

(NB). One of these was seen carrying a fecal sac, indicating breeding at the site. There are no well-documented nestings of this species in North Carolina. The continuing census of the Henslow's Sparrow population in the VOA sites in e. North Carolina turned up even more territorial birds than last year. There were a total of 200 singing males counted in late May (J&PW). The importance of these sites to the species cannot be understated and management of the areas must be consistent in the future. In the "very late" department, a Dark-eyed Junco was at Jekyll I., GA May 13 (DCo). And finally, Shiny Cowbirds were reported from Lone Star, Calhoun, SC Mar. 25 (RC, CE) and the Cedar I., NC ferry terminal May 26 (JF).

### Corrigenda

The Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks reported from Donnelly W.M.A., SC during the fall of 1994 (AFN 49:35) provided the state's 2nd record, not the first. The White-winged Tern from North Carolina Aug. 13, 1994 (AFN 49:35) was the 2nd for the Region, not the first. The first was one in Georgia at Jekyll I., Sept. 15, 1977.

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# Florida Region

## H. P. LANGRIDGE

A few fall-outs in April produced some good observing in the coastal areas. Mid-May was so hot and dry that many record-high temperatures throughout the state were posted; rainfall was five inches below normal in the south, before a front with modest rains broke the heat wave May 20 to create a modest fall-out. Many reporters mentioned the shortage of thrushes and tanagers.

Strays this spring were mostly single birds on one-day stops: three Red-footed Boobies, a Red-billed Tropicbird, a Greater Antillean Pewee, two LaSagra's Flycatchers, a Bahama Mockingbird, and a Thick-billed Vireo.

Abbreviations: D.T. (*Dry Tortugas N.P.*), E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*), F.M.N.H. (*Florida Museum of Natural History*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*), P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*), and Spanish River (*Spanish River Park, Boca Raton*).

## Loons to Wood Stork

From 10–25 mi off the *Manatee* coast Mar. 26, R. Meyers counted 300 pairs of Com. Loons, which indicated pairing before migrating. A late Com. Loon in breeding plumage in *Dixie* May 23 (JTK) missed the prom. Three Red-throated Loons in *Duval* Mar. 4 & 11 and Apr. 14 (RHC) were good finds. At P.P.M., May 7 (PJF), 84 Pied-billed Grebes provided a high number on a late date. In *Hamilton*, seven wintering Eared Grebes tarried until Mar. 28 (JTK). The White-tailed Tropicbird visited regularly at D.T., Apr. 29–May 10 (PM *et al.*); seldom seen off Palm Beach, one was reported 6 mi offshore May 9 (TW). Six mi s. of Key West, 40 close-range observers excitedly studied and photographed (over 100 photos) a Red-billed Tropicbird as the *Yankee Freedom* many times flushed it and slipped in close May 11 (HPL, ES, KKe, DC, LC, m.ob., ph. SA, LC, ESJ, † to F.O.S.R.C.). This species is considered very

rare and apparently had not been reported in spring. At D.T. the old record of one chick a season was broken with a total of three Masked Booby chicks April 12 (WCB, DL, ph. KTK); a total of 52 adults were tallied there Apr. 18 (GM). At D.T., two very rare Red-footed Boobies were reported: one Apr. 12 (DL, PM), and a different bird in poor plumage with a light head May 17 (WBR, BR, BK). An emaciated Red-footed was picked up at a Miami shopping center May 4, but died the next day (*fide* WAH). At P.P.M., 1650 Am. White Pelicans Mar. 2 provided a show (PJF). Unusual at D.T., a Roseate Spoonbill hesitated Apr. 21 (KTK).

In a complete surprise, 27 Wood Stork nests hosted incubating adults in n.w. W. Palm Beach Apr. 17 (BM, MBM); however, at Pautrotis Pond, E.N.P., 105 pairs of Wood Storks started nesting in mid-March, 85 nests were still active May 22, but all young were underweight, and few of the 250 chicks were expected to fledge (JCO).

## Geese to Coots

Two banded Bar-headed Geese at St. Augustine May 30 (GKG) were reported as escapes. In the rice fields near Belle Glade May 13 (AL, BL, CW), 350 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks represented a good number. Three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks wandered NE to *Polk* May 22 (BC, LC) where they are rare. A rare wintering Cinnamon Teal tarried until Mar. 17 (GEM) in *Leon*. With about ten reports, a rare wintering Com. Eider disappeared Mar. 8 in *Brevard* (LM).





