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—Marshall J. Iliff, report to James L. Stasz, P.O. Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714.

Southern Atlantic Coast Region

RICKY DAVIS

This spring's weather included a cooler-than-normal March and April and another cold spell in late May. The spring season was from one to two weeks later than usual. This helped make the arrival dates for many of the northbound migrants and breeders late. The period of April and May was also drier than normal; rather unusual for cold, spring weather. In spite of this, birders noted better-than-average numbers of grounded migrants this spring, especially in the eastern sections, no doubt due to the predominant west-southwest winds. This pattern was in direct contrast to the past four or five spring seasons.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (*Breeding Bird Survey*); C. Hatt. (*Cape Hatteras, NC*); E.L.H. (*E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GA*); H.B.S.P. (*Huntington Beach S.P., SC*); K.B. Sub. (*King's Bay Submarine Base, Camden Co., GA*); K.Mt. (*Kennesaw Mt. Park, GA*); N.C.B.R.C. (*North Carolina Bird Records Committee*); S.C.B.R.C. (*South Carolina Bird Records*

Committee); W.M.A. (*Wildlife Management Area*).

Loons to Wood Stork

Red-throated Loons were along the Georgia coast in good numbers, with >15 at Tybee I., Mar. 1 (MO) and >13 at St. Catherine's I., Mar. 21 (HP) being some of the better totals. Another **Pacific Loon** was found in South Carolina when one was at H.B.S.P., Mar. 12 (JP). Could this be the same individual found several weeks earlier at not-too-distant Litchfield Beach? Numbers of inland Com. Loons were about normal, with the best counts being six at Athens, GA Apr. 19 (NGi, *fide* JS) and four on Salem L., *Forsyth*, NC Mar. 24–Apr. 6 (LR, RH *et al.*). A Horned Grebe was late inland at L. Norman, NC May 19 (DW). Wintering Red-necked Grebes were last seen at C. Hatt., Mar. 31 (AW) and at L. Lanier, GA Apr. 21 (JFI, *fide* TM). In North Carolina, other spring reports included singles at Jordan L., Mar. 16 (WC, FH) and L. Gaston Mar. 30 (RD); and one-two at Ft. Macon Apr. 16–18 (RN, *fide* JF). Eared Grebes remained from the winter until late April or early May at C. Hatt., (m.ob.), L. Lanier, GA (PR, *fide* TM); Goldsboro, NC (ED); and *Monroe*, GA (TJ, LRo). Also, one was unexpected at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Mar. 30 (RD). The **Western Grebe** found earlier in the winter at C. Hatt. was last seen Mar. 9 (WF, BH, LC).

Memorial Day Weekend had the usual rush of offshore boat trips in North Carolina, with 3 trips each from Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet. Diversity and numbers of some species seemed to be down this year



(possibly related to the late spring?), but some exciting birds were found. Topping the list was the **Bermuda Petrel** photographed off of Hatteras May 26 (BP *et al.*) for about the 3rd good report of this species (the first documented!). Other good *Pterodromas* included two different Cape Verde Islands (Feae's) Petrels off Oregon Inlet May 26 & 27, and one definite Herald Petrel off Oregon Inlet May 26 (MT *et al.*). Other dark *Pterodroma*-type birds were reported as possible Heralds several times during this period, and observers need to be reminded that relatively close, good views need to be had when identifying these birds. Cory's and Greater shearwaters were in low numbers, while Audubon's Shearwaters were in average to slightly above-average numbers. From land at C. Hatt. point, Sooty Shearwaters were in excellent numbers with peak counts of 1186 May 24 (NB *et al.*) and ≤ 1000 May 31 (AW, *fide* NB). Also, Manx Shearwaters put on a show at the point, with one May 23, an impressive four May 24, two May 28 (NB *et al.*), and one May 31 (JF). One was seen offshore out of Oregon Inlet May 27 (MT *et al.*). Storm-petrel numbers also were down (Wilson's and Band-rumped), with the only better-than-average report being the 47 Leach's off Oregon Inlet May 26 (MT *et al.*). Tropicbird reports were way down, with the only highlight being the imm. Red-billed seen off of Hatteras May 19 (BP).

