



Bill Pranty

The weather was mostly hot and dry for much of the season, with only 3.7 cm of rain during March–April in the western Panhandle. Consequently, there were few fallouts reported, and those few were minor. Bob Duncan stated that it was “as though migration had not taken place.” The only potential mega-rarity reported was Florida’s first European Herring Gull, a subspecies recently elevated to full-species status by European authorities.

Abbreviations/definitions: N.S.R.A. (North Shore Recreation Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FLAMINGO

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their colonization of the peninsula, with 160 at Gainesville, *Alachua* 12 Apr (DH), 3 at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 12 May (EH), 20 at Ocala, *Marion* 21 May (BAn), 2 at Lower Wekiva River Preserve S.P., *Lake/Seminole* 24 May (LoM), and 6 at Cutler Ridge, *Miami-Dade* 25 May (RT). In contrast, numbers of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seem to be decreasing, with only three reports: 5 at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 5 Apr (AW), one at a *Polk* phosphate mine 11 May (PF), and up to 25 all season at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. (HR). Four single Snow Geese were reported, 3 singles in *Brevard* (DF) and one at Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon* 14–29 Mar (GM). Northerly Mottled Ducks were one at Tallahassee accompanied by an apparent Mottled Duck × Mallard hybrid 10 Apr (ph. SM) and 2 at Egans Creek Wetlands, *Nassau* 12 Apr (JH). An apparent drake Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrid was photographed at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 11

Mar (ABa), while a drake Cinnamon Teal was found at St. Marks 18 Mar (TC). Lingering waterfowl included a Northern Pintail at Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 4 May (WY), 45 Redheads at Tierra Verde, *Pinellas* 13 May (BAh, DP), 3 Ring-necked Ducks at *Polk* mines 11 May (PF), 2 Greater Scaup at St. Marks 8 May (JDo), 4 Lesser Scaup and one Bufflehead at Springhill Road 31 May (GM), and one Surf Scoter at Merritt Island N.W.R., *Brevard* 29 May (TD).

In the w. Panhandle, Pacific Loons are rare but regular. This spring, there were singles at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 25 Mar (PBa) and Destin, *Okaloosa* 21 May (DWa). A recently detected pattern is the cross-peninsula migration of Common Loons; this spring, Kratter observed flocks flying northeastward over Gainesville 60–120 min. after sunrise; 90% of the loons were in alternate plumage. Top counts were 117 on 22 Mar and 193 on 5 Apr. Nearby, Hintermister saw 4 over Cary S.E., *Nassau* 12 Apr. A Horned Grebe tarried at Ft. Walton Beach W.T.P., *Okaloosa* through 24 May (MMY, BD). A pelagic trip off Ponce Inlet, *Volusia* 1 Apr netted 2 Black-capped Petrels and one White-tailed Tropicbird 170 km out, and 2 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels—the first verified off Florida’s Atlantic coast—135 km out (BW, MB). Two Leach’s Storm-Petrels were just off the mouth of the St. Johns R., *Duval* 15 May (RCl). Another White-tailed Tropicbird was w. of Key West, *Monroe* 25 Apr (MGe, DWi), and a Red-billed Tropicbird was salvaged at Boynton Beach, *Palm Beach* 19 Mar (*UF45217; *fide* TW). Sulids at Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe* included 17 Masked Booby nests in Apr (*fide* MGa) and single Red-footed Boobies 16 & 23 Apr (MGa et al.). Atlantic coastal Brown Boobies were observed at New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 4 May (*fide* MB), off Jacksonville, *Duval* 15 May (2; RCl), and off Jupiter Inlet, *Palm Beach* 31 May (J&LH). Brown Pelicans are regular inland in the cen. pen., but one at L. Talquin, *Leon* 7 May (SM) was noteworthy. The wintering Great Cormorant at Orange Park, *Duval* remained until 11 Mar (BAh, DP).

