

Georgia (*vide* TM). The Shiny Cowbird continues to be found each year somewhere in the Region. One—two were present at Wilmington, NC in January and February (KK, m.ob.). The rare N. “Bullock’s” Oriole was found twice in North Carolina. A female was in Richlands Dec. 21–27 (J&NM) and another of the same bird was at a Wilmington feeder Jan. 4 (GM).

The winter of 1993–1994 saw good numbers of winter finches. After several years of low totals and complete absences in some areas, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported. The best total for Purple Finch was >200 in Blythewood, SC all winter (BW). One of the rarer birds, a ♀ White-winged Crossbill frequented a Chapel Hill, NC feeder Feb. 10–13 (CH, m.ob.). Surprisingly, no Red Crossbills were reported. Common Redpolls made news with one banded at Southern Shores, NC Jan. 14–16 (DL, *vide* SD), and singles at Hatteras, NC Dec. 27 (HA *et al.*); near Spartanburg, SC Jan. 7 (JWr, ST); near Columbia, SC Jan. 17 & 23 (*vide* PW); near Hopkins, Richland, SC Jan. 22 (GSo, *vide* RC), and at Simpsonville, SC Feb. 11 (PW). This amazing number of reports was to be expected since redpolls had a major flight in states to the north. Finally, many observers happily reported the reappearance of Evening Grosbeaks. They were found in all 3 states, with flocks of >50 birds in some areas.

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Florida Region

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The severe winter of 1993–1994 on the Eastern seaboard did not push extraordinary numbers of wintering birds into Florida. For example, Cedar Waxwings were notably absent from Jacksonville and the rest of the state; large flocks of American Robins were not reported, and few penetrated to southern Florida. Annette Stedman reported that the last robin was seen on Casey Key (Sarasota County) November 8—none was banded there the entire season for the first time in 17 years. Instead of a finch winter, it was a warbler winter, with unusual reports submitted for 15 warbler species lingering or being out-of-place. The report of a western vagrant, Townsend Warbler, fits in with reports of Western Tanager, Lark Sparrow, and a number of western fly-catcher species, adding up to a better-than-average winter for western strays.

Abbreviations: A.P.A.F.R. (*Avon Park Air Force Range, Highlands*); C.P. (*County Park*); E.N.P. (*Everglades National Park*); P.C.P.P



(Polk County phosphate ponds); S.C.P. (*Saddle Creek Park, Polk*); S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla*); S.R.A. (*State Recreation Area*); S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*).

Loons to Ducks

A Red-throated Loon at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* Dec. 31 (JDu, SU) is almost an annual event, but one in the Indian R., Jan. 5 (IW) was a rarity. A wintering Com. Loon raft near Dog I., *Franklin* exceeded 450 by Dec. 19 (DE, LM), more than double last year's total. Pied-billed Grebe numbers were up, good news for a species of concern in the east: 527 on the Lakeland CBC Dec. 18, the count's highest-ever total (*vide* PJJF); 893 on the Dec. 20 Merritt Island CBC, *Brevard* (*vide* DStu); and at least 200 in Myakka River S.P., *Sarasota* Dec. 31–Feb. 6 (L&RS *et al.*). Eared Grebes increased with seven in Canaveral National Seashore, *Brevard* Dec. 6–Feb. 5 (WB *et al.*); six in the P.C.P.P., Dec. 11 (PJE, DF); three–six in Occidental W.M.A., *Hamilton* Dec. 18+ (†RR, MM), and one Dec. 19 in *Broward* (JLB). An imm. Brown Booby, rare along the central pen., was found in Sebastian Inlet, *Brevard* or *Indian R.*, Feb. 6 (GBE). Northern Gannet reached the s. pen. in good numbers with 200 off the *Palm Beach* coast Dec. 1 (EDB) and 113 off *Dade* Dec. 18 (JSi, AMC, RK). An Am. White Pelican, common farther south, appeared at L. Wauberg Dec. 15 and visited other parts of the county through January for only the 2nd *Alachua* record (BPM). A rare inland appearance was reported for a Brown Pelican on L. Jon, *Polk* Dec. 15 (AF), another on the Econlockhatchee CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* LKM), and eight on L. Arbuckle, *Polk* Jan. 11–13 (RBa *et al.*). No Wood Storks attempted to breed in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, *Collier* this year, even though water levels were sufficiently high (THB). The declining White Ibis had a peak count of 150 Jan. 30 in the lower Keys where usually uncommon (JAO). Ten Greater Flamingos at Christian Pt., *Monroe* Jan. 2 were expected (JWeb, ES), but not the flamingo sp. reported in Merritt Island N.W.R., Dec. 20 (HH).

