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Summer Report: June -july 1993

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APPENDIX 1 (continued)

LAZULI BUNTING, *Passerina amoena*
 GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus*
 YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris olivacea*
 BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT, *Tiaris bicolor*
 BLACK-THROATED SPARROW, *Amphispiza bilineata*
 LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*
 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*
 HARRIS' SPARROW, *Zonotrichia querula*
 LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus*
 CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, *Calcarius ornatus*
 TAWNY-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD, *Agelaius humeralis*
 WESTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella neglecta*
 RED CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Fla. Field Nat. 22(1): 23-28, 1994.

Summer Report: June - July 1993.—The observations listed here are based on rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds as reported to the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Field Observations Committee (FOC). As these reports are not formally reviewed prior to publication, they may be considered tentative.

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 Bruce Anderson, Secretary, 2917 Scarlet Road, Winter Park, Florida 32792. A photocopy of all rarity forms submitted to the FOSRC also should 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 regional compilers, may send their reports directly to the State Compiler within one month after the close of the period. Lengthy reports should 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 Birdlife of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson in press), observations based solely on sightings are considered "reports," while only those supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio tapes, or specimens) are called "records."

Abbreviations used in the accounts are: CBC = Christmas Bird Count; CP = county park; NWR = national wildlife refuge; NS = national seashore; SP = state park; SPR = state preserve; SRA = state recreation area; and N, S, E, W, etc. for compass directions. 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: Rich Paul and Ann Schnapf, the summer editors for *American Birds*; Bruce Anderson for supplying information from the forthcoming *The Birdlife of Florida*; and Peter Merritt and Glen Woolfenden for helpful suggestions. This report includes a few late-arriving spring sightings.

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER SEASON

Weather conditions this summer were hot and abnormally dry, but much standing water remained from the stormy spring season. Rich Paul wrote that the weather was responsible for colonial wading birds having their most successful season in the Tampa Bay area in a decade.

The ninth breeding report for Ruddy Duck was established in Hillsborough County in May. Harry Robinson's ocean watches from Cape Canaveral National Seashore continue to indicate that observations of pelagic species from the shore are regular events on days with strong NE winds. This May and June, Harry observed four shearwater and three storm-petrel species, Brown and Red-footed boobies, and an Arctic Tern, all from shore! The genus *Catharacta* was verified for the state in June, when a South Polar Skua was found in Brevard County. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was observed for one day only (as is typical) in Highlands County, and a male Bahama Mockingbird summered on Key West for the third consecutive year.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- COMMON LOON: 1 in the Halifax River in Daytona Beach (*Volusia*) 2 June (J. Dozier); 2 in St. Marks NWR (*Wakulla*) 9 July (J. and L. Epler).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE: 80 in *Polk* phosphate mines 27 June was a high local count (P. Fellers).
- CORY'S SHEARWATER: 62 at Cape Canaveral NS (*Volusia*) 16 June, and 2 there 18 June (H. Robinson).
- GREATER SHEARWATER: 20 at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June, and 3 there 18 June (H. Robinson); over 70 beached birds were recovered from *Brevard to Palm Beach* in June (H. Kale, specimens to various collections).
- SOOTY SHEARWATER: 1 at Cape Canaveral NS 28 May (H. Robinson).
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 1 at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June (H. Robinson).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: 1 at Cape Canaveral NS 28 May, and 47 there 18 June (H. Robinson).
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 1 at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June, and 10 there 18 June (H. Robinson).
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 1 at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June (H. Robinson).
- BROWN BOOBY: 1 adult at Cape Canaveral NS 19 June (H. Robinson).
- RED-FOOTED BOOBY: 1 immature at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June (H. Robinson).
- NORTHERN GANNET: numerous birds at Cape Canaveral NS 16 June (H. Robinson).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 40 in Capri Pass (*Collier*) 5 June was the first local summer report of more than 1 bird (T. Below); 13-16 birds at Mayport 25-27 June (B. Richter, J. Wheat) were the first summer report for *Duval*.