There were 20 American Bitterns at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 1 Mar (HR), while one tarried at Florida International University, *Miami-Dade* 31 May (BSc). A Great White Heron near Oak Hill, *Volusia* 18 May had been present for two weeks (MB). Rare inland was the imm. Reddish Egret at w. Kendall, *Miami-Dade* 8 May (JB). A high inland count of 27

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 25 Apr (HR). Present for several years, an ad. Scarlet Ibis (or hybrid/backcross) at Lakes Park, Ft. Myers, *Lee* attempted to breed with a White Ibis during May (AM). Casual but increasing in the Panhandle was the Glossy Ibis at L. Jackson, *Leon* 20 May (HH). Becoming regular in Florida, 3 White-faced Ibis remained at Micanopy, *Alachua* through 22 Mar (JH, PBU et al.), with another at Ft. Walton Beach 17 May (MMY, BD). Roseate Spoonbills bred for the first time at *Polk* mines, with three active nests 2 Apr (CGe) and 11 ads. in the colony 11 May (PF). A Greater Flamingo near Key West 25 Apr (ABi) may have been a natural vagrant.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

After more than 800 trips to Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. since Aug 1999, Robinson recorded his high count of 113 Ospreys 17 May. A pair of Snail Kites again bred at L. Istokpoga, *Highlands* in Apr (MMc), while a single strayed to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* 14 May (PM). Four Mississippi Kites at Green Cove Springs, *Clay* 29 May (RR et al.) were at the se. edge of their range. Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. hosted 170 Northern Harriers 4 Mar (HR). There were 12 reports of 16 Short-tailed Hawks (7 dark, 5 light, and 4 unspecified), with one ne. to Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 1 Apr (PL). Dark-morph Swainson’s Hawks were identified at a *Polk* mine 3 Mar (PF, DB) and at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area, *Miami-Dade* 5 Mar (RD). Curiously expanding their range northward, a Crested Caracara was found near Bithlo, *Orange* 31 May (GS). Lingering falcons included a Merlin at Tate’s Hell S.E., *Franklin* 5 May (JS) and a Peregrine Falcon at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR).

A Yellow Rail was flushed from native prairies at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 5 Mar (PM); several have been flushed there in the past few years. A good count of 49 Purple Gallinules came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). Limpkins have mysteriously disappeared from much of their n. range recently, so the report of a pair with 5 fledglings at L. Munson, *Leon* 12 Mar (MH) was encouraging. Meanwhile, Limpkins persist at St. Petersburg, where 10 were counted at Roosevelt Wetlands, a recent stormwater control/wetlands restoration site, 14 May (DM). Far outside the species’ Florida breeding range, a Sandhill Crane enlivened Ft. Walton Beach 13 May (LF), and another was seen southbound high over the Wakulla R., *Wakulla* 29 May (MK).

Good counts of Black-bellied Plovers were 60 at Werner–Boyce Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 21

SA A Southern Lapwing graced St. Marks 6 May–11 Jun (TC et al., ph.). Although it was of the “correct” subspecies group (*cayennensis*) to be a potential vagrant to the United States, the species is kept in captivity, and so questions of provenance arise. The *cayennensis* group now breeds north to Panama and has recently been detected numerous times in Costa Rica, Suriname, and s. Caribbean islands. The expansion of the species at the n. edge of its range, along with the emerging pattern of vagrancy into s. Central America and the Caribbean, will be important to monitor, particularly if more records of the species accrue for the United States.