The 141 Black-Bellied Whistling-Ducks recorded on the Sarasota CBC Dec. 18 indicates the continuing prosperity of this species in its usual wintering area (*vide* JP). Two imm. white-morph Snow Geese reached Miami Jan. 28 (PWS, SS), and blue- and white-morphs were also reported in *Pinellas*, *Duval*, *Hernando*, and *Sarasota*.

A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was found in Myakka River S.P., *Sarasota* Jan. 28 (JKap), another was located among 1000 Blue-winged Teal on L. Okeechobee s. of the

Harney Pond Canal, *Glades* Feb. 11 (LR) and a hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal remained in Merritt Island N.W.R. throughout the period (m.ob.). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon were seen in Merritt Island N.W.R., Feb. 13 (LSA, BHA, BPa), where one had been reported Jan. 18. Oldsquaw were only reported in n. Florida: one at Wards Bank, *Duval* Dec. 12 (JWh); six off S.M.N.W.R., Dec. 17 (JSt) and one–two there later in the season. Only 2 scoter species were reported: 25 Blacks off Amelia I., *Nassau* Dec. 10 (EC) and four males inland on L. Placid, *Highlands* Dec. 27 (WH, PWS). A Surf at Boynton Beach, *Palm Beach* Dec. 2 was a good find for s. Florida (HPL, GSH), and two more were off Alligator Pt., Jan. 1 (NW, TW). A ♂ Com. Goldeneye seen on Honeymoon Island S.R.A. Jan. 22 was a rarity for *Pinellas* (L&RS). A high inland count of 14 Buffleheads was reported from the P.C.P.P., Feb. 5 (PT, CG). The two ♂ Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Jackson Jan. 4 (GMen) may have been late migrants. The 40 Ruddy Ducks that wintered on Orlando's L. Adair was an increase over recent years, but down from previous winter reports at nearby L. Davis; the 65 on the Lakeland CBC Dec. 18 was that count's lowest-ever number, down from over 100,000 birds 20–25 years ago (*vide* PJJF).

Kites to Cranes

White-tailed Kites, always a good find, were spread out with one along the Sawgrass Expressway, *Broward* Dec. 28 (PWS, SS), and two each at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Jan. 2 (BHH), s. *Brevard* Dec. 30–Jan. 16 (B&SH), and near the Scarborough Ranch, *Highlands* Dec. 27 (WB *et al.*). The 61 Snail Kites w. of W. Palm Beach Dec. 28 was a great number (EDB), and 17 at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Feb. 8 (FJB) were acting as though they were about to nest, the first time in this area in years. High water was probably the reason. Slightly farther north a female was on L. June, *Highlands* Jan. 14 “for a week at least” (*vide* TK) and Feb. 17 (B&MK). Thirteen Sharp-shinned Hawks seen in a *Polk* CBC Dec. 18 was an unusually high total for a species thought to be declining in the east (*vide* PJJF). A kettle of 13 late Broad-winged Hawks was over Key West Dec. 2 (JAO), and one remained until Jan. 8 in Babson Park, *Polk* (PJJF). Two dark-morph Short-tailed Hawks were in Key West throughout the period (JAO), five dark-morphs were in *Dade* Jan. 2 (AMC *et al.*) and one light-morph was in Hollywood, *Broward* Dec. 19. As northward migration began a light-morph was again seen in Hollywood Jan. 28, and single dark-morphs passed there daily Jan. 25–27 and Feb. 10 (JDiP, JLB); slightly to the north, a

