

storm *Alberto* on nesters concerned the Swainson's Warbler. Hodges mentioned that after the storm waters receded, he could find none in their usual haunts. How many other species were effected?

Inland Painted Bunting records included four males and one female at the Savannah R. Site, SC during the summer (BDu) and a male in the Fitzgerald, GA area June 2 (MO, MHP). Dickcissels were found in all 3 states this year. In North Carolina \leq two pairs were near Waco, *Gaston* through the summer (ST). In South Carolina one pair took up residence near Gowansville, *Greenville*, (ST) and four immatures were located at a *Laurens* site July 22 (PW), suggesting local origin. Two pairs nested near Athens, GA (JS, BD, PR *et al.*) and three were found near Albany, GA June 10 (PR). A fly-over Dickcissel at Falls L., NC July 22 (RD) was almost certainly a non-breeding wanderer. The discovery of an ad. Lark Sparrow at Beaufort, NC July 21 (HH) indicated an absurdly early migrant. Another Lark Sparrow was found near Pelion, SC June 2 (SP) and possibly could have been a late spring migrant. Defying explanation was the ad. White-throated Sparrow in Dawsonville, GA July 3 (FM, *vide* TM). Bobolinks made news in North Carolina when 3 pairs nested successfully in a field near Calvert, *Transylvania* during June and July (*vide* NS). There are reports of birds in the mountains and foothills in many seasons, but this is only the 2nd or 3rd documented nesting record for the state. The last Evening Grosbeak report consisted of a late bird at a feeder in Morehead City, NC on June 1 (*vide* JF).

Corrigenda

The winter report of N. Waterthrush from Liberty, *Tattnall*, GA should have read: near Sunbury, *Liberty*, GA.

Contributors: Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Ned Brinkley, Patrick Brisse, Mike Canada, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, John Cely, Ricky Davis, Steve Dinsmore, Bruce Dralle, D. Dunmore, Barny Dunning (BDu), Caroline Eastman, Bill Fletcher, John Fussell, Susan Grove, Herb Hendrickson, Armas Hill, Mal Hodges, Milton Hopkins (MHP), Gene Howe, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MLy), Frank McCamey, Roger McNeill, Jimi Moore, Nell Moore, Terry Moore, Rick Murray (RMu), Mark Oberle, Steve Patterson, Tommy Patterson (TPa), Brian Patteson, Taylor Piephoff, Lloyd Ramsey, Paul Raney, Stanley Rickard, Georgann Schmalz, Jeff Sewell, Norma Siebenheller, Ramona Snavely, Bruce Sorrie, Paul Sykes, Simon Thompson, Jim Wood, Pete Worthington.

—Ricky Davis, P.O. Box 277, Zebulon, NC 27597

Florida Region

RICHARD T. PAUL AND ANN F. SCHNAPF

Extremely dry spring conditions were followed by summer rains throughout the Region, with many observers reporting near-daily thunderstorms throughout June and July. A "normal" rainy season was a welcome change after five years of unusually dry summers. Tropical storm *Alberto* crossed Florida just west of Tallahassee in early July, causing some local flooding there but missing the peninsula entirely. Lingering effects of hurricane *Andrew* were noted by Ted Below, who found shorebird arrival south of Marco Island on schedule but numbers down by two-thirds. Excellent shorebird numbers were reported, though, at two *Pinellas* barrier islands and also in the Lanark Reef-Carrabelle Beach area of *Franklin*.

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Sta.*), A.P.A.F.R. (*Avon Park Air Force Range*), D.W.P. (*Disney Wilderness Preserve*), E.N.P. (*Everglades National Park*), K.S.C. (*Kennedy Space Center*), P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*), S.R.A. (*State Recreation Area*).

Loons to Cormorants

Two Com. Loons made summer appearances, at a Gainesville retention pond June 11–18 (RN) and at Cedar Key July 24 (DH). An Audubon's Shearwater was seen 5 mi w. of Tarpon Springs July 31 (DG). At Passage Key July 13, an imm. Brown Booby allowed close study (AS, BL). Summering Am. White Pelicans included nine in Rookery Bay June 10 (JM) and 16 at P.P.M., July 16 (PF). The annual G.F.C. Brown Pelican nesting survey tallied just over 10,000 pairs statewide, the highest since 1989 (SN). One new colony was discovered at Lanark Reef, *Franklin*, with 75–85 nests July 13 (GS, JG). Four Brown Pelicans strayed inland into *Highlands*, one at L. Istokpoga June 4 (MM) and three over Highway Park June 5 (KT, MG). A count of 1900 Double-crested Cormorants at P.P.M., July 16 was impressive (PF), while 559 at the Wakulla Springs colony was a local high (DB). Four late July cormorant nests were the first at Rookery Bay since the 1930s (TB).