- BROWN PELICAN: the 1993 breeding survey tallied 8866 pairs statewide, about 5% less than last year (S. Nesbitt).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 1 immature at Matanzas Inlet (*St. Johns*) 31 May (D. King), and 2 over Nassau Sound (*Nassau*) 4 June (E. Colborn) were unusual NE Florida reports.
- REDDISH EGRET: about 45 pairs nested in the Tampa Bay area (*Pinellas* and *Hillsborough*) this year, fewer than expected (R. Paul).
- WHITE IBIS: 8000 nesting pairs in the Tampa Bay area (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 1700 pairs on Merritt Island (*Brevard*) (B. Smith, D. Breininger).
- GLOSSY IBIS: 4 pairs nested in St. Marks NWR 3 July (R. Gidden).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL: a "record" number of 106 pairs nested in Tampa Bay (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 14 pairs nested in Merritt Island NWR (B. Smith, D. Breininger); up to 6 at Dundee (*Polk*) throughout July (P. Fellers, S. Futch); 1 over Paynes Prairie (*Alachua*) 16 July (M. Manetz) was locally rare.
- WOOD STORK: 4400 nesting pairs in 29 colonies were counted statewide (J. Rodgers).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 8 (1 male and 7 "females") in Orlando Wilderness Park (*Orange*) throughout the season (D. Simpson). It is not known if this represented a rare breeding report.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER: 1 in a *Polk* mine 27 June (P. Fellers) was the latest "spring" report (*vide* B. Anderson).
- LESSER SCAUP: 4 (3 males, 1 female) at Holiday Island sewage treatment plant (*Okaloosa*) 4 June (D. Ware).
- SURF SCOTER: 1 off Alligator Point (*Franklin*) 28 July (G. Fishman, R. Gidden).
- RUDDY DUCK: 1 female with 7 young in a Hillsborough Bay (*Hillsborough*) impoundment 4 May (R. Paul, A. Schnapf, M. Lopez); 1 pair at Holiday Island 17 June (D. Ware) was only the second published Panhandle report; 2 males in *Polk* mines 27 June (P. Fellers).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 9 in one tree W of Palmdale (*Glades*) 20 June (B. Pranty).
- BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE: 1 adult in E *Highlands* 23 June (D. Stotz), an area of frequent recent reports.
- SNAIL KITE: 202 nests were located in Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River basin, an increase over last year (J. Rodgers).
- BALD EAGLE: 667 nesting territories were counted statewide in 1992-1993, continuing the upward trend of recent years (S. Nesbitt); 1 adult near Niceville (*Okaloosa*) 16 July (F. Cull) was locally unusual.
- COOPER'S HAWK: B. Millsap found about a dozen nests in various parts of N Florida, and reports that most successfully fledged 2-3 birds; 1 male carrying a bird about 4 miles (7 km) S of St. Cloud (*Osceola*) 17 June (B. Pranty); 1 male on SR 74 (*Glades*) 4 miles (7 km) E of the *Charlotte* line 20 June (B. Pranty); 1 pair successfully bred in Lake Wales (*Polk*) 26 June (D. Struthers).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: at least 1 dark-morph adult observed on four occasions in Brooker Creek Preserve (*Pinellas*) this summer (D. Sumpter, H. Mushinsky).
- AMERICAN KESTREL: 1 juvenile in Fort DeSoto CP (*Pinellas*) 4 July (A. and R. Smith) was rare there, but did not fledge locally.
- BLACK RAIL: 1 heard at Paynes Prairie 10 July (R. Rowan).
- SNOWY PLOVER: 1 pair with 2 young on Sanibel Island (*Lee*) 13-14 June (D. Stotz, F. Muraski); 2 pairs bred on Shell Key (*Pinellas*), the first local breeding report in many years (P. Blair et al.).
- PIPING PLOVER: 1 on Dog Island (*Franklin*) 11 July (D. Evered, L. Messick) and 16 on Three Rooker Bar (*Pinellas*) 20 July (R. Paul, A. Schnapf) were the first fall reports.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT: 18 at the Fort Walton sewage treatment plant (*Okaloosa*) 16 July (D. Ware) and 16 in St. Marks NWR 28 July (J. Cox, K. NeSmith) were good Panhandle counts.