Apr (KT) and 145 at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 11 May (RCI); one inland at Myakka River S.P., Sarasota 27 May (RS) was late. Ten American Golden-Plovers enlivened Bald Pt. 3 Mar (JDo), with 4 others in Flagler 5 Mar (RS et al.) and one at St. Marks 14 Apr (AW et al.). Plovers at Three Rooker I., Pinellas included 32 Snowies, 23 Wilson's, and 32 Pippings 7 Apr, while 10 Snowies and 10 Pippings were nearby at Anclote Bar, Pasco 21 Apr (KT). A Snowy nest was found at Cape Romano, Collier 9 May (DS). Three Wilson's Plovers were on territories at St. Vincent N.W.R., Franklin 20 May (BSt), where rare. Twenty-seven Semipalmated Plovers were inland at Polk mines 11 May (PF). American Oystercatchers are rare in the w. Panhandle, so singles at downtown Pensacola, Escambia 11 Apr (CB) and Destin 1 May (PG), plus 3 at Bayou Grande, Pensacola 20 Apr (BD et al.) were notable. Representing a slight range extension, a pair of Black-necked Stilts produced a chick at Seven Springs, Pasco 28 May (KT). The 1110 American Avocets at Polk mines 2 Apr (CGe) established the all-time Florida high count. Other avocet reports included 5 at St. Vincent I. 7 Apr (TL), 9 at Three Rooker I. 20 May (KT), 4 at St. Mark 27 May (JDo, JM), and 2 at Bystre L., Hernando 28 May (MGa).

The count of 76 Solitary Sandpipers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR) was the state's 2nd highest. Among a smattering of Upland Sandpiper reports was one at Graham 10–11 May (DR, JH) that furnished the first for Bradford. Freeland counted 35 Whimbrels at Canaveral N.S., Brevard 14 Apr. A Marbled Godwit at Springhill Road 11 Apr (JC) was casual inland. The high count of Red Knots was 1000 at Nassau Sound, Duval 1 Mar (PL). Casual inland, a Sanderling 7 May was a surprise at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. (HR). *Sumter* is rarely birded, so a visit to Center Hill and the Green Swamp 7 May netted Smith county firsts for Solitary Sandpiper (one), Semipalmated Sandpiper (12), White-rumped Sandpiper (one), and Stilt Sandpiper (2). White-rumped Sandpipers were widespread, with 15 reports of 46 individuals 28 Apr–28 May. The highest total was 9 at Springhill Road 23 May (GM). Peeps at Polk mines numbered 12,000 on 5 Apr and 6000 on 11 May (PF), while 1100 Long-billed Dowitch-

ers were there 3 Mar (PF, DB). Merritt Island N.W.R. supported 6000 Dunlin 3 Mar (DF, MGa). There were four reports totaling 8 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, seemingly higher than typical, including 4 at Ft. Walton Beach 20 Apr (MMY, BD) and 2 at Captiva I., Lee 18 May (CE). A somewhat late Wilson's Snipe was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR). A flight of Wilson's Phalaropes was obvious 20–26 May, with singles at Three Rooker I. and Seven Springs (KT, BPr), 2 at Marathon, Monroe (BM), 4 at Springhill Road (AW), and up to 31 at St. Marks (AW, RM). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were in n. Escambia (LC) and at Ft. Walton Beach (BD, WD), both 20 May.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Tomoka Landfill, Volusia was the hotspot for rare larids this season, hosting Florida's first European Herring Gull and an imm. Iceland Gull 12 Mar (JH et al.). Apparently the highest count of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the New World was established when Rosenberg counted 395 at Ft. Lauderdale 28 Feb; other reports included 15 at Crandon Park Beach, Miami-Dade 16 Mar (RD) and singles at Anclote Bar 11 & 20 Apr (KT), Lower Matecumbe Key, Monroe 30 Apr (DF), and Longboat Key, Manatee 21 May (RPe). Three subad. Common Terns lingered at Little Estero I., Lee through 23 May (CE). An Arctic Tern enlivened the Florida Straits w. of Key West 21 Apr (MGa). Seventeen Least Terns courting at Ponce Inlet (Volusia) 29 Mar (MB) were early arrivals, while high counts included 115 at Anclote Bar 11 Apr (KT), 45 over an office building roof near Loughman, Polk 27 Apr (KT), and 60 over an Albertson's (grocery store) roof at Bonita Springs, Lee 15 May (DS). Early and late Black Tern reports were 2 each at St. Marks 16 Mar (BB) and Ft. George Inlet, Duval 20 May (PL). An imm. Black Noddy was spied at Dry Tortugas 26 Apr (ABi). Unreported last year, Black Skimmers apparently bred in mined lands near Bartow, Polk for the 2nd year; this year, 40 ads. were found (PF). Thirty other skimmers over an office building near Loughman 27 Apr (KT) may have also been breeding.

