrs. Fisk's banding station at Homestead logged 1447 birds of 73 species, again including the only reports of several rarities. Mrs. O'Brien and party supplied observations, Oct. 12-19, from Dry Tortugas, a strategically located station where fall migration is still little known. Johnnie Johnson's ocean trips off Brevard Co. produced significant additions to the slowly unfolding picture of pelagic birds in Florida waters.

BIRD POPULATIONS — Observers cited almost 50 species from grebes to sparrows that they thought were unusually scarce, in many cases noting that present scarcity continued a declining trend. Low numbers of some birds (Gannet, most ducks, Bonaparte's Gull, Robin, northern finches) could reasonably be charged to the mild fall and delayed migration, or to the effects of recent Florida drought on nesting success (Wood Duck, Limpkin, gallinules). In other cases, particularly water birds, reported scarcity in one area seemed to be balanced by larger numbers elsewhere. Many reports, however, were not so easily explained, and they involved many common and widely distributed resident, wintering and migrant birds. The list of species reported to be drastically reduced in Florida this fall included: Snowy Egret (nest site competition with Cattle Egrets? — JBE), Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (only 7 on an 1100-mile trip c. and n. Florida,

Nov. 26-28 — JBE), Greater Yellowlegs, Ground Dove, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, most swallows, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Parula Warbler, Bobolink, and Rufous-sided Towhee. Inevitably, as noted above, some species were more commonly reported than usual. For the most part, however, these were rarer night migrants, seldom seen in Florida except as they encounter bad weather, about whose actual numbers in (or over) the state we know little.

Although I can see no general explanation for the serious decline of such a diversity of birds, I'm not inclined to dismiss lightly the firm impressions of experienced observers. Particularly so, because only large changes in the numbers of a common species are likely to be noticed. Obviously, we need a more sensitive data-collecting system, if we're to detect changes of status in time to react to them. At present, the Christmas Bird Count, with all its faults, is the best index we have to the general level of bird populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service's roadside breeding-bird counts may in time provide more exact data, but it appears that many species will not be adequately sampled in this effort. I can only recommend again that observers organize well-designed counts that will provide a continuing quantitative record of local bird populations.

LOON, SHEARWATERS — Unless it has had summered, a Com. Loon at Alligator Pt., Sept. 26 (CHW), was the Region's earliest fall record. An Audubon's Shearwater on Cocoa Beach, Aug. 31 (RDB), provided the only land evidence of the offshore shearwater flight in this area, where all 5 species known from Florida were seen (JJ); notably, 3 Cory's Shearwaters, Oct. 8, a **Manx Shearwater**, Oct. 26, and 2 late Greater Shearwaters, Nov. 2.

PELECANIFORMS — White Pelicans were well-distributed, unusual locality records including 50 at Fernandina Beach, early Oct. ff. (HB), 11 in a shallowly flooded field at Zellwood, Oct. 30 (JBE, PJF), and 50 on city lakes in Lakeland, Nov. 4 ff. (JBE). Records of 100 at McKay Bay, Tampa, through the period (JJD, JBE), and 75 at St. Martin Keys, Citrus Co., Aug. 31 (MJF), indicated that many summered on the upper Gulf coast. In a late summer aerial census, Fogarty found an encouraging 1194 Brown Pelicans along the n.e. Gulf from Tarpon Springs to Cape San Blas, and an increase on the coast below Tallahassee (HMS) perhaps resulted from recent nesting just outside the Region at Port St. Joe (AB, 25:866). An ad. White-tailed Tropicbird off Port Canaveral, Sept. 8 (JJ), and a sick Blue-faced Booby in St. Petersburg, Sept. 14 (GEW, *U.S.F.), were the season's only records of these species. A Magnificent Frigatebird unconcernedly flying due e. over Lakeland, Sept. 25 (WWC, JBE), was one of the few ever seen inland in Florida in fine weather.

HERONS, STORK, SPOONBILL — Migratory movement of herons tends to be overlooked in Florida, but Johnson saw a number of presumed migrants over the Florida Straits, including 26 Great Blues and 8 Green Herons, Oct. 8. Suggestions that Cattle Egrets are becoming more migratory in Florida came from several sources. Dr. Stevenson had only one record at Tal-

lahassee after October, and nervous, coherent flocks of apparent transients were noted at Bartow (1000+, Oct. 2—JBE), Lakeland (200, mid-Nov.—JBE), and Dry Tortugas (Oct. 12 & 19—FO). An Am. Bittern in E.N.P., Sept. 1 (JCO), was early, if a migrant. Wood Ibises were widely dispersed and by the end of the period few had reached south Florida, where nesting prospects were bleak because of drought. A wide upstate scattering of Roseate Spoonbills included 3 in the extreme n.e., Amelia Is., Oct. 16 (DWJ).

