

twice with singles at Jackson Park, NC, 8 May (WF et al.) and at K. Mt. 8–10 May (JS, KD). The equally exciting Mourning Warbler was found several times with a female at Columbia, SC, 13 May (MN), two different males at Jackson Park, NC, 14 & 17 May (HN, WF et al.), and a male at Mason Farm, NC, 21 May (HW).

Extremely rare in the Region in spring were a Clay-colored Sparrow in Henderson, NC, 27 Apr (WF) and a Le Conte's Sparrow in n. Greene, GA, 24 Apr (PS). Also of note was the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Charleston, SC, 31 May (WP), providing a new late date for the species in that state. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported well with the latest one being found in a Raleigh, NC yard 9 May (H&GLa). The Harris's Sparrow found at the Chattahoochee Center, Roswell, GA, during the winter was last seen 19 Mar (EK). Lapland Longspurs were reported twice, with one near Scotland Neck, NC, 13 Mar (RD) and four at Hooper Lane, NC, 21 Mar (MW, *fide* WF). Dickcissels continue to be found scattered throughout the Region. The best counts included three at Hooper Lane, NC, 28–29 Apr (WF), three near Townville, SC, 4–10 May (RSm, J&DHu), and two at E.L.H. 2 May (JS). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird reported was an imm. male on Harbor I., SC, 8–9 May (JHa). There were three Shiny Cowbird sightings with singles at Fayetteville, NC, 8 May (*fide* PC), Darien, GA, 21 May (*fide* JH), and Harbor I., SC for one day in late May (JHa). After many years of only a few reports, is this invading species starting to accelerate its push into the Region?

A pair of Red Crossbills found in the Pinelog Mountain W.M.A., GA, 12 May (KD et al.) caused quite a stir by remaining in the area through the period (v.o.). Other winter finches were scarce, as can be expected during the spring following a non-invasion winter. Of note then was an Evening Grosbeak found at the Chattahoochee R. National Recreation Area, GA, 23–25 Apr (EH).

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florida region

BILL PRANTY

Rainfall in the Region was below average, and temperatures were at or above normal. A prolonged drought was avoided, however, by extensive showers beginning in late June. Frontal activity was minimal, and few fallouts were reported in the Region; exceptions were at Fort DeSoto County Park 15 March and 16 April and Jacksonville 1 May. A better-than-average number of Caribbean species was reported in the Region, including three Key West Quail-Doves, at least one West Indian Short-eared Owl, two La Sagra's Flycatchers, one Bahama Mockingbird, six Stripe-headed Tanagers, and 38 Shiny Cowbirds. Other noteworthy rarities were the Red-footed Booby at Dry Tortugas National Park, Ross's Goose at Crystal River, and Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds at St. George Island and Talbot Island.

Abbreviations: D.T.N.P. (*Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe Co.*); E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade and Monroe cos.*); F.D.C.P. (*Ft. DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.*); H.I.S.R.A. (*Honeymoon I. S.R.A., Pinellas Co.*); O.W.P. (*Orlando Wetlands Park, Orange Co.*); P.P.M. (*Polk Co. phosphate mines*); P.P.S.P. (*Paynes Prairie State Preserve, Alachua Co.*); S.G.I. (*St. George I., Franklin Co.*); S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla Co.*); S.R.A. (*State Recreation Area*); S.R.S.T.F. (*Springhill Rd. Sewage Treatment Facility, Leon Co.*); H.T.B.S.R.A. (*Hugh Taylor Birch S.R.A., Broward Co.*); W.M.A. (*Wildlife Management Area*).



LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon was far south at Bradenton Beach 26 Apr (HKT et al.). St. George I. hosted a Pacific Loon 10 Apr–10 May (D&SJ, JDo et al.) and an Eared Grebe 21 Mar (PC). A Sooty Shearwater was seen at Canaveral Natl. Seashore 30 May (CPa, CPi). Between D.T.N.P. and Key West were 80+ Audubon's Shearwaters 4 May (DG, WB et al.), and a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and an ad. **Red-footed Booby** 27 Apr (PaL, SF et al.). At Hospital Key, D.T.N.P., "several" Masked Booby chicks were seen in April (PaL, SF et al.). Three-thousand Am. White Pelicans were estimated at P.P.M. 13 Mar (PF et al.), and 437 were still there 30 May (PT, CG); six others were at L. Jackson,

Leon, 14 May (M&PM). Now routine in Polk, Brown Pelicans were at Lakeland 16 Apr (TP) and Winter Haven (two birds) 25 Apr (BBr). Franklin hosted Magnificent Frigatebirds at S.G.I. 29 Apr (FR) and 9 May (JDo), and at Bald Pt. 21 May (JDo).

Up to two Am. Bitterns at O.W.P. through the season (CPi et al.) were late, summering, or possibly breeding. Great White Herons were found at H.I.S.R.A. 19 Mar–25 Apr (A&BH et al.) and the Sunshine Skyway bridge 20 May (LA). Becoming regular in the e. Panhandle, six Reddish Egrets were at S.M.N.W.R. 19 Mar (KM), and seven were there 1 Apr (BBE, BDe). Two ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons were rare at D.T.N.P. 25–29 Apr (PaL, SF et al.), whereas seven Yellow-crowns were unusual at Emeraldal Marsh, Lake, 24 Apr–22 May (fide JM). Fifty-plus Roseate Spoonbills at Shiloh Marsh, Brevard and Volusia, 5 Mar (NS et al) probably included local breeders, but 17 at P.P.M. 8 May (PT) and 40+ birds at Myakka River S.P. 23 May (KR et al.) were inland dispersers. A Woolly-necked Stork, apparently escaped from Miami Metro Zoo in August 1992, was photographed over E.N.P. 4 Apr (HDDe). Likewise, a Greater Flamingo near the Sunshine Skyway bridge 25 Apr was probably the bird that escaped from a Sarasota exhibit a few years ago (LA).

At P.P.S.P. there were three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks 8–23 May (RR, JW, AK) and up to 12 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks beginning 6 Mar (HA, AK). Other Black-bellieds were at Pembroke Pines, Broward, 8 May (GB, BPr, HL) and 30 May (JDi, WGe), up to 20 at Bartow through the season (PF), and five at Emeraldal Marsh 22 May (fide JM). The **Ross's Goose** discovered at Crystal R. 12 Mar spent the season hanging out with feral Mallards (BS et al., HBPr, KT), while three Canada Geese of unknown origin were at P.P.M. 30 May (PT, CG). Three Am. Black Ducks in Pasco 11 Mar (SP, BPr) were unusually south. Lingering ducks at Zellwood were a N. Shoveler and an Am.

Wigeon 18 May, two Lesser Scaup 29 May, and a molting female Ruddy through the season (HR). In Polk a male Eur. Wigeon remained to 21 Mar (A&TM, B&DL) and 3090 Ruddies were estimated 19 Mar (PF, SR). Other noteworthy ducks were two Ring-necks at L. Okeechobee 30 May (D&HH), Long-tailed Ducks at L. Tohopekaliga, Osceola, 3 Apr (JeF) and Cedar Key 27 Apr (DHe), and a Black Scoter at Jacksonville to 21 May (RC et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SKIMMER

A White-tailed Kite was at E.N.P. 2 May (JoB), but the big news was the nest at Three Lakes W.M.A., Osceola, that fledged five young in April (TD), providing the first nest in c. Florida to fledge young. At Zellwood, three N. Harriers 18 May were late, as was a Sharp-shinned Hawk to 31 May, but the Broad-winged Hawk 16 Mar (HR) must have been an early migrant. Six Short-tailed Hawks were reported in the c. peninsula (v.o.), but one at Key West 6 May (JO) was a surprise. Late falcons were a Merlin at Zellwood 18 May (HR), and Peregrines in Pasco in late May (DoW) and at P.P.M. 28 May (ND). A Golden Pheasant at Hudson, Pasco, 24 May (RG) was about the 181st exotic bird species reported in Florida. Also at Zellwood 18 May were two Soras (HR). Manfredi estimated 4–5 pairs of Black Rails inland at Holey Land W.M.A., Palm Beach, where breeding was discovered last year. Eighteen Purple Gallinules were counted at O.W.P. 9 May (CPi), and 10,000 Am. Coots were estimated at P.P.M. 1 Mar (PF et al.).

