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Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee Winter Report: December 1992 - February 1993

Florida Field Naturalist

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Fla. Field Nat. 21(3): 92-100, 1993.

Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee Winter Report: December 1992 - February 1993.—The observations listed here are based on rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds reported to the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Field Observations Committee (FOC). As these reports are not formally reviewed prior to publication, they should be considered tentative, pending formal review.

Reports of rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds are welcomed for inclusion in future issues of this section. Reports should be listed in the following format: the species name; the number of individuals seen; the age and sex of the bird(s) if determined (too often, this information is lacking in species that can be easily aged and/or sexed); the color morph (not "phase") if applicable; the location (including county); the date; the observer(s); and the significance of the report, if not obvious. Observers should send details of extremely rare species to the FOS Records Committee (FOSRC), c/o Jocelyn Lee Baker, Secretary, 851 Surf Road #302, Hollywood, Florida 33019. It is requested that a photocopy of all rarity forms submitted to the FOSRC be forwarded to the state compiler of this report.

Reporting periods for the FOC report are winter (December-February), spring (March-May), summer (June-July), and fall (August-November). The deadline for the submission of reports to regional compilers, whose names and addresses appear at the end of this report, is two weeks after the close of each period. Observers living in the western Panhandle and southern Florida, areas without a regional compiler, may send their reports directly to the state compiler within one month after the close of the period. It is requested that lengthy reports be submitted on computer disk in a WordPerfect or ASCII file using the format listed above.

Following the examples set by *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List* (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, FOS Spec. Pub. No. 6) and *The Bird Life of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson in press), observations based solely on sightings are classified as "reports," while only those supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio tapes, or specimens) are classified as "records."

Abbreviations used in the accounts are: CBC = Christmas Bird Count; CP = county park; NWR = national wildlife refuge; SP = state park; SPR = state preserve; SRA = state recreation area; and N, S, E, W, etc. for compass headings. A county designation accompanies the first-time listing of each location; further listings of the same location lack the county name.

For their assistance with this report, the state compiler thanks the following: Noel Wamer and Rick West, the winter 1992-1993 seasonal editors for *American Birds*; Bruce Anderson for information on high numbers; Dan Canterbury for providing information on rarities submitted to the Florida Rare Bird Alert; and Peter Merritt for helpful suggestions.

SUMMARY OF THE WINTER SEASON

Continuing from the stormy fall season, this winter was wet overall, and characterized by mild temperatures statewide. At Archbold Biological Station, Bachman's Sparrows began singing in mid-January, and Scrub Jays initiated nesting a month early, presumably in response to the favorable weather.

Possibly also related to the weather, scores to hundreds of dead Common Loons and Northern Gannets washed up on Atlantic coastal beaches from Brevard County south to at least Martin County. In the Naples area however, only one loon was seen all winter.

Large numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were reported statewide, and Red-headed Woodpeckers were widespread, even in southern Florida. At least 18 Groove-billed Anis were reported in the Panhandle. Reports of Black-shouldered Kites, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Blue Grosbeaks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were unusually frequent this winter. Overall, most Christmas Bird Counts reported higher-than-normal numbers of species.

Rarities reported this winter included at least three Common Eiders, Hudsonian Godwit (first winter record), Curlew Sandpiper, Iceland Gull, two Sabine's Gulls, Thick-billed Murre (first Florida record), Long-eared Owl (first recent Florida record), Vaux's Swift (first potential Florida record), and Buff-bellied Hummingbird. By contrast, winter finches were notable by their virtual absence statewide.

After many years of preparation, a project to establish a non-migratory breeding population of the Whooping Crane in Florida began this winter. Personnel from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission released a total of 14 birds into the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County, with more releases planned. Four of the birds were later killed by a bobcat.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON: 1 off Dog Island (*Franklin*) 25 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick) was the island's first report; 1 off *St. Johns* 7 Feb (P. Powell).

COMMON LOON: reports of many dead birds on *St. Lucie*, *Martin*, and *Broward* beaches (*vide* J. Brooks, J. Baker); 110 in a raft off Dog Island 11 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick); 200 in a raft in *St. George Sound* (*Franklin*) 4 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick).

PIED-BILLED GREBE: 3 young being fed by adults in Key West (*Monroe*) 21 Jan (J. Ondrejko); 360 in *Polk* phosphate mines 31 Jan (P. Fellers) was a high number.

EARED GREBE: 4 in *Polk* phosphate mines 31 Jan (P. Fellers) were locally uncommon.

