he season was mild, with temperatures dipping to the freezing point at Orlando only twice. Rain levels were near normal. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins irrupted in small numbers south to the central peninsula. More notable were the hundreds to thousands of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and American Goldfinches that appeared early in the fall and remained in numbers throughout the season. Several species of hawks, shorebirds, vireos, warblers, and tanagers were in record or near-record numbers. It is likely that this was due to a protracted fall migration rather than to an increase of wintering birds, as most of these individuals were recorded in December and not throughout the season.

Abbreviations/definitions: L.A.N.S.R.A. (Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); UF (Florida State Museum).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

One Red-throated Loon ranged s. to Melbourne, Brevard (m.ob.), with another at St. Marks N.W.R. 11 Dec (TC). At nearby Alligator Pt., Franklin, a Pacific Loon was seen 15 Jan (PBi et al.). Pacifics are casual along the Region's Atlantic coast; one at Titusville, Brevard remained through 4 Feb (RP, BHA, KR et al.), and 3 were at Jupiter Inlet Colony. Palm Beach 22 Dec (JaH). Eared Grebes were at L.A.N.S.R.A. 1 Dec (HR), Hamilton mines 18 Dec (IK, SC), and Polk mines 11 Dec-10 Feb (PT, PF). Four Manx Shearwaters seen off Flagler 5 Dec (JoH, BW) were rare. Single Brown Boobies were at Siesta Key, Sarasota 13 Jan (fide JeD) and Canaveral N.S., Brevard 18 Jan (DF), while a flock of 35 was seen 23 Dec at Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe (RD). Inland, Brown Pelicans were at Leon, Alachua, Orange, Highlands, and Polk, where there were 10 at Saddle Creek Park 17 Jan (B&LC). Nearly annual in the Region, a White-faced Ibis, Alachua's first, visited Kanapaha Prairie 19-21 Dec (RR, JoH et al.). At Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., the Greater Flamingo flock totaled about 40 (LM).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck numbers continue to increase: 255, mostly imms., were at L.A.N.S.R.A. 22 Dec (BHA), 140 were at Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area, Lake 17 Dec (C.B.C. data), and 73 were in Alachua 19 Dec (fide JoH). Greater White-fronted Geese were in Leon (GM et al.), Brevard (C.B.C. data), and Alachua, with 14 at Kanapaha 7–11 Jan (MS). Small numbers of Snow Geese were found in Hamilton (SC, JK), Alachua (RR et al.), Hernando (MG), Lake (PMa), Orange (HR), and Brevard (TR). At Merritt I., 3 Canada Geese were flying southward 16 Dec (DF). An amazing 200

Florida



Gadwalls, rare in the peninsula, were at Polk mines 10 Feb (PF et al.). Eurasian Wigeons graced Duval (BR), Alachua (PBu et al.), Brevard (m.ob.), and Collier (m.ob.). More Mallard × Mottled Duck hybrids were noted on C.B.C.s in Hernando (94!), Pasco (13), and Martin (3). St. Marks hosted at least one Cinnamon Teal 21 Dec-14 Jan (JaD et al.). Single drake Common (Eurasian Greenwinged) Teal were photographed at Ding Darling N.W.R., Lee in early Feb (fide CE) and at Gainesville 15 Feb+ (PBu et al., ph. SC). One Surf Scoter was s. to Brevard 20 Jan (MB). The only White-winged Scoters were 5 at Canaveral N.S. 3 Dec (TR) and 50 at Ft. Clinch S.P., Nassau 19 Feb (BB). Black Scoters appeared in fair numbers along the Atlantic coast south to Brevard, where 149 were counted at Canaveral N.S. 16 Dec (DF). The only Long-tailed Duck reported remained in Brevard through 2 Jan (AV et al.). A Bufflehead was far s. in Charlotte 10 Dec (JBo). Common Goldeneyes penetrated the peninsula s. to three Brevard locations (DF, BAh et al.) and to Lakeland, Polk (B&FH et al.)

