

Florida



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It was a good season for vagrants, with 11 reviewable rarities reported, among them Florida's first Northern Fulmar and the state's (and continent's) sixth Red-legged Honeycreeper, all six records of which have come in the past 25 months. Fallouts of Neotropical migrants were noted on 24 and 27 April.

Abbreviations/definitions: C.A. (Conservation Area); F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); N.S.R.A. (North Shore Recreation Area); UF (University of Florida at Gainesville [specimen collection]); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Good local counts of Common Loons were 12+ off Key Biscayne, *Miami-Dade* 7 Mar (RD) and 52 over Gainesville 4 Apr (AK); one in alternate plumage at Tallahassee 15–21 May (GM) was late. Providing the first record for Florida was the **Northern Fulmar** that beached at Satellite Beach, *Brevard* 19 Apr and died later (*UF 44664, *fide* TW). A good count of 100 Northern Gannets at St. George I., *Franklin* was made 5 May (JC). Brown Pelicans now are regular inland in the cen. peninsula, with 6 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr–1 May (HR). A Magnificent Frigatebird was inland to Gainesville 18 Apr (BCa). Ten American Bitterns were counted at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20 Mar (HR), while 2 at L. Jackson, *Leon* tarried through 8 May (MHi). Four Great White Herons were found out of range: 2 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Mar (HR) and singles at Melbourne Beach, *Brevard* in late Apr (AB) and St. George I. 30 May (JaD). An aberrant Cattle Egret, nearly entirely buff-colored, was found near Polk City, *Polk* 19 Apr (PF et al., ph. LC). An

imm. White-faced Ibis enlivened St. Marks N.W.R. 9–12 Apr (BR et al.); sightings of this species have become annual in recent years. Providing the first breeding report for Florida—and probably the New World—was an active Sacred Ibis nest at Loxahatchee N.W.R., *Palm Beach* 23 May (GH). Twenty-eight Roseate Spoonbills were at Polk phosphate mines 6 May (PF), while 3 others (probably nonbreeding birds) visited a rookery at Emerald Marsh C.A., *Lake* for four weeks through 18 May (PM).

The most interesting Black-bellied Whistling-Duck report was of 150 at L. Istokpoga, *Highlands* 30 May (MMc). Single Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Springhill Rd. W.T.P., *Leon* through 2 Mar (GM) and Gainesville through 25 May (PLa et al.). An active Canada Goose nest was found at Hudson, *Pasco* 31 Mar (KT), while a free-flying goose flew northward past Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 14 May (RD). A Northern Pintail lingered at Merritt Island N.W.R. through 29 May (TD), and the Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Gainesville remained through 9 Mar (PBu et al.). Photographed by a visiting birder and not reported until weeks afterward was a female **Masked Duck** at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 16 Mar, reportedly accompanied by a male (EH). There were 12,400 Ruddy Ducks on L. Apopka 20 Mar (HR).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Up to 6 Snail Kites frequented L. Tsala Apopka, *Citrus* 20 Apr–14 May (E&MS); a pair nested at L. Istokpoga 30 May (MMc). Perhaps representing a slight range extension, a pair of Mississippi Kites tended a nest at Apalachicola, *Franklin* 6 May (KM). Other Mississippi reports included 200+ over Tram Rd. W.T.P., *Leon* 6 May (EW), a migrant at Green Cay Wetlands, *Palm Beach* 7 May (BM), and 30 at the s. end of breeding range at Ocala 27 May+ (AL). Robinson tallied 165 Northern Harriers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 13 Mar. Two Cooper's Hawks fledged from a nest at w. Kendall, *Miami-Dade* in May (JBo). Five reports of Short-tailed Hawk were received, one each in *Highlands*, *Lake*, *Pasco*, *Seminole*, and *Volusia*. Boyd saw the Great Black-Hawk at Key Biscayne 23 Apr; it appeared to be of the race *urubitinga*, found mostly in n. South America and on Trinidad. (JBo). A Crested Caracara at s. Merritt I. 27 Apr was extralimital (BPa). Quite rare in *Pinellas*, an American Kestrel pair nested unsuccessfully at an electrical substation 23 Apr–14 May, then attempted nesting in a wooden pole 27 May+ (JF).