SHEARWATER species: 1 in *St. Marks NWR* (*Wakulla*) 5 Dec (J. Cox, K. NeSmith).

BROWN BOOBY: 1 immature off Lake Worth Beach (*Palm Beach*) 6-16 Jan (G. Hunter et al.); 1 immature off Dog Island 11 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick); 3 birds 20 km W of *Marco Island* (*Collier*) 28 Feb (T. Hayman).

NORTHERN GANNET: numerous reports of many dead or dying gannets on *St. Lucie*, *Martin*, and *Broward* beaches (*vide* J. Brooks, J. Baker); 1 near shore at *Waccasassa Bay* (*Levy*) 9 Dec (S. Goodbred); 250 off Dog Island 17 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick); 1000 off *New Smyrna Beach* (*Volusia*) 18 Jan (D. and P. Fellers, R. Kruger); 100s feeding close to shore in *Dania* (*Broward*) 26 Jan (J. Baker, E. Rosenberg); 150 off *Redington Beach* (*Pinellas*) 30 Jan (K. Nelson, B. Parkhurst); 1000+ off *Playalinda Beach* (*Brevard*) 20 Feb (S. Rowe).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 3 flocks totaling 520 off Dog Island 11 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick) were considered late fall migrants; 1 near *Fort Pierce Inlet* (*St. Lucie*) in mid-Jan was locally rare (*vide* J. Brooks).

BROWN PELICAN: numbers continue to decline in *Collier*, but some pairs are now nesting in *Rookery Bay Sanctuary*, the first time in "at least 50 years" (T. Below).

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 on the *South Brevard CBC* 2 Jan was the 11th CBC report in the past 13 years.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: 7000 in *Polk* phosphate mines 26 Dec (P. Fellers).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 1 over *Sebastian Inlet* (*Brevard* or *Indian River*) 7 Dec (J. Baker); 1 over Dog Island 17 Dec (J. and R. Miller).

REDDISH EGRET: 5-7 (1 white morph) in *St. Marks NWR* throughout the winter (R. Gidden).