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The earliest Swallow-tailed Kite was at Sarasota 12 Feb (ML). Rare White-tailed Kites were found at Polk mines 11 Dec-29 Jan (PT, PF et al.), Avon Park A.F.R. 15 Dec (C.B.C. data), and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., Okeechobee 2 Feb (PMi). A pair of White-taileds at Everglades N.P. 26 Feb appeared to be building a nest (DSi). A Mississippi Kite at Gainesville 27 Feb (LH) may have wintered. A Great Black-Hawk of unknown provenance was seen 18 Dec on Virginia Key, Miami-Dade (RD), where the species has a history since the 1970s. About 7 Broad-winged Hawks wintered n. to Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Brevard. A Short-tailed Hawk at New Port Richey, Pasco 1 Dec (KT) was late. One Short-tailed at Saddle Creek, *Polk* 15 Dec (*fide* PF) might have been one of 2 there 17 Jan (B&LC). Of only casual occurrence, a Golden Eagle was reported at Avon Park A.F.R. 15 Dec (GW).

RAILS THROUGH LARIDS

A Yellow Rail was flushed at Weekiwachee Preserve, Hernando 13 Dec (MG). Becoming reliable in winter locally in Pasco, Black Rails were found 31 Dec (RS) and 2 Jan (KT), with one in Hernando 31 Dec (BP). At least one Purple Gallinule remained n. at St. Marks 27 Dec-17 Jan (fide GM). An American Coot 21 Dec (RD) was one of only a few ever found at Dry Tortugas. This fall 13 Whooping Cranes followed an ultralight aircraft from Necedah N.W.R. in Wisconsin to Chassahowitzka N.W.R., Citrus, where they arrived 12 Dec. Since 2001, 53 cranes have made this trip to new wintering grounds; 45 are still alive. Some of these birds are stopping off early, to winter in the Carolinas (http://www.operationmigra- tion.org>).

Casual on Florida's Atlantic coast, a Snowy Plover graced Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 26 Dec (PP). This season's high count of 42 Piping Plovers wintered far s. at Crandon Beach, Miami-Dade (RD). Three American Oystercatchers in Palm Beach 2 Jan (BH) were s. of their usual range. Blacknecked Stilts lingered into Dec in Duval (BR), Alachua (C.B.C. data), and Brevard (C.B.C. data). Two stilts at Polk mines 11 Dec had increased to 44 by 27 Feb (PT, CG). Up to 3 were n. to St. Marks 1 Jan-5 Feb (EW et al.). Surprising were 270 American Avocets n. to Quarantine I., Duval 26 Dec (BR) and one at Alligator Pt. 1 Jan (JM). Small numbers of Solitary Sandpipers lingered, several until 2 Jan (RR et al., C.B.C. data); presumably wintering were singles found later in the season at L.A.N.S.R.A. (HR), in Pinellas (fide JF), Brevard (DF), and Palm Beach (DSi). Rare inland was a Willet at Gainesville to 19 Dec (SC et al.). Whimbrels were late, with flocks up to 10 seen along both coasts through 30 Dec (C.B.C. data). Two Long-billed Curlews visited Cedar Key 6 Dec (JoH), with another at Marco I., Collier 16 Feb (TR), Lone Long-billeds wintered at Bunche Beach, Lee and Ft. De Soto. A Purple Sandpiper at Ft. De Soto 7 Dec-28 Jan (ph. LA) was the first verified there. Along the e. coast, Purples followed jetties s. to Martin (C.B.C. data). A Ruff was a one-day wonder at West Palm Beach 26 Feb (BH). Rare anytime, 2 Red Phalaropes were viewed from a boat off Flagler 5 Dec (JoH, BW).

First-winter Iceland Gulls were at Amelia I., Nassau 30 Jan (BW), Huguenot Park 14 Feb (BR), and at Ft. Lauderdale 26 Feb (KR). Also in *Broward*, where the greatest

numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been reported in Florida, K. Rosenberg estimated more than 500 on 26 Feb. A high Regional total of 6 first-winter Glaucous Gull reports came from Nassau (PL), Duval (RCL), Flagler (BW), Volusia (BW, BHA, KR et al.), Brevard (DSi, RoS), and Miami-Dade (MB). Seven Great Black-backed Gulls were far s. at Miami-Dade 18 Dec (RD). On the Gulf coast, a total of about 8 Great Blackbackeds wintered in Lee (C.B.C. data) and Pinellas (RoS). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Canaveral N.S. 16 Dec & 18 Jan (DF) and Ft. Clinch 19 Feb (BB). A kittiwake was found wrecked at Satellite Beach, Brevard 30 Dec (fide TW. *UF 44403). Gull-billed Terns are at their n. limit in Hernando, where 6 were counted 31 Dec (BP et al.). Rare inland in winter, 2 Gull-billeds were at Polk mines 11 Dec (PT), and one was found on the Econlockhatchee C.B.C. 26 Dec. Two Royal Terns were inland at Polk mines 13 Feb (PT, CG). Three Sandwich Terns and 5 Sooty Terns were seen at Dry Tortugas 22 Dec (RD); a Sooty beached at Sanibel I. 26 Dec (fide TW, *UF 44391). Only 2 alcids were reported: a Razorbill was swimming in Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach 18 Jan (BH, PC), and Florida's 2nd Atlantic Puffin was found alive at St. Augustine Beach 23 Dec (died 25 Dec, fide TW, *UF 44359).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Likely w. migrants, up to 7 White-winged Doves wintered at Cedar Key (DH), while one paused at Bald Pt., Franklin 6 Dec (JaD, JM, RCr). A Smooth-billed Ani was found in West Palm Beach 2 Jan (C.B.C. data), with 2 others resident at Ft. Lauderdale airport. At the latter location, a Groove-billed Ani accompanied the Smooth-billeds 8 Feb+ (LM). Another Groove-billed was at Boca Raton, Palm Beach 30 Jan (BH). Up to 6 Groove-billeds loafed at L.A.N.S.R.A. 27 Dec-6 Feb (HR, m.ob.).

A Barn Owl at Dry Tortugas N.P. 22 Dec (RD) was unexpected. Up to 7 Short-eared Owls wintered at L.A.N.S.R.A. (HR), while others were reported in Brevard (C.B.C. data) and Sarasota (JP et al.). Likely migrants, 3 Lesser Nighthawks were at Bald Pt. 12 Dec and at nearby Alligator Pt. 18 Dec (JaD et al.), while one was at L.A.N.S.R.A. 5 Dec (HR). On 7 Dec, Manfredi estimated up to 100 Lessers at Frog Pond W.M.A., Miami-Dade, just outside Everglades N.P., where the species regularly winters. Inside the park, Lessers were seen at Long Pine Key (RD) and Eco Pond (m.ob.).

This winter, the tireless Fred Bassett banded 63 hummingbirds of five species s. to the cen. peninsula. Surprising was that 16 of the 30 Ruby-throateds banded were in Tallahassee. Fifteen Black-chinneds were

banded: at Tallahassee (8), Gainesville (2), Valrico (3), Brooksville (one), and Lakeland (one). Of the 22 Rufous captured, 5 in Tallahassee and one in Valrico had been banded in previous years. Banded for the first time were 11 Rufous in Tallahassee, one at Alligator Pt., and 4 in Gainesville. Rare in the Region, a Buff-bellied was captured in Tallahassee 13 Jan. A Buff-bellied banded in Gainesville in the fall continued through the winter (HB et al.). At Tallahassee 18 Dec, Bassett banded one of only a few Allen's Hummingbirds ever verified in the Region.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Up to 8 Least Flycatchers wintered at L.A.N.S.R.A. (HR). Other Leasts in Hamilton 18 Dec (JK, SC) and Suwannee 27 Dec (RR) were likely late. Vermilion Flycatchers were in Columbia (JK et al.), Wakulla (6; TC, SM et al.), Taylor (JCa), Alachua (RR), Pasco (KT), Volusia (MW), Polk (fide CG), and Miami-Dade (2; JHB et al.). Up to 4 Ashthroated Flycatchers wintered at L.A.N.S.R.A. (HR). Other Ash-throateds were in Alachua (2; PBu, AK), on the Volusia/Brevard border (DSi, AB, vt.), in Brevard (2; TR), and in Pinellas (JF, IH). One or more Brown-crested Flycatchers were identified at Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade 12 Dec-7 Feb (RD et al.), up to 2 were at L.A.N.S.R.A. 16 Dec-23 Feb (HR, BHA et al.), and one was at Key Largo 16 Feb+ (BM, PBi). Two Cassin's Kingbirds wintered at L.A.N.S.R.A. for a 2nd season (HR, m.ob.). Another Cassin's was seen near Sunnyland Station, Collier 18 Dec (TH et al.). Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widely distributed in cen. and s. Florida. The established kingbird roost near L.A.N.S.R.A. reached a maximum of 61 Westerns on 22 Dec and also included 5 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (C.B.C. data). A Scissor-tailed at Merritt I. 20 Dec (TR, ph. AV) was unusual. A very early Eastern Kingbird appeared at Polk mines 27 Feb (PT,