Four White-winged Doves at Bald Pt. 15 Apr–15 May (JM, JDo) and one at Weeki-

Wachee, Hernando 8 May (MGa) may have been migrants, but 3 at St. Petersburg 6 May+ (MW) and one at Altamonte Springs, Seminole 14 May (GB) were probably residents. Eighteen Burrowing Owls were censused at the far-isolated “colony” at Eglin A.F.B., Okaloosa 23 Apr (LF). Up to 2 Caribbean Short-eared Owls visited Dry Tortugas 16–25 Apr (MGa). A Lesser Nighthawk was detected at St. George Island S.P., Franklin 27 Apr (JC). A female Antillean Nighthawk salvaged at John Pennekamp S.P., Monroe 6 May held one egg in an ovary (*UF 45226; fide AKr)—the first verifiable breeding record for the Upper Keys. Meanwhile, a nighthawk photographed at St. George I. 27 Apr (AW) was identified as an Antillean based on plumage features (KK). If confirmed, this would furnish the first record of Antillean Nighthawk in Florida outside the Keys or extreme se mainland. A dusk survey netted 33 Chuckwill's-widows at Starkey Wilderness Park, Pasco 14 May (KT). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was found at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami-Dade 10 Mar (LMa), where one has wintered previously. An active Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest at Kirby Storter Roadside Park, Collier 7 May (BSc, SS) was at the s edge of its range. *Selasphorus* lingered at Orlando through 3 Mar (fide BAN), at Valrico, Hillsborough through 4 & 15 Mar (SBa), and at Tallahassee through 21 Mar (C&NN). The state-rare Hairy Woodpecker was detected at Rainbow Springs S.P., Marion 16 Mar (JH) and at Tosohatchee State Reserve, Orange 20 Mar (pair; PHu).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWING

Irregularly detected in Florida, a Willow Flycatcher sang repeatedly at Bolen Bluff Trail, Alachua 9 Apr (†BCa, BE). A singing Least Flycatcher at Starkey Wilderness Park 1 Apr was locally rare (KT); one wintering at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. remained through 19 Apr (HR), while one at Withlacoochee S.F., Hernando 28 May (MGa) was extremely late. An apparent migrant Vermilion Flycatcher was found at St. Marks N.W.R. 18 Mar (TC); none were reported during winter. Wintering Ash-throated Flycatchers remained at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 1 Mar (2; HR) and at Ft. Walton Beach through 16 Mar (MMY, BD). Early Great Crested Flycatchers were reported at Tallahassee 3 Mar (FR), Weekiwachee Preserve, Hernando 4 Mar (A&BH), and Alachua, Alachua 10 Mar (PBu). The 2 Brown-crested Flycatchers that wintered at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. lingered through 1 & 5 Mar (HR). Single La Sagra's Flycatchers graced Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 26–29 Mar (RD) and 20–22 Apr (CW,

TM) Other wintering tyrannids at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. lingered into spring: a Tropical Kingbird until 24 May, a Cassin's Kingbird until 4 Mar, 34 Western Kingbirds until 8 Mar and 4 until 7 May, and 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers until 22 Mar (HR, SBe). Newly discovered roosts near Bartow and The Villages, *Marion* contained 20 Western Kingbirds 14 Mar (TP), and 41 Western Kingbirds and 3 Scissor-tailed 31 Mar (JDi), respectively. Westerns tarried at Ft. Walton Beach 5 May and Gulf Breeze 16 May (BD). A Gray Kingbird at St. George I. 18 Mar (AKn, JM) was early, while others at Tallahassee 29 Apr–7 May (RCa) and Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 14 May (HR) were rare inland.