**Red-billed Tropicbird south of Key West, Florida, May 11, 1995. Photograph/Susan Allen.**

An occasional nester, a Hooded Merganser paraded with seven young in *Lake* Apr. 7 (DL). The red tide bacteria was believed to be the indirect cause of 14 ill Red-breasted Mergansers carried to Pinellas Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in mid-May. Two died and none of the others had been released by May 31 (RWS).

Unusual on the urban s.e. coast, a Swallow-tailed Kite flew over the intracoastal at Boca Raton Apr. 6 (JB *et al.*), and the nesting pair on Plantation Key disappeared after 3 weeks of incubation (WAH). The only White-tailed Kite reported was in n. Dade near Hwy 27 May 21 (TP). This spring at Virginia Key, *Dade*, (DL *et al.*), a Great Black Hawk was found, adding another page to the saga of this species in Florida. Since 1972, Great Black Hawks have been seen in *Broward*, *Dade*, and *Monroe* and even nested successfully in 1975. Respected observers agree that this species did not reach s. Florida naturally. The successful nesting of Am. Kestrel May 13 (LAH, MJH) was only the 2nd confirmed breeding for Pinellas. At P.P.M., 20,000 Am. Coots produced the highest number ever there Apr. 16 (PJF).

**Shorebirds to Terns**

The good number of 300 Black-bellied Plovers were counted in *Pinellas* after a strong SW wind May 12 (PMB). Always a good find in spring, two Am. Golden-Plovers showed up: one in *Pinellas* Apr. 1 (VWM, LAH, KDN) and a late bird in *St. Johns* May 22–24 (MCM, AM, ph.). At *Pinellas*, a Snowy Plover (PMB) produced 3 eggs by Mar. 23 (one day short of the earliest date ever in Florida), but lost them a few days later. Seldom seen in *Alachua*, a Black-necked Stilt was spotted Apr. 5–6 (BR). A flock of 23 Spotted Sandpipers in E.N.P. in early May (JCO) reinforced V. Eden's experience Apr. 21, 1992, that this species flocks before migrating. At P.P.M., 10,000 Least Sandpipers was an impressive number Mar. 2 (PJF), and 1858 Stilt Sandpipers was a very high number Apr. 16 (PJF). About 20 sightings of a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was reported at E.N.P., Apr. 25 (MA *et al.*). About the 4th spring sighting, an imm. Sabine's Gull was reported at D.T., Apr. 6 (KTK, DAR). Over 600 Sandwich Terns during May was the largest concentration ever (THB, BJA) in *Collier*. Easily accessible to observers, Roseate Terns started nesting on roof tops near Fort Taylor Park, Key West, May 28 (JAO). Over 1000 Com. Terns arrived at *Pinellas* with a strong SW wind May 12 (PMB).

**Doves to Waxwings**

At D.T., Apr. 2–8, a *Leptotila*—first for Florida and east of the Mississippi—was photographed (ph. KTK, DAR, KC, † to E.O.S.R.C.).

Where small land birds very rarely nest, a fledged Mourning Dove surprised observers at D.T., Apr. 20 (SF *et al.*). The only Black-

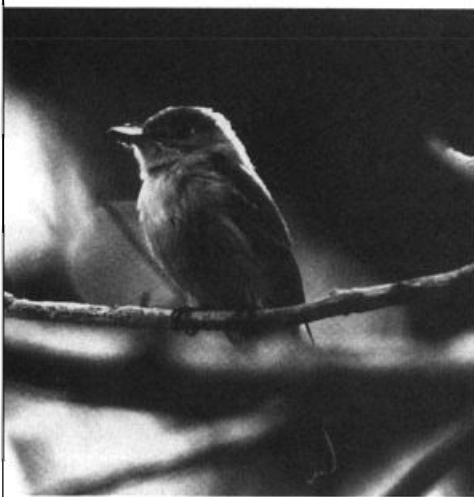


**On the Dry Tortugas in early April 1995, this dove represented the first Florida record of the genus *Leptotila*. Although its identification is still under review, the reddish orbital ring visible in the original photo suggests that it was not a White-tipped Dove, so it was likely a new species for North America. Photograph/Kevin T. Karlson.**

billed Cuckoo reported was one at St. George Apr. 23 (JC). Casual in Florida, a Long-eared Owl was flushed Mar. 4 near the same location where one roosted last year (BP). From a boat in *Collier* during a sundown census of a waterbird rookery Mar. 24, observers counted an amazing 51 Chuck-will's-widows, with 40 in one flock (THB, JLD)! I have seen single Chucks migrating over the ocean, but never a flock; on D.T. I have seen three Chucks roosting close together to suggest that they migrate together. Migrating in a flock may be a new detail for this species.