The best Am. White Pelican report involved the 40–50 at the usual St. Mary's, GA area Apr. 15 (*fide* TM). Great Cormorants made news with a very rare report from the Georgia coast at Sapelo I., Apr. 27 & 28 (JB, *fide* JS), and one at L. Monticello, *Fairfield*, Apr. 21 (LG) probably furnished South Carolina's first inland record. The only Magnificent Frigatebird reported was over Bogue Sound, Atlantic Beach, NC May 6 (Cly, *fide* JF). Of interest were a Snowy Egret and a Tricolored Heron (a little late) in n. *Greene*, GA May 26 (GB, BB). A Little Blue Heron was early there Mar. 25 (JS, CL). The only Reddish Egret was one adult on Little Cumberland I., GA May 21 (BW). Was this an early wandering bird or a non-breeder? Inland night-herons included a Black-crowned in Macon, GA Mar. 30 (TI, NG, PJ) and a Yellow-crowned in Pauline, SC May 11 (*fide* LC). Nesting Yellow-crowneds were again found in *Guilford* and *Forsyth*, NC (HH, RS). And locally unusual was the Wood Stork found in s. *DeKalb*, GA Apr. 23 (WC, *fide* TM).

Waterfowl to Sandhill Crane

The Greater White-fronted Goose found in the winter at Wilmington, NC was last

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THAILAND
North, Central, Peninsular
4-26 January

NW INDIA
Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bharatpur
2-25 January

SRI LANKA
25 January-10 February

PHILIPPINES
Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu,
Palawan, Bohol, Negros
31 January-3 March

INDONESIA #1
Halmahera/Sulawesi
11 July-3 August

INDONESIA #2
Lesser Sundas
Flores, Timor, Sumba
Komodo, Sumbawa
3-24 August

VIETNAM
North, South
7-30 March

seen Mar. 3 (JPi, SC). Much rarer was Georgia's third **Ross' Goose**, present with feral Canadas near Watkinsville, *Oconee*, Mar. 24–31 (PS, m.ob.). Two ♂ Cinnamon Teal were seen at Savannah N.W.R., SC Mar. 3 (RC, CE), and a male was seen nearby at the Savannah Spoil Site Apr. 16 and May 3–4 (SCa). Could some of these birds have been moving between the 2 sites? Also of note was the discovery of a ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrid at K.B. Sub., Mar. 27 (PS). Always noteworthy, a ♀ King Eider was present at the jetty at Ft. Macon, NC Mar. 25–26 (WC, LT, LCo). In the absurdly late department were a Com. Merganser at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 2 (WS), a Com. Goldeneye in *Monroe*, GA May 11 (TJ, LRo), and an Oldsquaw at C. Hatt. point May 31 (LS, *fide* JF). Apart from the usual scattering of Red-breasted Mergansers inland, the flock of 310 on Roanoke Rapids L., NC Mar. 30 (RD) was impressive.

Swallow-tailed Kite reports were numerous, with the best sightings being one near Perry, GA Mar. 17 (PG, *fide* PJ) providing an early state arrival date; one early n. of Rodanthe, NC Apr. 9 (SW); and another very rare one in *Cobb*, GA Apr. 21 (*fide* JS). Mississippi Kites also put

on a show, with birds being reported in good numbers at traditional sites. One in Valdosta, GA Apr. 15 provided a record-early arrival date for that state (*fide* TJ). A nest was found in *Richmond*, GA (AWa) and the Laurinburg, NC birds nested again in the same spot. Far inland piedmont records included one at K.Mt., May 6 (GB) and one in Durham, NC May 14 (NBu). Nesting Cooper's Hawks were observed near Winston-Salem, NC (*fide* RS) and far to the south at K.B. Sub., May 7 (PS, CK).

