

Co., Md. on Jan. 3 (CSR) and 1 at Craney I., Va. on Jan. 6 (MAB & BW). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from four localities, 1 near Crisfield, Md. on Dec. 30 (HTA), 2 near Charlottesville on Jan. 3 (CES), 2 near Seneca, Md. on Jan. 3 (ICS), and 1 at New Hope, Pa. on Jan. 9 (DJH & DJ). A Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, Va. on Dec. 13 (RLA), and a record 48 Vesper Sparrows were found at Hampton, Va. on Dec. 26 (MAB). Wintering Chipping Sparrow numbers were phenomenal, the best counts being 122 at South Pocomoke, Md. on Dec. 29 (RLP) and 50 at Turnersville, N.J. on Jan. 26 (JKM). A Lincoln's Sparrow was present at Trenton from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2 (RJB), and 1 was seen at Princeton on Jan. 31 (WL). In s.e. Virginia, 3 were reported in late December (DLH, RHP, WCR). A count of 15 Lapland Longspurs at Craney I., Va. on Jan. 6 was excellent (MAB & BW).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

The winter of 1970-71 was highlighted by a host of surprising and unusual records. An amazing variety of summer and fall stragglers lingered into the winter period, with some apparently remaining through the entire season. The list included Broad-winged Hawks, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and Painted Buntings. These hardy individuals lingered late despite several sharp cold waves which kept temperatures below normal over most of the Region during December and January.



Late lingerers made only part of the news, however. A Great Cormorant sighted on the North Carolina coast and a Black-headed Gull on the South Carolina coast were first state records. In addition, half a dozen other rare coastal visitors were recorded: White Pelican, Barnacle Goose, Ross' Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull and Hudsonian Godwit. Purposeful and careful fields work resulted in other noteworthy sightings as well. Except for a scarcity of northern finches, it was an ornithologically exciting season.

LOONS, GREBES, SHEARWATER—Mark Simpson reported an extraordinary concentration of at least 5000 Com. and Red-throated Loons on Pamlico Sound between Okracoke I. and Cedar I., N.C. on Dec. 19. Elsewhere along the coast, loons were found in normal numbers on Christmas Bird Counts (infra "CBCs") at Bodie I., Wilmington, Charleston, and Hilton Head I. Two Red-necked Grebes were sighted near the Hatteras I., N.C. ferry landing on Dec. 25 (DK, EK), and 1 was seen at Hilton Head I., S.C. on Dec. 30 (RW, SB, et al.). A Red-necked Grebe also was found inland at L. Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C. on Jan. 29 and was well studied by several observers during the next three weeks (CB, HL, EL). Horned Grebes were widely recorded on inland waters and were especially numerous on

Roanoke Rapids L. in the n. Piedmont section of North Carolina where 73 were counted on Dec. 20 and 89 on Mar. 6 (JML). A **Greater Shearwater** reported on the Bodie I. CBC Dec. 30 (EFP, JMP) was the second winter record for North Carolina.

PELICANS, GANNET, CORMORANT—**White Pelicans** made rare winter appearances in the Region, first on the South Carolina coast where 3 were seen together in the vicinity of the Citadel at Charleston, Jan. 12-14 (DF, BJK), and later in the season along the Georgia coast where 7 were seen flying over the beach at St. Simons I., Mar. 1 (CM). Brown Pelicans were very scarce in mid-winter at Morehead City, N.C. (JF), but were found in significant numbers farther s. near Southport where 55 were counted at Smith I., Jan. 22 (JFP). The wintering population appeared to be on the increase at Charleston where 77 were recorded on the CBC, Dec. 27. Gannets were reported in good numbers as far s. as the Georgia coast where 50 were tallied at Sapelo I. and 102 at Jekyll I. on CBCs. A first North Carolina record for the **Great Cormorant** was established at Pea I. on Dec. 30 (HDP, RJH, DHu).