- WHITE IBIS: 2 adults in Gulf Breeze (*Santa Rosa*) 24 Dec (B. Duncan) were the second local Dec report.
- GLOSSY IBIS: 1354 on the Econlockhatchee CBC 2 Jan; 1 adult in Eglin Air Force Base (*Walton*) 21 Dec (B., L., and W. Duncan) was the first Dec report for the area; 1500 in *Polk* phosphate mines 31 Jan (P. Fellers) was a very high number.
- WOOD STORK: from a peak of 426 nests in Corkscrew Swamp (*Collier*) this winter, no young fledged (T. Below); 1 in St. Marks NWR 28 Dec (J. Reinman) was late; 1 in St. Marks NWR 7 Feb (J. Reinman) was early.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: 1 female in Orchid Lake 2 Jan (H. and M. Spielberger et al.) was the first winter report in *Pasco* (*vide* B. Pranty); 1 in St. Marks NWR 29 Jan (R. Gidden); 2 on the Venice CBC 26 Dec (A. and S. Stedman).
- BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 6 on Venice CBC 26 Dec (*vide* A. and S. Stedman).
- SNOW GOOSE: 1 on the Ponce Inlet CBC 20 Dec; 1 blue morph in *Polk* phosphate mines 26 Dec (P. Fellers); 2 on Lake Istokpoga 27 Dec (S. Rowe, K. Tarvin, P. Cronin).
- WOOD DUCK: 56 in Fort Pickens SP (*Escambia*) 3 Dec (B. Duncan).
- MOTTLED DUCK: 98 on the Venice CBC 26 Dec was a locally high number (A. and S. Stedman); 1 Mottled Duck/Mallard hybrid at McJunkin Dairy (*Highlands*) 27 Dec (B. Pranty, G. Stoccardo) was seen again there 10 Jan (B. Pranty, K. Tarvin, J. Goldstein).
- MALLARD: 3 "wild skittish birds" in *Dade* 19 Dec (P. Bithorn).
- CINNAMON TEAL: 1 male in Merritt Island NWR (*Brevard*) early Nov to early Dec (H. Robinson et al.).
- GADWALL: 53 in *Polk* phosphate mines 26 Dec (P. Fellers) was a high winter number.
- EURASIAN WIGEON: 4 in Merritt Island NWR early Nov to early Feb (H. Robinson, M. Harrell, D. Simpson et al.) tie the state's high (*vide* B. Anderson).
- AMERICAN WIGEON: 810 in *Polk* phosphate mines 26 Dec (P. Fellers) was a high number.
- CANVASBACK: 25 in *Polk* phosphate mines 25 Jan (B. and L. Cooper).
- REDHEAD: 1 female in Tree Tops CP (*Broward*) present through period (J. Baker et al.).
- RING-NECKED DUCK: 5500 on the Lake Placid CBC (*Highlands*) 27 Dec, and 10065 on the Lake Wales CBC (*Polk*) were high numbers.
- COMMON EIDER: 1 female in Jetty Park (*Brevard*) 5 Dec (D. Canterbury), and a "pair" there 3 Jan (M. Harrell, W. Biggs); 1 first-year male in Nassau Sound (*Nassau* or *Duval*) 3 Feb to the end of the period (C. Irby et al.).
- OLDSQUAW: 1 immature male in St. Marks NWR 6-19 Dec (J. Reinman, N. Wamer et al.).
- SURF SCOTER: 7 off Cedar Key (*Levy*) 15 Dec (D. Henderson, B. Muschlitiz); at least 2 in Rookery Bay 16 Dec to 30 Jan (T. Below) were locally rare.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 1 immature in Jack Island SPR (*St. Lucie*) 2 Dec (J. Brooks); 1 female at Redington Beach 3-19 Dec (K. Nelson, B. Parkhurst); 1 at Fort Walton Beach (*Okealoosa*) 15 Dec (D. Ware) was locally rare; 1 in St. Marks NWR 14 Feb (P. Franklin).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE: 1 on the Econlockhatchee CBC 2 Jan; 1 female in a pond in Aripeka (*Hernando*) 30 Dec was locally rare (P. Young, M. and S. Turner et al.).
- BUFFLEHEAD: 1 female in Lake Iola (*Pasco*) 21 Dec (J. Cox, K. NeSmith); 1 drake off Crystal Beach (*Pinellas*) 7 Jan (M. and S. Turner).
- HOODED MERGANSER: 2150 in *Polk* phosphate mines 26 Dec (P. Fellers) was a high count.
- TURKEY VULTURE: 10170 on the Ponce Inlet CBC 20 Dec is the state's all-time high count (*vide* B. Anderson).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 in *N Duval* 17 Jan (P. Powell); 1 at Greenwood Urban Wetland Park (*Orange*) 1 Feb (L. Malo).
- BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE: 1 on the Cocoa CBC (*Brevard*); 1 adult on the Scarborough Ranch (*Highlands*) 27 Dec at the same location as last winter (B. Pranty, D. Goodwin, G. Stoccardo, G. Woolfenden) was seen again 3 Feb (D. Ford); 1 pair W of West Palm Beach (*Palm Beach*) 17-30 Jan (B. Hope, H. Langridge et al.); 1 pair engaged in courtship displays in *Davie* (*Broward*) 29 Jan was found nesting in a citrus tree 28 Feb