A pair of Limpkins with 5 young at L. Munson, *Leon* 17 Apr (*fide* MHi) was unusual so far north. American Golden-Plovers were found in small numbers in the

in se. *Leon* 16 Apr (RL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Irregular in Florida during spring, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was a notable find at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20 Apr (HR). Vermilion Flycatchers were recorded in five spots, the latest through 19 Mar, including a male at Blue Cypress C.A. 5 Mar (BPa) and 2 at Flatwoods Ranch, Odessa, *Pasco* 12 Mar (CS). Three Ash-throated Flycatchers remained at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 30 Mar (HR), with another was at Largo Central Nature Park, *Pinellas* 20 Apr (PBI). Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were heard at Key Largo 5 Mar (PBi, RU), with another at Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade* 13 Mar (RD) and 2 others at Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* 10 Apr (PBi). Single La Sagra's Flycatchers enlivened Dry Tortugas 26 May (MG et al.) and Birch S.P., Ft. Lauderdale 6–12 May (MB et al.). The high count of Western Kingbirds at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. was 17 on 16 Mar (HR). Early-arriving kingbirds were an Eastern at Avon Park A.F.R., *Highlands* 15 Mar (BPr, JBe) and single Grays at sw. *Miami-Dade* 16 Mar (RD) and Ft. De Soto 18–19 Mar (LA). In mid-*Pinellas*, where rare, an Eastern Kingbird pair attended a nest 23 May+ (JF). Good numbers of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were 10 at Cypress Isle, L. Istokpoga 8 Mar (MMc) and up to 7 in e. *Polk* through 12 Apr (JDu). A Thick-billed Vireo at Anne Kolb Nature Center, Hollywood, *Broward* 4–15 May (JWr et al., BM, ph.) established the 3rd firm North American record. Vireos at Ft. De Soto included single *Philadelphias* 19 Apr, 2 May, and 6 May (LA, BAh) and a Black-whiskered 2 Apr (LA).

Swallows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included an early Northern Rough-winged 13 Mar, 4 Banks 3 Apr, one Cliff 18 Mar, one Mexican Cave (subspecies *pallida*) 22 May, and 390 Barns 17 Apr (HR). Cave Swallows were widespread elsewhere: one Mexican was at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, *Palm Beach* 12 Mar (JBo); 3 Mexicans were at Everglades N.P. 13 Mar (MB); 7–8 Mexicans were at St. Marks N.W.R. 17–18 Mar (JaD, JC, JHo) and another there 3 Apr (TC); 4 were at Springhill Rd. W.T.P. 18 Mar (GM); and singles made it to Ft. De Soto 20 Mar (LA), Ochlockonee R., *Wakulla* 1 Apr (JaD), and Bald Pt. 3 Apr (JM). A Carolina Chickadee in mid-*Pinellas* 9 Mar (JF) was a rarity there, while another at A.D. Barnes Park 2–3 Apr (AH et al.) provided the first for *Miami-Dade*. Likewise extralimital were Tufted Titmice at s. Miami 5 Mar (FG), Deerfield Island Park, *Broward* 5 Mar (GC), and up to 2 at Barnes Park all season (JBo et al.). Holdovers from the winter's irruption, Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered at Eastpoint, *Franklin* through 4 Apr (SK) and St.

Marks N.W.R. through 7 Apr (TC). House Wrens tarried at Alachua, *Alachua* 11 May (SHo) and Ocala 12 May (PO). At Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., 36 Marsh Wrens were counted 26 Apr, and one remained until 1 May (HR); another lingered at Paynes Prairie through 12 May (RR). Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen last at Tallahassee 6 Mar (2 birds; D&SJ, DHa) and Gainesville 20 Mar (one; MMA). Late American Robins were 2 at Newnans L., *Alachua* 24 Apr (BCa) and singles at Casselberry, *Seminole* 25 Apr (AV) and Bald Pt. 29 May (JM). Hundreds of Gray Catbirds inundated Dry Tortugas 27 Apr (MG). Leftovers from the winter irruption, 176 Cedar Waxwings were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 15 May



The Dry Tortugas of Florida have visiting Black Noddies nearly every year, but adults are rarely seen. This adult Black (right) with a Brown Noddy was at Garden Key 13 April 2005. Photograph from videotape by Rick Wiltraut.

(HR); 2 others were at Alligator Pt. 26 May (SM), and 2 more remained in the Upper Keys through 30 May (AH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Six Blue-winged Warblers were seen at Melbourne Beach, *Brevard* 13 Apr (AB); the sole Golden-winged visited Ft. De Soto 2 May (LA et al.). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Dry Tortugas N.P. 1 May (MB et al.) was late. Four Nashville Warblers were reported, all singles. There were 52 Northern Parulas at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 18 Mar (HR). A male Audubon's Warbler at Dry Tortugas 7–8 Apr (AP, SHe, ph.) furnished only the 3rd verifiable Florida record. Meanwhile, a Myrtle Warbler at Mead Gardens 14 May (BAh) was quite tardy. One of the highlights of the season was the female **Kirtland's Warbler** that was a one-day wonder at Ft. De Soto 10 May (JHi et al., ph. LA); it established only the 3rd verifiable Florida record. Forty Black-poll Warblers were found at Ft. De Soto 7 May (PF et al.), while another at Cedar Key 30 May (DHe) was on the late side. Rarely seen in spring, single Cerulean Warblers enlivened Gainesville 9 Apr (SR) and Maitland Community Park, *Seminole* the same day (AV). Mead Gardens, *Orange* hosted 25 Black-and-white Warblers 23 Apr (AV). A Worm-eating Warbler at St. George I. 28 Mar (JC) was early, while 5 at

