

reports were one Surf at Fort Clinch S.P. (*Nassau*) Oct. 24 (RCl) and three White-winged at *Hamilton* mines Nov. 14 (MM, DW).

RAPTORS

Results of the Boot Key hawkwatch (*Monroe*) Oct. 10 were difficult to assess, inasmuch as birds were recorded flying both S and N, but the following counts were made: 81 Sharp-shinned, 14 Cooper's, 109 Broad-winged, and 3 Short-tailed hawks, and 238 Peregrine Falcons (MWh et al.). A White-tailed Kite, rare in n. Florida, was at Medart (*Wakulla*) Aug. 14 (RCh). One ad. White-tailed was over Florida's Turnpike just n. of the *Broward/Miami-Dade* line Aug. 15, and two other adults were at their unsuccessful nest site in E.N.P. (*Miami-Dade*) Aug. 16 (both BP, HL). Mississippi Kite reports included singles at Red Level (*Citrus*) Aug. 15 (CBl), Tallahassee Sep. 10 (FR), R.S.R.S.P. Sep. 20 (BAn), and near Aripeka (*Pasco*) Sep. 24 (DR). A N. Harrier at A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) Sep. 2 (BP) was somewhat early, while 26 at Zellwood Nov. 20 (HR) and 15 at *Polk* mines Nov. 21 (LaA, CG, PTi) were good counts. Also at Zellwood were Broad-winged Hawks Oct. 6 (HR) and two on Nov. 7 (LS); another Broad-winged was at *Hamilton* mines Nov. 17–24 (JK). One Short-tailed Hawk was

SA After being farmed for over 50 years, 13,000 acres of former marshland along the n. shore of L. Apopka, at Zellwood (*Orange*), were purchased in 1997–1998 for \$91 million. The purpose of the acquisition was to restore water quality in the lake, reportedly the Region's most polluted water body. Interim shallow-flooding for weed control created ideal foraging conditions for wading birds and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and larids. Unflooded fields attracted an abundance of sparrows and other species. Birders flocked to Zellwood to witness the unparalleled abundance and diversity of birds present. In particular, Harry Robinson made meticulous counts of all individuals present during 16 trips to the fields Aug. 15–Nov. 30. The mean of Harry's counts was 18,558 birds per survey. During the season, 174 species were reported at Zellwood. Not surprisingly, observations from Zellwood by Harry and others dominate this seasonal report.

seen over Newnans L. Sep. 27 (BM, HA et al.), and two were over Hontoon Island S.P. (*Lake and/or Volusia*) Oct. 3 (CP et al.). A Swainson's Hawk was notable at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) Nov. 26 (JD). Golden Eagles were reported at Wakulla Springs (*Wakulla*) Oct. 24 (TK), Yent Bayou (*Franklin*) Nov. 11 (GS), and T.R.S.T.F. Nov. 27 (DHa). Daily raptor watches at Guana River S.P. (*St. Johns*) Sep. 27–Oct. 12 yielded 63 Merlins and 353 Peregrine Falcons (BS). At S.G.I., Cavanagh counted 42 Merlins and 40 Peregrines Sep. 24.