A wintering Bell's Vireo at Southern Glades remained through 18 Mar (RD et al.). Early was the singing Yellow-throated Vireo at Morris Bridge Park, *Hillsborough* 2 Mar (BAh). Casual in spring were the Warbling Vireo at Bald Pt 4–5 May (JDo) and the Philadelphia Vireo at Sanibel Lighthouse, *Lee* 27 Apr (VM). A Black-whiskered Vireo at Coconut Pt., *Brevard* 6 May (ABa, SH) was somewhat out of range. Tree Swallow numbers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. peaked at 71,000 on 10 Mar, with one remaining until 24 May (HR). Cave Swallows were widespread, with 12 reports totaling 19 birds, most or all of the subspecies *pelodoma*. Multiple counts were up to 2 at St. Marks 22–27 Mar (RM et al.), 3 at Bald Pt. 11 Apr (GM), 2 at Key West 15 Apr (MGa), and 4 at Dry Tortugas 16–27 Apr (MGa). A Barn Swallow was early at Cape Coral, *Lee* 6 Mar (JG), while one heading southward past Cayo Costa S.P., *Lee* 21 May (CE) may have been lost.

A Tufted Titmouse continued at A.D. Barnes Park, *Miami-Dade* 9–29 Apr (JB). Lingering wrens included a House at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 7 May (HR), a Winter at O'Leno S.P., *Columbia* through 11 Mar (BCh), and a Marsh at L. Jackson 9 May (GM). One or more Sedge Wrens sang through the season at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve (PM). Single Wood Thrushes at Orlando 11 Mar (BPa) and Tallahassee 26 Mar (PHo) were early, while 2 at Ft. De Soto 29 Apr (BAh, DP) were locally rare. Thirty thousand American Robins were still at a St. Petersburg roost 4 Mar (DM). Two Common Mynas bred at Southern Glades 4 Apr (RD), while a vanguard single at St. Petersburg 29–30 Apr (L&NS, ph.) established the northwesternmost record in Florida. Always late to depart, 60 Cedar Waxwings tarried at Altamonte Springs 15 May (PHu), while 30 others remained at Mead Garden, Winter Park until 20 May (BAh et al.). A strange-looking Northern Mockingbird with flank streaking and reduced white in the wings and tail at Boca Chica Key, *Monroe* 1

Mar (ph. CGo) was thought by some to be a Northern Mockingbird × Bahama Mockingbird hybrid.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Golden-winged Warbler reported graced Ft. De Soto 19–22 Apr (LA, PF et al.); a Brewster's Warbler appeared there 9 Apr (LA). A small warbler fallout was noted at Ft. De Soto 29 Apr, with 15 Black-throated Blues, 85 Blackpolls, 20 Ovenbirds, and 18 Hoodeds (BAh, DP). Warblers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included a Nashville 1 Mar, 2 Palms 17 May, 73 Blackpolls 5 May, 17 American Redstarts 3 May, 25 Northern Waterthrushes 28 Apr, and 75 Common Yellowthroats 17 Mar (HR). Cape Florida supported 83 Northern Parulas and 208 Western Palms 8 Mar, 305 Prairies 24 Mar, and 228 Common Yellowthroats 26 Mar (RD). The "Migrant Funnel" at Green Key, *Pasco* produced 62 Cape Mays 1 May, 31 Black-throated Blues 30 Apr, 304 Blackpolls 29 Apr and 202 on 30 Apr, and 24 American Redstarts 29 Apr (KT, BPr et al.). A male Cerulean Warbler graced Ft. De Soto 10–12 Apr (LA et al.), and Smith saw 2 Prothonotary Warblers there 23 Mar. Six reports of Swainson's Warblers included singles that struck windows at Wellington, *Palm Beach* 21 Mar (*UF 45213; *fide* AKr) and St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 24 Mar (*UF 45185; *fide* AKr), with 4 at Cape Florida 28 Mar (RD). Four Connecticut Warblers were at Wekiwa Springs S.P., *Orange* 14 May (RPo et al.), with 2 at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., *Broward* 20 May (BR). Wilson's Warblers enlivened Koucky Park, *Leon* 1 Mar (RL) and Ft. De Soto 18 Mar (CGj). A Canada Warbler at A.D. Barnes 19 Apr (RT) furnished the sole report of this scarce migrant. Up to 9 Yellow-breasted Chats were on territory at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. by season's end (HR).