Hérons to Flamingos

With Everglades water levels nearly as high as last year, wading birds nesting in the Water

Conservation Areas had an indifferent year. Late nesting by Little Blue Herons (1800 pairs), Cattle Egrets (1400), and White Ibis (2000) boosted total numbers to 9500 pairs, but nesting success was relatively poor. This is an improvement over 1993, when just 6500 pairs of waders were found (and no ibis), but far below 1992 when 20,000 pairs nested, including 10,000 pairs of White Ibis (PFR, RSA). Perhaps due to drier spring conditions in 1994, wading birds at Alafia Bank (Hillsborough Bay) declined to about 7000 pairs from last year's 8800 (RP, AS). In contrast, conditions at K.S.C. were wetter than normal throughout spring and summer, but wader numbers dropped there too—by 40% to 1700 nests (ReS).

Reddish Egret broods were found at 2 new *Pinellas* localities, Alligator Lake and Coffeepot Bayou (RP, AS). Five white-morph Reddish Egrets were present at Shell Key, Pass-a-Grille, July 4 (PB, LH, JH). Just one Reddish was reported from the Big Bend area, a dark-morph immature at St Mark's Light July 29 (NW). Despite the dry spring, White Ibis nesting in Tampa Bay declined just 15% from 1993 numbers, with 6740 pairs at 4 sites. Nesting success, however, appeared much lower in casual but repeated observations (RP, AS). At K.S.C., 862 White Ibis nests were found, a drop of 50% (ReS). An ad. Scarlet Ibis was seen again at Lakes Park, *Lee* July 2 (NP). Roseate Spoonbill nests in Tampa Bay totaled 108 (RP, AS), while 10 were found at K.S.C. (ReS). Immature spoonbills made notable inland stops at Sheppard Rd., *Highlands* June 19 and July 5 (MMi, BP, SH), and at P.P.M., July 16 (PF). Wood Storks began nesting at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in mid-March, their latest start ever at this site. Nest counts peaked at 511 April 18 and remained fairly stable until June. Thereafter rising water levels were associated with a high rate of nest failures, and few if any chicks fledged (TB). Statewide, 3588 nests in 26 colonies were tallied, below last year's 4262 (JRo). Fourteen Greater Flamingos, including some immatures, were seen at Snake Bight, E.N.P., June 5 (TBr).

Ducks to Hawks

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen at Myakka River S.P., June 4–5, for a rare record there (CA, GWi), and five were at Clear Spring Mine near Bartow June 5, providing the 2nd record there (CG, PT). At P.P.M., 326 Mottled Ducks July 16 marked a new local high (PF). Making a rare summer appearance at a *Leon* sewage treatment plant June 23 was a ♂ Redhead (GM). Two Surf Scoters were logged: a male at Captiva I., June 20 (VM, WW) and one at Carrabelle Beach July 4 (GS).

Ospreys are increasing at L. Talquin, with 32 nests recorded, compared to 28 in 1993 and 21 in 1991 (GS, DB). An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite nested again on Plantation Key, fledging one young in mid-June (WH). Eight more were seen over Paynes Prairie July 14 with 34 Mississippi Kites (RR). Although no nesting activity was seen, a White-tailed Kite was found foraging a mile e. of the 1993 nesting site in Davie (JB). Another 29 Mississippi Kites were reported from Tallahassee July 4 (DE, LM, GM). Two June reports of Cooper's Hawks near Tampa (RS&LS, RP) were welcome hints that this species may now be nesting in the area. Rare in Pasco, a dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen in Aripeka July 7 (PY). Other Short-taileds reported included a light-morph adult over Johnson Ranch July 16 (AF, m.ob.) and a dark-morph juvenile s. of Lake Placid July 21 (BP, AF), both in *Highlands*, plus a dark-morph bird July 17 at D.W.P., Polk (PF).