BOBWHITE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Forty-two Northern Bobwhites were tallied in *Citrus* Oct. 7 (TR), and a Yellow Rail was found at P.P.S.P. Sep. 19 (JWe). In the *Palm Beach* Everglades, Aug. 25, Larry Manfredi observed two Black Rail chicks, the first inland breeding report in the Region. There were 1100 Com. Moorhens and 16,720 Am. Coots at Zellwood (HR), 21,000 coots at *Polk* mines (LaA, CG, PTi), and possibly the same albino coot at Zellwood (HR), then Merritt Island N.W.R. (VF). A Limpkin at Black Swamp Aug. 10 was rare there (GM). Plover counts included 315 Black-bellied at Zellwood Nov. 25 (HR), 16 Snowy and 20 Piping at H.I.S.R.A. Nov. 18 (PB, WY), 20 Piping at Shell Key (*Pinellas*) Sep. 11 (PB), and 70 Semipalmated at Zellwood Sep. 2 (HR). Am. Avocets reports were 94 at *Polk* mines Aug. 2 (PTi, PF), 194 at Jacksonville Oct. 31 (RCl), and 70 at Zellwood Nov. 27 (BAh). High yellowlegs counts at Zellwood were 400 Greater and 995 Lesser, both Nov. 2 (HR). One thousand Red Knots were counted at F.D.C.P. Sep. 4 (EK et al.). Other knots were rare inland at S.R.S.T.F. Aug. 23 (HHp, GM, JCa) and Oct. 5–14 (GM), and two birds at Zellwood Sep. 17–21 & Oct. 21 (HR). A Purple Sandpiper was found at Fort Clinch Oct. 3 (RCl). High counts of sandpipers at Zellwood included 200 Semipalmated Aug. 15, 965 Western Sep. 11, 2400 Least Nov. 13, and 900 Pectoral sandpipers Aug. 7, 400 Dunlins Nov. 4, and 490 Stilt Sandpipers Oct. 21 (HR, PF, TR). Also at Zellwood were three different Curlew Sandpipers, three Ruffs, up to 23 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 670 Short-billed and 1275 Long-billed dowitchers, 402 Com. Snipe, and 21 Wilson's Phalaropes (HR, DF, KR).

SKUAS THROUGH TERNS

The 2nd and 3rd Regional records of **South Polar Skua** were obtained on Atlantic beaches. The first, at Fort Clinch Oct. 7–10, was picked up by a rehabilitator then released at the same site Oct. 18 and was

observed through Oct. 25 (PL, †PP et al.). The 2nd skua, in different plumage, was observed at Smyrna Dunes Park Nov. 9–17 (LMI, †BP, et al.). Inland Pomarine Jaegers, representing the Region's 2nd through 4th reports, were at S.R.S.T.F. Sep. 3 (†JCa et al.), L. Jackson Sep. 6 (PC), and Homestead Sep. 26 (CM, LMa, BR, JR). A Parasitic Jaeger picked up at Jacksonville Oct. 14 died later (PP). Franklin's Gulls were reported from a surprising 5 locations this season, with two at Lake Jackson Nov. 2–3 (PC), six at Zellwood beginning Nov. 20 (HR et al.), three at F.D.C.P. Nov. 22–23 (LyA, LaA et al.), two at T.R.S.T.F. Nov. 24 (MCK), and two–three at Newnans L. Nov. 29 (RR).

As proof of their continued increase in the Region, a group of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Jetty Park (*Brevard*) numbered up to 24 birds Nov. 9–15 (TH et al.). Six Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at Smyrna Dunes Park Oct. 24 (WB, KR), and 74 Caspian Terns were counted at Zellwood by Harry Robinson Nov. 11. Inland Royal Terns were at Newnans L. Aug. 2 (JHi) and Sep. 3 (RR), Hague Dairy Aug. 9 (MM), S.R.S.T.F. Sep. 3 (HHr, TK), and Lake Alto (*Alachua*) Sep. 19 (JWi, MLW). Even more unusual was a Sandwich Tern at L. Jackson Sep. 3 (JCa, SB). Very high counts of Com. Terns were 4000 birds at H.I.S.R.A. Oct. 3 (EK) and 6000 at F.D.C.P. Oct. 9 (LyA). Other high tern counts were 1097 Forster's at *Polk* mines Aug. 2 (PF, PTi), 500 Forster's and 500 Black terns at Zellwood Sep. 2 (HR), and 450 Least Terns at H.I.S.R.A. Aug. 15 (EK). Storm-driven Sooty Terns were at Newnans L. Sep. 3 (JB), six at L. Jackson Sep. 3 (PC), and at Homestead Sep. 25–26 (CM, LMa, BR, JR). Coastal or inland Brown Noddies were at Stuart (*Martin*) Aug. 10 (*vide* D&DH), Homestead Sep. 25–26 (CM, LMa, BR, JR), and Boynton Inlet (*Palm Beach*) Sep. 26 (WZ). Two Black Noddies were still at D.T.N.P. Aug. 31 (MCl). Inland Black Skimmers were three at S.R.S.T.F. Sep. 3 (HHr, TK), two at Lake Jackson Sep. 3 (PC), and 475 at *Polk* mines Oct. 11 (PTi, PF). An **Atlantic Puffin** picked up from a Jacksonville beach Oct. 1 was only the 2nd Regional record. The bird died later (spec.; †PP).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

