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## Summer Report: June-july 1996

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## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Fla. Field Nat. 25(1):26-31, 1997.

**Summer Report: June-July 1996.**—The observations listed here are based on rare or unusual species or significant numbers of birds reported to the Florida Ornithological Society (F.O.S.) Field Observations Committee (F.O.C.). 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 2 weeks after the close of each period, or to the state compiler within 1 month. Reports may be E-mailed to the state compiler at blp414@aol.com.

Following the examples set by *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List* (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, F.O.S. Spec. Publ. No. 6) and *The Birdlife of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Univ. 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."

Bruce Anderson (*in litt.* July 1995) revised the list of birds for which the F.O.S. Records Committee (F.O.S.R.C.) requires documentation. These species are marked in this report with an asterisk (\*) to alert the observers of their need to supply the F.O.S.R.C. with details of their sightings. (Some reports that lack all documentation have been omitted from this report).

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 as follows: A.P.A.F.R. = Avon Park Air Force Range, ca. = circa, C.P. = county park, F.B.R. = Florida Birding Report (*vide* Robbie Wooster), N.W.R. = national wildlife refuge, R&W 1992 = Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, S&A 1994 = Stevenson and Anderson 1994, S.P. = state park, S.R.A. = state recreation area, S.T.F. = sewage treatment facility, T.A.P. = Tomoka Aquatic Preserve (*Volusia*), T.L.W.M.A. = Three Lakes W.M.A. (*Osceola*), W.C.A. = Water Conservation Area, W.M.A. = wildlife management area, and N., S., E., W., etc. for compass directions. Bold-faced species, if any, denote birds newly reported or verified in Florida.

We thank Rich Paul and Ann Schnapf, the summer editors of *National Audubon Society Field Notes* for sharing information with us. Robbie Wooster contributed reports submitted to the Florida Birding Report hotline. R&W 1992 and S&A 1994 were used to determine the regional and seasonal status of many species. Editor Todd Engstrom suggested many helpful comments to the manuscript.

### SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER SEASON

Bob Duncan reports that Hurricane Opal, which struck the W. Panhandle on 4 October 1995, "cleaned Santa Rosa Island of its dunes, from Fort Pickens to Navarre," creating nesting habitat for Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers. Most roosting Least Terns returned to nesting on beaches.

The only F.O.S.R.C. rarity reported this season was the White-cheeked Pintail that summered at Merritt Island N.W.R. Other interesting observations included 2 or 3 apparent pairs of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at a *Hamilton* phosphate mine fewer than 25 km south of the Georgia border, increasing summer reports of White-tailed Kites outside their Everglades breeding areas, a male and female Northern Harrier seen sepa-

rately in the same area of Three Lakes W.M.A., Whip-poor-wills in the Orlando area for the second consecutive summer, a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Lake*), and a Henslow's Sparrow (*Okeechobee*) that was the state's first summer report.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON: 1 in breeding plumage off Crystal River (*Citrus*) 18 Jun (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: 1 from Turtle Mound, Canaveral National Seashore (*Volusia*) 1 Jun (B. Roberts, T. Taylor); 1 lethargic on the beach at Archie Carr N.W.R. (*Brevard*) 3 Jun (S. Belson).

\*RED-FOOTED BOOBY: 1 immature brown morph at Sarasota Bay (*Manatee* and *Sarasota*) 3 Jul (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 50 at Choctawhatchee Bay (*Okaloosa*) 4 Jun (D. Ware); 6 at McKay Bay impoundments (*Hillsborough*) 30 Jun, and 1 there 21 Jul (both A. and R. Smith); 6 in N. Jacksonville (*Duval*) 27-31 Jul (R. Clark, M. Dolan).

BROWN PELICAN: 1 at Lake Jackson (*Leon*) 30 Jun (G. Menk); 9598 pairs nested in the state this year (S. Nesbitt).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 2 over Panama City Beach (*Bay*) 12 Jul (L. Rainbow).

WADING BIRDS: 11,000 pairs of 8 species nested at Indian River Lagoon (*Brevard* and/or *Volusia*) (C. Sewell); 7233 pairs nested at W.C.A. 2 and 3 (*Broward* and *Dade*) (P. Frederick); 1300 pairs of 7 species nested at Marco Island (*Collier*) (T. Below).

