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## Summer Report: June-july 1994

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## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Fla. Field Nat. 23(1):19-24, 1995.

**Summer Report: June-July 1994.**—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, they may be considered tentative.

Significant reports are welcomed for inclusion in future issues of this section. Reports should include the following information: species; number of individuals; age and sex of the bird(s); color morph if applicable; location (including county); date; observer(s); and significance of the report. Reporting periods are winter (December-February), spring (March-May), summer (June-July), and fall (August-November). Submit reports to regional compilers within two weeks after the close of each period, or to the state compiler within 1 month. Reports may be sent by FAX to the state compiler at (813) 699-1927.

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 1994, University Press of Florida), sight-only observations are considered “reports”, while only those supported by verifiable evidence (photographs, video or audio tapes, or specimens) are called “records”.

The Thirty-ninth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* was published recently (*Auk* 110(3):675-682, 1993) This FOC report includes all changes to the nomenclature as published in the *Auk*.

Anderson and Baker (*Fla. Field Nat.* 22:21-23, 1994) recently published the list of birds for which the FOS Records Committee requires documentation. These species are marked in this report with an asterisk (\*) to alert the observers of their need to supply the FOSRC with details of their sightings.

A county designation accompanies the first-time listing of each site in this report; further listings of the same site lack the county name. Abbreviations used are: APAFR-N=Avon Park Air Force Range (*Polk*); APAFR-S=Avon Park Air Force Range (*Highlands*); ca.=circa; CP=county park; ENP=Everglades National Park; FOSRC=FOS Records Committee; NWR=national wildlife refuge; R & W 1992=Robertson and Woolfenden 1992; S & A 1994=Stevenson and Anderson 1994; SP=state park; SRA=state recreation area; WMA=wildlife management area; and N, S, E, W for compass directions.

For their assistance with this report, the state compiler thanks Rich Paul and Ann Schnapf, the summer editors of *National Audubon Society Field Notes*. Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) and Stevenson and Anderson (1994) were used to determine the regional and seasonal statuses of many species. Thanks to Herb Kale for forwarding the reports of the hornbills, turaco, and whydah; to Rich Paul and Ann Schnapf for forwarding Joe Ondrejko's Bahama Mockingbird report; and to Robbie Wooster for supplying information from the Florida birding report hotline.

### SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER SEASON

Aided by 3 tropical storms, June and July 1994 will be remembered as a wet season, especially in the Panhandle. Severe flooding occurred around Caryville and in other areas along the Choctawhatchee River. Elsewhere in the state, the rise in water levels temporarily aided recovery of drought-stricken areas. Other than Ted Below's report on Wood Stork breeding failures at Corkscrew Swamp (see the Spring 1994 report), there were no reports about the weather effects on bird nesting success.