- (*vide* J. Baker); 1 in Big Cypress National Preserve (*Collier*) 17 Feb (and other dates) (D. Jansen et al.); 1 N of LaBelle (*Glades*) 25 Feb (*vide* D. Canterbury).
- SNAIL KITE: 1 male in S *Dade* 27 Feb (J. Baker, U. Feller).
- BALD EAGLE: two reports suggest expansion into new areas in the Panhandle; 1 pair carrying nesting material on Dog Island in Oct (D. Evered, L. Messick), and 3 observed near Panama City (*Bay*) 2 Jan (D. and R. Houser, A. and R. Ingram).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: 2 on Key West 16 Dec (J. Ondrejko); 3 in T. Y. Park (*Broward*) 19 Jan to 16 Feb (J. DiPasquale); 1 in Greynolds Park (*Dade*) 24 Jan (J. DiPasquale); 1 in Loxahatchee NWR (*Palm Beach*) 3 Feb (F. Broerman); 1 light morph along the Santa Fe River (*Gilchrist*) 9 Feb (J. Krummrich); 1 dark morph in Orlando Wilderness Park (*Orange*) 13 Feb (W. Biggs); 4 birds (2 dark and 2 light morphs) in Arbuckle State Forest (*Polk*) 13 Feb through the end of the period (M. Eagan, B. Cooper, J. Fisher et al.); 1 W of West Palm Beach 19 Feb (B. Hope).
- GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 at Lake Kanapaha (*Alachua*) 11 Dec (B. Roberts); 1 sub-adult in Loxahatchee NWR 30 Jan (L. Chapman, J. Gardner).
- BLACK RAIL: 1 in St. Marks NWR 19 Dec (J. Bateman).
- PURPLE GALLINULE: 105 on the Lakeland CBC (*Polk*) 19 Dec was a high count.
- SANDHILL CRANE: 1100 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec was twice the typical number.
- SNOWY PLOVER: 21 in Fort Pickens SP 3 Dec; 30 at Big Sabine (*Escambia*) 8 Dec (B. Duncan); 37 in St. Andrews SP (*Bay*) 16 Jan (E. Fontaine, T. Menart, M. Garland, J. Richardson); 19 on Dog Island 20 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick); 25 in Honeymoon Island SRA (*Pinellas*) 17 Jan (P. Fellers, R. Kruger).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER: 12 in *Polk* phosphate mines 2 Feb (L. Cooper) were unusual.
- PIPING PLOVER: 71 on Shell Island (*Bay*) 2 Jan (E. Fontaine, T. Menart, M. Garland, J. Richardson); 95 (including 2 with leg tags) in Honeymoon Island SRA 11 Feb (M. and S. Turner); 92 in one flock on Dog Island 21 Feb (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT: 1 near the junction of US 27 and SR 78 (*Glades*) 22 Jan (J. Baker); 12 in the Lower Keys (*Monroe*) 10 Feb (J. Ondrejko); 5 in Tavernier (*Monroe*) 27 Feb (J. Baker, U. Feller).
- AMERICAN AVOCET: 249 in a Homeland (*Polk*) phosphate mine throughout the period (P. Fellers); 3 at Mayport (*Duval*) 26 Dec (M. Davidson).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 in Markham CP in Fort Lauderdale (*Broward*) 18 Dec (D. Ford); 1 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec at the same location as in previous years (C. Geanangel); 1 calling over Archbold Biological Station 18 Jan (G. Woolfenden, R. Bowman).
- WHIMBREL: 65 in Coot Bay (*Monroe*) 3 Jan (G. Meyer) is the state's highest total (*vide* B. Anderson); 21 in Honeymoon Island SRA 17 Jan (P. Fellers, R. Kruger).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 1 in St. Marks NWR 8 Dec to 2 Jan (R. Gidden et al., photos by J. Cavanagh, videos by B. Atherton, to FOSRC). This is the first winter record in Florida, pending FOSRC acceptance.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER: 3 in Fort Clinch SP (*Nassau*) 22 Feb (B. Bergstrom).
- DUNLIN: 5 E of Dade City (*Pasco*) 21 Dec CBC (P. Blair) were rare inland.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER: 1 in Fort Myers Beach (*Lee*) 5 Feb (P. Wright); 1 in Fort Clinch SP 22 Feb (B. Bergstrom).
- STILT SANDPIPER: 205 in *Polk* phosphate mines 31 Jan (P. Fellers) was a high number.
- POMARINE JAEGER: 1 light-morph adult at Flagler Beach (*Flagler*) 1 Dec (*vide* R. West, N. Wamer).
- PARASITIC JAEGER: 1 at Flagler Beach 1 Dec (*vide* R. West, N. Wamer); 2 (1 adult and 1 immature) followed a shrimp boat into the harbor at the mouth of the St. Johns River (*Duval*) 19 Dec (*vide* R. West, N. Wamer); 1 adult near East Pass (*Franklin*) 11 Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick); 1 adult at Redington Beach 16 Jan (K. Nelson, B. Parkhurst); 2 near Dog Island 1 Feb (D. Evered, L. Messick) in association with a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls; 3 on the Venice CBC 26 Dec (A. and S. Stedman).

- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 on Riviera Beach (*Palm Beach*) 5 Feb through the end of the period (K. Ennis).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL: 1600 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec; 800 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec was 10 times the usual number.
- RING-BILLED GULL: 101327 on the Ponce Inlet CBC 20 Dec is the state's all-time highest total (*vide* B. Anderson).
- ICELAND GULL: 1 immature at Port St. Joe (*Gulf*) 14 Jan to 23 Feb (B. Boyle, S. Arbery et al., videotape by B. Atherton); 1 adult in Fort Clinch SP 22 Feb (B. Bergstrom).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: 1 adult at Redington Beach throughout the winter (K. Nelson et al.); 1 or 2 in Marco (*Collier*) 6 Dec to Feb (T. Below); 1 adult in Anastasia SRA (*St. Johns*) 19 Dec (P. Powell); 1 in Oakland Park (*Broward*) 20 Dec (J. Baker, E. Rosenberg, J. Lynn); 1 on the *Dade* CBC 20 Dec; 1 on Missouri Key (*Monroe*) 23 Jan (S. Komito); 1 first-year bird at Port St. Joe 20-24 Feb (B. and L. Atherton, S. Arbery).
- GLAUCOUS GULL: 1 first-year bird at Sebastian Inlet 3 Dec (D. Devitt, N. Sekera et al.) was later seen on the South Brevard CBC 2 Jan.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 1 first-year bird photographed near Dog Island 28 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick); 1 first-year bird at Lake Wauburg (*Alachua*) 1 Jan (J. Hintermister, B. Muschlitz) was only the second county report; 3 (2 adults and 1 immature) on Redington Beach 10 Jan (M. and S. Turner).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 photographed on the beach at Longboat Key (*Sarasota*) 8 Jan (J. DuBois); 1 at Riviera Beach 7 Feb (C. Plockelman).
- SABINE'S GULL: 1 at Port Canaveral (*Brevard*) late Nov to 15 Jan (M. Harrell et al.).
- GULL-BILLED TERN: 2 in Myakka River SP (*Sarasota*) 3 Jan (M. and S. Turner).
- ROYAL TERN: 2 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec were unusual inland.
- COMMON TERN: 1 adult in Old Belcher Mines CP (*Pasco*) 30 Dec (B. Pranty, D. Woodard).
- FORSTER'S TERN: an 81% decrease in numbers from a 20-year average was noted near Marco Island this winter (T. Below).
- THICK-BILLED MURRE: 1 female found injured in Hobe Sound (*Martin*) 6 Dec (J. Stutevoss) was taken to a local wildlife rehabilitator, where it died 29 Dec (*vide* G. Hunter and H. Langridge, specimen to Archbold Biological Station). This is the first record for Florida.
- RAZORBILL: 1 captured at Melbourne Shores (*Brevard*) 11 Jan (M. Guzak) was taken to Sea World, but it died the same day (specimen to Archbold Biological Station). This is the sixth specimen for Florida (*vide* B. Anderson).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: first report in St. Marks NWR 19 Dec (K. NeSmith, J. Cox, R. Kautz, F. Leslie); 2 in Panama City 16 Jan (T. Menart, E. Fontaine, J. Richardson); 1 on SR 70 in *Manatee*, about 5 km W of the *DeSoto* line 16 Jan (F. Lohrer et al.).
- RINGED TURTLE DOVE: 1 in Winter Haven (*Polk*) 24 Jan (T. Palmer).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 1 occupied nest found in Placid Lakes (*Highlands*) 26 Feb (R. Bowman) was the state's earliest breeding report by over a month (*vide* B. Anderson).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: 1 on the Lake Wales CBC (C. and D. Ford).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: 1 calling in Hickory Branch (*Highlands*) 27 Dec (D. and V. Goodwin, G. Woolfenden).
- SMOOTH-BILLED ANI: 1 seen and heard NW of Wesley Chapel (*Pasco*) 21 Dec (G. Stoccardo, D. Goodwin) was the first county report (*vide* B. Pranty); 1 on Tierra Verde (*Pinellas*) 2 Jan (J. and L. Hopkins) was locally rare; 1 in Paynes Prairie (*Alachua*) 28 and 31 Jan (J. Weimer); 4 on Emerald Island (*Lake*) 21 Feb (C. Newell).
- GROOVE-BILLED ANI: up to 5 in St. Marks NWR throughout the season; 4 at Shell Island (*Wakulla*) 19 Dec (J. Cox, K. NeSmith, R. Kautz, F. Leslie); 1 or 2 at Alligator Lake in Lake City (*Columbia*) 24 Dec (B. Hornback); 8 on Dog Island through mid-Jan (D. Evered, L. Messick).