Short-tailed e. of Loxahatchee N.W.R., Jan 16 was the vanguard of a good movement during February (FJB). One arrived in Paynes Prairie Feb. 27 (JWei) for only the 2nd *Alachua* report. Several winter Swainson's Hawks were reported: The first Dec. 2 over Key West was migrating (JAO), others included a dark-morph in *Dade* Jan. 2 (AMC *et al.*), a “rather dark” immature over Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., *Dade* Jan 26 (PWS, SS), and an adult in n.w. *Dade* Feb. 7 (PWS), and an imm. light-morph in Highlands Jan. 24 (VM). King Rails often go unnoticed, but at least 15 were counted along a one mi walk at Shark Valley, E.N.P., *Dade* Feb. 12 ((PWS, SS). A total of 154 Sandhill Cranes in a dusk roost in Crews L., Dec. 22 (PY, DR, *et al.*) was a high number for w. *Pasco*; one flying over Black Hammock I., *Duval* Dec. 19 (SBu) was significant because locally rare. The 32 Sandhills flying N, very high over Archbold Biological Station, *Highlands* Feb. 10 (BPr), were presumably migrants.

Plovers to Murrelets

Counts of 35 Semipalmated Plover inland at the P.C.P.P., Dec. 11 (PJJF, DF) and 400 on Shell Key, *Pinellas* Dec. 12 (PB) were both high. Two Black-necked Stilts were seen Dec. 17 over Rookery Bay Sanctuary, *Collier* (THB, JDou); eight wintered in Sawgrass Lake C.P., *Pinellas* (RS *et al.*); and three were n. of Key Largo Jan. 21 (JAO). A Solitary Sandpiper was found on the Lakeland CBC Dec. 18 in the same location as previous years (†B&LC). The 16 Marbled Godwits in S.M.N.W.R. through Dec. 22 (JR) may be part of the 61 found at the mouth of Carrabelle R., *Franklin* Jan. 31 (DE, LM); that flock appeared to move around in St. George Sound. Red Knots peaked at 2000 on Shell Key, *Pinellas* Dec 12 (PB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Dec. 17 and nearby Dec 31 and Jan. 4 (FJB) was a rare wintering individual. Up to five Purple Sandpipers wintered in Fort Clinch S.P., *Nassau* throughout the period (LC, m.ob.); one went farther south to Merritt Island N.W.R., Jan 21 (SR, B. Smith). A Curlew Sandpiper reported in the fall at Fort Myers Beach, *Lee* remained through the winter (*vide* DC). Stilt Sandpipers were reported several times two on L. Pasadena, *Pasco* Dec. 22 (DR, BPr, D&GW), two at LT Ranch w. of Myakka S.P., *Sarasota* Jan. 14 (RLF), and early migrants (?) at Loxahatchee N.W.R., including one Feb. 7 and four Feb. 14 (FJB). The highest number of Long-billed Dowitchers reported was 247 in P.C.P.P., Jan. 9 (PJE, JN, CN); they were also reported in Merritt Island N.W.R., S.M.N.W.R., *Dade*, and *Sarasota*.