Joe Ondrejko reported the first North American breeding report of Bahama Mockingbird this season in Key West. However, Joe's observations indicate that breeding may have occurred in previous years. There were 2 June and July reports of Western Tanagers (different birds) in Santa Rosa County, the state's first summer reports. Two more exotics were added to the state's avifauna this season, although 1 of the birds has been observed for 2 years. Otherwise, there were few surprises this summer.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- COMMON LOON: 1 in winter plumage on a Gainesville (*Alachua*) retention pond 11-18 June (R. Norton); 1 in winter plumage at Cedar Key (*Levy*) 24 July (D. Henderson).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE: 1 partial albino chick on the Key West golf course (*Monroe*) 20-22 June (J. Ellis, photo supplied by A. Ford, to Tall Timbers collection).
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 1 ca. 8 km (5 mi) off Tarpon Springs (*Pinellas*) 31 July (D. Gagne).
- BROWN BOOBY: 1 immature on Passage Key (*Manatee*) 13 July (A. Schnapf, B. Lamoureux, B. Wargo).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 9 in Rookery Bay Sanctuary (*Collier*) 10 June (J. McGinity); 16 in a *Polk* phosphate mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- BROWN PELICAN: 10,000 breeding pairs statewide, the highest total since 1989 (S. Nesbitt *vide* R. Paul, A. Schnapf); ca. 80 nests with young at Lanark Reef (*Franklin*) 13 July (J. Gore, G. Sprandel); 2 *Highlands* reports: 1 on Lake Istokpoga 4 June (M. McMillian) and 3 over Highway Park 5 June (K. Tarvin, M. Garvin).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: 4 nests in Rookery Bay Sanctuary were the first nests there since the 1930s (T. Below); 1900 birds in *Polk* mines 16 July (P. Fellers).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 1 at Pensacola Beach (*Escambia*) 3 July following Tropical Storm *Alberto* (A. Faragher, M. Liebeno).
- REDDISH EGRET: 5 white morphs on Shell Key (*Pinellas*) 4 July (P. Blair, L. and J. Hopkins); 1 immature in St. Marks NWR (*Wakulla*) 29 July (J. Cavanagh).
- SCARLET IBIS: continued reports of 1 adult in Lakes Park (*Lee*) 2 July (N. Pettis).
- GLOSSY IBIS: 18 (including 6 nestlings) in a *Polk* mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL: 1 first-year bird at Sheppard Road (*Highlands*) 19 June (M. McMillian) and 5 July (B. Pranty, S. Hoag); 1 in Four Corners Mine (*Polk*) 16 July (P. Fellers).
- WOOD STORK: 3588 nests in 26 colonies estimated from the 1994 statewide aerial census, almost a 20% decrease from the 4262 nests in 1993. Colonies were located in northern (6), central (17), and southern (3) Florida (J. Rodgers, *vide* R. Paul and A. Schnapf).
- GREATER FLAMINGO: 14 (including immatures) at Snake Bight, ENP (*Dade* and/or *Monroe*) 5 June (T. Brooks).
- BLACK BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 in Myakka River SP (*Sarasota*) 4-5 June (C. Alverson, G. Wilson); 5 in Clear Springs Mine, Bartow (*Polk*) 5 June (C. Geanangel, P. Timmer).
- MOTTLED DUCK: 326 in *Polk* mines 16 July (P. Fellers).
- REDHEAD: 1 male in a *Leon* sewage treatment pond 23 June (G. Menk).
- SURF SCOTER: 1 male off Captiva Island (*Lee*) 20 June (V. McGrath, W. Winton); 1 at Carabelle Beach (*Franklin*) 4 July (G. Sprandel).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: 1 at Snake Bight 5 June "seemed most out-of-place" (T. Brooks); 1 female at Fort George Island (*Duval*) through June (R. Clark); 4 off Suwannee (*Dixie*) 22 June and 21 July (J. Krummrich).
- OSPREY: 32 nests at Lake Talquin (*Gadsden* and *Leon*), compared to 28 in 1993 and 21 in 1992 (G. Sprandel, D. Bryan).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 pair again nested on Plantation Key (*Monroe*) fledging 1 young in mid-June (W. Hoffman).