SWANS, GEESE—Whistling Swans reached a peak of 11,000 at Mattamuskeet Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Hyde Co., N.C. in late December (DB). A few migrated farther s. where individuals were seen at Charleston on Jan. 2 (JRH) and Trenton, S.C. on Jan. 9 (LS, TR, JA). Two were also recorded as rare winter visitors near Roswell, Ga. during the second week of January (MAN, et al.). The estimated number of Canada Geese at Mattamuskeet Refuge in December and January was 21,500, along with a significant population of about 400 Blue Geese (DB). Farther inland, regular checks of the larger lakes in the vicinity of Winston-Salem, N.C. showed that at least 200 Canada Geese wintered in that area (CF, RHW, RS) and, as usual, several thousand were at Gaddy's Pond in Anson Co., N.C. (WSS). Among the geese at Winston-Salem, observers noticed 3 Canadas wearing neck collars, identifying the birds as having been tagged at Crane Creek State Wildlife Area near Toledo, Ohio during the fall of 1970 (pers. comm. JWK to RHW). A lone Brant was a surprising find at Harris Neck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Darien, Ga. on Feb. 14, and several Blue Geese and Snow Geese were seen there as well (JH, RM, et al.). At Savannah Nat'l Wildlife Refuge a White-fronted Goose was found on Feb. 3 (MM, CN). The most unexpected visitors of the season, however, were a **Barnacle Goose** and a **Ross' Goose** at Pea I. Refuge on North Carolina's outer banks. The Barnacle Goose was present for a week or more at a fresh water impoundment where the bird was studied in detail by members of the C.H.B.C. on Nov. 7 and again on Nov. 13 (WFR, et al.). Observers from the

C.H.B.C. discovered the Ross' Goose in the same area on Feb. 27 (RLA, et al.). This sighting is an interesting sequel to a previous record of Ross' Goose at Pea I. during the winter of 1967-68 (P. A. Buckley, *Auk* 86:551). Indeed, Robert L. Ake believes the bird found this season may have been the same individual seen four years ago, as in both instances the bird's right leg was deformed.

DUCKS—Two Fulvous Tree Ducks were given to Dr. James F. Parnell for the specimen collection at U.N.C.W. Dr. Parnell was told that the birds, along with 9 others of the same species, were shot from a single flock in a field near Delco in Columbus Co., N.C. in December by a party of dove hunters. The reported circumstances are believed to be factual but the exact date of the incident has not yet been verified. Another Fulvous Tree Duck wintered at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, where it was first noted on Dec. 21 (TB). A Com. Teal was seen amidst a large flock of some 1700 Green-winged Teal at Pea I., Dec. 30 and 31 (PWS, DS). On Jan. 17, at Santee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, keen observers singled out a Eur. Widgeon from among a raft of several hundred Am. Widgeon (DF and party). The specific location of this latter sighting was at Potato Creek impoundment s. of Davis Station, Clarendon Co., S.C. Redhead, scarce in the Region in recent winters, made a noticeable comeback this season. Its presence was reported from a dozen coastal and inland locations as far s. as Jekyll I., and there was an impressive count of 3600 on the Bodie I. CBC, Dec. 30. Canvasback also seemed to be on the upswing with a peak winter population of 1000 at Mattamuskeet Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (DB) and flocks of 750 and 300 recorded on the Bodie I. and Charleston CBCs. An enormous flock of ducks estimated to be greater than 50,000 birds was concentrated in Charleston harbor on Jan. 23. Jay Carter watched as the whole flight took flight ahead of a nuclear submarine leaving the harbor. All birds he was able to identify specifically were Lesser Scaup. Several Com. Goldeneyes and Oldsquaws were unusual visitors at Roanoke Rapids in late January and February (JML), and both species were also recorded at Southern Pines (JC). Oldsquaws were seen in small numbers at several locations along the coast as far s. as Jekyll I. and 5 wintered inland at Callaway Gardens (JM, TE, JG). Hooded Mergansers were unusually abundant at Roanoke Rapids L. from late January through February where a high of 93 was counted on Jan. 31 (JML).