REDDISH EGRET: birds nested at 2 new sites "(for this century)" this year: Johns Pass (*Pinellas*) and Useppa Bird Key (*Lee*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).

WHITE IBIS: 8100 pairs nested at Alafia Bank (*Hillsborough*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 3200 pairs nested at Indian River Lagoon (C. Sewell); 1013 nests at W.C.A. 2 and 3 (P. Frederick).

GLOSSY IBIS: 525 nests at Alafia Bank (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 108 nests at Marco Island (T. Below); 19 nests at W.C.A. 2 and 3 (P. Frederick); 1 at Fort Walton Beach (*Okaloosa*) 26 Jun (D. Ware); 1 at Lake Lafayette (*Leon*) 20 Jul (H. Horne) was thought to be a southbound migrant (*vide* G. Menk).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: 120 nests at 3 sites in *Hillsborough*, *Pinellas*, and *Manatee* (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 15 inland nests at W.A.C. 2 and 3 (P. Frederick); 1 adult and 3 first-year birds at Lake Hancock (*Polk*) 9 Jun (M. McMillian, B. Pranty); 1 at Lake Wales (*Polk*) 16 Jun (T. Palmer); 4 at Paynes Prairie State Preserve (*Alachua*) 17-20 Jun (J. Weimer); 1 first-year bird at St. Marks N.W.R. (*Wakulla*) 21-30 Jun (J. Reinman, J. Burkpile, L. Gall).

WHITE SPOONBILL: 1 at McKay Bay 21 and 30 Jul (both A. and R. Smith) was presumably the same bird observed since 20 Oct 1993.

WOOD STORK: 560 nests at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (*Collier*) fledged over 1250 young (E. Case).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 4-6 at Occidental W.M.A. (*Hamilton*) 4 Jul through the season "seemed to be paired up" (J. Krummrich, J. Hintermister).

\*WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL: 1 at Merritt Island N.W.R. (*Brevard*) 11 May through the season (*vide* P. Small and F.B.R.).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 1 male at Lake Jackson 2 Jul (G. Menk); 1 migrant at Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary (*Okeechobee*) 31 Jul (T. Dean, B. Pranty).

NORTHERN SHOVELER: 2 at Merritt Island N.W.R. through the season (*vide* P. Small and F.B.R.).

GADWALL: 1 at Merritt Island N.W.R. through the season (B. Sicolo et al.).

LESSER SCAUP: 1 at McKay Bay impoundments 23 Jun (B. and M. Hoffman, R. Smith) was not seen again; 1 at Occidental W.M.A. 4 Jul through the season (J. Hintermister, D. Cimbaro).