Limpkin to Jaegers

Injured Limpkins found in Marathon in mid- and late July (plus a third bird in late May) again raised the possibility of movement between Cuba and Florida (WH). Snowy Plover numbers were down at Honey-moon Island S.R.A., with the season's high of nine recorded July 3 (DG). Fourteen Snowies were counted July 22 at Shell Key, where they failed to nest despite efforts to protect them (PB). Three pairs of Snowies with young were observed at the n. end of

Longboat Key (AL, B&MS). At Honey-moon I., July 3, 131 Wilson's and 118 Semi-palmated plovers were high counts of a local breeder and an early migrant, respectively (DG). A Piping Plover in breeding plumage was on schedule at Adam's Beach, *Taylor* July 18 (JHi, HA, BM), while another was seen July 31 at Phipps Preserve (GS).

A pair of Black-necked Stilts in *Leon* June 23–30 marked the first county record for that month (GM), and perhaps had been displaced by rising water levels that interrupted nesting at St. Marks N.W.R. (JR). The Am. Avocet at Shell Key all spring remained through July 1 (PB), while 12 in breeding plumage were at the Four Corners mine, *Polk* July 16 (PF). Wet conditions in *Leon* attracted several shorebirds rarely seen in June: Greater Yellowlegs June 8, Lesser Yellowlegs June 1, 28 & 30, and Solitary Sandpiper June 30 (GM). Another early Solitary Sandpiper was recorded July 23 at the Buck Island Ranch, *Highlands* July 23 (MMi).

Season-high counts of Willets were posted at Honey-moon I., July 17, with 71 (DG), and Shell Key July 22, with 365 (PB). A Willet at L. Lochloosa, *Alachua* July 11 provided a rare inland record (RR). A Spotted Sandpiper still in breeding plumage was found at P.P.M., where they are uncommon in summer, July 16 (PF). The earliest "returning" Whimbrel was found July 4 at Carrabelle Beach (GS), while "early" Marbled Godwits included one at Carrabelle Beach (GS), 14 at Shell Key (PB), and 40 at Alafia (RP)—all July 4. Fifty Red Knots, including two-three in breeding plumage, were seen on a spoil island off Suwannee June 22 (JK), while summer high counts at Shell Key and Honey-moon I., respectively, were 200 July 4 (PB) and 225 July 17 (DG). Single Sanderlings were sighted at Bald Pt. and Yent Bayou, *Franklin* July 13 (GS). Sanderlings have declined sharply in the past 2 decades in North America, and migrant/wintering numbers should be monitored more closely here. Among several summer reports of W. Sandpipers, the following stood out: 329 at Honey-moon I., July 3 (DG), and two in breeding plumage at P.P.M., July 16 (PF). Two White-rumped Sandpipers at Honey-moon I., June 5 were a good find (KN, BPa), as was a Pectoral Sandpiper at Ft. De-

Soto July 29 (RS). A remarkable Purple Sandpiper turned up on Virginia Key June 22 or 23 (MW, LO). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was seen harassing the nesting skimmers of Three Rooker Bar, *Pinellas* June 15 (AS, BL).

Gulls to Skimmer

Laughing Gulls totaled some 17,000 breeding pairs at 6 Tampa Bay-Pinellas Beach sites (RP, AS, PB). Another 200 pairs were found in Gasparilla Sound June 12 (RP, AS). At Larnark Reef, 400–600 birds were reported July 13 (GS, JG)—but were they nesting? Eighty pairs of Caspian Terns at Alafia Bank May 21 matched last year's total (RP). Counts of Royal Terns totaled just over 2300 nesting pairs at 4 Gulf coast sites (RP, AS, GS, JG). About 1500 Royals on Crane I., in Mosquito Lagoon, in mid-June were probably nesting, and may be the "missing" Banana River population (SN, SS). Sandwich Terns increased sharply over last year to a modern high of 270 pairs at 2 Tampa Bay sites, and an adult with a chick at Three Rooker Bar marked a new site (RP, AS, BL).