Notable shorebirds at P.P.M. were 102 Semipalmated Plovers 8 May, 620 Black-necked Stilts 30 May, 340 Am. Avocets 4 Apr, 1300 Lesser Yellowlegs 25 Apr, 7900 Semipalmated Sandpipers 8 May, 4200 Least Sandpipers 19 Mar, 31 White-rumped Sandpipers 8 May, 750 Stilt Sandpipers 20 May, and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers 19 Mar (CG, PT, PF). At Zellwood, Robinson had 56 Black-bellied Plovers 7 May, 22

Semipalmated Plovers 4 May, a Whimbrel and Sanderling 1 May, a Red Knot 25 May, a Baird's Sandpiper and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper 7 May, and a female Ruff 25–31 May. Surprisingly, four other Baird's Sandpipers were reported (v.o.), and a male Ruff in breeding plumage was at Myakka River S.P. 4 May (C&PL). A Solitary Sandpiper at Tallahassee 28 May (GM, JiC) was late. Pasco's first Whimbrel was at Green Key Park 10 Mar (KT), five Dunlins were at Gainesville 18–19 Mar (ML), and 13 Purple Sandpipers were still present at Ft. Clinch, Nassau, 23 Mar (JR). Wilson's Phalaropes were at S.M.N.W.R. 30 Mar–1 Apr (AU, BBe, BDe) and 16 May (JDo), and P.P.M. 8 May (PT). Three Red-necked Phalaropes were offshore of Key West 27 Apr (PaL, SF et al.).

Two Parasitic Jaegers were in s. Pinellas 18–20 Mar (JeB, LA, RSm, AS), and another was in nearby Manatee 23 Mar (LA). An imm. Parasitic was at Ft. Clinch 23 Mar (JR), and a rare Long-tailed Jaeger was offshore of Ft. Lauderdale 24 May (fide WGe*). A Bonaparte's Gull at L. Jackson 8 May (GM, KWe) was late, and an imm. Lesser Black-backed Gull was inland at Zellwood 20 Apr (HR). An ad. Lesser Black-back at Lower Matecumbe Key 15 Mar (MB) was a good find for the Keys, although reports continue to increase Regionwide. Gull-billed Terns were at Cedar Key 2 Mar (MG, TR) and 21 Mar (DHe), up to four were at Zellwood 14 Apr–1 May (HR), and birds nesting at P.P.M. fledged 12 young by 30 May (CG, PT). Inland counts of Caspian Terns were 154 at Zellwood 20 Apr (HR), and 68 at P.P.M. 1 Mar (PF et al.). A Com. Tern was inland at S.R.S.T.F. 10 Apr (JE, GM) and one at H.I.S.R.A. 26 May was late (JuF, KN). For the first time in many years no Black Noddies were found at D.T.N.P. (v.o.). An ad. Black Skimmer with two juveniles at Key West 20 May (JO) would represent the first Keys breeding record if the birds were reared locally.

DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

White-crowned Pigeons at the n. limits of their range were at Fakahatchee Strand, Collier, 7 Mar (J&LD), N. Hutchinson I., St. Lucie, 14 Mar (JaB), and H.T.B.S.R.A. 19 May (JiH). Intriguing was 15 White-winged Doves at Key West 11 Apr (JO). At Zellwood, Robinson counted 1405 Mourning Doves 29 May and 52 Com. Ground-Doves 31 May. **Key West Quail-Doves** were found at H.T.B.S.R.A. 12 Apr–26 May (WGe et al.) and Cape Florida S.R.A., MiamiBDade,