Most unusual was the report of a sub-ad. Golden Eagle in *Oconee*, GA May 3 (BD, *fide* PS). Shouldn't this bird be to the north in the mountains this time of year? Nesting Am. Kestrels in the Region are always noteworthy. A pair fledged young from a nest in Holden Beach, *Brunswick*, NC late May–early June (DBr) for possibly a first county breeding record. The introduced population of Plain Chachalaca on Sapelo I., GA continues to hold on, with six seen Mar. 2 (GB, BHa, BDr) and nine Apr. 21 (JS, CL *et al.*). Some high totals for rails at inland sites were had in Georgia this spring. Virginias peaked at 10 at the K.Mt. marsh Mar. 31 (GB) and eight at the n. *Greene* marsh May 4 (PS)

The peak for Sora at the n. *Greene* marsh was 14 Apr. 27 (PS), and seven were in Macon Apr. 28 (J&MA). Also of note was one Black Rail at the n. *Greene* marsh Apr. 24 (PS, BD) and May 26 (JS). Sandhill Cranes are rare outside of the Georgia migration routes, thus of note were one over Bodie I., NC Lighthouse pond May 24 (PL, SF, LB, DP) and the amazing sight of a flock of 16 flying in formation eastward(!) over New Bern, NC May 14 (DK). Migratory flocks of this species are extremely unusual in the Carolinas; most reports are of small numbers of grounded or wintering birds.

Shorebirds to Alcids

American Golden-Plovers are rare spring transients, thus of note were one at Jekyll I., GA Mar. 23 (DCo), two at E.L.H., GA Mar. 21 (CL), up to six in Bartow, GA Mar. 21 (JG, *fide* TM), and one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Apr. 10 (CG). Good numbers of Semipalmated Plovers were found. The peak at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, was 2450 May 17 (DC) and the best inland total was 25 at E.L.H., GA May 12 (JS, CL). Georgia had its 4th inland (first in spring) Piping Plover when one was in Augusta Apr. 26 (AWa). There were 2 inland reports of Black-necked Stilt in the Region. One was at the Hemingway Sewage Ponds, *Williamsburg*, SC Apr. 20 (P&GSu, *fide* JP), and one was in *Lowndes*, GA Apr. 22 (BPa, *fide* JS). Another rare inland shorebird was the Am. Avocet in *Monroe*, GA May 11 (TJ *et al.*). Avocets made news at the Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC, where one pair unsuccessfully attempted to nest in mid-May (SCa). Upland Sandpipers made a good showing. Best counts included 16 near Goldsboro, NC Apr. 13 (ED), four at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Mar. 30 (RC, CE), and nine in *Laurens*, GA Apr. 10 & 23 (TP). Winn in Georgia has been studying evening movements and roosts of Whimbrels along the coast. One roost in *Liberty* contained 2400 birds, and several other large roosts have been located. He is currently keeping track of these congregations and hopes to document the apparent importance of certain locations to the species while in transit. Rare inland, a Willet was at Jordan L., NC May 6 (RD). Also of note were the one-two Long-billed Curlews on Sapelo I., GA Mar. 2–21 (GB, BHa, BDr, HP, PH). Other rare inland shorebirds included two Ruddy Turnstones at L. Norman, NC May 18 (DW); four Sanderlings at L. Monticello, *Fairfield*, SC Apr. 28 (RC, CE); two Stilt Sandpipers at E.L.H., GA May 23 (BHu) and one at Macon, GA Apr. 20 (TI, NG,