- RUDDY DUCK: 6 at Occidental W.M.A. 14 Jul through the season, but evidence of breeding was not observed (B. Roberts, J. Hintermister).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 or 2 in S.E. Jacksonville in the first half of Jun may have attempted to nest locally (N. Wamer, P. Powell); the peak count at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary roost was 348 birds 27 Jul (R. Wooster).
- WHITE-TAILED KITE: 2 adults at A.P.A.F.R. (*Polk*) 21 Jun (T. Dean, C. Collins); 1 over U.S.-98 at the Istokpoga Canal (*Highlands*) 19 Jul (L. and P. Gray); 1 adult at the Swallow-tailed Kite roost at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 21 Jul (R. Wooster).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE: *ca.* 75 over Tram Road S.T.F. (*Leon*) 5 Jun (G. Menk).
- BALD EAGLE: 1113 young fledged from 725 successful nests in 876 active territories this year (S. Nesbitt).
- NORTHERN HARRIER: 1 female in *Okeechobee* 2 Jun (B. Carlton, J. Kitik, V. McKinney); 1 male flushed from the ground in native dry prairie at T.L.W.M.A. 15 Jul, and 1 female in the same area 5 Aug (both B. Pranty).
- SHORT-TAILED HAWK: 1 dark morph at Disney Wilderness Preserve (*Osceola* or *Polk*) 26 Jun (T. Palmer); 1 light morph juvenile near its nest near Kenansville (*Osceola*) 14 Jul (S. Backes, M. Wilkinson); 1 dark morph at A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) 25 Jul (T. Dean, B. Pranty).
- PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 adult at Bienville Plantation (*Hamilton*) 27 Jul (M. Dolan).
- CHUKAR: 1 at Shady Hills (*Pasco*) 9 Jun (D. Robinson) was the second county report.
- AMERICAN COOT: *ca.* 72 at Lake Jackson 11 Jul - the species is not known to breed in *Leon* (G. Menk); 1 adult and 4 chicks at Wekiwa Springs S.P. (*Orange*) 30 Jul (P. Small).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: 2 in "full basic plumage" at Content Key (*Monroe*) 7 Jul (P. Hess).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER: 12 at Huguenot City Park, Jacksonville 6 Jul (N. Wamer); 18 at T.A.P. 15 Jul (L. Malo, D. Shelley, C. DuToit).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT: 1 at Dog Island (*Franklin*) 23 Jul (D. Evered).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS: 2 at T.A.P. 2 Jul (L. Malo, D. Shelley, C. DuToit).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 at Hague Dairy (*Alachua*) 20 Jul (M. Manetz, R. Rowan); 1 at T.L.W.M.A. 29 Jul (B. Pranty, D. Perkins).
- WILLET: 1 at Springhill Road S.T.F. (*Leon*) 15 Jul (G. Menk).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER: 2 northbound migrants at Springhill Road S.T.F. 5 Jun (G. Menk); 1 southbound migrant at Occidental W.M.A. 14 Jul (B. Roberts); 2 at T.A.P. 15 Jul (L. Malo, D. Shelley, C. DuToit).
- MARbled GODWIT: 1 at St. Marks N.W.R. 2 Jun (D. and S. Jue) and 7 Jun (L. McCullagh); 2 at Bald Point (*Franklin*) 23 Jun (E. White, M. Hill); up to 20 summered at Hillsborough Bay (*Hillsborough*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).
- RUDDY TURNSTONE: 4 at T.A.P. 2 Jul (L. Malo, D. Shelley, C. DuToit).
- RED KNOT: 1 at Occidental W.M.A. 29 Jul (M. Manetz, H. Adams).
- SANDERLING: 4 (1 in breeding plumage) at St. George Island (*Franklin*) 9 Jun (D. and S. Jue).
- LEAST SANDPIPER: 1 at Timberlake (*Okaloosa*) 8 Jul (D. Ware); 5 at Huguenot City Park 14 Jul (B. Roberts); 2 at Occidental W.M.A. 14 Jul (B. Roberts); *ca.* 200 at Springhill S.T.F. 15 Jul (G. Menk).
- STILT SANDPIPER: 5 at Springhill Road S.T.F. 15 Jul (G. Menk).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: a flock of 10 molting into winter plumage off Marathon (*Monroe*) 3 Jul (P. Hess).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 1 at Cape San Blas (*Gulf*) 20 Jul and 3 Aug (both J. Stevenson).
- COMMON SNIPE: 1 that called when flushed at T.L.W.M.A. 27 Jun (B. Pranty) was a rare summer report.