A Summer Tanager at Orlando 10 Mar (BPa) was very early or wintering. A female tanager carrying nesting material at Babcock-Webb W.M.A. 30 Mar (B&LC) established the first breeding report for *Charlotte*. A male *zena* *Western Spindalis* graced Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade* 23–25 Apr (PS et al., ph. CW). Lingering sparrows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included Clay-colored through 26 Mar, Lincoln's through 19 Apr, and Savannah and Swamp through 19 May (HR). Another Clay-colored remained at Valrico until 13 Apr (SBa). Three Henslow's Sparrows sang at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 6 Apr (PM). The latest of 6 Lincoln's Sparrows was found at Ft. De Soto 5 May (CR). A local rarity was the White-throated Sparrow at Ft. De Soto 9–29 Apr (LA et al.); another White-throated tarried at High Springs, *Alachua* until 2 May

(DR). Robinson tallied 340 Northern Cardinals at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 17 Mar and 8 Painted Buntings 5 Mar. Other Painted reports included a singing male at Ft. Walton Beach 17 May (BD) and a female at Winter Park through 20 May (BAh). Single Dickcissels were found at three sites, while up to 4 spent the season at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. beginning 28 Apr (HR). Good numbers of Bobolinks were found in the pen., with 14,000 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 28 Apr (HR), 400 at Merritt Island N.W.R. 28 Apr (DF), 850 at St. Augustine 4 May (JKe), and 350 at Crystal River State Buffer Preserve, *Citrus* 12 May (JH, DR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds enlivened Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 3–5 Mar (BM, AH) and Ocoee, *Orange* 8 Apr (E&RN).

There were 15 reports totaling 29 Shiny Cowbirds statewide, with up to 6 at Dry Tortugas 16–25 Apr (MGa), 4 at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 30 Apr (JM), 3 at Bald Pt. 7 May (JM, JDo), and duos at Key West 15 Apr (MGa), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 17 May (HR), Captiva I. 26 May (VM), and Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site, *Monroe* 24 May (RT). Bronzed Cowbirds were limited to *Miami-Dade*, with one at w. Kendall 31 Mar (JB) and 3 at Homestead 9 May+ (LMa). Seventeen Orchard Orioles were on territory at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 31 May (HR). Tallahassee's wintering Bullock's Oriole remained until 11 Apr (FR et al.). House Finches were reported in *Citrus*, *Dixie*, *Duval* (bred), *Lafayette*, *Orange*, *Pinellas* (bred), *Seminole*, and *Taylor*. Lingering finches included a Pine Siskin at Columbia City, *Columbia* 26 Mar (JKr) and single American Goldfinches at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR) and Winter Park 11 May (BAh).

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

Mandarin Ducks were seen copulating at Madison, *Madison* 25 Mar (SM). An African Collared-Dove (formerly known as Ringed Turtle-Dove) specimen was salvaged at Daytona Beach 29 Mar (*UF 45235; *fide* TW). The male Rose-ringed Parakeet at Paisley, *Lake* 26 May (CH) and the Zebra Finch at Archer, *Alachua* 14–16 Apr (MMe) were presumably local escapees.