BIRDS OF PREY—On Feb. 16, a **Mississippi Kite** was closely observed by Robert M. LaVal in Charleston Co., S.C. about 8 miles w. of McClellanville. This sighting, along with a Feb. 2 occurrence recorded 35 years ago in neighboring Georgetown Co. (*Auk* 54:384), constitute the only winter records of this species for the state. A flurry of sightings of **Broad-winged Hawks** and

Rough-legged Hawks were recorded during the CBC period. Broad-wings were found at three locations as far n. as Pamlico Co., N.C. and at the same time Rough-legged Hawks were listed on no fewer than six CBCs in the Region (*c.f.* AM. BIRDS 25:262-76). With one or two exceptions, these records were supported with adequate details, and collectively they must be considered significant. It is interesting to ponder why unusual numbers of Rough-legged Hawks happened to wander s. of their normal winter range while Broad-wings lingered so late n. of theirs. Peregrine Falcons were listed on CBCs at Rocky Mount, N.C., Hilton Head I. and Jekyll I., and 1 was present through the winter at Cape Romain Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, S.C. (RML). Two Golden Eagles wintered at Magnolia Gardens, and another was seen in Francis Marion Nat'l Forest on Feb. 28 (TB). An imm. Bald Eagle was a winter resident from late December through early February at Ft. Gordon, Ga. (TM) and 1 stopped briefly at L. Benson near Raleigh, Feb. 6-10 (TLQ, et al.). In the North Carolina coastal area, an adult Bald Eagle was seen at Huntley's impoundment near Beaufort on Dec. 31 (EP) and an immature was sighted at L. Ellis in Craven Co., N.C. Dec. 27 (JF). On Jan. 22 a resident pair of Bald Eagles was observed copulating at a nest site near Huger, S.C. (FD, GK, TR). Seven nests were under observation in the Charleston area by Ted Beckett at the end of the period, with at least 3 showing evidence of hatched young. One of the nesting pairs was an imm. ♂ and a fully adult ♀.

RAILS, GALLINULE, COOT—The annual burn-off of grass at the Beaufort, N.C. airport flushed at least 20 **Yellow Rails** and 1 Black Rail on Feb. 17 (JF, et al.). About 50 Yellow Rails had been seen at each of the two previous burn-offs in 1969 and 1970. A Com. Gallinule, rare inland especially in winter, was seen near Chapel Hill on Jan. 1 and remained through the month (DBa, JOP). A population of 2000-3000 Am. Coots wintered inland on the Savannah R. in the vicinity of Augusta (GK).

SHOREBIRDS—Am. Oystercatchers were found in increased numbers in several coastal locations, with 8121 recorded on the Charleston CBC, Jan. 2. Piping Plovers were common around Jekyll I. from December through March (CM). An early courtship flight of the Am. Woodcock was witnessed at Roanoke Rapids on Jan. 23 (JML). A Long-billed Curlew was seen at Smith I., N.C. on Mar. 14 (JFP, JC), and 3 were seen by the Atlanta Bird Club at Harris Neck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Darien, Ga. on Feb. 14 (*fide* JH). A very early Lesser Yellowlegs was reported from Atlanta on Feb. 28 (LCF). Wintering Knots were reported in the Beaufort Inlet, N.C. area with up to 50 seen from December through February (JF), and at Smith I., where 8 were present on Feb. 3 (JFP, ET, RT). Good numbers were also recorded on the coastal CBCs in South Caro-

lina and Georgia. Single Purple Sandpipers were seen at Pawleys I., S.C. on Feb. 3 (FMP) and at Fort Fisher, N.C. on Feb. 15 (JC, ED). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Jekyll I. on Dec. 22 was quite late (CM). Twelve Long-billed Dowitchers, rare in winter, were seen and heard at Pea I. on Jan. 30 (HL, EL). Two inland Dowitchers (sp?) records were noteworthy: 48 were seen in DeKalb Co., Ga. on Mar. 14 (TMW, LCF), and 1 was seen 15 miles n. of Sylvania, Ga. on Jan. 8 (GB, AH). Marbled Godwits were widespread along the coast of the Region this winter and were recorded as far n. as Oregon Inlet, N.C. At least 50 wintered at Smith I. (JFP), and 6 were seen on Jekyll I. on Mar. 25 (CM). A remarkable winter sighting of a **Hudsonian Godwit** was made by Robert L. Ake and several members of the C.H.B.C. at Pea I. on Feb. 27. Am. Avocets were recorded this winter in several localities. At Bodie-Pea Is. 31 were still present on Jan. 30 (HL, EL), 1 was at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C. on Feb. 13 (TR), several were present through the winter at South I., S.C. (TB), and at Charleston 7 were seen on Feb. 21 and 42 on Mar. 24 (TSM).

