

Atlanta, GA, 13 Sep (EB), and Chattahoochee R. N.R.A. 22–25 Sep (EB, JC et al.). A W. Tanager was found in the Belleville area, GA, 25 Oct (*fide* JF), no doubt returning for the second year in a row.

Rare anywhere in N. Carolina, two different Am. Tree Sparrows were at P.I., at S. Pond 5–7 Nov (ST et al., m.ob.) and at N. Pond 7–8 Nov (DH et al., v.o.). Clay-colored Sparrows were found in normal numbers, the best count being four at P.I. 24 Oct (JL). Lark Sparrows were similar in occurrence; once again P.I. had the best total, with three 24 Aug (JL). Henslow's Sparrow highlights included four at Paulk's Pasture, Glynn, GA, 28 Nov (EB) and two at Austell Marsh, Cobb, GA, 11 Oct (GB et al.). Le Conte's Sparrows were reported much more than usual in all three states. The best counts were four at Santee N.W.R., SC, 25 Nov (TK) and an astounding total of 51 at the Bradley Unit of Eufaula N.W.R., GA, 21 Nov (GB et al.), a record tally for the Region of this elusive species. Lincoln's Sparrows were widespread, with reports too numerous to mention. Snow Buntings were found in small numbers, the best reports being four at C. Hatt. 13 Nov (ED et al.) and three at Oregon Inlet 5 Nov (JFu et al.). Dickcissels included three in Bartow, GA, 28 Aug (BZ) and singles at P.I. 11 Sep, 14 and 23 Oct (PM et al., JL), Morehead City 1 Oct (JFu), Onslow I., GA, 1 Oct (GB et al.), and Clemson 6 Oct (AF). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are now annual in the Region; this year there were many sightings. The best count was three on Jekyll I. on 11 Sep followed by a fourth in another area there on the 12th (DL)! Shiny Cowbirds continued their invasion of the Region, with two on St. Simon's I., GA, 26–31 Aug (LTh), two at Brunswick, GA, 13 Nov (B&BD), one near Darien, GA, 1 Aug (EB), and two at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, 27–28 Aug (PS).

Finches finally staged a modest movement into the Region, with Purple Finches and Pine Siskins noted in small numbers. Three Purple Finches were early in Orange, NC, 17 Sep (*fide* WC), as was one in Calhoun, SC, 21 Sep (MT). One of the most-hoped-for finches, the Com. Redpoll, was found at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, 14 Nov (BH et al.), providing one of few reports in the last couple of years. And finally, Evening Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers, mostly in N. Carolina. The best count was 12 at Jordan L. 14 Nov (RD); one at Roanoke I. on 19 Sep (JL) provided a probable record-early arrival date.

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# florida

## BILL PRANTY

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Three hurricanes grazed the Region this fall, raising concern for its ever-increasing human population but causing little damage beyond localized flooding. *Dennis* passed by the Atlantic coast 29–30 August, as did *Floyd* on 14–15 September. *Irene* crossed the peninsula the night of 15–16 October, producing an incredible fallout two mornings later in *Volusia* and pushing Magnificent Frigatebirds, Sooty and Bridled Terns, and other species inland at several sites. A good selection of Caribbean species was found this fall, including Cuban Pewee, La Sagra's Flycatcher, Bananaquit, and Stripe-headed Tanager. But the best bird unquestionably was the Elegant Tern found at Honeymoon Island, a first for the Region and only the second east of the Mississippi River.

**Abbreviations:** F.D.C.P. (*Fort DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.*); H.P.M. (*Hamilton Co. phosphate mines*); H.T.B.S.R.A. (*Hugh Taylor Birch State Recreation Area, Broward Co.*); L.A.R.A. (*Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Orange Co.—the former Zellwood muck farms*); P.P.M. (*Polk Co. phosphate mines*); P.P.S.P. (*Paynes Prairie State Preserve, Alachua Co.*); S.T.F. (*sewage treatment facility*).