Least Tern nesting was poor at St. Marks N.W.R., where avian predators took many of the chicks (JR), and at 4 colonies in n.e. FL. At Ft. Matanzas, formerly the largest of the 4, numbers may be dwindling because of habitat management favoring the pallid beach mouse (PP). The large total of 480 Least, including young July 22 at Shell Key where just 30 pairs had nested, was thought to include many birds from area rooftop colonies (PB). Juveniles were numerous in Keys post-breeding aggregations as well, suggesting successful nesting there (WH). Four Least were at L. Lochloosa July 5, for a rare *Alachua* occurrence (RR). Nearly 1200 pairs of Black Skimmers nested at 7 sites in the Tampa Bay region, with an astounding 531 at Three Rooker Bar alone (AS, RP). At Shell Key, a July 19 count of 515 Black Skimmers, including 130 juveniles, indicated excellent nesting success there (PB).

Doves to Mockingbirds

A Eur. Collared-Dove was found at St. Mark's Lighthouse July 29 (JC), while another was at Loughman, *Polk*, July 30, a new locality (TP). A pair of White-winged Doves seemed to establish residency in Palm River June 6–20, but then vanished (RP); there are no known nesting populations anywhere nearby (*vide* BP). A nestling White-winged brought to a local wildlife rehabilitator (date unknown) furnished the first Upper Keys nesting record for the species (WH). Another White-winged was spotted at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* July 19–21 (JD).

Parakeets at Miami Springs June 2 included four Maroon-bellied, one Green, and



one Scarlet-fronted (TBr). All have been reported previously from *Dade*, but they serve as a reminder that monitoring of exotic species is necessary. Mangrove Cuckoos were found and nesting suspected at Little Cockroach Bay June 6 (RP); Weedon I., July 10 (LH, JH); and Honeymoon I. throughout the period (DG). A **Schalow's Turaco** (*Turaco schalowi*) has been present in Plantation, *Broward* since August 1992; it was apparently liberated by hurricane *Andrew*. This is the first report of the species in Florida (GR; *vide* BP). Four Short-eared Owls of an Antillean race were found in the Dry Tortugas June 8 (BR). Defying explanation was the pair of **Wreathed Hornbills** (*Aceros undulatus*) discovered on Manasota Key, *Sarasota*, in early May, and remaining for 2 weeks. The birds fed on berries of a large Cuban laurel and roosted every evening in a *Casuarina* (J. Kixmiller; ph. T. Sabatelli). This is the first record of the species in Florida (*vide* BP).

A Belted Kingfisher at Rookery Bay June 14 was the first sighting ever for the month there (BA), and the earliest of the season. Four Hairy Woodpecker broods fledged at A.B.S. between April 27–June 12 (BP), good, if local, news for this vanishing species. Eight pairs of Gray Kingbirds were found June 11 at Honeymoon I., down from the usual 12–14 (DG). A Gray Catbird in song at Alachua June 27 was near the s. edge of breeding range (MM, JHi, RR). The Bahama Mockingbird present in Key West since June 1991 was last seen July 10. This was a particularly interesting year, since for the first time the bird was clearly paired and participating in the feeding of a brood. It was seen July 3 feeding a large fledgling that appeared to be a hybrid. Further observation of the female parent suggested that she was, too! Other mockingbirds in Key West exhibit unusual tail and wing plumage patterns, suggesting that this or other immigrant Bahama Mockers have been contributing to the local gene pool for some time (JO).

Vireos to Whydahs

Two Black-whiskered Vireos singing at Honeymoon Island S.R.A. may have represented the entire Tampa Bay area population (DG). More heartening was the June 4 count of 24 on Sugarloaf Key (TBr). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler present in a Gainesville yard June 20 and July 2 & 24 (CR, IF) furnished the first July report of the species for the state (*vide* BP). Seventeen singing ♂ Prairie Warblers at Honeymoon I., June 18 was the season's high, and an excellent count (DG). One–two singing Swainson's Warblers were found July 18 at Steinhatchee Springs W.M.A., in the same area where they had

been found last year; ≤five had also been seen in May. Breeding is likely (BM, HA, JHi, JK). Among migrants, a lingering Am. Redstart was found in St. Petersburg June 1 (RS, LS), while early fall arrivals included a Prairie at A.P.A.F.R., July 6 (JA), a redstart near Dunnellon July 17 (RS, LS), a Worm-eating at Wakulla Beach July 31 (NW), and an Ovenbird at Saddle Cr. Park July 31 (PF).