SA Since 1993, biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have been releasing captive-bred Whooping Cranes in c. Florida in hopes of establishing a non-migratory, breeding population. Whooping Cranes occurred in Florida historically, but it is not known whether the birds comprised a breeding population or were only winter visitors. As of early July 1999, 178 cranes have been released and 73 currently are alive. In the past few years pairs have built nests in Florida, but none was known to produce eggs. Six or seven pairs of cranes exhibited nesting activity this year, and pairs produced eggs in April at undisclosed sites in Brevard and Pasco. These eggs are the first laid in the wild in the United States since 1894. Unfortunately, one of the nests was depredated and the other was destroyed by flooding (all information provided by SN).

beginning 19 Apr (MA, DWt et al.), with an unverified report (*vide* D&HH) 2 May at Long Key S.R.A., *Monroe*, an area with excellent quail-dove habitat.

Black-billed Cuckoos were spotted at S.M.N.W.R. 2 May (LS, DoW), D.T.N.P. 3 May (DG et al.), and Zellwood 10 May (HR), and 200+ Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at D.T.N.P. 2-3 May (DG, WB et al.). Two Mangrove Cuckoos were observed at Punta Gorda, *Charlotte*, beginning 1 May (JeB), three were at Weedon I., *Pinellas*, beginning 8 May (RSm, PB, BrH), and five were at "Ding" Darling N.W.R., *Lee*, 9 May (CE et al.). One or two W. Indian Short-eared Owls were at D.T.N.P. 20 Apr-10 May (PaL, SF, WB et al.). A Lesser Nighthawk was spotted at Apalachicola, *Franklin*, 15 Apr (JDo), and nine Antillean Nighthawks were over Marathon Airport, *Monroe*, 16 May (R&TR). Western hummingbirds in the Region were a Buff-bellied at Tallahassee 29 Apr-2 May (BPa, HHHo), a Black-chinned at Gainesville to 21 Mar (DB), and a *Selasphorus* at Cedar Key to 16 Mar (DHe). An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker at H.T.B.S.R.A. was extremely rare in *Broward* 29 May (WGe). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Miami 4 May (JoB) was late.

An E. Wood-Pewee at Alligator Pt. 27 Mar (JDo) was early and one at H.I.S.R.A. 26 May (RP et al.) was late. Least Flycatchers were in *Alachua* 11 Apr (RR) and 2 May (AK). A Brown-crested Flycatcher was at E.N.P. 11 Apr (JoB). Goodwin found a **La Sagra's Flycatcher** at Islamorada 1 May that was seen again 5 May (PB). A 2nd was photographed at Key West 3 May (HKSc) but not identified until many weeks later (*vide* SF). **Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds**, becoming routine in the Region (!), were at S.G.I. 8 May (JiC, JL) and Talbot I. S.P., *Duval*, 26 May (RC). Robinson counted 21 W. Kingbirds at Zellwood 14 Apr and saw Gray Kingbirds there 6 Apr and 22 May. Another W. Kingbird was somewhat late at P.P.S.P. 8 May (JW, RR), and one at Zellwood remained to 16 May (CPI). The latest Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was at L. Istokpoga 27 Apr (MMc). Atherton counted 151 White-eyed and 11 Yellow-throated vireos at F.D.C.P. 15 Mar, and found a Bell's Vireo at Bradenton Beach 21 Apr. A Philadelphia Vireo was at Largo, *Pinellas*, 22 Apr (JuF), and a rather early Red-eyed was at Bald Pt. 13 Mar (JDo). On 17 Apr Fellers had the only Black-whiskered Vireo at F.D.C.P. this year, where they were common until the mid-1980s.

Following ancestral practices, dozens of Purple Martins were nesting in palm cavi-



This adult male Stripe-headed Tanager at Coquina Baywalk Park, Florida, 26 April 1999 represented the first verified record for the Gulf Coast. Photograph/Bill Pranty

ties at O.W.P. 9 May (CPI). Fellers estimated 50,000 Tree Swallows at P.P.M. 1 Mar, and Robinson had 21 Bank Swallows at Zellwood 1 May. Fort DeSoto hosted Cave Swallows 25 Mar and 12 Apr; the former was assigned to the W. Indian race (LA). A Barn Swallow at H.I.S.R.A. 12 Mar (PB, WY), and five birds at S.R.S.T.F. 15 Mar (GM et al.) were early; 2200 at Zellwood 17 Apr (HR) may be the Region's highest ever spring count.