JAEGERS, GULLS—A Pomarine Jaeger was seen at Jekyll I. on Dec. 21, 27 and 28 (CM), and a Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Smith I., N.C. on Feb. 26 (JC). Jaegers are seldom reported in the winter in the Region. **Glaucous Gulls** were reported at two North Carolina locations: 1 was found on the coast several miles s. of the Virginia border on Dec. 23 (RLA), and 1 was at Bodie I. on Jan. 1 (DS, et al.). Great Black-backed Gulls were sighted with frequency along the South Carolina and Georgia coasts, where they were rare a few years ago. Also, 2 immatures were found inland at Salem L. near Winston-Salem on Feb. 12 (CF, RHW, DL, RS). Two adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were carefully studied by Henry D. Haberyan at Collington Harbor near Kitty Hawk, N.C. on Feb. 6-7. This is the second state record. Herring Gulls were noteworthy inland at Roanoke Rapids, where 10 to 15 were present through January (JML), and at Columbus, where a few wintered (LAW). Remarkable numbers of Ring-billed Gulls were sighted this winter on the inland lakes of the Region. Peak counts reported were: 3150 at Roanoke Rapids on Jan. 14 (JML) and 725 there on Mar. 12 (JML); 75 near Raleigh on Dec. 5-6 (DM, DG, HL, EL); 14 at Chapel Hill on Dec. 20 (JOP); 11 near Winston-Salem during January and February (CF, RHW, RS); 256 in Stanly Co., N.C. on Jan. 2 (*fide* VC); 64 at Augusta on Mar. 7 (GK); and up to 250 all winter at Columbus (LAW). One of the Augusta gulls carried an orange wing marker, and correspondence indicated that it had been banded in Rogers City, Mich., in November, 1970. Also inland, 60 Ring-billed Gulls were seen in a field near Robersonville, N.C. and 70 in a field near Bethel, N.C. on Feb. 6-7 (HDH). A **Black-headed Gull** was seen

and photographed by F. M. Probst at Huntington Beach State Park on Oct. 29. This is the first record for South Carolina. Midwinter sightings of Laughing Gulls are unusual along much of the coast; thus, 1 at Pea I. on Jan. 30 (HL, EL), several near Morehead City through Jan. 9 (JF), and 1 at Pawleys I. on Feb. 5 (FMP) were noteworthy. Bonaparte's Gulls also made news inland where they are usually scarce in winter. Twenty-five were seen near Raleigh on Dec. 5-6 (DM, DG, HL, EL), and up to 6 were at Augusta from late January through February (GK), and 1 was at Columbus on Feb. 5 (LAW). About 100 were seen in a field near Morehead City on Feb. 13 (JF).

TERNS, SKIMMER, ALCIDS—Five late Caspian Terns were at Knotts I. in the n.e. corner of the Region on Dec. 3 (FCB). A Black Skimmer was seen at Nags Head, N.C. on Jan. 2 as well as 1 (same bird?) at Oregon Inlet on the same date (DS). Several skimmers wintered in the Morehead City area (JF). This species is uncommon on the n. coast after December. The remains of 2 birds believed to be Razorbills (only the wings were recovered) were found at Oregon Inlet on Dec. 30 (MB,* N.C.S.M.). A Dovekie was also found dead at Oregon Inlet on Dec. 30 (MB). Other Dovekie records were: 1 at Bodie I. on Dec. 30 (RHP, EL), 1 off Nags Head on Dec. 31 and 2 at Oregon Inlet on Jan. 1 (DS). All were seen in flight.

OWLS—A Long-eared Owl was a rare visitor at North Wilkesboro, N.C. where its call was heard frequently during the winter by Wendell Smith, and one was seen near Rutledge, Ga. on Feb. 6 (TF). Short-eared Owls, uncommon but regular winter residents along the coast, were sighted by observers at Bodie Is., Cape Lookout, Ft. Macon beach near Morehead City, Bird Shoal at Cape Romain and Deveaux Bank off Charleston.