PJ); two Short-billed Dowitchers at E.L.H., GA May 5 (PR, *fide* TM) and one in *Bartow*, GA Mar. 23 (JS); a very rare spring Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Dublin, GA May 15–17 (TP); and a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope in *Laurens*, GA May 11 (TP, HP, AR, BBr). Coastally, some good shorebird counts at Pea Island N.W.R., NC included 4480 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 17 (DC); 5500 Least Sandpipers May 17 (DC); and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers in mid-May (RD). Also, 5100 Least were at K.B. Sub., GA Mar. 26–29 (PS) and 3241 were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Apr. 16 (SCa). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from several inland sites, with the best totals being eight at E.L.H., GA Mar. 17 (PB) and six in n. *Greene*, GA Mar. 30 (PS). Stilt Sandpiper numbers included 201 at K.B. Sub., GA Mar. 26–29 (PS) and 246 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 8 (SCa). Unusual was a late Com. Snipe at K.Mt., GA marsh May 13 (GB); and an Am. Woodcock was on K.Mt., Apr. 20 (GB, BDr, BZ). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported only from the North Carolina Outer Banks, with one at C. Hatt., May 1 (AW, *fide* DC), from one–three on Bodie I. Lighthouse pond May 8–13 (DC, RD), and one at Pea Island N.W.R., May 11 (DC). Not to be outdone, a Red-necked Phalarope was on land at Bodie I. Lighthouse pond May 22 (NB, BP) & 26 (RD, JPi, DCa, CEL, PM); and 40 flew past C. Hatt. point May 24 (NB *et al.*).

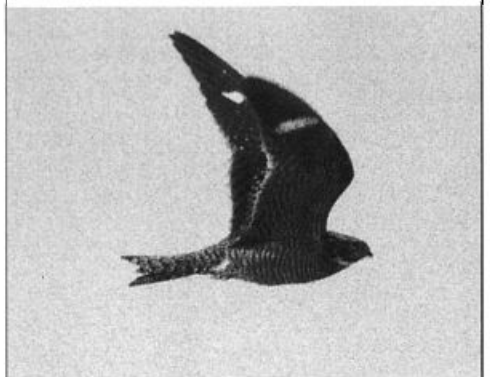
The only S. Polar Skua reported was one off Oregon Inlet, NC May 26 (MT *et al.*). Jaeger numbers were low this spring offshore and from land. Single Long-tailed Jaegers were found off Oregon Inlet, NC May 26 (MT *et al.*) and Hatteras, NC May 27 (BP *et al.*). Very rare in spring, a Black-headed Gull was seen at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Apr. 9 (CG). The last time one of the winter's California Gulls at C. Hatt., NC was seen was Mar. 16–17 (AB, RT). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at the usual spots until mid-spring. Inland at Falls L., Raleigh, NC, a Lesser and a Greater Black-backed gull were still present Mar. 10 (RD). The best inland transient tern reports included 11 Caspians at Jordan L., NC May 6 (RD), two Least at Sumter, SC Apr. 24 (LG), and one Forster's at L. Lanier, GA Apr. 21 (JFI). Arctic Tern numbers offshore were not as high as in recent springs, the peak count being five off Oregon Inlet, NC May 26 (MT *et al.*). Much rarer were the Arctics seen from land at C. Hatt. point. One was seen May 24 and three were there May 28 (NB *et al.*). The only Sooty Tern report was of one at Hatteras Inlet, NC May 27

(BF *et al.*). What happened to the C. Hatt. point birds?

Alcids caused excitement this spring. A murre seen at Litchfield Beach, SC Mar. 6–7 (B&BM, JP) was identified as a Common. Currently under review by the S.C.B.R.C., this would provide the first state record. A late and injured Razorbill was picked up at Ft. Macon, NC Apr. 13 (RN, *fide* JF); it later died at an animal shelter. Absolutely amazing and unexpected was the alternate-plumaged Dovekie seen flying N past C. Hatt. point May 27 (ST, BF, LT, LCo, TPi, RM). Once again, the old adage that anything can and will fly past C. Hatt. point holds true!