- WHITE-TAILED KITE: 1 in Davie (*Broward*) 28 May and 1 June, but no evidence of breeding this year (J. Baker).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE: 25 SE of Tallahassee (*Leon*) 4 July (D. Evered, L. Messick); 34 over Paynes Prairie (*Alachua*) 14 July (R. Rowan).
- COOPERS HAWK: 1 in NW *Hillsborough* was carrying a small dark object in its talons, while pursued by Fish Crows, 5 June (R. and L. Smith); 1 in E Tampa (*Hillsborough*) 13 June (R. Paul).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: 1 dark morph in Aripeka (*Pasco*) 7 July (P. Young) was rare there; 2 *Highlands* reports: 1 adult light morph over Johnson Ranch 16 July (A. Fleischer, M. McMillian, P. Midford, B. Pranty) and 1 juvenile dark morph S of Lake Placid 21 July (B. Pranty, A. Fleischer); 1 dark morph in Disney Wilderness Preserve (*Polk*) 17 July (P. Fellers)
- LIMPKIN: 3 Marathon (*Monroe*) reports of injured birds late May, mid-July, and late July (*vide* W. Hoffman, 2 specimens to Archbold Biological Station) were rare Keys reports.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: 100 on Shell Key 22 July (P. Blair).
- SNOWY PLOVER: the seasonal high of 9 in Honeymoon Island SRA (*Pinellas*) 3 July was a much lower count than in previous years (D. Gagne); 14 on Shell Key 22 July, but no birds bred there (P. Blair); 3 pairs successfully bred at the N end of Longboat Key (*Manatee*) this year (A. Levine, B. and M. Sokol).
- WILSON'S PLOVER: 131 in Honeymoon Island SRA 3 July (D. Gagne).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER: 118 in Honeymoon Island SRA 17 July (D. Gagne).
- PIPING PLOVER: 1 in breeding plumage at Adam's Beach (*Taylor*) 18 July (J. Hintermister).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT: 1 nest with 4 eggs in West Lake Park (*Broward*) 5 June (J. Baker); 2 in Tallahassee 23–30 June (G. Menk).
- AMERICAN AVOCET: 1 on Shell Key 12 March-1 July (P. Blair) was rare in *Pinellas*; 12 in breeding plumage in Four Corners Mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS: 1 in Tallahassee 8 June (G. Menk).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 1 in Tallahassee 1 June, 2 on 28 June, and 5 there 30 June were rare summer reports in Leon (G. Menk).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 in Tallahassee 30 June was the first June report for *Leon* (G. Menk); 1 on Buck Island Ranch (*Highlands*) 23 July (M. McMillian).
- WILLET: 1 in Lake Lochloosa (*Alachua*) 11 July (R. Rowan) was rare inland; 365 on Shell Key 22 July, but only 10 pairs bred there (P. Blair).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER: 1 at Flamingo, ENP (*Monroe*) 5 June (T. Brooks); 1 at an *Okaloosa* sewage treatment plant 5 July (D. Ware) was an early fall migrant; 1 in breeding plumage in a *Polk* mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- WHIMBREL: 1 at Carrabelle Beach 4 July (G. Sprandel); 3 on Shell Key 19 July (P. Blair).
- MARbled GODWIT: 1 at Carrabelle Beach 4 July (G. Sprandel); 14 at Alafia Banks (*Hillsborough*) also 4 July (R. Paul); ca. 50 in Honeymoon Island SRA 17 July (D. Gagne); 58 on Shell Key 19 July (P. Blair).
- RED KNOT: ca. 50 (2 or 3 in breeding plumage) in *Suwannee* 22 June (J. Krummrich); 180 on Shell Key 1 July, and 200 there 4 July (P. Blair); 225 in Honeymoon Island SRA 17 July (D. Gagne).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER: 329 in Honeymoon Island SRA 3 July (D. Gagne); 2 in breeding plumage in a *Polk* mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 2 in Honeymoon Island SRA 5 June (K. Nelson, B. Parkhurst).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1 in Fort DeSoto CP (*Pinellas*) 29 July was locally rare (R. Smith).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER: 1 in winter plumage on Virginia Key (*Dade*) 22 or 23 June (M. Wheeler, L. Owre) was the latest-ever spring report (S & A 1994: 250).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: 160 on Shell Key 19 July (P. Blair).