WOODPECKERS—After nesting Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were unexpectedly discovered last summer in n. Wake Co., N.C. (AFN 24: 672), a follow-up search was made this winter to determine the size of the local population. Five birds were found (HL, EL, JW). The presence of several Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was also noted at Piedmont Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Macon, Ga. where the species has been known to occur only casually in the past (DP, fide JH). A great stir of excitement was generated nationwide by the reported re-discovery this winter of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in South Carolina. It should be emphasized, however, that the report is unsubstantiated. On an expedition Feb. 21 into one of South Carolina's large interior swamps, Robert Manns of the National Audubon Society told of hearing an Ivory-bill respond repeatedly to taped calls. The encounter reportedly lasted for 5 minutes but no visual sightings were claimed. This incident received wide publicity but has not been corroborated by further evidence. [A spate of

purported sightings of the species, from various eastern states, immediately followed this publicity.—Ed.]

FLYCATCHERS, RAVENS, NUTHATCHES—A late lingering W. Kingbird was noted at Roanoke Rapids on Dec. 19 (JML). Four Great Crested Flycatchers were tallied on the Hilton Head CBC Dec. 30 (BH party, fide CN), and a Gray Kingbird was found at Jekyll I. on Dec. 27 (NC party, fide CM). John Wright reported 2 Ravens in mid-winter, Feb. 2, at Pilot Mountain State Park in the n.w. Piedmont section of North Carolina outside the usual high mountain territory of the species. Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce in all parts of the Region this winter, in sharp contrast to last year. They were listed on only 6 of the Region's 28 CBCs and in numbers of only 1 to 3 birds.

THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS—Late thrushes were recorded on several CBCs: Wood Thrushes in Beaufort Co., N.C. and Charleston, a Swainson's Thrush at Winston-Salem, and a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Columbus. A month later, from Feb. 1 to 5, a Swainson's Thrush was found at Wilmington (EA), and another was seen near Smithfield, N.C. on Feb. 10 (DL, PL, RS). Observers at Raleigh (MB), Charlotte (JRN), Augusta (GK) and Jekyll I. (CM) commented that the wintering population of E. Bluebirds seemed unusually high this season. A check of the CBC reports confirmed this impression, with the numbers of bluebirds well above last year's totals in all but a few of the count areas.

WARBLERS—Despite the fact that winter weather was somewhat colder than normal over much of the Region, an interesting assortment of warblers remained late. A Cape May Warbler was found near Beaufort, S.C. on Dec. 14 (TSM), and a Black-and-white Warbler lingered in the n. part of the Region at Roanoke Rapids through Dec. 26 (JML). Surprising out-of-season records listed on various CBCs were: 2 Prothonotary Warblers in Beaufort Co., N.C., a Blackburnian Warbler at Hilton Head and a Bay-breasted Warbler at Jekyll I. Single Am. Redstarts were seen at Hilton Head I. Dec. 20-Jan. 5 (CN) and at Charleston on Jan. 1 (DF). A N. Waterthrush was found in mid-winter, Jan. 30, at Jekyll I. (CM), and a Black-throated Blue Warbler was a regular visitor at a feeder near Callaway Gardens until Feb. 6 (LAW). In addition to these stragglers, individual Yellow-breasted Chats remained through the winter at Raleigh (WP), Morehead City (JF), and Timmonsville, S.C. (HA, fide JFP).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES—Some 6 million black-birds, mostly Com. Grackles, again formed a winter roost near Scotland Neck, N.C. (TLQ, DH). Last year this roost was declared a public nuisance because of its close proximity to a residential area, and repeated attempts were made by state and federal wildlife officials to disperse