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Eared Grebes were reported from Springhill Road S.T.F., *Leon*, 18 Sep–19 Oct (GM et



al.), L.A.R.A. 19 Oct–12 Nov (HR et al.), Sarasota 14–15 Nov (JKo, CS), P.P.M. 27 Nov (PT, CG), with three at H.P.M. 21 Nov (RR et al.). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels seen from shore at St. Augustine 16 Oct (DG) probably were due to *Irene*; an Am. White Pelican at Curry Hammocks in the Middle Keys 10 Oct (DL et al.) was unusual. A Great Cormorant flew by Guana R. 16 Nov (NW) and 300 Anhingas were at P.P.S.P. 2 Nov (AK). *Irene*-driven Magnificent Frigatebirds were over *Highlands* 16 Oct, with 11 at Sebring (RB, CW) and five at Lorida (L&PG). An Am. Bittern at L.A.R.A. 31 Aug (HR) was early or summering. Concentrations of wading birds at P.P.S.P. in Oct were 219 Great Egrets, 125 Snowy Egrets, 150 Little Blue Herons, 400 White Ibises, and 666 Wood Storks (AK et al.), while L. Jackson, *Leon*, had 700 Great Egrets 8 Oct and 350 Wood Storks 5 Sep (GM et al.). A Great White Heron was near Fellsmere, *Indian River*, 10 Sep (SR) and a Jacksonville

sod farm hosted 4,500 Cattle Egrets 4 Oct (RCl). Inland Roseate Spoonbills were at six sites (v.o.) including one at L. Jackson 6 Oct (DHd), six at P.P.M. 19 Sep (PT, CG), and four near Fellsmere 28 Sep (SR). There were 24 Greater Flamingoes at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., 21 Nov (JoB), but two near Loxahatchee late Aug/early Sep were not identified to species (MB et al., ph.).

A good count of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was 366 birds at L.A.R.A. 10 Aug (HR). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Pembroke Pines, *Broward*, 24 Aug (K&KS, ph.), Broadmoor Marsh, *Brevard*, 29 Nov (SR), three at L.A.R.A. 31 Aug (HR), P.P.S.P. 10 Sep (RR), six at Valrico, *Hillsborough*, 10 Nov (SG), three shot at H.P.M. 20 Nov (*fide* JKr), and 15 throughout the season in *Polk* (PT, CG). Snow Geese were well-reported, with five at Cedar Key 17 Nov (DHe), 45 at L. Jackson 22 Nov (GM et al.), 23 at P.P.S.P. 23 Nov+ (SB, BSi), 12 at L.A.R.A. 26 Nov+ (HR), and nine at Hernando Beach, *Hernando*, 26–29 Nov (CBl, BHa). A Brant in the Middle Keys 17 Oct and picked up the following day (*fide* DL) provided the Region's earliest fall report and the southernmost specimen. Waterfowl at L.A.R.A. included 222 Gadwalls, two Am. Black Ducks, 197 Mottled Ducks, 7,300 Blue-winged Teal, 4,500 Green-winged Teal, and four Buffleheads (HR). Ducks at P.P.M. 27 Nov included 3,000 N. Shovelers, 227 Gadwalls, and one White-winged Scoter (PT, CG). Other high counts of Blue-winged Teal were 1,500 each at P.P.S.P. 26 Oct (AK) and Broadmoor Marsh 29 Nov (SR). Two Cinnamon Teal were found, an imm. male at F.D.C.P. 7–11 Sep (LA et al.) and an adult male at L.A.R.A. 29 Oct–12 Nov (HR et al.). All three scoters were reported (v.o.), with 180 Blacks off Guana R. 18 Nov (NW).

#### RAPTORS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A raptor watch was conducted at Curry Hammocks 14 Sep–31 Oct. High daily counts of selected species were 105 Ospreys 26 Sep, 16 Mississippi Kites 5 Oct, 76 Cooper's Hawks 24 Oct, 597 Am. Kestrels 16 Oct, 72 Merlins 3 Oct, and 150 N. Harriers, 874 Sharp-shinned and 848 Broad-winged Hawks, and 158 Peregrine Falcons, all 18 Oct (DL, JMC). Counts elsewhere were 27 Swallow-tailed Kites at Lettuce Lake Park, *Hillsborough*, 13 Aug (KT), 173 N. Harriers at L.A.R.A. 26 Oct (HR), 15 Broad-winged Hawks at Sanibel I. 16 Oct (JG, CE, VM, WD), 245 Am. Kestrels, 53 Merlins, and 30 Peregrine Falcons at Nassau Sound 17 Oct (PL), and 86 Peregrines at Guana R. 8 Oct (BSt). Up to eight White-tailed Kites were seen regularly at W. Kendall (JoB), a Missis-