Sixty-two migrating jaegers were seen off the *Palm Beach* coast Dec. 1 (HPL, GSH). Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in Oakland Park Dec. 19 (JLB *et al.*); also one at Miami Beach Dec. 18 (JG), two in *Collier* Jan. 2 (THB, Fitch), one in *Hillsborough* Jan. 3 (LSA, MW), one in Siesta Beach, *Lee* Jan. 18 (JP), and one at Dog I., *Franklin* Jan. 28 (KN, DE, LM, JC). A Glaucous Gull at Fort Clinch S.P., Dec. 23 (SBu, BCh) was the only white-winged gull reported. Great Black-backed Gulls are rare on the Gulf coast, but two (one adult, one second-year bird) wintered at the Sunshine Skyway bridge/Tierra Verde area, *Pinellas* throughout the period (LSA, BHA, *et al.*) and a first-year on Dog I., Jan. 28 was the first reported there (DE, LM, KN, JC). Two Gull-billed Terns in Myakka River S.P. (LSA, BHA) may have been the same two birds that have wintered there in previous years. An imm. Com. Tern was identified off Dog I., Dec. 29 (DE, LM). The highest Forster's Tern count was 950 in *Polk* Jan. 9 (PJF, JN, CN) and the highest Black Skimmer count 130 at Belle Glade campground, *Palm Beach* Feb. 25 (JLB, EHR). A Dovekie was seen Dec. 4 in Indian R. off Wabasso, *Indian R.* (BK); and a Marbled Murrelet (Siberian subspecies) was found dead at Ft. Desoto C.P., *Pinellas* for the 2nd state record (KC, *University Central Florida).

Pigeon to Sapsucker

The sight of 40 White-crowned Pigeons perched on the wires at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6 on the Keys (JAO) was eclipsed by *ca.* 200 feeding on Pouter palm nuts in s.w. E.N.P., *Monroe* Jan. 7 (PWS, SS). European Collared-Doves continued their increase. The 257 on the Naples CBC Jan. 2 was a four-fold increase over the 1992 count (THB); 220 on the Lakeland CBC Dec. 18 was triple 1992 (*fide* PJF); 34 were in 2 locations on the *Citrus* CBC Dec. 28, where only two were reported in 1990. They were also reported in *Okeechobee* Dec. 26 (PWS, SS), in *Highlands* Jan. 13 (FL), and in *Franklin* through the period (DE, LM). The third Groove-billed Ani known to occur in *Palm Beach* stayed w. of Delray Jan. 15+ (BHH *et al.*).

A Great Horned Owl pair raised two young from an old Fish Crow nest in Fort DeSoto C.P., *Pinellas* January–February, the first successful nesting by the species in the park. Among the prey items fed to the chicks were Snowy Egret, Merlin, and Black Skimmer (LSA *et al.*); prey items recovered from below a nest near Archbold Biological Station in January–February included remains of a Red-tailed Hawk and Barn Owl (GW *et al.*). Lesser Nighthawks reports included two at Eco Pond, E.N.P., *Monroe* Jan.

2 (WR, m.ob) and five there Jan. 5 (JG); the species apparently wintered at that locale December–mid-February. Wintering Lesser Nighthawks have been reported before, but never documented. Two Com. Nighthawks were feeding in the lights over Universal Studios, Orlando Jan. 7 (RLF), and one was calling over Arcadia, *DeSoto* Jan. 10 (JDoz). A Chuck-will's-widow was seen at close range at Panther Pt., *Polk* Dec. 18 (†PJF, C&DF), and a female was banded on Dog I., Feb. 15 (DE, LM). Regular surveys at Alligator Pt. resulted in a high count of seven Whip-poor-wills Feb. 17 and one in full song Feb. 20 (JDoz). Vaux's Swifts were reported again in *Alachua*: one at Newnan's L., Dec. 19 (RN, LK), and two at L. Kana-paha Jan. 16 (JH).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird remained to be counted on the S. Brevard CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* JT). An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird remained in Dade City, *Pasco* Dec. 4–Jan. 4+ (ph. DW to S.R.C.), and an imm. male came to a Jacksonville feeder Jan. 2+ (PP). An imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was feeding on *Tecomaria capensis* (cape-honeysuckle) in Melrose, *Alachua* Dec. 24–Jan. 4 (PR, J&BB), and an ad. male visited a feeder in s. Jacksonville Jan. 17+ (PP). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Key West Feb. 20 were unusual (JAO).