the birds. These efforts proved futile, however, and the grackles returned this winter in larger numbers than ever. Two Brewer's Blackbirds, a ♂ and a ♀, were seen on the South Carolina coast near Moore's Landing in Charleston Co., Feb. 12 (close study—THD). Although this species is known to winter in significant numbers in the Rome, Ga. area (GD, WT), it is usually of scarce occurrence elsewhere in the Region, especially in the coastal sections. Baltimore Orioles are becoming increasingly common as winter residents in the Sumter and Charleston areas of South Carolina (TB, ED), while in North Carolina the winter range of this species seems to be expanding westward as evidenced by a confirmed report of at least 7 birds wintering at Winston-Salem this season (RS). At Thomasville there was a small invasion of **Bullock's Orioles**. Three positively identified birds, including a ♂, were present at feeders around town Feb. 18–Mar. 29, and 3 more at a feeder in nearby Grady Co. (RLC). "Georgia Birdlife" cites two previous winter occurrences of Bullock's Orioles, substantiated by specimens, at Thomasville in 1947 and 1948. A few Bullock's Orioles regularly winter in n. Florida in the vicinity of Tallahassee (HMS), so it is probable that they occur more often in the Thomasville area than the published records would indicate.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a late visitor at a feeder in Washington, N.C. on Jan. 3 and for several days thereafter (EB, fide GC). A late Blue Grosbeak was recorded on the CBC at Southern Pines on Dec. 22 (JC, et al.), and a Painted Bunting present through the winter was remarkable for being both out of season and out of place (MW, JC). Evening Grosbeaks were generally scarce, and in many places absent, 20 being the peak number recorded on any CBC (Greensboro, N.C.). Purple Finches were much less abundant than last year over much of the Region, although good numbers were noted at Winston-Salem from mid-January through the end of the period (RH, RS). The only Red Crossbills reported outside the mountains were single birds seen near Chapel Hill on Nov. 25 (PSP) and in Stanly Co., N.C. on Jan. 2 (CBC). While it was an off year for most of the winter finches, the population of House Finches was up at Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. They were reported wintering for the first time in Beaufort Co. (GC) and Stanly Co., N.C. (VC).

SPARROWS, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING—A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was carefully studied by John Fussell near Morehead City on Nov. 29. Also noteworthy was a midwinter sighting of a Lark Sparrow at Kitty Hawk Jan. 30 (HL, EL). At least 10 White-crowned Sparrows were regularly seen at L. Raleigh in Wake Co., N.C. during December (RJH), and tallies ranging from 3-20 birds were recorded on CBCs in Stanly Co., Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Elkin, N.C. Fox

Sparrows were generally abundant with some observers reporting flocks as large as 20-30 birds at their feeding stations. A single **Lapland Longspur**, a rare winter visitor in the Region, was found among Horned Larks and Water Pipits in a field near Augusta airport on Mar. 20 (GK). For the second year in a row, Snow Buntings were found atop Georgia's Stone Mountain, where members of the Atlanta Bird Club saw them as early as Nov. 29. Snow Buntings were also recorded on the coast at Bodie I. (Dec. 30 CBC) and at Sunset Beach, N.C. on Feb. 27 (JC, ED).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT—The author wishes to thank Harry E. LeGrand, Jr. for his help in analyzing CBC data as well as editorial assistance in compiling several sections of the present summary.

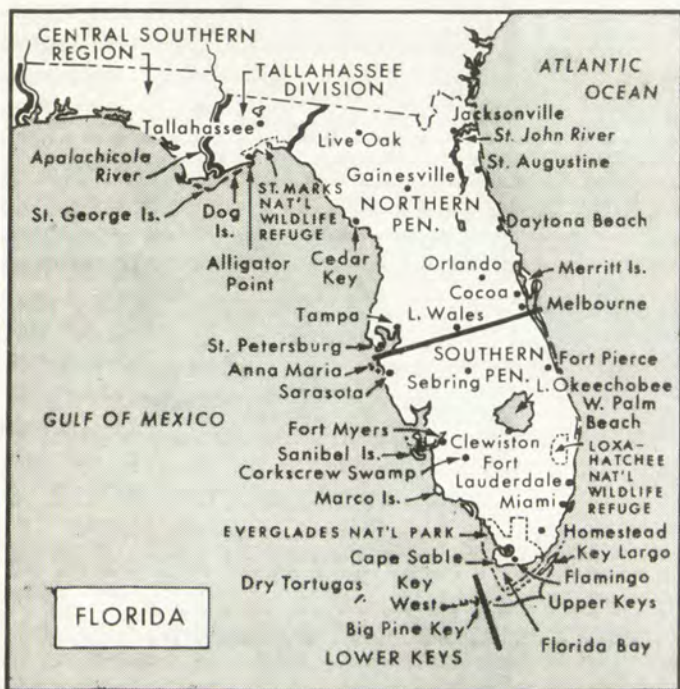
CORRIGENDUM—One of the specimens found dead at a T. V. tower near Chapel Hill, N.C. on Sept. 28, 1970, and reported in the fall summary as an adult ♂ Mourning Warbler was later determined, on careful examination at the N.C.S.M., to be a Connecticut Warbler. Thus to correct the records cited in AM. BIRDS 25: 20, 43, there were 2 Connecticut Warblers but no Mourning Warblers among the casualties recorded at the Chapel Hill site.