With only 7 reports for Florida, the very rare wintering Buff-bellied Hummingbird that used a Ft. Lauderdale feeder for 6 years (it missed one year) left Mar. 18 (TC, BC). Providing only the 2nd record for Florida, a wintering imm. ♂ Anna's Hummingbird left *Leon* Apr. 14 (JC, v.t. NW). Rare and a late migrant, a ♂ Rufous Hummingbird stopped at Ft. DeSoto, *Pinellas*, May 21 (LSA, BHA), and a wintering bird left a *Leon* feeder Mar. 23 (FS). A *Selasphorus* in *Duval* Mar. 1-23 (PCP) visited a feeder and another at a feeder at *Leon* left Mar 23 (Shard).

**SA** At Spanish River a Greater Antillean Pewee, a first record for North America, entertained many observers Mar. 11-17 and Apr. 1-4 [v.t. to F.O.S.N.C. BHH, m.ob., v.t. LM, v.t. to F.M.N.H. CWB, ph. BH, GB, SK, LW]. During the first 6 days of its stay this bird called repeatedly, but it seldom called thereafter. The hundreds of observers who saw and heard this bird salute Brian Hope for recognizing this species and for his patience and skill producing definitive audio-visual tapes.



**Greater Antillean Pewee at Spanish River Park near Boca Raton, Florida, March 13, 1995. First confirmed record for North America. The characteristic narrow white crescent behind the eye is visible here. Photograph/Bruce Hallett.**



**Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Dry Tortugas, Florida, April 24, 1995. Photograph/ Kevin T. Karlson.**

True to form, two calling LaSagra's Flycatchers stayed one day: one at Spanish River May 1 (v.t. LM, BHH, MP) and another at Miami Apr. 12 (LM). This species has been reported in the spring the last 5 years. Forty E. Kingbirds crowded D.T., Apr. 6 (KTK, DAR). Among five E. Kingbirds and a Gray Kingbird, a Loggerhead Kingbird was reported at D.T., May 2 (WCB, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Providing the first spring record for D.T. and about the 13th for Florida, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on Garden Key for a photograph Apr. 24 (ph. KTK *et al.*). Becoming more regular in Key West, Fish Crow totaled 12 Mar. 15 (JO). Two House Wrens in *Lake* were late May 13. At *Pinellas* (MSW *et al.*), observers reported only six Wood Thrushes, way below average. Many reporters stated that thrushes were very short in supply this spring. A Hermit Thrush in *Orange* was late May 13 (RW). An Am. Robin was still around at the very late date of May 26 (WB). The only Bahama Mockingbird reported was one singing at Spanish River May 1 (HPL, v.t. LM, BHH, MP). This species has been seen in the spring for 11 consecutive years. A very late Cedar Waxwing was spotted way off course at D.T., May 21 (WBR, BR, BK), but 500 surprised observers at McKay Bay, *Pinellas* May 2 (RTP, AFS, m.ob.).

#### Vireos to Warblers

White-eyed Vireos were numerous, with over 100 at Fort DeSoto, *Pinellas*, Apr. 6-9 (MSW, m.ob.). At H.T. Birch Park, Fort Lauderdale, a shy Thick-billed Vireo, the n.

Bahama form, sang occasionally Apr. 27-May 7 (WG, JD, m. ob., v.t. BHH, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Slightly n. of its breeding range, a Black-whiskered Vireo sang at Cedar Key Apr. 29 (RR *et al.*).