WATERFOWL — Ducks, possibly excepting Redheads, were generally scarce and (despite several early records) late to arrive even in n. Florida, where the main influx at Payne's Prairie occurred in mid-November (JAB). Divisional earliest dates for birds thought to be *bona fide* migrants were: Am. Widgeon, L. Lafayette, Sept. 18 (HMS); Ring-necked Duck, 5, St. Marks N.W.R., Oct. 9 (HMS); and Bufflehead, 2, Port Canaveral, Nov. 6 (RDB). Blue Geese ranged s. as far as Tampa Bay, Nov. 19 (JJD), and Titusville Beach, Nov. 21 (JBE, JJ, PJF) and a Eur. Widgeon (possibly 2) was back at Wakulla Springs, Nov. 6 & 26 (JBE, CAS). Observers should be advised that the Florida Game Commission has introduced non-migratory Canada Geese on Payne's Prairie (ARS).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Very late Swallow-tailed Kites were seen at Plantation Key, Aug. 30 (OLB), and Rockledge Sept. 25 (ADC). A remarkable record of an imm. **White-tailed Kite** over Vero Beach, Sept. 9 (HWK), provided the only recent evidence that the elusive Florida population still survives. Two Everglade Kites at Monroe Station, Collier Co., Sept. 11 (JCO), were well away from their usual range, as were 2 ad. Bald Eagles over Key West, Nov. 14 (FTH). The fall hawk flight, particularly Accipiters and Pigeon Hawks, was far below normal. The largest number of Sharp-shinned reported was about 25 *flying north* off Amelia Is., Oct. 2 (DWJ), and many energetic observers failed to see any Pigeon Hawks. Eric Tabb, the Region's most active student of raptors, felt that the low numbers seen may have been owing partly to weather, the scarcity of cold fronts favoring straggling and dispersal, rather than concentrated coast-wise flights. Reports of migrant Broad-winged Hawks (or small, high flying buteos, probably Broad-wingeds) mentioned only small numbers, but included notable n. peninsula observations at Gainesville (5, Oct. 11—CHC), Lakeland (Sept. 25—JBE), and St. Petersburg (10, Oct. 13—*fide* JBE). Records at Key West, Nov. 12 & 15 (FTH, PJF, JBE), Sarasota, Nov. 23 (DHM, GMa), and Plantation Key, 21, Nov. 25 (CEK, EJF), again (AFN, 24:35) indicated that the Florida Broad-winged flight persists through November; a count of 90 there, Oct. 12-19 (FO—58, Oct. 17), showed that fair numbers of Broad-wingeds accomplish the overwater flight to Dry Tortugas. Swainson's Hawks were few, late, and reported only from s. Florida, where the records included 1 over Key West, Nov. 25 (FTH). A dark phase Short-tailed Hawk at Lakeland, Sept. 12-22 (PJF, GJH, JBE, HBH), may have been shot by a casual gunner. A normal number of Peregrine Falcon records, included a report of 2 imm., Aug. 27, close to the earliest of record for the Region.

SANDHILL CRANE, RAIL — Sandhill Cranes reached Payne's Prairie with the cold fronts of early November. A partial count of 453, Nov. 10 (SAN, KRN), was believed to indicate a wintering population of about 700. A Va. Rail at Cocoa, Sept. 13 (ADC), one of a number of injured birds of the species reported, provided the earliest divisional fall arrival date.