White-winged Doves were reported from numerous sites along the Gulf coast (v. o.). Single Black-billed Cuckoos were found at D.T.N.P. Aug. 27 (KKi) and at Seminole Sep. 22 (JF, KN), while Groove-billed Anis were notable at Tallahassee Sep. 3 (TK) and Oct. 14 (GM). A Black-chinned Hummingbird



With only one previous verifiable record in Florida, the two apparently different South Polar Skuas that came ashore along the Atlantic coast in October and November were remarkable. Their occurrences may have been related to all the tropical storm and hurricane activity this season. This skua was photographed October 10 at Fernandina Beach, Flort Clinch State Park, Nassau County, Florida
Photograph/Harold J. Belcher

was at Tallahassee Nov. 12 (JO, PC), a Rufous at Mount Plymouth (*Lake*) Sep. 8 (PS), and a *Selasphorus* at Gainesville beginning Nov. 12 (EP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPIITS

A fallout Oct. 2 brought 50 E. Wood-Pewees and 25 *Empidonax* to F.D.C.P. (LyA, MWi, CBu). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from *Citrus*, *Franklin*, and *Pinellas*, and a Willow Flycatcher was found at Bonner Park Sep. 24 (LyA, CBu). An Alder Flycatcher was banded at R.S.R.S.P. Sep. 19, and two "Traill's" Flycatchers were there Sep. 19 & 27 (all BAN). Ault found separate Vermilion Flycatchers in *Taylor* Nov. 7 & 10. A Tropical Kingbird was at F.D.C.P. Oct. 1 (LyA), and a silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Loxahatchee N.W.R. Nov. 11 (BHo). Separate duos of Gray Kingbirds, rare inland, were at Zellwood Aug. 15 (BAN et al.) and Oct. 16–21 (HR et al.). Scissortailed Flycatchers were reported from numerous sites, including three each at Seven Springs (*Pasco*) beginning Nov. 10 (DR) and Naples Nov. 10 (DS). Eleven Yellow-throated Vireos were at F.D.C.P. Oct. 2 (LyA, MWi, CBu), and single Warbling Vireos were at Newnans L. Sep. 12 (MM, JB) and Seminole, *Pinellas*, Oct. 3–4 (JF). Good counts of Red-eyed Vireos were 400 at F.D.C.P. Sep. 20 (MWi) and 100 at St. Petersburg Sep. 21 (RS). At F.D.C.P. Aug. 10, Atherton watched a Black-whiskered Vireo feed a fledgling cowbird.

Thirty-five Bank Swallows were at Zellwood Sep. 11 (HR), and a late bird was



This Atlantic Puffin found on a Jacksonville beach October 9 was Florida's second and one of the most southerly records in the Atlantic Ocean anywhere. Bermuda has at least four records of puffin, but there are no Caribbean records as yet.
Photograph/Roger Clark

in *Hamilton* Nov. 5 (JK). Cliff Swallows were reported widely, with 30 in *Pinellas* Sep. 26 (EK). Barn Swallow high counts were 460 at Zellwood Sep. 11 (HR) and 120 at F.D.C.P. Oct. 2 (LyA, MWi, CBu). A Winter Wren was at Jacksonville Oct. 24 (RCl), a flock of 38 Gray Catbirds was at Crystal River Oct. 7 (TR), and 370 American Pipits were counted by Robinson at Zellwood Nov. 20.