A Golden-winged Warbler, the only one reported, was on D.T., May 5 (SM, m.ob.). A Nashville Warbler at *Duval* May 13 (BJR) was a good find. At Cedar Key a N. Parula fed young on the very early date of Apr. 29 (PCP). At *Seminole*, high counts of parulas were 85 Apr. 22 and 88 May 13 (survey team), with other high reports in this area; this species appeared to be doing well. A Chestnut-sided Warbler straggled through D.T., May 16 (WBR, BR, BK). With only 2 previous sightings in spring at D.T., a Pine Warbler Apr. 18-20 (GM, ph. KTK, DAR *et al.*) was a splendid find. Observers in *Palm Beach* counted a surprising 76 Am. Redstarts on the late date of May 13. During an early fallout, 20 Worm-eating Warblers provided good numbers at Spanish River Apr. 6 (BHH, JH). Near Steinhatchee, *Lafayette*, Apr. 20 (JTK), nest building by a Swainson's Warbler will probably expand its nesting range southward. Thirty Ovenbirds at *Duval* Apr. 19 (RHC) and 45 N. Waterthrushes at D.T., Apr. 28 (KTK, DAR) provided good numbers. At Nokomis, a Connecticut Warbler was banded May 24 (AFS), the latest banding date ever there. A first year ♂

Mourning Warbler created identification problems at Spanish River May 1 (LM, BHH, JH, HPL). A very early Hooded Warbler was spotted at McArthur S.P., *Palm Beach*, Mar. 3 (CW), and >100 were reported in *Pinellas* Apr. 6–9 (MSW, MG).

### Tanagers to Finches

An early migrating Summer Tanager stopped in w. Delray Beach Mar. 4 (BHH), though many reported that migrating tanagers were few. A good number of 500 Bobolinks stopped at *Orange* Apr. 25 (DT). Very rare on D.T. and even in s. Florida, a Dark-eyed Junco visited Garden Key Apr. 16–17 (ph. KTK, DAR, m.ob.). Rarely seen on D.T., an imm.-plumaged Red-winged Blackbird was studied carefully Apr. 12 (HPL *et al.*) and 18–20 (GM *et al.*). The peak count of Shiny Cowbirds was 11 males and 14 females at Key West in early May (JAO), but they were still moving through D.T. May 16–20 (WBR, BR, BK) with a high of 11 males and one female. The wintering Bronzed Cowbirds were still in Florida City Apr. 29 (SM). Spot-breasted Orioles are rapidly reclaiming and expanding their range this year in s. Florida (GSH *et al.*). At Gainesville May 9 (MAM), a House Finch nest with 3 eggs brought the range of this species somewhat southward.

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# Ontario Region

### RON RIDOUT

The spring season might best be described as a roller coaster ride in terms of both birds and weather; the former a result of the latter. Temperatures in March were well above average, while April was unseasonably cool and wet, with May following suit until the second week of the month, when warm air pushed into the province for the remainder of the period.

As might be expected, several early dates were set for returning migrants (particularly waterfowl) in March, but the flow slowed to a trickle during much of April. April 27 brought a rush of migrants into the southern portion of the province, though observers still lamented the poor migration until the flood gates opened on a wide front May 10 (*see Table 2*) and all was well in the world again. Indeed, some who had wailed and gnashed their teeth in April openly rejoiced in May, exclaiming that it was the finest migration in decades! Such is the way with migrant watchers.

Outstanding rarities during the period included Garganey, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, American Oystercatcher, Lewis' Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, Painted and Varied buntings, and Great-tailed Grackle. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (O.B.R.C.).

**Abbreviations:** Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P. and vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Point Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Algonquin, Presqu'île and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* refer to counties or regional municipalities.

### Loons to Herons

Red-throated Loons shifted their mid-April staging area slightly, though the pattern continued to indicate a L. Ontario to L. Huron flight path. Numbers moving through Hamilton totaled 77 birds Mar. 5–May 3 (m.ob.). The large flocks on L. Huron shifted S this year from *Bruce*, where six was the highest total at Pt. Clark Apr. 16 (B&DF), to Pinery P.P., *Lambton*, where peak totals included 200 birds Apr. 19 (JS) and 116 Apr. 27 (AR). One at L. Dore, *Renfrew*, Apr. 26 (MF) was exceptional at that inland location. For the 3rd consecutive spring, T.C.B.O., *Thunder Bay*, recorded a Pacific Loon, this year May 17 (JW, DO). A record 645 Com. Loons