A House Wren at San Felasco Hammock, *Alachua*, 8 May (JoH) was rather late, as was a Sedge Wren at Shell Key, *Pinellas*, 18 May (PB, RP). Thirty-one lingering Marsh Wrens were singing at P.P.M. 4 Apr (PT, CG). Extremely rare in *Broward*, an E. Bluebird at H.T.B.S.R.A. 11 May was thought to have arrived from the Bahamas (WGe). A Wood Thrush that wintered at Melbourne Village, *Brevard*, remained to 26 Mar (B&SH), and another at Alligator Pt. 28 Mar (JDo) was somewhat early. In contrast, the Am. Robin at Kendall, *Miami-Dade*, 26 May (LM) was quite late. Rare at D.T.N.P. was a N. Mockingbird 25 Apr (PaL, SF et al.), whereas a **Bahama Mockingbird** was a one-day treat at H.T.B.S.R.A. 10 May (BLE, WGe). Cedar Waxwing counts at Zellwood were 615 on 6 Apr, 1000+ on 2 May, and 570 on 4 May (HR, CPI, CPA).

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warblers at F.D.C.P. during the 15-16 Mar fallout included 52 N. Parulas, 16 Black-and-white, one Prothonotary, and 37 Hooded warblers, and five Louisiana Waterthrushes (LA et al.). Highlights of a 2nd fallout 16 Apr were three Blue-winged, three Golden-winged, three Cerulean, one Swainson's, five Kentucky, and one Wilson's (LA, CBL, PB et al.). A "major wave" of warblers at Jacksonville 1 May included 84 Black-throated Blues, 47 Yellow-rumps, 76 Am. Redstarts, and 107 Ovenbirds (RC). Seven other Blue-wings were reported Regionwide, all between 15-19 Apr (v.o.), and a Brewster's Warbler graced D.T.N.P. 24 Apr (PaL, SF et al.). Rare Nashville Warblers were at Zellwood to 18 Mar (HR), in *Polk* 25 Mar (EK), at Gainesville 31 Mar (DaW), and S.M.N.W.R. 10 Apr (B&SD). A partially leucistic Yellow-rumped Warbler was noted at P.P.S.P. 3 Mar (BMu et al.). Two other Yellow-rumps in *Leon* 8 May (PC) and a W. Palm Warbler at H.I.S.R.A. 26 May (JuF, KN) were late. Eleven or twelve other Cerulean Warblers were reported (v.o.), including six at S.G.I. 17 Apr (DJ, JiC) and one at Zellwood on the late date of 10 May (HR). Over 300 Blackpoll Warblers were observed, and "1000s" were estimated, at Cape Florida 1 May (JoB et al.). Wintering

Am. Redstarts departed Gainesville 11 Apr (MMa) and Melbourne Village 3 May (B&SH). Eight Swainson's Warblers were reported Regionwide (v.o.), including the bird at F.D.C.P. listed above, and birds at H.T.B.S.R.A. 1 May and 12 May (two) (MSt et al.). A N. Waterthrush at Zellwood to 18 May (HR) was late. Thirteen Connecticut Warblers were reported from S.G.I. to Ft. Lauderdale (v.o.), including up to five at Turkey Cr. Sanctuary, *Brevard*, 26 Apr–14 May (B&SH), and three at Ft. Lauderdale 14 May (LM). A Hooded Warbler at Seminole 14 Mar (JuF) was quite early, and a male singing at Chassahowitzka W.M.A., *Hernando*, beginning 17 May (KWo et al.) was s. of its known breeding range. A Wilson's Warbler was found at P.P.S.P. 3 Mar (BZ). Rounding out the wood-warblers were Yellow-breasted Chats at Cape Canaveral 19 Mar (DN), Zellwood 17 Apr (HR), three singing at Crystal R. Preserve 6 May (A&BH), and five at Cedar Key Scrub Reserve 1–5 May (BMu, ML, DB).