- PARASITIC JAEGER: 1 immature at Three Rooker Bar (*Pinellas*) 15 June (A. Schnapf, B. Lamoureux); 1 immature in Grayton Beach SRA 27 June (S. Maxwell) was the first *Walton* report (S & A 1994:267).
- LAUGHING GULL: about 17,000 nesting pairs in *Pinellas* and *Hillsborough* this year (R. Paul, A. Schnapf, P. Blair), including 1000+ pairs on Shell Key, compared to only 150 pairs there last year and no pairs in 1992 (P. Blair).
- CASPIAN TERN: 80 pairs at Alafia Banks 16 June (R. Paul, A. Schnapf) matched last year's total, the largest number ever breeding in the state.
- ROYAL TERN: 2000 nests on Passage Key produced about 710 chicks by 13 July; other Tampa Bay breeding reports were 150 nests at Alafia Banks 16 June, and 75 nests at Three Rooker Bar 15 June (all R. Paul, A. Schnapf et al.); 150 adults and 60 young at Lanark Reef 13 July (G. Sprandel, J. Gore); 1500 birds in Mosquito Lagoon (*Brevard*) in mid-June were probably breeding (S. Nesbitt, S. Schweikert).
- SANDWICH TERN: a "modern high" count of 270 pairs bred this year, with 1 chick on Three Rooker Bar 15 June (a new breeding site), 140 nests at Alafia Banks 16 June, and 43 chicks on Passage Key 13 July (all R. Paul, A. Schnapf et al.).
- LEAST TERN: 4-5 over Lake Lochloosa (*Alachua*) 5 July were locally rare (R. Rowan); 480 birds (including juveniles) on Shell Key 22 July, but only 30 pairs bred there (P. Blair); 40 to 50 active nests in Fort Matanzas National Monument (*St. Johns*), otherwise little nesting success in *Duval* and *St. Johns* (*vide* P. Powell).
- BLACK SKIMMER: 1200 breeding pairs in the Tampa Bay region, with 531 nests on Three Rooker Bar 15 June, and 13 chicks on Passage Key 13 July (both R. Paul, A., Schnapf et al.); 515 (including juveniles) on Shell Key 19 July, where 150 pairs bred (P. Blair).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 in Loughman, a new *Polk* site, 30 July (T. Palmer).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 1 at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) 19-21 July (J. Dozier); 2 calling in E Tampa 6-9 June (R. Paul) were W of any known breeding population; 1 nestling brought to a wildlife rehabilitator in Key Largo was the first breeding report in the Upper Keys (*vide* W. Hoffman).
- GREEN PARAKEET: 1 in Miami Springs (*Dade*) 2 June (T. Brooks).
- SCARLET-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga wagleri*): 1 in Miami Springs 2 June (T. Brooks).
- MAROON-BELLIED PARAKEET: 4 birds with "all-green uppertails" in Miami Springs 2 June were apparently of the race *P. f. chiripepe* (T. Brooks).
- MANGROVE CUCKOO: 2 in Honeymoon Island SRA throughout the period (D. Gagne) and 1 in Weedon Island County Preserve 10 July (L. and J. Hopkins) represent probable *Pinellas* breeding sites; 1 in Little Cockroach Bay (*Hillsborough*) 6 June (R. Paul).
- SCHALOW'S TURACO (*Turaco [persa] schalowi*): 1 reported "off and on since Hurricane *Andrew*" (August 1992) in Plantation (*Broward*) (G. Reynolds et al., in litt. to H. Kale, August 1994). This is the first report of the species in Florida (R & W 1992, S & A 1994), but no details were submitted.
- BARN OWL: 2 in St. Petersburg 26 July-August (B. Parkhurst et al.) were rarities in heavily-developed *Pinellas*.
- SHORT-EARED OWL: 4 birds of one of the Antillean races in Dry Tortugas National Park (*Monroe*) 8 June (B. Robertson).
- WREATHED HORNBILL (*Aceros undulatus*): 2 (male and female) on Manasota Key (*Sarasota*) were discovered in early May, and remained ca. 2 weeks. The birds fed on berries of a large Cuban laurel, and roosted every evening in a *Casuarina* (J. Kixmiller, photos by T. Sabatelli, 16 May). This is the first record of the species in Florida.
- BELTED KINGFISHER: 1 in Rookery Bay Sanctuary 14 June (B. J. Anderson); 1 on SR 70 at Bright Hour Ranch (*DeSoto*) 24 June (K. Tarvin).
- HAIRY WOODPECKER: 3 broods of 3 young each were color-banded in Archbold Biological Station (*Highlands*) this season; fledging dates ranged from 27 April to 16 May, but an unbanded brood of at least 2 young fledged 12 June (B. Pranty).