WARBLERS

An excellent fallout of warblers was noted at F.D.C.P. Oct. 2 (LyA, MWi, CBu). High counts were nine Blue-winged, five Golden-winged, 63 Tennessee, 28 Chestnut-sided, 51 Magnolia, 17 Black-throated Blue, seven Blackburnian, and 870 Palm warblers, 64 N. Parulas, and 200 Am. Redstarts. Elsewhere, significant reports were four Blue-winged at SCCP Sep. 7 (LaA, MCh, BHd) and 16 in *Alachua* Sep. 19 (*vide* RR); single "Brewster's" Warblers at Sawgrass L. C.P. (*Pinellas*) Sep. 7 (CM, LMa et al.), Bonner Park Sep. 15 (LyA, PB, MWi), and Jacksonville Sep. 16–19 (JCo), 40 Tennessee Warblers at F.D.C.P. Nov. 4 (LyA et al.), a Black-throated Gray Warbler at F.D.C.P. Sep. 6 (Lma et al.), and 82 Black-throated Green Warblers at F.D.C.P. Nov. 4 (LyA et al.). At S.C.C.P. Sep. 26, Ahern tallied 35 Black-throated Blue and two each of Swainson's and Kentucky warblers, 42 Ovenbirds, and 50 Am. Redstarts. More fine warbler counts at S.C.C.P. were 18 Prothonotary Aug. 8 (CG et al.), 10 Worm-eating Sep. 19 (CG et al.), and single Canadas Sep. 13 (LaA) & 28 (PF et al.). Other *Pinellas* reports included 6 Worm-eating

Warblers Sep. 12 (JHo, LH), five Kentucky Warblers at Bonner Park Sep. 11 (JF), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Dunedin Sep. 12 (LH). Another chat was banded at R.S.R.S.P. Oct. 31 (BAN), another Kentucky at Weekiwachee Preserve (*Herrando*) Sep. 7 (DR). Three Wilson's Warblers were at Fort George Island Oct. 3 (RCl). At Sanibel, Pettus and others found a female Mourning Warbler Sep. 7, but the prize of the season was the first-year male **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Orlando Nov. 14–24 (KR et al.)

TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVERS

Also reported during the F.D.C.P. fallout Oct. 2 were 41 Summer and 25 Scarlet tanagers (LyA, MWi, CBu). Five other Scarlet Tanagers were at S.C.C.P. Oct. 3 (PF et al.) Clay-colored Sparrows were at H.I.S.R.A. Sep. 12 and Oct. 24 (both EK et al.), Sanibel Oct. 10 (NP), and Dundee (*Polk*) Nov. 27 (CG, PTi). Lark Sparrows visited F.D.C.P. Oct. 3 (HR) and Sanibel Oct. 7 (WD). Zellwood sparrow reports included 715 Savannah Nov. 25 (HR), single Henslow's Nov. 16 (BP) and Nov. 20–30 (HR), and a Lincoln's Nov. 25 (HR). Another Lincoln's was found by R. Smith at Brooker Creek Preserve (*Pinellas*) Oct. 24, and Manetz found a Le Conte's Sparrow at Hague Dairy the same day. Twenty Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows occupied a small marsh in *Citrus* Nov. 14 (AH, BHn, LyA et al.), and an *alterus* was inland at S.R.S.T.F. Nov. 19 (JCa). White-crowned Sparrows were widespread, with 25 birds near Mims (*Brevard*) Nov. 9–15 (TH et al.), 15 at Dundee Nov. 27 (CG, PTi), and up to 10 at Zellwood beginning Nov. 13 (HR et al.). Dark-eyed Juncos were found at F.D.C.P. Oct. 20 (LyA) and at Gainesville (two birds) beginning Nov. 17 (DBe, EP).