sippi Kite was a great find at Disney Wilderness Preserve, *Osceola* or *Polk*, 9 Oct (BC et al.), and Tallahassee hosted a Krider's Hawk 16 Nov (BB) and a Golden Eagle 22 Oct (JC).

A Yellow Rail was seen at H.P.M. 17 Oct (KA) and two Black Rails were heard at Bayonet Pt., *Pasco*, 10 Aug (DRn). Fifteen Purple Gallinules summered at L.A.R.A., but all were gone after 19 Oct (HR). Also at L.A.R.A. were 1,245 Common Moorhens 10 Sep (HR). Florida's 182nd exotic bird species, a Black Crowned-Crane (*Balearica pavonia*) near Pembroke Pines, *Broward*, 28–31 Aug was submitted without details (*fide* DHu).

High counts of American Oystercatchers were 162 near Crystal R. 2 Sep (TR) and 200+ at Yankeetown 11 Nov (CBl). P.P.M. hosted 23 Black-necked Stilts and 350 American Avocets 27 Nov (PT, CG). Up to 13 other avocets were at L. Jackson beginning 15 Sep (DHd et al.). An Upland Sandpiper at Honeymoon I. 6 Oct (CPa, CPi, KR) was a surprise. Single Long-billed Curlews were found at Huguenot Park, Jacksonville 2–30 Aug (RCl), Honeymoon I. 13 Aug+ (LK et al.), and Three Rooker Bar, *Pinellas*, 29 Sep (PBl), with four birds at Alafia Bank, *Hillsborough*, 17 and 22 Sep (RP et al.). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Boca Raton 16 Oct (BHp, JHo) and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was photographed at Huguenot Park 1–24 Oct (RCl et al.). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Springhill Road S.T.E. 31 Oct (PC et al.), while 390 Pectoral Sandpipers were at Jacksonville 4 Oct (RCl). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from six sites (v.o.), with 26 birds at L. Jackson 15 Sep (DHd, GM, JC et al.) and one at Curry Hammocks 21 Sep (DL et al.). A Reeve was in *Palm Beach* 10 Sep (BHp, JHo) and a Red-necked Phalarope picked up from Indian Rocks Beach, *Pinellas*, 26 Aug died the following day (PM, specimen).

Franklin's Gulls were found in *Pinellas* at Dunedin 15 Oct (EK) and Redington Beach 23 Nov+ (LA et al.). Gull-billed Terns were reported widely (v.o.), with six at L. Weir, *Marion*, 15 Sep (ES), three at Curry Hammocks 21 Sep (DL et al.), and singles at Dunedin 17 Oct (RS), Green Key, *Pasco*, 29 Oct–4 Nov (KT), and Cedar Key 27 Nov (TT). High tern counts were 101 Caspians at L.A.R.A. 26 Nov (HR), 1,850 Royals at Huguenot Park 8 Aug (RCl), 554 Sandwiches at P.P.M. 21 Aug (CG), 4,000 Commons and 500 Forster's at F.D.C.P. 3 Oct (EK et al.), and 600 Blacks at the Campbell Causeway, *Pinellas*, 25 Sep (EK et al.). A Royal Tern was inland at L.A.R.A. 8 Sep (HR);

three others were at P.P.M. through the season (PT, CG et al.). A Least Tern at Dunedin 16 Oct (JKi, EK et al.) was late. The prize of the season was the adult **Elegant Tern** found at Honeymoon I. by Kwater 3 Oct during the Florida Birding Festival and subsequently seen by hundreds through 22 Nov (ph. BP). This bird represented only the second verified record e. of the Mississippi R., the other being at Chincoteague N.W.R., Virginia, in 1985. A Bridled Tern at Huguenot Park 17 Oct (RCl) was courtesy of *Irene*, while *Floyd* drove Sooty Terns inland on 15 Sep to P.P.S.P. (3 birds; JHi, MMa, HA) and L. Weir (20 birds; ES).

#### DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves continue to increase throughout (v.o.), with a surprising 23 at Trenton, *Gilchrist*, 3 Oct+ (JS, RR et al.) One field at P.P.M. contained 1,500 Mourning Doves 21 Aug (CG). Of the 300 *Amazona* parrots estimated at the Ft. Lauderdale roost 23 Oct were 159 Red-crowns, "dozens" of Orange-wingeds, single Yellow-headed and Yellow-naped, and many not identified specifically (SE). St. George I., *Franklin*, hosted one Black-billed and 40 Yellow-billed Cuckoos 30 Sep (JC), with other Black-billeds at Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach*, 6 Sep (BHp, JHo), L.A.R.A. 30 Sep (HR), and P.P.S.P. 27 Oct (RR). A Short-eared Owl at Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola*, 3 Aug (TDe) was extremely early and may have been a West Indian bird. Others at L.A.R.A. 23 Oct+ (HR), three at L. Jackson 22 Nov+ (G&SH, JC et al.), and five at W. Kendall 24 Nov+ (JoB et al.) undoubtedly were northern birds. Robinson estimated 1,510 Chimney Swifts at L.A.R.A. 2 Oct Rufous Hummingbirds were at Ft. Myers 2–22 Nov (LA, AS et al.) and St. Marks N.W.R. 27–28 Nov (RS et al.); a *Selasphorus* at Jacksonville 16–24 Oct (NW) and two at Gainesville 22 Nov+ (BR) were not identified to species.

During a fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct, 52 E Wood-Pewees and 15 *Empidonax* flycatchers were counted (LA, MWi, CBu). A **Cuban Pewee**, the fifth North American report, was in *Palm Beach* 29 Oct–2 Nov (J&TG et al., v.t. BHp). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Tallahassee 22–23 Sep (DHd, JC et al.), *Broward* 3–4 Oct (BHp et al.), and Saddle Creek CP, *Polk*, 10 Oct (CG, PT et al.), and an Acadian Flycatcher was calling at H.T.B.S.R.A. 27 Sep (WG et al.) L.A.R.A. hosted 107 E. Phoebes 29 Oct and a Vermilion Flycatcher 19 Oct (HR). Another Vermilion was at Micanopy 2 Nov+ (PBu et al.). All four of Florida's *Myiarchus*

were found this fall, with a **La Sagra's Flycatcher** at Spanish River Park 18 Oct (BHp, JHo), an Ash-throated at Tallahassee 10 Nov (JC et al.), and Brown-crested at Everglades N.P. 23 Oct (JoB et al.). **Tropical Kingbirds** were identified at H.T.B.S.R.A. 11 Oct (WG, SE, LT, photos) and Miami 24 Oct (MWh, DWr et al.), while 200 E. Kingbirds moved through F.D.C.P. 7 Sep (LA et al.). Hintermister had good counts of Gray Kingbirds, with 15 at Cedar Key 23 Aug and 14 at Merritt I. 28 Aug.

Bell's Vireos appeared at Spanish River Park 10 Oct (BHp) and John Lloyd Recreation Area, *Broward*, 19–20 Oct (WG, SE, JDi). Nineteen Philadelphia Vireos were reported (v.o.), including three at Spanish River Park 10 Oct (BHp et al.). A Horned Lark was heard calling over Huguenot Park 23 Oct (NW). Swallows at L.A.R.A. included 29 Bank Swallows 6 Sep and 832 Barn Swallows 20 Aug (HR). At W. Kendall, Boyd saw 300 Cliff Swallows 1 Aug and 50 Cave Swallows 6 Aug, and a late Purple Martin was in *Polk* 13 Nov (PT). The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported were singles at O'Leno SP, *Columbia*, 14 Nov (MME, LD) and Gainesville 20 Nov (AK). Brown Creepers were at Cedar Key 24 Oct (DHe), San Felasco Hammock 24 Oct (LD), and Tallahassee 19 Nov (Dhd). Weedy fields at L.A.R.A. attracted large numbers of wrens 26 Nov: 210 House, 49 Sedge, and 41 Marsh (HR) in only a small portion of surveyed area. A House Wren at L. Marion, *Polk*, 22 Aug (CG) tied the Region's earliest fall arrival, while a Winter Wren at Gainesville 20 Nov (MMA) was at the s. edge of its range. Golden-crowned Kinglets invaded the Region this fall, with 12 reports of one to five birds each (v.o.). Surprisingly, four reports were in *Pinellas* (RS et al.). Eighteen Veeries were at Sawgrass L., *Pinellas*, 18 Sep (MWi).

## WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In part due to the tropical storm activity, this was an excellent season for migrant warblers. Blue-winged Warblers were reported in good numbers, with eight at Newnans L. 4 Sep (JHi), 10 at P.P.S.P. 18 Sep (AK et al.), and nine at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA et al.). Likewise for Golden-winged, with seasonal counts of 12 in *Alachua* (RR et al.) and 25 in *Pinellas* (*vide* RS); five of these were at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA, MWi Cbu). *Vermivora* hybrids were Brewster's Warblers at H.T.B.S.R.A. 18–22 Sep (*vide* WG), Fort Lauderdale 18 Sep (WG), and in *Leon* 30 Sep (JL), and a Lawrence's Warbler at Jacksonville 2 Oct (NW). Warblers seen during the

fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct included 63 Tennessee Warblers, 64 N. Parulas, 28 Chestnut-sided, 17 Black-throated Blue, and 870 Palm Warblers, and 195 Am. Redstarts (LA, MWi, Cbu). Another Tennessee at Ft. Myers 11 Nov (DWa, LS, CE) was late or wintering. Nashville Warblers were at Jacksonville 9 Sep (NW), Tallahassee 10 Sep, 7 Oct, and 9 Oct (*vide* GM), Spanish River Park 18 Sep (BHp, DRs), H.T.B.S.R.A. 11–13 Oct (WG, AE), and two birds at F.D.C.P. 23 Sep (LA). Fifty-seven Yellow Warblers at L.A.R.A. 25 Aug (HR) was one of the Region's highest fall counts.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen in "above-average numbers" at H.T.B.S.R.A. this fall, including five birds 18 Sep (WG et al.). Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers were reported widely in the peninsula (v.o) and 30 Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Saddle Creek 16 Oct (CG et al.). There were 17 Magnolia Warblers at P.P.S.P. (AK) and eight at Sanibel I. (CE, TDo et al.), both on 18 Sep. "Hundreds" of Blackburnian Warblers were in *Pinellas* this fall, with 50+ at Sawgrass L. 8 Sep (RS, MWi) and 25 others there 18 Sep (J&LH). Two other Blackburnians were at L.A.R.A. 2 Oct, as were 13 Prairie Warblers 17 Sep (HR). Twenty Cerulean Warblers were seen (v.o.), including one at Colohatchee Park, *Broward*, 19 Aug (WG) and three at Sawgrass L. 7–9 Sep (Bhm et al.). At Gainesville, a male Am. Redstart seemed to be wintering in the yard where one wintered the previous two years (MMA). Eight Worm-eating Warblers were at F.D.C.P. 8 Sep (JeB). Swainson's Warblers were numerous, with three at Bonner Park 6 Sep (PBL, JF), singles at H.T.B.S.R.A. 11 Sep, 22 Sep, 26 Sep, 6 Oct, and 16 Oct (*vide* WG), six at Cape Florida, *Miami-Dade*, 25 Sep (JoB, LM), and one at Largo, *Pinellas*, 10 Oct (JF). Spanish River Park hosted Mourning Warblers 18 Sep (BHp, DRs) and 1 Oct (BHp). Canada Warblers were at Newnans L. 13 Aug (LM, RR), P.P.S.P. 31 Aug (RR) and 27 Sep (MG, BC et al.), *Columbia* City, *Columbia*, 28 Aug (JKr), Crawfordville, *Wakulla*, 1 Sep (RCh), F.D.C.P. 7 Sep (LA), Bonner Park, *Pinellas*, 8 Sep (JF), Spanish River Park 19 Sep (BHp, JHo et al.) and 1 Oct (BHp), and in *Okeechobee* 4 Oct (SR). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were reported at Spanish River Park 18 Sep (BHp, DRs), Seminole, *Pinellas*, 1 Oct (JF), H.T.B.S.R.A. 4 Oct (WG), and Everglades NP 21 Nov (JoB).