- BURROWING OWL: 1 pair in Eglin Air Force Base 11 Feb through the end of the period (D. Teague) was probably breeding, as the burrow was surrounded by debris. Further information provided by D. Ware indicates several pairs have been present at the site for as many as 15 years! This is the first breeding report for the Florida Panhandle.
- LONG-EARED OWL: 1 found in Royal Trails development (*Lake*) 8 Dec (K. Petry) was brought to the Madalyn Baldwin Center for Birds of Prey in Orlando, where it died 11 Dec (*vide* H. Kale, specimen to Archbold Biological Station). Only one other Florida record exists (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992:90).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK: 1 in Naples (*Collier*) 29 Dec (G. San Miguel) was the first county report in winter (*vide* T. Below).
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: 1 banded on Casey Key (*Sarasota*) 16 Feb was the earliest local report (A. and S. Stedman); 1 female banded on Dog Island 28 Feb (D. Evered, L. Messick) was the first of the season there.
- VAUX'S SWIFT: 3 in Kanapaha Gardens (*Alachua*) 27 Dec (J. Cox); up to 6 on campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville (*Alachua*) 19 Jan to 3 Mar (T. Webber et al.) were recorded on audiotape. This will be the first record for Florida if accepted by the FOSRC.
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 in Fort Lauderdale 23 Dec through the period returned to the same yard for the fourth consecutive winter (B. and T. Center et al.).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: 3 (1 immature male and 2 females) on the St. Leo Golf Course (*Pasco*) 21 Dec to Jan (D. Robinson, P. Rhinesmith, P. Young, B. Pranty) were wintering farther N than usual, probably due to the mild winter; 1 during count-week on the Lake Wales CBC; 1 on the South Brevard CBC 2 Jan; 1 in Tallahassee (*Leon*) 25 Feb (T. Morrill) may have been an early migrant.
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 in Tallahassee through 8 Dec (N. Wamer); 2 males (1 adult and 1 imm.) on St. Leo Golf Course 21 Dec to Jan (D. Robinson, P. Rhinesmith et al., videotape by B. Atherton to FOSRC) was first *Pasco* record (*vide* B. Pranty).
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 in Tallahassee 14 Jan (B. Scott); 1 female in T. Y. Park 6 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: among many reports this winter were 2 birds in S *Pinellas*: 1 adult in St. Petersburg (M. Hughes) 19 Dec, and 1 immature that remained through the period on Tierra Verde (B. and L. Atherton).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER: 1 in Oakland Park 13 Dec (J. Baker); 1 in the Seminole Indian Reservation (*Hendry*) 26 Dec (J. Baker).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 1 female in N *Duval* 2 Dec (M. Taylor) has been seen in this location in previous years; 2 in St. Marks NWR 6 Dec (N. Wamer).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: 52 on the Lake Placid CBC was a very high number; 6 in Lake Arbuckle State Forest throughout the count period (*vide* L. Cooper).
- BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER: 1 in Mahogany Hammock (Dade) 3 Jan (*vide* L. Cooper); 1 in Flamingo (*Monroe*) 8 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD: 2 SE of St. Leo 21 Dec returned to the area for at least the fifth consecutive winter (B. Pranty, P. Young et al.).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 on Tierra Verde 17-20 Dec (S. Backes et al.); 1 in St. Marks NWR 12 and 19 Dec (J. LaVia et al.); up to 7 at Canal Point (*Palm Beach*) 17 Dec to 17 Feb (C. Weber); 11 on Key West 20 Dec (J. Ondrejko); 1 in Lake Wales 12 Jan to 14 Mar (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer); 2 at Cockroach Bay (*Hillsborough*) 21 Jan to 28 Feb (S. Backes et al.).
- PURPLE MARTIN: 1 at Turkey Creek (*Glades*) 7 Jan (U. Feller); 1 male at Archbold Biological Station 21 Jan (G. Woolfenden).
- TREE SWALLOW: a roost was estimated to be in excess of 1000000 birds in marshes W of Titusville (*Brevard*) 10 Dec to 15 Jan (D. Stuckey, B. Brown, D. Devitt et al.).
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: 1 on the S Brevard CBC 2 Jan.