SHOREBIRDS — Save for a few rarities, the shorebird migration was undistinguished, particularly so in droughty s. Florida. (But I wonder whether anyone checked the areas s. and e. of L. Okeechobee, where thousands of acres of farmland were flooded to control nematodes.) Among many early Com. Snipe, 1 on the Sunshine Skyway, St. Petersburg, Aug. 15 & 25 (VMA, JW), was the earliest for then. peninsula. The Zellwood muck farms produced a peak count of 41 Upland Plover, Aug. 21 (JBE, PJF). Other reports of the species were few, but they included an extremely late record at Rockledge, Oct. 22 (ADC). The notable shorebird rarities were: Purple Sandpiper, Ft. Pierce Inlet, Nov. 30 (IC); White-rumped Sandpiper, 2, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 17 (FO), and Pineda Causeway, Brevard Co., Nov. 7 (ADC; latest Fla.); Hudsonian Godwit, 2, Port Canaveral, Sept. 1 (JJ); and Ruff, ♂ at Zellwood, Sept. 4-8 (JBE, PJF), ♀ at the Lakeland sewage plant, Sept. 26 (JBE, PJF). Sanderlings on Aug. 16, 21 & 27 (JBE, PJF), virtually completed the Zellwood list of ordinarily coastal shorebirds. Other such species seen there this fall (JBE, et al.) were Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel (Aug. 24 — VMA, JW), Willet, Knot (Sept. 8 — JBE, VM), Dunlin, and Marbled Godwit. Illustrative of the opposite, an interior shorebird at sea, were 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 18 mi. off Port Canaveral, Aug. 24 (JJ). Among unusually numerous reports of the species, a count of 252 Am. Avocets, McKay Bay, Tampa, Oct. 22 (JJD), stands out as doubtless the largest concentration of Florida record, except on Cape Sable. A peak count of 64 Wilson's Phalaropes at Zellwood, Aug. 21 (JBE, PJF), and a reported 500 Red Phalaropes off Port Canaveral, Sept. 5 (JJ), also represented record numbers.

JAEGERS, LARIDS — Regular observations off the coast of Brevard Co. (JJ) gave some insight into the seasonality of southbound jaeger migration in Florida waters. Ten offshore trips, Oct. 5-30, yielded 13 jaegers; 6 trips, Nov. 1-19, produced 58 (12 Pomarine, 6 Parasitic, 40 unident.). Florida's fourth Lesser Black-backed Gull, an adult, was on station in e. Florida Bay, Oct. 16 ff. (SS, CEK, EJF, KPA, RL; photo). Records off Port Canaveral, Nov. 1, 15 (28), and 19 (all JJ), provided both the earliest date and largest numbers for the Black-legged Kittiwake in Florida. The riddle of Common Tern migration (the species is rather seldom convincingly reported in Florida, although almost the entire Atlantic coast population undoubtedly migrates past the state) perhaps was solved by Johnson's observations of large numbers offshore, Oct. 14-Nov. 19 (peak, 6000, Nov. 2-3). The only other report came from St. Petersburg, 20, Sept. 5 (VM). Also off Brevard Co. (JJ), Sooty Terns were seen regularly through Oct. 8; Bridled Terns through Oct. 5; and, surprisingly, Sandwich Terns, Oct. 4-Nov.

19 (peak, 65, Oct. 13). Another Sooty was found injured at Daytona Beach, Aug. 31 (RWL), and the Noddy Tern made one of its rare e. coast inshore forays, Oct. 7-8 (HBM, DT), when several imm. followed a run of bait fish into Bear Cut, Biscayne Bay. A record flight of Black Terns brought reports of "thousands" over an Amelia I. salt marsh, Sept. 1 (DWJ), "hundreds" at Zellwood, Aug. 26 (JBE), and numbers passing offshore, Aug. 1 — Nov. 3 (JJ; peak, 500, Oct. 8).

CUCKOOS, SHORT-EARED OWL — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Daytona Beach, Nov. 25 (CHE), was very late, if not wintering. The 9 Black-billed Cuckoos reported may be a new fall high for Florida: 2, St. George I., Oct. 23 (HMS, NOW, RD); WCTV, Oct. 20 & 21 (WWB, RLC); WDBO, Orlando, Oct. 11 (WKT, BHA; *F.T.U.); 2, near Bartow, Oct. 11-12 (PJF, JBE); and, 2, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 12 (FO). An incapacitated (perhaps pesticide) Short-eared Owl found n. of Homestead, Nov. 23 (EJF), was the earliest definite s. peninsula record.