Rare at any season, a Bell's Vireo highlighted L.A.N.S.R.A. 16 Feb (HR). Yellowthroated Vireos appeared in unprecedented numbers, with 8 on six C.B.C.s n. to Gainesville and Stuart. An excellent description accompanied a Warbling Vireo photographed at Merritt I. 28 Dec (†AV et al.). The earliest Purple Martin was reported in Brevard 9 Jan (JDr). Two Cave Swallows at St. Marks 3–7 Feb (BR, JaD et al.) and 5 at Pembroke Pines, Broward 22 Feb (DSi) were believed to be of the w. race pelodoma. Four Caves were in Palm Beach 19 Dec (BH).

Barn Swallows were late, with singles in Alachua 19 Dec (RR et al.) and Duval 26 Dec (BR). Early Barns were in Brevard 25 Jan (DF) and Pinellas 30 Jan (ph. LA). Two Tuft-

ed Titmice were reported in Miami-Dade, where the species is casual (EL, m.ob.). Single Red-breasted Nuthatches in Pinellas 19 Dec (MK) and Wakulla 12 Dec-26 Jan (m.ob.) provided the only Regional reports. There were slightly more reports than usual of Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. One creeper was s. to Alachua 12-28 Dec (JBR, PBu et al.). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was far s. to Polk 11 Jan (JiD). A Wood Thrush on the Econlockhatchee C.B.C. 22 Dec (C.B.C. data) was unexpected. A Hermit Thrush at Sandy Key, Monroe 22 Dec (BM) was far s., as were up to 4 American Robins at Dry Tortugas 22-23 Dec (RD). Robins and waxwings invaded the Region in great numbers, as was illustrated by a report of thousands of robins and hundreds of waxwings at Cape Coral, Lee 7-14 Feb (CE).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Twenty-six species of warblers were reported this season. Two Blue-winged Warblers in Alachua 19 Dec (fide RR) were late, and one remained in Broward 11 Dec-8 Feb (ph. MB et al.). An unprecedented nine reports of Nashville Warbler from seven counties (Alachua to Miami-Dade) were received. Yellow Warblers ranged n. to Alachua (AK), Pasco (KT), and Volusia 4 Jan (MM). Four Cuban Golden Warblers were on mangrove islets off Arsenicker Keys, Miami-Dade 17 Dec (RD). Rare were Chestnut-sided Warblers at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Palm Beach 5 Jan (BH), and Key West 8 Feb (DF). A Chestnut-sided in Miami-Dade 18 Dec (C.B.C. data) was probably late. A Magnolia Warbler in Pinellas 6-26 Jan (JF) was rare. A Cape May Warbler was n. in Brevard 18 Dec (C.B.C. data). While a few Black-throated Blue Warblers regularly winter in s. Florida, the species was reported far n. of usual in the Gainesville area 19 Dec-5 Feb (RR); another was at Merritt I. 20 Dec (DSi, AB). A Blackthroated Gray Warbler remained at Seacoast Scrub Nature Center, Palm Beach 13 Jan-14 Feb (BH et.al.). Black-throated Green Warblers ranged n. to Seminole (AV), Brevard (C.B.C. data), and Pinellas (BAh).

Two Bay-breasted Warblers on the Cocoa C.B.C. 18 Dec (DF) were probably late migrants. At least 2 American Redstarts wintered in Orange (AV). Worm-eating Warblers were widespread at the s. tip of the Region, with one n. to Palm Beach 2 Jan (BH). Northern Waterthrushes ranged n. to Duval (RCL), with 13 at L.A.N.S.R.A. 30 Jan (HR). Louisiana Waterthrushes were at two sites in Miami-Dade (JHB, RD) and two sites in Orange (AV, HR); a Louisiana in Wakulla 12 Feb (JM) was a likely migrant. A MacGillivray's Warbler was a one-day wonder at West Boynton Cypress Area, Palm Beach 2 Jan (BH et al.). A Hooded Warbler wintered at Key

Largo (BM). Wilson's Warblers were widespread, with eight reports from Alachua (fide RR) to Collier (TD, KOD) and Miami–Dade (TR). There were nine reports of Yellowbreasted Chats from Duval (JCo) to Monroe (BM).