- BROWN CREEPER: 1 near Hawthorne (*Putnam*) in mid-Dec (*vide* R. Rowan).
- WINTER WREN: 1 near Niceville (*Okaloosa*) 12 Dec (D. Ware); 1 in Swift Creek Swamp (*Hamilton*) 19 Dec (R. Rowan).
- SEDGE WREN: 43 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 1 female at Fort DeSoto CP (*Pinellas*) 1-7 Dec (M. Wilkinson) was only the second report for the park (*vide* L. Atherton).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH: 1 in Fort Pierce Inlet SRA 14 Dec (J. Brooks, S. Blackshaw).
- AMERICAN ROBIN: most observers remarked about the high numbers of this species this winter, including 70000 on the Cedar Key CBC 2 Jan.
- EUROPEAN STARLING: 5831 on Lakeland CBC 19 Dec; 16120 on Ponce Inlet CBC 20 Dec.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1 on the Econlockhatchee CBC 2 Jan.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1 in Fort DeSoto CP 3 Dec (M. Wilkinson) was very late.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1 male on Dog Island 18 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick, C. Keppler); 1 near Boca Raton (*Palm Beach*) 30 Jan (B. Hope); 1 in Miami (*Dade*) 6 Feb (W. Biggs).
- YELLOW WARBLER: 2 in Sawgrass Recreation Park (*Broward*) 2 Dec, 1 remaining through the period (J. Baker); 1 near I-75 (*Broward*) 15 Feb (J. Baker, E. Rosenberg); 1 on Key Largo (*Monroe*) 27 Feb (J. Baker, U. Feller).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1 on the Tallahassee CBC 1 Jan (J. Cox, K. NeSmith).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER: 1 on the Ponce Inlet CBC 20 Dec; 1 female near Lake June (*Highlands*) 23 Dec (D. Ford, B. and M. Kittredge); 1 in Miami 6 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: 1 female or immature W of West Palm Beach 17-18 Jan (B. Hope).
- BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: 1 female in T. Y. Park 19 Jan through the end of the period (J. DiPasquale et al.).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: 1 adult male in Avon Park Air Force Range (*Polk*) 10 Dec (D. Ford); 2 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec; 1 on the S Brevard CBC 2 Jan.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER: 3 rare E Panhandle reports this winter: 1 on Dog Island 12 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick); 1 on the St. Marks CBC (*Wakulla*) 19 Dec (J. Cox, K. NeSmith, R. Kautz, F. Leslie); 1 at Mysterious Waters (*Wakulla*) 2 Jan (J. Epler).
- PALM WARBLER: several of the eastern subspecies seen on Dog Island in Dec, but only western Palm Warblers were seen there during fall migration (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: 1 imm. male in Blue Spring SP (*Volusia*) 28 Dec (A. Kent).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER: 2 males on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec (M. McMillian et al.) were extremely rare.
- AMERICAN REDSTART: 12 W of Boca Raton 30 Jan (B. Hope) was a high number; 1 E of Lake Istokpoga 23 Feb (B. and M. Kittredge).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1 on the Coot Bay CBC 3 Jan (P. Bithorn).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1 at Eco Pond (*Monroe*) 7 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- WILSON'S WARBLER: 1 male at Lake Wauburg 1-20 Dec (R. Rowan et al.); 9 in *Palm Beach* 27 Dec to Jan (B. Hope, H. Langridge) was a high number; 1 in Sawgrass Recreation Park 6 Jan (J. Baker); male in St. Andrews SP 16 Jan (B. Rackett, T. Rybicki, E. Fontaine, T. Menart).
- SUMMER Tanager: 1 or 2 females frequented feeders 10 km apart near Fort Walton Beach (*Okaloosa*) 15 Dec to 6 Mar (E. Jones, S. Maxwell, B. and J. McKenney); 1 rust-colored female in Sawgrass Lake CP (*Pinellas*) 17-19 Dec (S. Goodbred, B. Pranty, C. Graham, G. Stoccardo et al.); 1 female photographed in Jacksonville (*Duval*) 26 Dec (J. Wheat).
- WESTERN Tanager: 1 female in Naples 20 Feb (V. McGrath); 1 male in Boca Raton also 20 Feb (B. Hope).
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: 1 female in Wellington (*Palm Beach*) 17 Jan to 19 Feb (G. Hunter, H. Langridge, B. Hope).