HUMMINGBIRDS — A "veritable invasion" (SAG) of Rufous Hummingbirds occurred in n.e. Florida with at least 4 at several localities in Brevard Co., Sept. 8 (earliest Fla.) — Nov. 30 (ADC, HGC, RDB), and 1 in Jacksonville, Nov. 29 (RM). Hummingbird study in Florida added another frustrating chapter in the case of an outrageously tame individual that roosted nightly, Aug. 26-Oct. 13, beside Howard Langridge's home in Lantana. Repeated feather-by-feather studies from as close as one foot convinced observers (HPL, PWS, JBE) that the bird was a Bahama Woodstar (*Caliphlox evelynae*), apparently an imm. ♂ in molt. Unhappily, U.S. Nat'l Museum authorities (R. Banks, J. Aldrich) decided that the photographs obtained (copies E.N.P.) were insufficient to establish this identity. Equally tantalizing was a fairly large, all-dark hummingbird with a bright green throat seen well, but briefly, near Homestead, Nov. 14 (JCO).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, BROWN CREEPER — A major flight of W. Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers brought a flood of reports throughout the Region. A Gray Kingbird at Key West, Nov. 15 (FTH, JBE), was the latest for the Lower Keys, where, rather surprisingly, there are no winter records. Another at Orangedale, St. Johns Co., Sept. 19 (MD), was unusual in being 20 miles inland. Notable *Empidonax* records included: Least, calling, St. George Is., Sept. 11 (HMS; earliest Tallahassee div.); Acadian, near Lakeland, Oct. 18 (JBE; latest n. peninsula); and, Trail's (Where are they in n. Fla.?) at Royal Palm, E.N.P., Sept. 18 (JCO), 9 banded, Homestead, Sept. 22-Nov. 8 (EJF; the last, latest s. peninsula), and Dry Tortugas, Oct. 15 (JCO; first records, Lower Keys). Virtually all observers agreed that swallows, especially Purple Martins, were remarkably scarce. The lone exception seemed to be the Cliff Swallow, historically the rarest swallow species that occurs regularly in Florida, with "largest flocks" reported at Vero Beach, Sept. 9-13 (HWK, MM), and lesser numbers elsewhere. Blue Jays, seemingly southbound, were conspicuous around Lakeland, Sept. to early Oct. (JBE), and in the St.

Petersburg area, Oct. 11-12 (VM), and at least 1 reached the Upper Keys (Plantation Key, Sept. 20 ff. — SS). About 30 crows over North Miami, Sept. 24 (WBR), were probably Fish Crows. This species has extended its range s. along the s.e. coast in recent years, whereas the Com. Crow is almost unknown in the urbanized coastal sections. In the Keys, where any crow is noteworthy, 3 on Key Largo, Sept. 29 (JCO), were silent, but 1, there Nov. 29 (WBR), gave several honest-to-goodness "caws," and, presumably, it was a Com. Crow strayed from the adjacent mainland. Both a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Daytona Beach, Nov. 12 (GC), and a Brown Creeper there Nov. 7 (GM: said to be only the third local record in 50 years), were at the s. limit of their usual Florida range.

THRUSHES, VIREOS — The early October cold fronts grounded an unprecedented number of thrushes throughout the peninsula. Reports spoke of "flocks of 75 to 100," involving all 4 transient species, Gainesville, Oct. 8-11 (BDW, JEH, CHC); large numbers of Swainson's, 6 Gray-cheeked and 2 Wood Thrushes, Lakeland area, middle 2 weeks of October (JBE, PJF, et al.); 50 Swainson's and 12 Wood Thrushes, St. Petersburg, Oct. 12 (VM); and, peaks of 100 Swainson's, 50 Gray-cheeked and 7 Wood Thrushes, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 12-15 (FO). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were numerous in s. Florida (EJF, ESD), but the southernmost Wood Thrush report (other than Dry Tortugas) came from Sarasota, Oct. 12 (CPP). A Veery banded at Homestead, Nov. 22 (EJF), was the latest for the s. peninsula. The Philadelphia Vireo, 5 years ago considered a great rarity in Florida, improved on its good fall showings of recent years. Records included: WCTV, Oct. 7 (WWB, RLC); 2, WDBO, Orlando, Oct. 8 (WKT, BHA; *F.T.U.); 8 or 9 Lakeland — Bartow area, Oct. 10-14 (JBE, PJF); 10 banded, Homestead, Oct. 4-Nov. 2 (EJF; photo E.N.P.); Royal Palm, E.N.P., Oct. 10 (JCO); and, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 12-14 (FO). The only Bell's Vireos were 2 banded at Homestead, Oct. 3 (photo E.N.P.) & 26 (EJF); and the only Warbling Vireo, Rockledge, Sept. 20 (ADC), was the latest of the few n. peninsula records.