A Blue Grosbeak singing at D.W.P., July 17 was at the s. edge of the breeding range (PF), while a well-studied White-throated Sparrow at Tamarac June 6 was a rare find indeed (JB). Single Shiny Cowbirds were found in Tallahassee June 7 (DE, LM), Cedar Key July 8 (DH), and at Alligator Pt. throughout the period (JD). None were reported from the Keys (WH). Six Brown-headed Cowbirds, including three juveniles, were seen at A.B.S., July 3 (GW), and a flock of 1000 was found at Four Corners Mine July 16 (PF). Male House Finches were observed singing at 4 locations in Gainesville, but nesting has not been confirmed (BM). "Yearlings" were reported from Lake City, though, raising the possibility there (*vide* JK). The state's second **Pin-tailed Whydah** (*Vidua macroura*) was found at Ormond Beach June 6–7 (SR, CL, GK et al.).

Contributors (area compilers in bold face):

Howard Adams, Clarence Alverson, Bruce Anderson, Jon Arnett, **Jocelyn Baker**, **Ted Below**, Paul Blair, Thomas Brooks (TBr), Dana Bryan, Jim Cavanagh, Jack Dozier, Duncan Evered, **Paul Fellers**, G. Fischer, Artie Fleischer, Peter Frederick (PFR), Ike Fromberg, David Gagne, Mary Garvin, Chuck Geanangel, Jeff Gore, Dale Hender-son, John Hintermister (JHi), Sami Hoag, **Wayne Hoffman**, Larry Hopkins, Judi Hopkins, Herb Kale, Glade Koch, Jerry Krummrich, Bill Lamoureux, Carl Lentz, Alicia LeVine, Michael Manetz, J. McGinity, Mike McMillian (MMi), Gail Menk, Peter Midford, Lyla Messick, **Barbara Muschlit**, Kris Nelson, Steve Nesbitt, Robert Norton, Joe Ondrejko, Lydia Owre, Tom Palmer, Bruce Parkhurst (BP), Neil Pettis, **Peggy Powell**, **Bill Pranty**, Joe Reinman, Cathy Reno, Georgia Reynolds, Sang Roberson, Bill Robertson, Jim Rodgers (JR), Rex Rowan, Rick Sawicki (RSa), Steve Schweikert, Lori Smith, **Rebecca Smith** (ReS), **Ron Smith**, Bob & Marge Sokol, Gary Sprandel, Keith Tarvin, Pete Timmer, Noel Wamer, **Rick West**, Mickey Wheeler, Gino Wilson (GWi), Glen Woolfenden, Paul Young.

—Richard T. Paul and Ann F. Schnapf, *National Audubon Society, Tampa Bay Sanctuaries, 410 Ware Blvd., Suite 500, Tampa, FL 33629.*

Ontario Region

RON RIDOUT

For the first summer in several, the entire province experienced what would be described as seasonable temperatures, if somewhat warmer than normal in June. The fluctuations from normal occurred with precipitation, and these were local in nature. Consequently, weather likely did not adversely affect breeding success.

Indeed, several reporters suggested that a lack of early fall migrants may have been a result of excellent conditions holding birds in the north. However, preliminary reports from monitoring studies in the north suggested a general lack of passerines, reflecting a generally poor spring passage. Reasons for this are unclear but may be related to last winter's sustained drought in the Caribbean and abnormally cold May temperatures in the northeast.

Rarities during the period included at least two Brown Pelicans, circulating widely through the province, a Crested Caracara, and a Cassin's Finch. These and all other rarities mentioned in this report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*), L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory*), O.B.R.C. (*Ontario Bird Records Committee*), Algonquin, Presqu'île, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

Loons to Herons

Immature Com. Loons often summer on the Great Lakes, but Red-throated much more rarely; so two alternate-plumaged adults of the latter species, one along the L. Ontario shore off Whitby June 1–July 9 (m.ob.) and another off St. Catharines July 27 (MEH), were noteworthy. Red-necked Grebes on L. Ontario numbered 20 off Burlington July 6 (RD) and 32 off Mississauga July 12 (DP). The first nest at Burlington since the 1940s was found July 25 (RD) Single Am. White Pelicans at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* June 2–3 (IH, m.ob.) and Echo Bay *Algonia* June 15 (CS) added to an increasing number of sightings away from traditional breeding areas. Two birds were at Timmins most of June (RM).