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FLORIDA REGION / Henry M. Stevenson

WEATHER AND DROUGHT—The most important aspect of the weather, insofar as birds are concerned, is the severe drought in South Florida, considered the worst since 1962-63 (by some, "the worst in history"). Its cause was partly natural, as shown by an inspection of weather records in the s. half of the Peninsula. Tampa had rainfall deficiencies in 8 of the last 10 months,



with a net accumulated deficiency of about 19 inches; Fort Myers and Miami showed deficiencies in all 10 months, with accumulated shortages of about 17 and 22 inches, respectively. Comparable data were not available for the weather station in the Everglades Nat'l Park (Royal Palm), but the deficiency for the last 3 months there was about 3½ inches (normal rainfall: 5½ inches). As a general rule, it may be said that man's role is too often that of aggravating the natural extremes, as "flood control" usually consists of releasing water for the 'glades when there is already too much and withholding it when there is too little, so that man's interests farther north may best be served. By the end of the period, the muck (usually under inches of water) was so dry that fires were widespread and a smoke pall hung over South Florida. Unfortunately, no appreciable amounts of rainfall could be expected until late May—much too late to benefit the nesting of most large water

birds this season. In this part of the state temperatures were close to normal after a cold November, but North Florida averaged below. The latter fact may have had a bearing on decreases among some small insectivorous birds listed below.

DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ABUNDANCE—Quantitative studies begun in the Tallahassee area in 1946 have provided a long-term basis for comparisons of various species with their "normal" (average) abundance. The methods employed have been described in previous issues of this periodical and need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that, when monthly summaries of abundance were compared in each of the two subdivisions (Leon County and coastal counties), most of the same species varied in the same direction in the winter of 1970-71 as in other recent winters. Five of these were low in each subdivision every month from November through March: Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Mourning Dove, Water Pipit, and Palm Warbler. Other species considered significantly low were: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Am. Widgeon, Shoveler, scaups (aggregate), Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Com. Crow, Hermit Thrush, E. Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, Am. Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. (Species normally too uncommon to provide a basis for comparison in either subdivision were omitted.) Those species averaging significantly above their norms included the Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Coot, Dunlin (the 2 latter always abundant), Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, and Song Sparrow. When these results are compared with the impressions of other observers, it is surprising how little agreement there is. John Edscorn, for example, referred to only 3 species-groups in my first 2 lists as comparatively scarce (scaups, E. Bluebird, and Am. Goldfinch). His own list, however, added Ring-necked Duck, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Am. Coot, Com. Snipe, and Black-and-white Warbler. Perhaps the chief reason for the discrepancies is the fact that Edscorn's impressions were based more on conditions in central Florida than in the Tallahassee area, a fact that might indicate, for migratory species, a shift in the center of density this winter. Comments on variations in a few other species are mentioned later in this report.

MIGRATION—Again this year it was evident that migration reports are greatly influenced by the coincidence of cold fronts and week-ends. A well-timed front in late March produced several species seldom or never before found in the Tallahassee Division in March when 2 observers (HS, NW) spent the 27th on St. George I. (Franklin Co.). This date and Mar. 28 also appear frequently with records in other parts of