WARBLERS — Combined effects of the mid-September and early October cold fronts produced a vintage year for warbler-watchers in the c. and n. peninsula, and led observers to unleash their strongest superlatives. More Magnolia Warblers were seen in Brevard Co. "than in the previous 10 years combined" (ADC), while Lakeland (JBE, et al.) reported "unprecedented" numbers of some 14 species. The warbler flight was excellent even offshore in c. Florida, where Johnson identified 12 species that landed on his boat, and recorded migrating warblers on 22 of 39 days at sea, Aug. 1-Nov. 19 (200 of 7 species, Oct. 8). South Florida, not favored by cold fronts, had a routine warbler migration.

The mass of notable records at hand virtually precludes any approach other than a species-by-species listing: Prothonotary — several quite late, including Key West, Nov. 13-14 (FTH; *latest Lower Keys*); Swainson's — TV tower casualties at WCTV, Oct. 20 (WWB, RLC), and WDBO, Oct. 18 (WKT, BHA),

were latest divisional records; Golden-winged — good numbers throughout, an amazing 13, Lakeland-Bartow, Sept. 12-Oct. 17 (JBE, PJF), 1 at Cocoa, Nov. 18 (JJ; *ties latest n. peninsula*); Blue-winged — at least 20 reported; Tennessee — record numbers, 112, Lakeland area, Oct. 9 (JBE, PJF), 1 at WDBO, Nov. 4 (WKT, BHA; *F.T.U.), was the *latest for the n. peninsula*; Orange-crowned — numerous very early records, included 1, Gainesville, Oct. 3 (CHC), and 6 there Oct. 8-10 (BDW, JEH); Nashville — 9 reported, 2, Key West, Nov. 13-15 (FTH, et al.); Magnolia — a massive fallout, 65, Lakeland, Oct. 9 ff. (JBE, et al.); Black-throated Gray — Newport, Wakulla Co., Nov. 14 (HMS), banded, Homestead, Nov. 1 (EJF, WBR); Black-throated Green — record numbers in c. Florida; Cerulean — numbers in n. and c. Florida after the Sept. 11-14 front, at least 4, Lakeland — Bartow, Sept. 12-26 (JBE, PJF), Gainesville, Oct. 8 (JEH; *latest n. peninsula*); Blackburnian — 28, Lakeland, Sept. 11-Oct. 18 (JBE, PJF); Blackpoll — 3, WDBO, Oct. 20 (WKT, BHA; *F.T.U.); Chestnut-sided — best year ever in the n. peninsula, few in s. Florida; Bay-breasted — at least 50 reported, Oct. 8-21, 8 at Lakeland, Oct. 10-14 (JBE, PJF), were the first records in 10 years; Kentucky — remarkable numbers in the n. peninsula included several divisional extreme dates, Zellwood, Aug. 21 (JBE; *earliest n. peninsula*), WCTV, Oct. 20 (WWB, RLC; *latest Tallahassee div.*) Lakeland, Oct. 10 (JBE; *latest n. peninsula*); Hooded — greatest number ever at Lakeland (JBE); Wilson's — Bartow, Oct. 10 (PJF), Dry Tortugas, Oct. 12 (FO), 2, Key West, Nov. 13 (FTH, PJF), Stock I., Nov. 15 (JBE). The latter bird, a ♂, had an "orange face" and "intense yellow plumage" and was thought to be the subspecies of the far w.; Canada — 2 banded, Homestead, Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 (EJF), were the only records; Am. Redstart — unusually large numbers throughout, 225 banded, Homestead, Sept. 22 — Nov. 1 (EJF).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Bobolink numbers were reportedly low everywhere, except at Vero Beach where Herb Kale saw a number of flocks, Sept. 9-13. At the remarkable oriole feeding station of Mrs. Dorothy S. Baer in Gainesville, the first Baltimore Oriole arrived Aug. 30, with an estimated 150 present, Nov. 22. An Orchard Oriole at Dry Tortugas through Oct. 17 (FO) was one of the latest migrants known from Florida. An imm. ♀ **Bronzed Cowbird** at Gainesville, Nov. 18 (ARS; *F.S.M.), was only the third Florida record of this apparently expanding species. Unseasonably warm weather that prevailed in late fall after the birds had completed pre-basic molt was believed (HWK) to account for the widespread breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles in an area bounded by Orlando, Merritt I. and Ft. Pierce (*cf.*, Selander and Nicholson, *Condor*, 64:81. 1962) A strong flight of Scarlet Tanagers was marked by exceptional numbers around Lakeland, Oct. 9-12 (JBE, PJF; "more than all previous records combined"). Four W. Tanager records — St. George I., Oct. 23 (NOW); Bonaventure, Brevard Co., Nov. 25 (RDB); banded, Homestead, Oct. 20 (EJF, WBR, JCO); and, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 15 (FO) — suggested that unusual numbers migrated into Florida this fall.