Flycatchers to Vireos

It was an exceptional season for flycatchers, especially *Myiarchus* and *Tyrannus*. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher remained from the fall season until Dec. 17 at the Orlando Sewage Treatment Plant (SW *et al.*). The three that wintered at S.M.N.W.R. were ad. and imm. males and an ad. female (v.o.). Another in s. Leon was last seen Feb. 3 (GMen). A *Myiarchus*—probably Ash-throated—flycatcher at Imeson Industrial Park, Jacksonville Dec. 19 (†SBu) was reported at the same location as one in 1987; it was a one-day affair. Two Ash-throateds, first found in early January, overwintered at Honeymoon Island S.R.A. (†vid., ph. BA to S.R.C., LA *et al.*). Neither the Great-crested Flycatcher on Jungle Trail, *Indian R.* Jan. 3 (IW) nor the Brown-crested Flycatcher at E.N.P. Research Center Feb. 12 (SK) were reported after their discoveries. Another Great-crested was well n. of its typical winter range on the Crystal R. CBC, *Citrus* 28 Dec. (BW). The 13 W. Kingbirds w. of Florida City Jan. 29 (PWS, SS) was an unusually large number. There were 2 reports of E. Kingbirds, a species unverified in the state in winter. Both were on CBCs: Merritt I., Dec. 21 (*fide* DStu) and L. Wales Jan. 2. (BG). A late Gray Kingbird was seen in w. Palm Beach Dec. 12 (FJB), and another (or the same) was 10 mi away at Canal Pt., *Palm Beach* Jan. 29 (CK *et al.*) A rare

Couch's Kingbird near Loxahatchee N.W.R., Dec. 18 was identified by call but not recorded, so should be relegated to a bird in the Tropical Kingbird complex (A&PW, BHH *et al.*). The northernmost of the 7 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers reports were two that overwintered at Ruskin, *Hillsborough* (SBA, LSA *et al.*).

A rare wintering Horned Lark, photographed in November, was relocated Dec. 20–27 on the NASA Causeway, *Brevard* (WF *et al.*). Arriving Purple Martins were noted at Placid Lakes, *Highlands*, where there were four males Jan. 24 (DSto). The more than 20 Cave Swallows in Cutler Ridge, *Dade* Jan. 25 (PWS, SS) makes one wonder whether this species will soon become a permanent resident, as its brethren have in s. Texas. The Am. Crow at Crocodile Lakes N.W.R., *Monroe* Feb. 2 (PWS, SS) was a rarity for the Keys. An impressive 15,000 Fish Crows were found at a roost in *Polk* Dec. 4 (PJF), and another 3300 roosted at Rookery Bay Sanctuary Jan. 1 (THB), where roosting was first noted in 1987. Seven Fish Crows seen and heard on the Coot Bay CBC, E.N.P., Jan. 2 (GMey, MS) were uncommon vagrants. The only Brown Creeper reported was in Gainesville Dec. 19 (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglets were found s. of their typical winter range: two were in *Brevard* in December (DStu) and another was in Orange Jan. 15 (LKM). An early migratory movement of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was noted on Dog I., Feb. 21 (DE, LM). A Bell's Vireo, rare in Florida, was seen Dec. 27 at Parker I., *Highlands* (†WH, †PWS).

Warblers to Siskins

It may have been a good winter for flycatchers in the Region, but it was an exceptional winter for warblers. A remarkable 15 unusual species were reported. A Blue-winged Warbler banded at Casey Key Dec. 16 (AS) was probably the first verified record for the winter. Another was seen near Flamingo Jan. 24–25 (C&DF). Also considered rare at this season was a Tennessee Warbler seen at A.P.A.F.R., Dec. 21 (JFitz). Migrating Parula Warblers were widely detected in February. Seven were singing at S.C.P., Feb. 7 (PJF), an exhausted male was found at Dog I., *Franklin* Feb. 10 (DE, LM), and one was singing in s. Leon Feb. 20 (GMen). A ♀ Yellow Warbler lingered late at Paynes Prairie, *Alachua* Dec. 9 (BPM), and another was seen at Merritt Island N.W.R., Jan. 4 (RLF). Three Magnolia Warblers were reported, the northernmost on the *Highlands* CBC Dec. 27 (PWS, WH). A Black-throated Green Warbler was seen late at Talbot Islands S.P., *Duval* Dec. 26 (NW). There were several overwintering at tradi-