Lapland Longspurs, casual in the Region, were at Zellwood Oct. 16 (HR) and E.N.P. (*Miami-Dade*) Nov. 7 (Lma). Atherton counted 45 Indigo Buntings at F.D.C.P. Oct. 17. High counts of Bobolink were 700 at Zellwood Sep. 17 (HR et al.) and 421 at S.R.C.A. Sep. 19 (LMI). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Port St. Lucie, St Petersburg, Hague Dairy, *Hamilton* mines, and 4 variously at Zellwood (v.o.). Black Swamp had 10 Rusty and two Brewer's blackbirds Nov. 13 (GM, JCa). Bronzed Cowbirds were at E.N.P. (*Monroe*) Oct. 26 (Lma), Zellwood Nov. 23 (HR), and two at Lakeland Nov. 30 (WB, KKn). Female Bullock's Orioles were found at Winter Haven Sep. 27 (PF) and S.G.I. Oct. 22 (JCa, HHr). *Pinellas*'s first House Finch, a female at Largo Aug. 19, was joined later by a male Oct. 11 (PTr). And lastly, a Village Weaver at

F.D.C.P. Aug. 6–24 (LyA et al.) may have been the same bird 2 miles farther e. Sep. 10 (AS, RS).

Contributors: Howard Adams, Brian Ahern (BAh), Larry Albright (LaA), Bruce Anderson (BAN), Lyn Atherton (LyA), John Ault, David Beatty (DBe), Wes Biggs, Clay Black (CBl), Paul Blair, Scott Borderieux, Brenda Branchett, Dave Branchett (DBr), Judy Bryan, Charlie Buhrman (CBu), Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Mike Chakan (MCh), Ron Christen (RCh), Roger Clark (RCl), Julie Cocks (JCo), Mitch Coker (MCh), Mike Collins (MCl), Paul Conover, Buck and Linda Cooper (B&LC), Wes Dirks, Jack Dozier, Paul Fellers, Judy Fisher, Vera Fitzgerald, Dot Freeman, Chuck Geanangel, Dave Goodwin, Bill Haddad (BHd), Al Hansen, Bev Hansen (BHn), David Harder (DHa), Tom Hince, John Hintermister (JHi), Harry Hooper (HHp), Brian Hope (BHo), Judi Hopkins (JHo), Larry Hopkins, Howard Horne (HHr), Dotty and Hank Hull (D&HH), Dean and Sally Jue (D&SJ), Tom Kennedy, Keith Kimmerle (KKi), Katrina Knight (KKn), Jerry Krummrich, Ed Kwater, Mary Landsman, Pat Leary, Holly Lovell, Lorne Malo (LMI), Mike Manetz, Christine Manfredi, Larry Manfredi (LMA), Joy Marburger, Gail Menk, Barbara Muschlitz, Kris Nelson, Julie O'Malley, Tom Palmer, Evelyn Perry, Neil Pettis, Cheri Pierce, Peggy Powell, Bill Pranty, Kurt Rademaker, Brian Rapoza, Don Robinson, Harry Robinson, Tommie Rogers, Jill Rosenfield, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Parks Small, Austin Smith, Ron Smith, Lee Snyder, Gary Sprandel, Bob Stoll, Doug Sutor, Pete Timmer (PTi), Paul Trunk (PTr), David Wahl, Jim Weimer (JWe), Mark Whitesides (MWh), Margie Wilkinson (MWi), John Winn (JWi), Mary Lou Winn (MLW), Wilfred Yusek, and Wilma Zane.