- GRAY KINGBIRD: 8 breeding pairs in Honeymoon Island SRA 11 June were a low count for that area (D. Gagne).
- PURPLE MARTIN: 95 in Rookery Bay Sanctuary 1 July, and 62 (predominately males) there 9 July were the first seasonal counts from that site in 18 years of surveys (T. Below, J. Douglas).
- TREE SWALLOW: 4 in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (*Collier*) 30 July (S. Davis, G. Fischer).
- BARN SWALLOW: 1 over Placid Lakes (*Highlands*) 13 July (F. Lohrer) was the earliest report received.
- GRAY CATBIRD: 1 singing in Alachua (*Alachua*) 27 June (M. Manetz).
- BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD: the male in Key West, first located 9 June 1991 and present for 4 consecutive breeding seasons, was last seen 10 July 1994. On 3 July, he was observed feeding a large fledgling "that was nearly a mirror image of himself, except for elongated light patches at the tip of the tail feathers and the spotted breast. Size and color were identical, and there were no wing patches." The mother of the brood exhibited some Bahama Mockingbird characteristics such as the larger size and "some brown plumage," but white wing patches and tail feathers were also present, so the female may have been a hybrid. Two other fledglings present had white wing patches and tail feathers. Earlier in the season, the male Bahama Mockingbird and the above-mentioned female built 2 nests, including 1 that later contained "newly hatched chicks"! Both adults were observed at this nest, and the male was observed feeding the nestlings. Based on the "many" mockingbirds in Key West that exhibit "wonderful color combinations with unusual wing patch patterns and unusual patterns on the tail feathers," it is believed there are "at least second, perhaps third, generation intergrade" mockingbirds on the island (all information provided by J. Ondrejko).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO: 2 in Honeymoon Island SRA May-June (D. Gagne), virtually the only site in *Pinellas* that continues to support the species; 24 on Sugarloaf Key (*Monroe*) 4 June (T. Brooks).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1 male in breeding plumage in Gainesville 20 June and 2 and 24 July (C. Reno, I. Fromberg) was the first July report of the species in Florida (R & W 1992:123, S & A 1994:551).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER: 19 males singing in Honeymoon Island SRA 14 May, and 17 there 18 June (D. Gagne); 2 migrants in APAFR-S 6 July (J. Arnett).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1 in APAFR-N 18 July (J. Arnett) was the earliest report received.
- AMERICAN REDSTART: 1 first-year male singing in St. Petersburg 1 June (R. Smith); 1 male near Dunnellon (*Marion*) 18 July (R. Smith).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER: 1 at Wakulla Beach (*Wakulla*) 31 July (N. Wamer) was early.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER: 1 male singing in Steinhatchee Springs WMA (*Lafayette*) 18 July (B. Muschlitz).
- OVENBIRD: 1 in Saddle Creek CP (*Polk*) 31 July (P. Fellers), the second-earliest fall report ever (S & A 1994:584).
- WESTERN Tanager: 1 male in Air Products Sanctuary, Pace (*Santa Rosa*) 23 June (*vide* B. Milmore) and a female there 4 July (B. Milmore) were the first summer reports of the species in Florida (R & W 1992:133, S & A 1994:608). The female was described as having a "typical, thick tanager bill and chunkier shape than a female Orchard Oriole...two prominent yellowish wing-bars, medium gray upper back, and yellow underparts."
- BLUE GROSBEAK: 1 male singing in Disney Wilderness Preserve 17 July (P. Fellers).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1 adult in a Tamarac (*Broward*) preserve 6 June (J. Baker) was a rare summer report.



- SHINY COWBIRD: 1 male in Tallahassee 7 June (D. Evered, L. Messick); 1 male at Cedar Key 8 July (D. Henderson); 1 male at Alligator Point (*Franklin*) throughout the period (J. Dozier); none observed in the Keys this season (W. Hoffman).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: 6 (1 male, 2 females, and 3 juveniles) in Archbold Biological Station 3 July (G. Woolfenden); 1000 in a flock in Four Corners Mine 16 July (P. Fellers).
- HOUSE FINCH: 4 in Pensacola (*Escambia*) 25 June, where the species is now resident (D. Bryan); observations of juveniles confirmed breeding in Lake City (*Columbia*) this season (J. Krummrich); males singing in 4 locations in Gainesville, but breeding was not confirmed (B. Muschlitz).
- PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua macroura*): 1 in Ormond Beach (*Volusia*) 6-7 June (Mrs. S. Roberson, C. Lenz, G. Koch et al.) was the second published Florida report of this African species (R & W 1992:191, S & A 1994:694).

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Spring 1994 reports not published previously: Pacific Loon: 1 in Fort Pickens SP (*Escambia*) 12 April (Bob Duncan) and 21 April (Lynn Gould, Ann Ziccardi); Cory's Shearwater: 1 between Dry Tortugas and Key West (*Monroe*) 17 April (Wes Biggs et al.); Glaucous Gull: 1 in first-winter plumage at Pensacola Beach (*Escambia*) 2 March-12 April (B. Duncan et al.); Western Kingbird: 1 at Gulf Breeze (*Santa Rosa*) 17 May was the latest-ever spring report for NW Florida (B. Duncan); Vermilion Flycatcher: 1 in Fort Pickens SP 2 May (Phil Tetlow, B. Duncan, Owen Fang) was the first local May report (fide B. Duncan); Red-eyed Vireo: a "massive movement" noted on the W Panhandle coast 3 May, with 150+ at Gulf Breeze (Lucy Duncan) and "heavy concentrations" in Fort Pickens SP (B. Duncan); Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 in Fort Pickens SP 30 March was locally rare (B. Duncan); American Goldfinch: 1 at Gulf Breeze 30 May was very late (B. Duncan).

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