A Bananaquit at Ft. Lauderdale 14-21 Jan (BM) was seen by many. Summer Tanagers were found in unprecedented numbers, with about 22 reports from at least 13 counties. A Western Tanager again spent the season in Tallahassee, Leon, where it was joined by another 8 Jan (FR et al.). The green-backed Western Spindalis found at Key West in the fall remained to winter, as did a female spindalis at Long Key (JBo et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow stopped in Duval 3 Dec (RCL), and small numbers wintered from Orange (up to 7; HR) to Key Largo 16 Feb+ (BM, PBi). A Field Sparrow was s. to Palm Beach 9 Jan (BH, PC). Far s. were 3 Vesper Sparrows in two areas of Everglades N.P. (RoS, RP). Lark Sparrows were in Alachua (RR et al.), Orange (HR), Hillsborough (BAh), Polk (4; PF et al.), and Miami-Dade (3; JHB et al.). Eleven Savannah Sparrows were at Dry Tortugas 22 Dec (RD). Le Conte's Sparrows were identified at L.A.N.S.R.A. 22 (C.B.C. data) & 25 Jan (TR) and at Inglis, Levy 29 Dec (MG). Three Fox Sparrows were at O'Leno S.P., Columbia 10 Dec-8 Jan (PBu, JBR et al.), with another at Bald Pt. 14 Dec (JaD). A Song Sparrow was s. at Hendry 27 Feb (ph. MB). Also found in record numbers were Lincoln's Sparrows, with 12 reports in nine counties from Duval (RCL, RR) to a remarkable occurrence at Dry Tortugas (C.B.C. data; no details). Far s. was a White-throated Sparrow at Cape Florida 24 Dec (RD). A Goldencrowned Sparrow at L.A.N.S.R.A. 6 Feb (TS) could not be relocated. Dark-eyed Juncos were more common than usual. Only one junco was found s. of Gainesville, at Titusville 4 Feb (DF). A Lapland Longspur was seen near Mahogany Hammock, Everglades N.P. 4 Dec (ph. JHB).

Casual in winter, 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at L.A.N.S.R.A. 1 Dec were migrants, although one wintered (HR). Others were at St. Marks N.W.R. 18 Dec (C.B.C. data), Long Key 28 Dec (JBo et al.), the Lake Placid C.B.C. 29 Dec, Alva, Lee in late Jan (L&LW), and Frog Pond 26 Feb (RD). Up to 6 Blue Grosbeaks wintered at L.A.N.S.R.A. (HR), and singles were on the Lake Placid C.B.C. and in n. Brevard 6 Jan (DSi). Painted Buntings were widely distributed in the cen. and s. peninsula, but rare so far n. were birds at Tallahassee 20 Feb (JDo) and in Alachua 28 Dec+ (DW). Lone Dickcissels were in Palm Beach (two locations; JaH, BH) and Miami-Dade (JHB et al.).

Up to 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Naples, Collier 6 Feb+ (AM et al.), and one was found at Cedar Key 23 Feb (TR). The

only Rusty Blackbirds reported were 3 found on the Jacksonville C.B.C. 26 Dec, 3 at St. Marks 8 Jan (JoH), and 10 at Lake City, Columbia 17-19 Ian (IK). Rare in the Region, 20 Brewer's Blackbirds were in Madison 7 Jan (GM). The only report of Bronzed Cowbird was up to 28 at Naples 18 Dec+ (DSu et al.). One Orchard Oriole was at L.A.N.S.R.A. 16 & 25 Jan (BR, TR). Small numbers of Purple Finches (44) and Pine Siskins (about 20) made it into the cen. peninsula. Except for up to 28 Purple Finches reported in the Gainesville area (MD, RR et al.), most were in flocks of 5 or less. The southernmost Purple Finches were 2 that wintered at Spring Hill, Hernando (ph. LA et al.), 2 near Brooksville 12 Jan (MG), 2 at Altamonte Springs, Seminole 27 Dec (ph. PH), and one at Clermont, Lake 1 Jan (SB). Eleven reports of Pine Siskins extended s. to Merritt I. (one; DF), Spring Hill (one; A&BH), and near Brooksville (2; MG). The largest numbers of siskins were 6 at Lake City 29 Jan-3 Feb (JA, SC) and 4 in the Gainesville area 18 Dec+ (RR et al.).

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