Please send records to: **Bill Pranty**, 8515 Village Mill Row, Bayonet Point, Florida 34667-2662 (email billpranty@hotmail.com)



Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 24.

appalachian region

GEORGE A. HALL

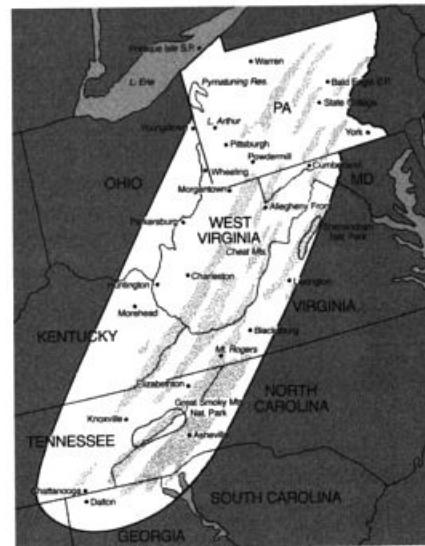
It was a "gentle" autumn. The weather was warmer than normal but not excessively so. At Pittsburgh, Aug. had excess rainfall, but Sep., Oct., and Nov. accumulated a deficiency of 3.38 inches, and near-drought conditions prevailed throughout. Most of the frontal systems were weak, and the lowland areas had had no frosts by the end of the period.

The birding, too, was good but rarely exciting. The migration of passerines started a little early in mid-Aug. With the lack of strong frontal systems, there were no major fallouts of migrants, and the warblers and other Sep. migrants moved through steadily in the latter half of the month. Most were gone by Oct. 1. The Oct. migrants and winter residents also arrived somewhat early. Although the majority of migrants departed early, there was a sizeable list of stragglers with late observations. There were no suggestions that any of the "northern invaders" would stage a flight this winter.

With the lack of rain many wetlands dried up completely and water levels in major lakes were quite low. This had the effect of concentrating waterbirds in a few places.

Only two of the big banding stations reported comparative data. At P.N.R., the 6381 birds banded was at the average of the last 10 years. Yellow-rumped Warblers were +3 Standard Deviations (S.D.) above average, Blue-headed Vireos were +2 S.D. over average, and 5 species were +1 S.D. average. Four species were -1 S.D. below average (RCL & RM). At A.F.M.O., the 8585 bandings was the 4th highest total there. Of 40 species analyzed, Magnolia Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos were +4 S.D. above average, Chestnut-sided Warbler was +2 over, and 19 species were +1 S.D. above average. No species was as much as -1 S.D. below average (GAH). Besides the banding stations, the Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P. operated again this year.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV*); HW (*hawkwatch station*); M.L.W.A. (*Mosquito Lake*



Wildlife Area, Trumbull Co., OH); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); S.H.L. (*South Holston Lake, Washington Co., VA/Sullivan Co., TN*); u. D. L. (*upper Douglas Lake, Cocks Co., TN*); VB (*Valley Birds Listserv*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana Co., PA*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

The Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P. logged 37 Red-throated Loons from (Oct. 20–Nov. 25; JM). Two were seen at Quemahoning Dam, PA, Oct. 19 (M & EW), and one was at L. Arthur, PA, Nov. 21 (DY). A Com. Loon at S.H.L. Aug. 31 (WC) was quite early, but the fall flight was poor and spotty, the largest concentration being 77 at Pymatuning L. PA, Nov. 21 (RFL). Horned Grebes were more numerous than usual, with an Aug. 31 arrival at S.H.L. about a month nearly (WC). At P.I.S.P. 1927 were counted in 3.5 hours Nov. 14 (JM). The only reports of Red-necked Grebes came from P.I.S.P., where the Waterbird Count listed a total of 10, Oct. 22–Nov. 15 (JM, JF, GC). Eared Grebes appeared on S.H.L. Aug. 30 and Oct. 24 (WC, ME), a 5th consecutive year there; one was at Watauga L, TN, Nov. 2 (HPL & BS); two were seen Oct. 13 at Laurel Bed L., Russell, VA (RR); and one was at P.I.S.P. Sep. 4 & 5 (RS, MF). Double-crested Cor-