Doves to Vireos

The Eur. Collared-Dove continued to increase its population, with several new locations for the species being reported. Lest we forget, Ringed Turtle-Doves are still possible, as evidenced by pair that has been present in a Columbia, SC yard all spring into summer (JE). A White-winged Dove was near Perry, GA Apr. 16 (TW, *fide* TM) for the only report. Black-billed Cuckoos were found much more than usual this year, from the foothills all the way to the coast. In fact, during the last half of May the Outer Banks of North Carolina had at least 7 reports, indicating a strong coastal migratory movement. The Long-eared Owl at the VOA-A site in *Beaufort*, NC was last seen Mar. 31 (JW). The last of the winter flight of N. Saw-whet Owls was indicated by the pair netted at Halifax, NC Mar. 23–24 (FE). Very intriguing was the ♀ nighthawk at C. Hatt. point campground May 23–24; it was photographed with a Common and seemed to be smaller and flying differently, and responded to an imitation of an Antillean Nighthawk (NB, BP). The bird never vocalized, but when weighing the other facts, it seems possible that an Antillean was present (under review by the N.C.B.R.C.). This location is the



Antillean Nighthawk at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, May 24, 1996. Second or third state record. Photograph/E. S. Brinkley.

same for the calling Antillean 2 years ago! South Carolina's first confirmed Black-chinned Hummingbird at Springdale, *Lexington*, from the winter season was last seen in early April in full alternate plumage (RSm, *fide*, LG).

The always exciting Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at the Congaree Swamp N.M., SC May 4 (TK, G&NS, *fide* RC). Willow Flycatchers were once again present in the n. *Greene*, GA marsh area when one was found May 4 (JS, CL) and two May 26 (GB). One was also found in *Bartow*, GA in May (*fide* TM). Locally very rare in spring was the Least Flycatcher at the Alligator River N.W.R., NC May 11 (DC). Always noteworthy in North Carolina, a Gray Kingbird showed up at Ft. Caswell May 18 (LB) and was present until, amazingly, a 2nd bird showed up by June 1 (HL, DCa, JPi). See the summer report for further details on this pair! Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported twice: one was found on Wassau I., GA May 24 (*fide* MO) and one was near the Village of Foxfire, NC in the Sandhills region May 26 (D&MBu).

Interesting swallow reports included a large flock of 2000 Tree Swallows at Salem L., *Forsyth*, NC Apr. 6 (LR, DD) and a very early Barn Swallow in *Bibb*, GA Mar. 2 (*fide* JS). Inland Sedge Wrens were numerous, with the best counts being eight at the K.Mt., GA marsh Apr. 7 (GB) and three at Santee N.W.R., SC Mar. 16 (JP, PRo, DDo, TS). Interestingly enough, there were also three Marsh Wrens at the K.Mt., GA marsh Apr. 28 (GB, KD). Numbers of migrating thrushes seemed to be about average compared with the past several years. Some interesting reports included a very early Veery at the Savannah N.W.R., SC Apr. 7 (SCa); a Bicknell's seen and heard at Durham, NC May 26 (L&EP) for a very late sighting; a peak of 27 Swainson's at K.Mt., GA May 4 (GB); and an early Wood Thrush at Macon, GA Apr. 2 (PJ). Two late Cedar Waxwings near Stumpy Point, *Dare*, NC May 30 (ML) probably indicated that this species may have one of those years where they remain far to the east in summer. A good count of 25 Loggerhead Shrikes was had at K.B. Sub., GA Mar. 26–29 (PS).

What does one make of a Solitary Vireo found in Duke Forest, *Orange*, NC Apr. 17 (WC) which had the field marks of the "Plumbeous" race? A very early Yellow-throated Vireo was in *McIntosh*, GA Mar. 6 (DCo). Rare in spring, Warbling Vireo reports included singles at K.Mt., GA Apr. 28 (GB, JS) and May 7 (PH); Durham, NC May 4 (ET); Greensboro, NC May 11 (DB, *fide* HH); and Ringwood, *Halifax*, NC May 17 (ML). The only Philadelphia

Vireo reports came from Georgia, with singles at Atlanta Apr. 20 (GS, *fide* TM) and Cartersville, *Bartow*, Apr. 14 (JSw, *fide* TM) for an extremely early sighting (earliest Georgia record by a week!). And a **Black-whiskered Vireo** was seen at Myrtle Beach S.P., SC Apr. 26–27 (P&STu, JP). If accepted by the S.C.B.R.C., this would represent the first state record; slightly overdue, since North Carolina has 4 records!