A **Bananaquit** at H.T.B.S.R.A. 28 Sep through the season (WG et al.) represented the Region's first acceptable fall report. The fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct brought 41 Summer

and 25 Scarlet Tanagers (LA, MWi, Cbu). A W. Tanager was there 27 Sep (LA et al.) and another was at Cedar Key 17 Nov (DHe). Rounding out the family was a male **Stripe-headed Tanager** at Miami 29–30 Sep (CM, LM et al.). A Bachman's Sparrow at H.T.B.S.R.A. 25–27 Sep was the first *Broward* report in over 20 years (WG). Clay-colored Sparrows were well-reported, with birds at Bald Pt., *Franklin*, 7 Sep (JDo), Spanish River Park 1 Oct (BHp), P.P.S.P. 2–5 Oct (PPk, RR, JHi), Guana River 3 Oct (RR), H.T.B.S.R.A. 7 Oct (WG, SE, FJ), and Everglades NP 23 Oct (*vide* JoB). Lark Sparrows were also nicely represented, with birds at L.A.R.A. 18 Aug and 30 Sep–6 Oct (HR), H.T.B.S.R.A. 8 Sep (WG, A&MS), Guana R. 22 Sep and 16 Oct (PPI), and Homestead 23 Oct (*vide* JoB). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Tallahassee 23 Sep (GM) and a well-described Henslow's Sparrow at W. Kendall 28 Oct (JoB) represented the Region's southernmost report. A Le Conte's Sparrow was at P.P.S.P. 6 Nov (MG), four were at H.P.M. 19–21 Nov (JKr, GH et al.), and two were at L. Jackson 26–27 Nov (GM, Dhd et al.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was inland at Tallahassee 19 Oct (GM). A Dark-eyed Junco was wintering at Gainesville 20 Nov+ (DB).

A female Snow Bunting graced Guana River 11–21 Nov (PD), 17 Blue Grosbeaks

**SA** On 17 October, two mornings after the passage of Hurricane *Irene*, Cindy and Kurt Radamaker witnessed what may have been the most spectacular fallout reported in Florida. At Canaveral N.S., *Volusia*, from dawn to 1100, they watched 100–200 birds per minute fly in from over the ocean and head *north*. In all, they estimated that hundreds of thousands of birds passed by, with the wave extending for miles along the coast. About 70% were Palm Warblers, with Blackpoll and Cape May Warblers and Common Yellowthroats also abundant. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Gray Catbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Am. Redstarts were observed in lesser numbers. Fifty Merlins were seen, nearly every one with a warbler in its talons. At noon, the Radamakers visited Smyrna Dunes Park, where they photographed a **Kirtland's Warbler**, only the second verifiable record for Florida, the first being an 1896 specimen (there are ±15 sight reports).

were part of the fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA, MWi, CBU), and Robinson counted 25 Indigo Buntings at L.A.R.A. 19 Oct. Over 3,000 Bobolinks were in agricultural fields at W. Kendall 11 Sep (JoB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Sanibel I. 12 Sep (VM, CE), P.P.M. 19 Sep (PT, CG), Naples 24-25 Sep (EP), Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, JP), and three were at Gainesville 8-10 Oct (RR). Shiny Cowbird reports were of two at Cedar Key 9 Aug (DHe), a female at H.P.M. on the late date of 20 Nov (BB, BaP), and 12 at Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, JP). Multiple Baltimore Orioles included eight at Crystal River 6 Sep (TR), 17 at "Ding" Darling N.W.R. 6 Sep (JeB, CE, AS), four at Honey-moon I. 10 Sep (PBI), three at L.A.R.A. 23 Sep (HR), and four at Turkey Creek 7 Oct (B&SH). A male Bullock's Oriole was reported from Cedar Key 22-26 Oct (DHe et al.). House Finches continue to increase in range and numbers in the Region, as evidenced by 180 in *Alachua* 18 Sep (*vide* MMa), two at Spring Hill, *Hernando*, 7-8 Nov (SC, AH, BHa), and one at Cedar Key 18-23 Nov (DHe).