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Ontario



Matthew L. Holder

Overall, the spring in Ontario was warmer than normal, with cold nighttime temperatures in early March contrasting with warm days. With the exception of cool nights in the first few days of the month and a cool wet spell in the third week, May was very warm, with temperatures breaking 30° C at the end of the month. Despite the warm temperatures, numbers of wintering birds were found lingering in southern locales surprisingly late into the spring. The regular spring overshoots that birders see during May did not arrive in the usual numbers, inhibited by the general lack of southerly winds during the first half of the month. However, Ontario's spring highlights were rare vagrants, many of which were one-day wonders, including Garganey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black Swift, Painted Bunting,

and Great-tailed Grackle. Rarer shorebirds such as Wilson's Plover, Black-necked Stilt, and Curlew Sandpiper also tantalized observers with short visits to the province.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., *Norfolk*); N.P.H. (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, *Niagara*); P.P.B.A. (Point Pelee Birding Area; Point Pelee N.P. and environs, *Essex*); s.l. (sewage lagoons); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., *Thunder Bay*). Place names in italics refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

A good number of Greater White-fronted Geese was observed throughout the province this spring. Two were at Minesing, *Simcoe* 13 Mar (DMi), an amazing 20 were observed at Rondeau, *Chatham-Kent* 11 Mar (BAM), surpassed by the 22 at Dry L., *Decewsville*, *Haldimand* 25-26 Mar (JG), and singles were at Beachville, *Oxford* 15 Mar (JHo), ne. of Carlsbad Springs, *Ottawa* 26-31 Mar (TAH, RC), at Cobden, *Renfrew* early Apr-9 Apr (MF, CR), in *Ottawa* 2 Apr-3 May (PW, m.ob.), at Ridgetown s.l., *Chatham-Kent* 22 Apr-13 May (DSm et al.), and at Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* 4-20 May (LT, RGT et al.). The two small flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* during the early part of 2006 were last seen 6 Mar (AW et al.), and 4 were there 22-27 Mar (DJW et al.). The 3 Ross's Geese present at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* in Feb were last seen 21 Mar (DJW et al.); 2 were at Ste-Rose, *Prescott-Russell* 5 Apr (BDL), and 2 others were in *Thunder Bay* 27 Mar, moving to the mouth of the Current R., *Thunder Bay* 10 Apr (BM; GWi).

Single Ross's Geese were near Manotick Station, *Ottawa* 18 Apr (TBe), n. of Navan, *Ottawa* 23 Apr (TBe), and at Winchester s.l. *Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry* 8 May (RC). The Brant ne. of Carlsbad Springs 6 Apr was record early for *Ottawa* (H. Tremblay). Unusual for the location, a Trumpeter Swan was at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 1 May (KGB, ODB). The maximum count for Tundra Swan for the spring in the Pinery P.P. area, *Lambton* was 15,000 (AR).

A high count of 80 Wood Ducks was at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 10 Mar (AW). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were present at Presqu'île P.P., *Northumberland* 10 Mar-18 Apr (DS), at Townsend s.l., *Haldimand* 11 Mar (KGB, MVB), at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* on 11-16 Mar (AJH, RAH, ACP et al.), 30 Mar (DJW), and 27 Apr-9 May (RGT et al.), at Lee Brown W.M.A., *Norfolk* 15 Mar-3 Apr (RWW, TB), at Aylmer, *Elgin* 21-25 Mar (SR), e. of Bourget, *Prescott-Russell* 2 Apr (MT, m.ob.), at Neibauer's Marsh, *Wellington* 14-16 Apr (JM), at Rice L., *Peterborough* 15 Apr (PB, CDJ), at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* 23 Apr-8 May (AP, m.ob.), and at Chippewa, *Thunder Bay* 26 Apr (BM). A Garganey toured *Durham* 5 May, visiting Thickson's Pt., then Oshawa Second Marsh before disappearing during the night (DBa).

Hillman Marsh hosted high numbers of waterfowl this spring, with 800 Northern Pintail 8 Mar (IMR, AW) and 1200 Green-winged Teal 11 Apr (AW) being noteworthy numbers. The 4th and 5th records of Eurasian Teal for the P.P.B.A. were represented by single males at Hillman Marsh 31 Mar (DJW) and 7 May (BRH, EWH et al.). An ad. male King Eider was off Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 22 Mar (JG),