Maitland Community Park 9 Apr (AV) was a good inland count. Fifteen reports of Swainson's Warbler were received 1 Mar and 21 Mar–25 Apr, all singles except 2 at Ft. De Soto 16 Apr (BPr et al.), "several" at A.D. Barnes Park 17 Apr (GP et al.), and 4 at Birch S.P., Ft. Lauderdale 28 Apr (JP, MB et al.). Good counts of waterthrushes were 15 Northern at Birch S.P. 7 May (AV) and 34 Louisianas at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 Mar (HR). Eleven reports of Connecticut Warbler, all singles or duos, spanned 5–26 May; specimens were salvaged at Ft. Lauderdale 22 May and Pompano Beach 26 May (*vide* TW). A male Mourning Warbler, irregular in spring, paused in mid-*Pinellas* 2 May (JF, ph.). Unpredictable, Wilson's Warblers made appearances at Barnes Park 25 Mar–9 Apr (PBi, RU) and 17 Apr (GP), Bald Pt. 2 Apr (JM), and Sawgrass Recreation Area, *Broward* 5 Apr (SHe, AP). Three territorial Yellow-breasted Chats were at Crystal River Preserve S.P., *Citrus* 7 May (A&BH), and 6 were at Emeraldia Marsh C.A. 18 May (PM).

A male Red-legged Honeycreeper in mostly alternate plumage at Key West 21–22 Apr (CGo et al., ph. CW) provided the 6th U.S. report and 4th verifiable record, all since Mar 2003. Part of the 24 Apr fallout were 40+ Scarlet Tanagers at Cedar Key (JHi) and 20 at Ft. De Soto (PF). A male Western Tanager showed up at a Valrico, *Hillsborough* feeder 7–9 Mar (SB), while one that wintered at Tallahassee remained through 27 Apr (FR). The green-backed (Cuban?) Western Spindalis at Key West was seen through 27 Apr (JHa, MHe et al.). Clay-colored Sparrows lingered at Key Largo 5 Mar (PBi, RU), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 10 Apr (HR), and Tallahassee 18 Apr (DHo). Single Lark Sparrows graced Hague, *Alachua* 18 Mar (DL, PBu), n. *Hillsborough* 28 Mar (G&RK), and *Franklin* 26 Apr (JoD). Six Savannah Sparrows tarried at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. until 1 May (HR), and another was found at Lake Kissimmee S.P., *Polk* 7 May (TP). Three or 4 Lincoln's Sparrows were found: Paynes Prairie 6–12 Mar (JHi, SCo), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 10 & 20 Apr (HR), and Hague 16 Apr (MMA). Eighty Swamp Sparrows remained at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 20 Apr, and 9 remained there until at least 30 Apr (HR).

Robinson tallied 307 Northern Cardinals at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 14 Apr. Associated with the 24 Apr fallout were 60+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 20 Blue Grosbeaks, and 20 Indigo Buntings at Cedar Key (JHi); 32 other Indigos visited a Palatka, *Putnam* feeder 28 Apr (PBo, JoS). Dickcissels were widely reported—42 were at Dry Tortugas 27 Apr (MG)—but the big news came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., where 134 singing males and 9 females were counted 22 May (HR)



Scott's Oriole is rare anywhere in the Central Southern Region. Discovered in Montgomery County, Arkansas 15 February 2005, this state first was beautifully documented there 28 March. *Photograph by Charles Mills.*



This brilliant male Hooded Oriole—at least 2500 km beyond its range—was at Marsh Lake, Yukon 12 May 2005. It provided a first Yukon record and one of just a few for Canada. *Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.*



This Bullock's Oriole was present on 16 May 2005 at Hancock, Houghton County, Michigan, furnishing just the third record of this species for the state. *Photograph by Joe Kaplan.*



Two Whooper Swans splashed down on Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 18 May 2005 (here), and both remained through at least the 29th. Another Whooper was reported on the Susquehanna River in mid-May. *Photograph by Carl Reader.*



A Hooded Oriole present 6-10 (here 7) May 2005 at the photographer's residence in Clare County, Michigan provided a first state record. Interestingly, a Hooded Oriole was reported from Ontario within days of this bird's departure. *Photograph by Roger Carey.*



Although Scott's Oriole is now known to nest in extreme western Colorado, the state's first was a vagrant found by Van Remsen at Red Rocks Park near Denver in May 1975. Providing another rare Front Range record, this male Scott's was first noted at feeders in south Boulder during a blizzard 30 April 2005; it lingered for about a week (here 4 May). *Photograph by Bill Schmoker.*



Furnishing the third verifiable record for Florida was this female Kirtland's Warbler at Fort De Soto Park 10 May 2005; the other records were from 17 October 1999 and 27 April 1896! *Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.*