Warblers to Finches

The warbler migration seemed to be about average, with the more interesting reports including a "Brewster's" hybrid at Landsford Canal S.P., SC Apr. 20 (DH, *fide* A&PMa); four Tennessees at K.Mt., GA Apr. 28 (GB, JS); a late Orange-crowned at L. Bowen, *Spartanburg*, SC May 1 (RC, DF, KK); 20 Chestnut-sideds at Atlanta, GA Apr. 27 (GS, *fide* TM); a Magnolia 40 mi off Hatteras, NC May 27 (BP *et al.*), seen during a pelagic trip; a singing male of the white-lored "Sycamore" race of Yellow-throated Apr. 7 in *Spartanburg*, SC (RC, CE); a ♀ Mourning closely studied at Santee N.W.R., SC May 23 (BM); and a Connecticut heard only near Athens, GA May 27 (*fide* TM). Magnolia Warblers had one of the better spring seasons in e. North Carolina. Multiples were found many days at several locations, and two were very late at Manteo, *Dare*, May 31 (JL, JF). Bay-breasted Warblers and Blackpolls seemed to be mostly in the w. areas of the Region, with the best counts being an impressive 20 Bay-breasteds and 25 Blackpolls at K.Mt., GA May 5 (JS). Cerulean Warblers peaked at 12 at K.Mt., GA Apr. 28 (JS). Black-and-white Warblers continue to be found in e. sections of North Carolina, with the best total being eight along the Raeford B.B.S., May 25 (HL). A singing N. Waterthrush in *Horry*, SC May 31 (LG) was quite late. In North Carolina Wilson's Warblers were found at Jordan L., May 5 (WC, JSh); Cary May 6 (RD); and Manteo May 17 (JL). The best Canada Warbler report was of one far to the east at Manteo, NC May 9, 10 (JL, JF). And, finally, the count of 64 Yellow-breasted Chats in *Bartow*, GA May 11 (GB, JS) was truly outstanding!

The wintering W. Tanager at Wilmington, NC, was last seen Apr. 14 (KKo). The peak of Scarlet Tanagers at K.Mt., GA was 43 Apr. 21 (GB). Many observers commented on the apparent larger-than-normal numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks passing through. The peak at K.Mt., GA was 18 Apr. 28 (GB, JS). Also, it seems that this species is frequenting bird feeders more than it did in the past; is this a real change in behavior?

North Carolina's first **Lazuli Bunting** was a first-spring male at Ft. Macon Mar. 22–Apr. 2 (T&AZ, RN, m.ob.). Photographs should document this sighting. There was also a report of two males at a feeder near Garner, NC Apr. 16–17 (LK, *fide* BHD). Although not photographed, the birds were seen well at close range. Was this species undergoing an eastward shift in its migration this spring? Dickcissels staged a better-than-average spring. Reports were spread across the Region, with the best counts being 12 in *Henry*, GA in late May (*fide* TM), nine in *Monroe*, GA May 11 (TJ, LRo), eight in *Richland*, SC most of May (RC, CE, v.o.), six in Pauline, *Spartanburg*, SC May 14 (Lca *et al.*), and five near Raleigh, NC May 6 (RD).

Several sparrow records of note were the >30 Vespers near Macon, GA Mar. 16 (PJ), two different Larks in *Horry*, SC Mar. 29 (LG, SP), four Grasshoppers in Alligator River N.W.R., *Dare*, NC Apr. 18 (DC), one Henslow's at Santee N.W.R., SC Mar. 9 (BM *et al.*), an amazing 10–12 LeConte's (a Regional record?) at Santee N.W.R., SC Mar. 9 (BM *et al.*), a Lincoln's at Chapel Hill, NC Mar. 30 (WC), and a late Dark-eyed Junco at Bodie I., NC May 22 (NB, BP).