- AMERICAN AVOCET: 8 in *Polk* mines 27 June (P. Fellers).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 at the Orlando sewage treatment plant (*Orange*) 23 July (B. Payne, P. Van Thiel).
- WILLET: 400 on Shell Key 15 July (P. Blair); 1 over Lake Lochloosa (*Alachua*) 27 July (R. Rowan) was a rarity there.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER: 1 at the Orlando sewage treatment plant 23 July (B. Payne, P. Van Thiel).
- WHIMBREL: 1 at Alafia Banks (*Hillsborough*) 3 July (A. Schnapf).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 1 at Alafia Banks 3 July (A. Schnapf); 1 at Fort Myers Beach (*Lee*) 25 July (N. Pettis).
- MARBLED GODWIT: 40 in Hillsborough Bay 5 July (R. Paul).
- RED KNOT: 200 on Shell Key 15 July (R. Smith, P. Blair).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 1 on Dog Island 6 June and 18-22 July (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1 on Dog Island 18 July (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 7 near Gibsonton (*Hillsborough*) 21 July were locally rare (R. Paul); 1 in St. Vincent NWR (*Franklin*) 22 July (T. Lewis).
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 1 found on A1A 5 miles (8 km) S of Melbourne (*Brevard*) 17 June (D. Wilson, photos and videos by B. Atherton, to FOSRC) is the first record for Florida, and only the second summer report (*vide* B. Anderson).
- LAUGHING GULL: 4000 pairs nested on Three Rooker Bar (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 700 pairs at Alafia Banks (R. Paul); 150 on Shell Key (P. Blair); 15 nests on St. George Island causeway (*Franklin*) 1 June (J. Gore, E. Egensteiner, H. Smith).
- RING-BILLED GULL: 7 on Marco Island (*Collier*) 16 July is the first local summer report (T. Below, W. Burkett).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 2 birds summered on Shell Key (P. Blair et al.); 1 adult on Melbourne Beach (*Brevard*) 3 July (B. Payne, L. Atherton).
- GULL-BILLED TERN: 3 pairs nested on the St. George Island causeway 1 June (J. Gore, E. Egensteiner, H. Smith).
- ROYAL TERN: 2100 nesting pairs were counted at Passage Key NWR (*Manatee*) 19 May, a decrease of about 20% from recent years (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 139 nests on Lanark Reef (*Franklin*) 1 June (J. Gore, E. Egensteiner, H. Smith); 65 pairs on Three Rooker Bar 20 July (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 2 birds inland at Newnans Lake (*Alachua*) 9 July (R. Rowan) were locally rare.
- SANDWICH TERN: only 2 breeding colonies with a total of 190 pairs were located this year; both were in Tampa Bay (*Hillsborough* and *Manatee*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).
- COMMON TERN: 200 (mostly juveniles) on Marco Island "for most of the period" was a locally high number (T. Below, W. Burkett); 230 (only 3 adults) on Dog Island 18 July (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- ARCTIC TERN: 1 in first-summer plumage at Cape Canaveral NS 28 May (H. Robinson).
- LEAST TERN: over 100 nests at Fort Matanzas National Monument (*St. Johns*), only minor success at other coastal areas in NE Florida (*vide* P. Powell); 13 pairs fledged 11 young from an artificial platform in St. Marks NWR (R. Gidden, R. Will).
- BLACK TERN: 1 at Melbourne Beach 3 July (L. Atherton, B. Payne).
- BLACK SKIMMER: at 25 sites statewide, 1800 nesting pairs were estimated this year, with over half the birds in the Tampa Bay area (J. Gore, J. Hovis, R. Paul et al.); 184 birds at *Polk* mines 24 June (P. Fellers).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 6 near Bell (*Gilchrist*) 6 June (J. Cox).
- RINGED TURTLE-DOVE: 1 pair released four years ago in the Oldtown area of Fernandina Beach (*Nassau*) has increased to 15 birds (E. Colborn).
- CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW: 1 in St. Petersburg throughout the period (R. Smith) is the first *Pinellas* report.