- LAUGHING GULL: "thousands of young birds" observed at the Huguenot City Park colony (*vide* P. Powell).
- GULL-BILLED TERN: 2 pairs nesting on a rooftop in Panama City 1 Jul (G. Sprandel) was the first *Bay* breeding report (S&A 1994:288), and the second rooftop nesting report (*see* Coburn 1996. *Florida Field Nat.* 24:76-77); 2 that courted over Alafia Bank 3 Jun may have nested locally (R. Paul).
- CASPIAN TERN: 93 pairs nested at Tampa Bay (*Hillsborough*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 4 nests at the Apalachicola River mouth (*Franklin*) was a new site (*vide* J. Gore).
- ROYAL TERN: 2225 nests at 2 sites in *Pinellas* and *Manatee* (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).
- SANDWICH TERN: 445 nests at 2 sites in *Pinellas* and *Manatee* (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).
- COMMON TERN: 3 in breeding plumage at St. George Island, an occasional breeding site, 9 Jun (D. and S. Jue); 1 at Huguenot City Park 30 Jun (R. Clark); 60 at Hillsborough Bay 9 Jul (R. Paul).
- FORSTER'S TERN: 2 at Newnans Lake (*Alachua*) 3-24 Jul (R. Rowan, M. Manetz); 2 juveniles ("light buff on back and wings") at Gulf Breeze (*Santa Rosa*) 14 Jul were thought to be the first regional (and state?) report in this plumage (B. Duncan).
- LEAST TERN: *ca.* 500 nests on a Florida Power Corp. rooftop in St. Petersburg (*Pinellas*) fledged *ca.* 250 young (D. Voigts); 330 unsuccessful nests off Marco Island (T. Below); 35 nests at Three Rooker Bar (*Pinellas*) (A. Schnapf, N. Douglass); *ca.* 50 nests at Fort Matanzas National Monument (*St. Johns*), few nests, probably none successful, at Huguenot City Park, and no successful nests at Guana River S.P. and Anastasia S.R.A (*St. Johns*) this season (*vide* P. Powell).
- BLACK TERN: 1 in breeding plumage at Newnans Lake 3 Jul (R. Rowan); 10,000 at Santa Rosa Island 22 Jul (E. Case); 1 at Banana Lake (*Polk*) 27 Jul (T. Palmer).
- BLACK SKIMMER: 99 successful nests at a new sandbar off Marco Island (T. Below); 320 nests in Tampa Bay (*Hillsborough*) (R. Paul, A. Schnapf); 210 nests at Three Rooker Bar (A. Schnapf, N. Douglass).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: first nesting reported at the University of South Tampa, Tampa (*Hillsborough*) in late Jul-early Aug (G. Woolfenden).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 3 at Dog Island 16-23 Jun (D. Evered).
- ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET: the pair at Cedar Key (*Levy*) nested successfully this season, producing 2 young. The population is now 5 birds (D. Henderson).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL: singles at Little-Big Econ State Forest (*Seminole*) 13 Jul (B. Sicolo) and Rock Springs Run State Reserve (*Orange*) 23 Jul (P. Small, E. Egensteiner, T. Williams) and 30 Jul (B. Emanuel).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 "immature" at Springhill Road S.T.F. 26 Jul (*vide* H. Horne).
- CLIFF SWALLOW: 1 at Horseshoe Beach (*Dixie*) 21 Jun (D. Evered); 1 at Tram Road S.T.F. 23 Jul (H. Horne); 1 at Springhill Road S.T.F. 26 Jul (H. Horne).
- BARN SWALLOW: 4 nests under 1-75 (*Manatee*) 21 Jun (R. Smith); 3 nests under the Bee-line Expressway over the St. Johns River (*Orange* and *Brevard*) 20 Jul (K. Fisher, P. Small); 100+ migrants at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 31 Jul (R. Wooster).
- GRAY CATBIRD: 1 or 2 in *Alachua* late May-19 Jul, but no singing or other evidence of breeding was observed (R. Robinson).
- HILL MYNA: 1 pair nested again in Stuart (*Martin*) and apparently produced 1 fledgling (E. Hess).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO: 1 at Honeymoon Island S.R.A. 11 Jun, possibly the last site in *Pinellas* that still supports this species (A. and R. Smith); 2 at Town Islands (*Sarasota*) 14 Jun and 3 Jul (R. Paul, A. Schnapf).
- YELLOW WARBLER: 1 at Occidental W.M.A. 29 Jul (J. Hintermister).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: 1 at Emerald Marsh Conservation Area (*Lake*) 22 Jun (*vide* J. Marburger) was only the second summer report (S&A 1994:559), but details were not provided.

- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 migrant at A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) 18 Jul (N. Hamel).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER: 4 near the Frankland Causeway (*Pinellas*) 5 Jun (R. Paul, S. Cooper); 4 pairs in *Sarasota* 14 Jun (A. Schnapf, B. Lamoureux); only 1 singing male located in Fort DeSoto C.P. (*Pinellas*) in Jun, but Brown-headed Cowbirds were found easily on every visit (R. Smith, M. Wilkinson); single migrants at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve (*Alachua*) 17 Jul (M. Manetz) and A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) 22 Jul (N. Hamel).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: 1 at Turkey Creek Sanctuary (*Brevard*) 19 Jul (B. Cooper); 1 at Tosohatchee State Reserve (*Orange*) 20 Jul (K. Fisher, P. Small); 1 at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve 20 Jul (M. Manetz).
- AMERICAN REDSTART: 2 males at Aripeka (*Hernando*) 2 Jun (R. Smith); 1 singing male at the Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa 17 Jun (B. and M. Hoffman); 1 at A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) 27 Jul (L. Riopelle); 1 N. of High Springs (*Columbia*) 29 Jul (M. Manetz); 1 at Saddle Creek C.P. (*Polk*) 31 Jul (P. Fellers).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1 migrant at Saddle Creek C.P. 31 Jul (P. Fellers).
- OVENBIRD: 1 at Saddle Creek C.P. 31 Jul (P. Fellers).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: 1 at F.S.U. Dairy (*Leon*) 5 Jul (G. Menk); 1 at Tosohatchee State Reserve 20 Jul (L. Malo); 1 in *Alachua* 20 Jul (M. Manetz, D. Cimbaro); 2 at Saddle Creek C.P. 26 Jul (P. Fellers).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: at least 1 pair probably bred at Paynes Prairie State Preserve this season (J. Morris, M. Manetz).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1 male at Crawfordville (*Wakulla*) 3 Jun (G. Weymouth).
- PAINTED BUNTING: 3 singing males at T.A.P. 11 Jun, and a juvenile there 2 Jul (L. Malo, D. Shelley, C. DuToit).
- FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 13 nests found this season at A.P.A.F.R. (*Highlands*) and T. L. W.M.A. included one clutch many weeks later than the latest egg date of 22 Jun in S&A (1994:639) (M. Scheuerell, B. Pranty, T. Dean, note by D. Perkins et al. in prep.).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW: 1 singing at Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary 5 Jun (C. Collins) and 18 Jun (M. Scheuerell, B. Pranty [photos] et al., note in press to *Fla. Field Nat.*) was the first summer report in Florida.
- SHINY COWBIRD: 1 "pair" at Jacksonville 1 Jun-25 Jul (R. Clark); 2 at Cedar Key through the season (D. Henderson).
- HOUSE FINCH: adults feeding young at 2 feeders in *Bay* 9-23 Jun (G. Carter, A. Parker) established the first breeding reports for the county (*vide* T. Menart).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: 1 remained at a S. Jacksonville feeder until 2 Jul (B. Rhodes).
- PIN-TAILED WHYDAH: 1 adult male at Boca Chica Key (*Monroe*) 21 Jun (B. Dusek, H. Howitt).

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David Voigts, Noel Wamer, Don Ware, Jim Weimer, Rick West, George Weymouth, Eddie White, Margie Wilkinson, T. Williams, Glen Woolfenden, and Robbie Wooster.

Fall 1995 report not published previously: Royal Tern: 1 at Lake Lafayette (*Leon*) 15 Sep (Jay LaVia).

Winter 1995-1996 report not published previously: Red-throated Loon: 1 at Bayport Park 23 Dec (Dave Goodwin, Charlie Buhrman, Erik Haney, and Dave Bowman) was the first *Hernando* report (S&A 1994:16).

Spring 1996 reports not published previously: Leach's Storm-Petrel: 1 picked up on the beach in S. Duval 31 May (*vide* Peggy Powell, specimen to Florida Museum of Natural History); Magnificent Frigatebird: 1 over Guana River S.P. (*St. Johns*) 25 May (Noel Wamer); Western Tanager: 1 adult male at Orange Park (*Clay*) 24 Apr (Lenore McCullagh).

Report prepared by **Bill Pranty**, state compiler (8515 Village Mill Row, Bayonet Point, Florida 34667; phone 813-862-4556). Other committee members are **Linda Cooper** (115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Florida 33884), **Gail Menk** (2725 Peachtree Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32304), and **Peggy Powell** (2965 Forest Circle, Jacksonville, Florida 32257).