Locally, Bobolinks came through in impressive numbers with the best totals being >500 near Raleigh, NC May 6 (RD), 250 in *Houston*, GA May 5 (DG, PG), and several hundred in *Loundes*, GA Apr. 28 and May 1 (*fide* TM). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird reported was one in *Monroe*, GA Apr. 7 (TJ, DJ, *fide* PJ). Brewer's Blackbirds made news this spring with one in *Forsyth*, NC Mar. 31 (LR, DD); a good count of 20 in Mechanicsville, *Lee*, SC Apr. 5 (LG); and an impressive 98 in *Bartow*, GA Mar. 23 (JS). The wintering flock of Baltimore Orioles at Sumter, SC continued to increase, and an astounding 55 were banded during March—probably 65–70 in the area! (KM, EDa, LG). A Purple Finch was late at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 12 (DC). Amazing was the imm. **White-winged Crossbill** at a feeder in Columbia, SC Apr. 3 (RC, CE, LG, SP, TH). Although present for only a few hours, the bird was documented by videotape and, if accepted by the S.C.B.R.C., will provide the state's first record. Evening Grosbeaks remained in many areas until late April-early May. Some of the best totals were >30 in *Cherokee*, GA (*fide* JS) and >45 at Watkinsville, GA (PS).

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Florida Region

H. P. LANGRIDGE

March was colder and wetter than usual, with record rains in the North Peninsula. April was dry in the south, wet in the north, and very wet in spots in the central area. May was dry until very disturbed weather brought much rain late in the month. The Central West Coast area reported three good fallouts: March 30–31 (no fallout in the upper Keys), April 16–20 (Dry Tortugas was poor), and April 30, with excellent numbers of grosbeaks and tanagers, such as at Cedar Key. One observer at Fort DeSoto commented that “Hummingbirds are thicker than mosquitoes.” Also on this date, the lower East Coast and St. George Island had good warblers. The Dry Tortugas experienced a good fallout, with rain, on April 7–8: Tanagers, many kingbirds, and a very large flock of mixed shorebirds flying around Garden Key.

Ted Below reported that the red tide, starting in late January and ending in mid-April, was the “largest, strongest, and longest” in his forty years of experience in Naples. Although the tide killed “manatees, turtles, and thousands and thousands of fish” (mostly catfish), there appeared to be little physical evidence reported of any effect on birds, except one heron and one gull staggering. With no discernible ill effect, the Ospreys fed catfish to their young and Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings pecked at the beached fish.

The season’s highlights included an outstanding hummingbird, an ultra-rare pewee, exciting strays, and some ho-hum strays. Way south on the peninsula at Lakeland, the finding and photographing of a ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in the spring was phenomenal, and a Cuban Pewee on the Dry Tortugas in late May was sensational, although a Zenaida Dove and Fork-

tailed Flycatcher on the Keys weren’t shabby, either. Humdrum strays—like two LaSagra’s Flycatchers and a record number of Bahama Mockingbirds—hardly raised one’s blood pressure.

Abbreviations: D.T. (*Dry Tortugas N.P.*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*), Ft. DeSoto (*Ft. DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.*), Jax (*Jacksonville, Duval Co.*), P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*), U.C.F. (*University of Central Florida, Orlando*).

Loons to Raptors

A Com. Loon over Gainesville May 22 (SD) and two at Santa Rosa I., May 23 were very late (GS). The only White-tailed Tropicbird this spring turned up at Key West Apr. 28 (JAO). On Mar. 13, 17 mi s.e. of D.T., a Red-billed Tropicbird rested on the water (PM, *vide* CWB) for the 2nd spring sighting and 12th overall record. Six young Masked Boobies on Hospital Key, D.T., and an adult covering 2 eggs Apr. 19 (KTK *et al.*) were good news, but a dead young was collected Apr. 3. Three rare Red-footed Boobies were seen on Bush Key, D.T.: one in March with a White-tailed Tropicbird (WBR), one Apr. 6–May 31 (HPL, m.ob., ph. KTK), and another Apr. 26–May 17 (GWL, PL, m.ob., ph. GWL). The latter two were seen together May 15–17 (MP, HP). This species has occurred with erratic regularity the last few years, so F.O.S.R.C. no longer