- BLUE GROSBEAK: 2 females in *Alachua* 10 Jan (J. Hintermister); 1 adult male in Gulf Breeze 13 Jan was the first Jan report for the area (B. Duncan); up to 4 (2 males and 2 females) at the Belle Glade marina (*Palm Beach*) 11 Jan to 27 Feb (H. Langridge, W. Biggs et al.); 2 in E *Pasco* 9-18 Feb (S. Backes et al.).
- INDIGO BUNTING: 5 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec; 1 in Lake Wales 27 Dec to 24 Jan (P. Timmer); 3 or 4 at the Belle Glade marina 4 Feb (W. Biggs et al.); 4 in E *Pasco* 7-11 Feb (S. Backes et al.).
- PAINTED BUNTING: 1 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec; 4 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec; 2 on the Econlockhatchee CBC 2 Jan; 1 in Lake Wales 24 Jan (P. Timmer); 2 females or immatures in E *Pasco* 28 Jan to 11 Feb (S. Backes et al.) were the first winter report for the county (*vide* B. Pranty); 3 at the Belle Glade marina 4 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- DICKCISSEL: 1 male at the Belle Glade marina 4 Feb (W. Biggs et al.); 1 at a feeder near Lake Pierce (*Polk*) 13 Feb to 20 Mar (G. and J. Donaldson).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 on the Lake Placid CBC 27 Dec; 3 in Lake Wales 27 Dec to 24 Jan (P. Timmer).
- FIELD SPARROW: up to 14 in E *Polk* 13 Dec to 24 Jan (P. Timmer).
- VESPER SPARROW: up to 16 near Lake Wales 17 Dec to 24 Jan (P. Timmer); 1 on the *Dade* CBC 19 Dec was the first count report.
- LARK SPARROW: 1 on the Lake Wales CBC.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: there were many reports S to *Highlands* and *Broward* this winter, indicating the species was widespread in the state. The highest report received was of 29 birds on the East Pasco CBC (*Pasco*) 21 Dec (*vide* B. Pranty).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW: 1 on the Lake Wales CBC; 1 on Scarborough Ranch 27 Dec (D. Goodwin et al.); 1 in Seminole State Forest (*Lake*) 6 Feb (D. Freeman) and 6 Mar (G. Bretz, T. Robinson).
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW: 1 in Honeymoon Island SRA 23 Jan to 13 Feb (K. Nelson, B. Parkhurst et al.) for at least the second consecutive winter; 1 in *Leon* 2 Feb (G. Menk).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1 near Lake June 23 Dec (D. Ford, B. and M. Kittredge); 3 in E *Pasco* 11-15 Feb (S. Backes et al.).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 1 near Fort Walton Beach (*Okaloosa*) 15 Dec (D. Ware) was locally rare; up to 17 in E *Polk* 27 Dec to 24 Jan (P. Timmer).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO: 1 in S Jacksonville 4 Jan (M. Davidson); 1 in *St. Johns* 10 Jan (P. Powell); 1 in S Jacksonville 19 Jan to end of period (P. Powell).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 immature male at a Jensen Beach (*Martin*) feeder 15 Dec (S. Blackshaw); 1 on the Lakeland CBC 19 Dec (C. Geanangel); 1 male in Oakland Park 20 Dec (J. Baker, E. Rosenberg, J. Lynn); 1 first-year male in Zephyrhills (*Pasco*) 21 Dec (R. Smith, P. Blair, I. Kedon); 1 female at McJunkin Dairy (*Highlands*) 9 Jan (G. Woolfenden, B. Pranty et al.); at least 6 (5 males and 1 female) E of Belle Glade 5 Feb (W. Biggs et al.); 1 female in S *Dade* 6 Feb (W. Biggs et al.).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD: 1 male on Dog Island 18 Dec (D. Evered, L. Messick, T. Leukering) was locally rare.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 1 male at McJunkin Dairy (*Highlands*) 27 Dec (W. Hoffman, P. W. Smith), and 1 in Florida City (*Dade*) 4 Jan (M. Cooper) were rare S Florida reports.
- COMMON GRACKLE: 12 on Key West 15 Jan were rare in the Keys (J. Ondrejko).
- SHINY COWBIRD: 30-40 at feeders in Rookery Bay Sanctuary throughout the period for the second consecutive winter (J. McGinity).
- BRONZED COWBIRD: 5 (3 males and 2 females) 11 Dec to 3 Feb at McJunkin Dairy (G. Woolfenden, B. Pranty et al.); 6 on the Skyview Golf Course in Lakeland 17 Dec to 2 Jan at the same location as in previous years (B. and L. Cooper, C. Geanangel).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: 30000, of which 90-95% were males, at McJunkin Dairy (*Highlands*) throughout the winter (G. Woolfenden et al.).

HOUSE FINCH: 8 near Gainesville 31 Dec (R. Rowan); 1 male at Panama City 2 Jan (B. Boyle, T. Menart, P. Gezovich, J. Richardson) was the first *Bay* report, followed by the second report near Ganier Bayou 11 Feb (B. Johnson).

PINE SISKIN: 12 in Sawgrass Lake CP 13 Jan were locally rare (M. and S. Turner).

Winter 1991-1992 sighting just reported: Swainson's Hawk: 1 injured immature found in *Leon* in Dec 1991 was taken to local wildlife rehabilitator and later photographed by J. Cavanagh. This is the first record for the area.

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