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# ontario

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It was a lovely, long, leisurely fall season. The south was warm and dry throughout, while in the northwest it was also mild, with much rain in August but drier than usual later; November in Rainy River was the mildest on record. All the promised hurricanes in North America remained coastal, so no storm-driven pelagic species were recorded. Hawk migration was excellent in the south, with several species, including Golden Eagle, in record numbers. Otherwise, birding was uneventful for most of the season until a sudden, welcome influx of rarities in November.

**Abbreviations:** L.P.B.O. (*Long Point Bird Observatory*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*). Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Five definitive basic Red-throated Loons at Radiant L. 18 Nov (CJo, RSt, DTz, RGT) were only the second for Algonquin P.P. Three hundred Com. Loons were off Pt. Pelee 5 Nov (KML et al.). A severe botulism outbreak on L. Huron killed three Red-throated Loons, 1,000 Common Loons, five

Horned Grebes, three Red-necked Grebes, and many ducks, especially mergansers, between Kettle Pt. and Bayfield mid-Nov (*vide* AHR). The 243 Pied-billed Grebes in Rondeau Bay, *Kent*, 1 Oct (JTB, KJB) were a record high. A high number for the N. Bay area were 25 Horned Grebes off Jocko Pt., L. Nipissing, mid-Oct (RT). Two pairs of Red-necked Grebes in Bronte Harbour, *Halton* had seven young 8 Aug, with some eggs still unhatched (MG). Eared Grebes included one at Sheguiandah, Manitoulin I. 7 Aug (E&GG), one at LaSalle Marina, Aldershot, *Halton* 17 Aug (RZD, m.ob.), two off Burlington 28 Aug (KML, m.ob.), one at Pt. Pelee 20 Sep (AW), and one at Rondeau P.P. 9-30 Nov (AHR et al.).

*Thunder Bay* had a record high count of Am. White Pelicans, with 300+ at W. Bay, L. Nipigon, 19 Aug (RSw); in the s., one at Erie Beach, *Kent* 18 Oct (JTB) was noteworthy. Indicative of the huge influx of recent years, 2,500 Double-crested Cormorants were on Sandy I., L. Nipissing, 20 Aug (RT). Up to six Great Egrets continued at Presqu'île P.P. through Aug to early Sep, with two still there late Sep (*vide* MRg). Six frequented a wetland near Napanee, *Lennox-Addington* 10-17 Sep (ST, AT) and 131 were in the Holiday Beach area, *Essex*, 18 Aug (FU). Numbers at Luther Marsh, *Wellington-Dufferin* peaked at 43 on 14 Sep (HB); a late bird lingered near Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* 25 Oct-7 Nov (*vide* RK). Snowy Egrets were at Napanee 10 Sep (ST, AT) and Niagara-on-the-Lake 8-14 Nov (RHC et al.). Cattle Egrets included one near Westport, *Leeds-Granville* 7 Sep (NLB) and one at Ottawa 31 Oct (TB); three appeared in the Thunder Bay area after two days of record high temperatures, at Chippewa 9 Nov (*vide* AH), the Chapple golf club 9 Nov (DMK), and the Thunder Bay airport 10 Nov (BR). Another was at Massey, *Sudbury*, 21 Nov (CBI). Single *Plegadis* ibis were at Presqu'île P.P. 12 Sep (RPa) and Long Pt. Causeway 28 Nov (MC, LN). A **Black Vulture** flew over the Dundas Valley, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 3 Nov (BD). Migrating Turkey Vulture numbers were high, with record one-day counts of 2,161 at Seaciff, *Essex*, 6 Oct (AW, KML)