tional sites in the s. pen. (PWS, SS), where observers considered them to be "apparently more numerous and widespread than Am. Redstart." Unprecedented was an overwintering Townsend's Warbler in Sawgrass Lake C.P., first found Dec. 4 (†LSA to S.R.C., BHA *et al.*). Two late Prairie Warblers were at Hugenot Park, *Duval* Dec. 12 (JWh). The northernmost report of Am. Redstart was one on the S. Brevard CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* JT). There were 2 reports each of Worm-eating Warbler and N. Waterthrush from the s. and central pen. All were singles, except the report of three of the latter species at A.P.A.F.R., Dec. 21 (JFitz). A Louisiana Waterthrush in Hillsborough River S.P. in late January (RM) was probably a wintering bird, but another in Turkey Cr Sanctuary, *Brevard* Feb. 23 (B&SH) may have been an early migrant. A rarity in the Tallahassee area was a Wilson's Warbler Dec. 13–18 (NW, TW). A Yellow-breasted Chat seen on the Econlockhatchee CBC, probably *Seminole*, Jan. 2 (*fide* LKM) and another s. of Jena, *Dixie* Feb. 26 (RS) were n. of the species' normal winter limits. A Bananaquit was at John Lloyd S.P., *Broward* Dec. 19 (JDiP *et al.*), another was at Lake Worth Feb. 4 (A&PW). Summer Tanagers were reported at 4 locations in the central pen., the northernmost was a male in Gainesville in early January (JKau). An imm. ♂ W. Tanager fed on apples at Jacksonville feeder Jan. 29+ (RD). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Delray Beach Dec. 5 (BHH). The most interesting of the 6 Blue Grosbeaks reports were a northerly one at Cedar Key Feb. 26 (RR) and a peak of 11 at the Belle Glade Marina Jan. 22 (HPL, GSH). The northernmost Indigo Buntings were two seen on the S. Brevard CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* JT), while the northernmost Painted reported was a female at Ft. George I., *Duval* Dec. 26 (JH). The Clay-colored Sparrow in the Apalachicola N.F., *Liberty* Dec. 5 (ME) was a local rarity. Six Clay-colored in Lake Wales Jan. 30 (PT, CG) was a highest-ever count from *Polk*. Three Lark Sparrows were reported, all singles: Placid Lakes Airstrip, Highlands (WH, PWS), Alligator Pt., Franklin (JDoz), and an overwintering bird s. of Tallahassee (GMen). The count of 48 Sharp-tailed Sparrows on the Coot Bay CBC Jan. 2 (JG *et al.*) was very high for the s. pen. Two rare LeConte's Sparrows overwintered at the Imeson Industrial Park (MD *et al.*), and one was seen at S.M.N.W.R., Jan. 8 (NW). A remarkable 53 White-crowned Sparrows were counted at L. Wales Jan. 30 (PT, CG). Southerly was a Dark-eyed Junco that wintered in Lutz, *Hillsborough* (DG), and a Rusty Blackbird at Sawgrass Lake C.P., Dec. 12 (LA, DN). Brewer's Black-

birds were reported from 5 locations in the n. pen. and Panhandle (v.o.). The wintering Shiny Cowbirds at the Briggs Nature Center, *Collier* peaked at 20 Jan. 11 (RBl). Three Bronzed Cowbird reports were received from the central pen. (v.o.). Orchard Orioles overwintered again at the Belle Glade Marina, where as many as 3 different individuals were reported (HPL, GSH). About 25 N. Orioles were visiting a feeder in Jacksonville at the end of the period (RD), as was an estimated 10 in Tallahassee (NW). Observers identified one light-bellied individual at the former location and as many as three at the latter as "Bullock's." However, all of these were females, which makes identification problematic. House Finches continue to expand, with new location reports from L. Wales (CG) and Jacksonville (RD). The only Pine Siskins were three reported in Altamonte Springs, *Seminole* Jan. 23 (GBr).

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