GROSBEAKS, SPARROWS — The entire peninsula had record numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the middle 2 weeks of October. Some sample reports were: 9, Gainesville, Oct. 11 & 17 (CHC, BDW, JEH); "up to 12 per day." Lakeland, Oct. 8-17 (JBE, PJF, et al.); 10 St. Petersburg, Oct. 12 (VM); 25, n. of Homestead, Oct. 10-11 (JB); 29 banded, Homestead Oct. 9-19 (EJF); and, 102, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 13 (FO). In contrast, Blue Grosbeaks were generally scarce, the records including one very early migrant, Alligator Pt., Aug. 15 (DD). One Slate-colored Junco (Long Pine Key, E.N.P., Nov. 24 — WBR) and 1 Field Sparrow (banded, Homestead, Nov. 13 — EJF, JCO) reached extreme s. Florida, and Lincoln's Sparrows at WCTV, Oct. 20 (WWB, RLC), and St. George I., Oct. 23 (HMS; *F.S.U.), were local rarities. Early White-crowned Sparrows near Panacea, Oct. 8 (HMS), and at Dry Tortugas, Oct. 19 (FO; *earliest Lower Keys*), introduced an unusually large November flight that brought records from WBDO, Nov. 9 (WKT, BAH; *F.T.U.); Homestead, banded, Nov. 9 (EJF); Flamingo, Nov. 13 (JBE); and, Key West, 5, Nov. 15 (FTH, JBE).

EXOTICS — Records necessitate another entry in this rather depressing chronicle. Meade Gardens, Winter Park (DF), may be added to the list of Florida localities where Ringed Turtle Doves are apparently established. Observers speculated that Budgerigars on Alligator Pt., Aug. 13 & 20 (JMS), and, 2, in a remote part of St. Marks N.W.R., Aug. 19 (HMS; photo), might be pioneers spreading from colonies in the Tampa Bay area. Among a number of s. Florida sightings of errant *Amazona* parrots, a pair on Plantation Key, Oct. 31 (CEK), and 3 in nearby Islamorada, Nov. 13 (PJF), were identified as Red-crowned Parrots, (*Amazona viridigenalis*). The Hill Myna, (*Gracula religiosa*), was the newest (and noisiest!) of the Miami area exotics, reports including 2, Fairchild Gardens, Oct. 7 (DT), and 3 or 4 throughout the period near Homestead (EJF, WBR).

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specimen. — **WILLIAM B. ROBERTSON, JR.**, Office of the Chief Scientist, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Fla. 33030.

ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

ONTARIO—Every fall has its highlights; almost every fall yields rarities. Now and then a season occurs when such a host of unusual events coincide that the more commonplace is wholly submerged. The year 1971 was such a vintage fall: this compiler has been preparing seasonal summaries for the Province for ten years now, but this fall was unequaled in that time.



Oddly enough the events occurred against a backdrop of very orderly migration. The season was mild and open, with day after day of pleasant sunny weather. In Weston the first frost did not occur until Nov. 5, and the garden yielded its last carnation on Nov. 27! With such a mild open season one of the more noteworthy events was the late departure of many migrants. Space permits only the most outstanding records to be listed, but an example of the extent of the phenomenon is that in Ottawa alone — not normally noted for its balmy weather — 42 species were listed with late departure dates.

The main cool weather occurred early: this was a sharp cool spell in late August which sparked unseasonably early movement, with reports of good warbler flights from Kingston to southwestern Ontario. September and October were warm months, and there was little widespread rain; hence groundings of migrants were correspondingly scattered and many areas felt that passerine numbers were light. There were many isolated events of interest, but space permits only the account of these, with little speculation on their causes.

LOONS, GREBS, CORMORANTS — Common Loons appeared in good numbers at Sarnia Oct. 31, with 143 (DR); Ottawa with 18 on the same day (BM,