- BLUE-CROWNED PARAKEET: 2 seen regularly in St. Petersburg (R. Smith).
- BELTED KINGFISHER: 1 "wintering" on Wentley Key (*Monroe*) 28 July (W. Hoffman).
- HAIRY WOODPECKER: of 2 nests in Archbold Biological Station (*Highlands*), one fledged 4 young by 8 May, and the other fledged 1 young 12 June (B. Pranty).
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: 2 in the Seminole State Forest (*Lake*) 12 June were probably breeders (L. Malo).
- GRAY KINGBIRD: 1 pair with 2 juveniles at Mayport 17 July (J. Wheat) represents the first local breeding report in several years (*vide* P. Powell).
- FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 adult on Buck Island Ranch (*Highlands*) 16 July (J. Fitzpatrick, L. Cooperband) was the state's 13th report (*vide* B. Anderson).
- TREE SWALLOW: 3 in Seminole State Forest 10 July (m. obs.) represent a rare summer report.
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: 1 in E *Highlands* 23 June (D. Stotz).
- BARN SWALLOW: 1 late spring migrant at Archbold Biological Station 8 June (R. Mumme); 1 early fall migrant in E *Highlands* 11 July (D. Stotz).
- SCRUB JAY: 3 just N of Guana River SP (*St. Johns*) 27-28 July were the first local report in several years (*vide* P. Powell).
- BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: 2 in Archbold Biological Station 7 July (A. Begazo) established the first Station report.
- HOUSE WREN: 2 in Seminole State Forest 2 June (m. obs.) represented only the second June report (*vide* B. Anderson).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 1 pair with 2 fledglings in Archbold Biological Station 12 June (R. Mumme) provided a locally rare breeding report; first migrants on Plantation Key (*Monroe*) were noted 28 July (W. Hoffman).
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 330 young fledged from 67 (of 105) nest boxes in Avon Park Air Force Range (*Polk*) and Lake Arbuckle State Forest (*Polk*) (C. and D. Ford et al.).
- AMERICAN ROBIN: 1 in Longwood (*Seminole*) 23 June (T. Robinson) represents the latest "spring" report (*vide* B. Anderson).
- BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD: the male on Key West summered there, and was photographed feeding a fledgling Northern Mockingbird 17 June (S. Metz, *vide* R. Paul).
- CEDAR WAXWING: up to 50 in S *Pinellas* 9 June (L. Hopkins, R. Smith) tied the latest "spring" date in Florida (*vide* B. Anderson).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO: only 1 bird was heard all this summer in Tampa Bay (*Pinellas* and *Hillsborough*) and Sarasota Bay (*Manatee* and *Sarasota*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf et al.). Brood parasitism by cowbirds is believed to be the cause. Rich Paul wrote that a cowbird control program is "urgently needed." Only 1 vireo was found in Jack Island SPR (*St. Lucie*), an area recently invaded by cowbirds (J. Brooks).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER: only 4 birds on territory in Fort DeSoto CP all summer (R. Smith, B. Atherton) - cowbird brood parasitism was again blamed; 1 on Dog Island 17 July (D. Evered, L. Messick).
- CERULEAN WARBLER: 1 near Tallahassee (*Leon*) 27 July (T. Morrill).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1 in female plumage in Archbold Biological Station 21 July (A. Begazo) was the first migrant reported.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER: 1 near Callahan (*Nassau*) 5 June (B. Richter); 4 singing at Steinhatchee Springs WMA (*Lafayette*) 1 June (B. Muschlitz, H. Adams), and 1 there 17 July (R. Rowan, M. Manetz).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: 1 in N *St. Johns* 18 July (P. Powell).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: 1 in Orlando Wilderness Park 13 July (D. Simpson).
- BLUE GROSBEAK: 2 males and 1 female on Scarborough Ranch 18 June (C. and D. Ford), and 1 pair on the SE shore of Lake Istokpoga 23 June-11 July (D. Stotz) continue to suggest that the species now breeds regularly in *Highlands*.

SHINY COWBIRD: 2 males (1 adult and 1 immature) in St. Marks NWR 10 July (N. Wamer) were the first summer report for *Wakulla* (*vide* B. Anderson).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: 2 males in Jack Island SPR 14 June (J. Brooks).

HOUSE FINCH: several at a feeder in Lake City (*Columbia*) throughout the season (J. Krummrich).

Errata: Winter 1992-1993 report (Fla. Field Nat. 21 (3):95, 1993): the Black-necked Stilts reported from the Lower Keys 10 February were actually located N of Key Largo. We thank Joe Ondrejko for bringing this to our attention.

Winter 1992-1993 report not previously published: Razorbill: 2 specimens were brought to a St. Augustine (*St. Johns*) wildlife rehabilitation center. One bird was later released, but the other, delivered 9 February 1993, died 2 days later (*vide* H. Kale, specimen to University of Central Florida, Orlando).

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