A Summer Tanager at F.D.C.P. 16 Mar (LA) was early, and W. Tanagers were at Inverness, *Citrus*, 17–18 Mar (E&MS), Lakes Park, Ft. Myers, to 1 Apr (NP et al.), and S.G.I. 15 Apr (MC et al.). Six **Stripe-headed Tanagers** were found, including the first for the Gulf coast at Coquina Baywalk Park, *Manatee*, 20 Apr–10 May (PS, BMi, AR, HBPr). Two other males were at Grassy Key, *Monroe*, 16 May (R&TR), and two males and a female were at Greynolds Park, Miami, 8–9 May (DDi, WGi et al.). Notable sparrows at Zellwood were a Clay-colored 23 Apr, Lark 7 Mar, Grasshopper 31 Mar, two Lincoln's 7 Mar, and three White-crowneds 4 May (HR, CPi). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Brevard* 8 Mar (DSt, DN et al.), and one was at Talbot I. S.P. 28 Mar (RC). Lark Sparrows were at Sarasota to 6 Apr (JaC) and D.T.N.P. 17–21 & 29 Apr (RW, PaL, SF et al.), and a Lincoln's Sparrow was still present at D.T.N.P. 10 May (WB, GB, BPr et al.). A Swamp Sparrow at Weekiwachee Preserve, *Hernando*, 15 May (A&BH) tied the Region's latest spring date.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Gainesville 11–26 Mar (LF) possibly wintered locally. The now vacant farm fields at Zellwood supplied good breeding habitat for Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and possibly Painted Buntings; nine of the last species were there 7 Mar (CPi, CPa), with three first-year males in song beginning 18 May (HR). But the big surprise at Zellwood was the singing **Dickcissels** for much of spring, and the pair seen 31 May (HR). Tune in to the summer report to learn what became of

these birds. Another Indigo Bunting at Bald Pt. 24 Mar (JDo) was early, while F.D.C.P. had 50 Indigos 16 Apr (LA et al.) and 100 on 22 Apr (MW et al.). Among numerous Painted Bunting reports were four at H.I.S.R.A. 25 Apr (D&RS). Seventy-five Bobolinks at F.D.C.P. 23 Apr (LA et al.) was a good coastal count, but much larger numbers were found inland, as is typical. The best counts were 3120 at Zellwood 1 May (HR), 2000 e. of Sarasota 4 May (JaC, EM), 445 at P.P.M. 8 May (PT), and 400 at Emerald Marsh 24 Apr (*vide* JM).

Three of the Yellow-headed Blackbirds that wintered at Zellwood were seen 19 Mar, and two remained to 1 Apr (HR). Rusty Blackbirds were at Tallahassee 26 Mar (DHa), in *Hamilton* (four) 30 Mar (KK), and at Gainesville (eight) to 6 Apr (RR, AP). Shiny Cowbirds were at Key West (14) beginning 14 Mar (JO), D.T.N.P. (seven) 27–29 Apr (PaL, SF et al.), and Flamingo (10) 22 May (JoB). Shyns in n. Florida were at S.G.I. 21 Mar (PC), Bald Pt. (two) 29 Apr (JDo), and Jacksonville 13–30 May (RC). Five Bronzed Cowbirds remained at Lakeland to 28 Mar (*vide* D&HH). Up to three Brown-headed Cowbirds at Key West 12 Apr–14 May (JO) signaled that their colonization of the state is now complete. A singing first-year male Orchard Oriole was at Zellwood beginning 25 May (HR). House Finches continue to expand their range s., as evidenced by the pair at Sarasota beginning 9 Mar (BF), and the pair that nested unsuccessfully at Lakeland beginning 10 May (BiH v.t.).

CORRIGENDUM

The Atlantic Puffin from Jacksonville was photographed in captivity 9 Oct, but the bird was picked up 1 Oct as stated in the report (*North American Birds* 53:47–48).

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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 251.