



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 447

Apalachicola, Florida 32329

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

11 March 2004

Ref. Mgr. _____
Asst. Mgr. _____
Biologist _____
Off. Asst. _____
File _____

Dear Participant,

The tenth annual Apalachicola Bay-SVNWR Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was a great success. It hardly seems like we got this thing rolling ten years ago. Many of our participants have been faithful and participated every year. Each year we get some new comers and lose some valued participants, but manage to have over 20 folks to work hard and get the job done. We ended up with a total of 125 species of birds this year. The warm winter really kept birds up north this year and 125 is a great number under these circumstances.

Once again each territory contributed significantly to the count by documenting the only occurrence or largest numbers for a particular species. Our cumulative efforts made the count great again this year. We had fewer rare birds this year. I appreciate everyone filling out the unusual bird reports. I know it's a hassle, but it lends credibility to our count. To my knowledge no birds have ever been edited out of our count.

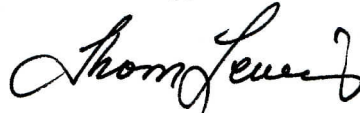
With the new editor, Bill Pranty, things may change. I admire him for taking on the tough task of editing all the counts from Florida. He is a very strict editor, has instituted some new rules and has the authority to delete sightings or change the numbers of birds reported. He is not a fan of any birds that are not recorded to the species level and feels we should round off our numbers among other things. As your compiler I will continue to enter all data as you report it to me as long as it can be supported and I can defend it. I think the data should be accurate and when you report a number for diving duck species, it is important, even though the birds may have been in poor light or too far away to identify to species. I also think that rounding off to the nearest 10 or 100 is wrong. If you took the time to count the birds I'll report them. However, the state editor may change our numbers to reflect his wishes. I plan to write another memo to impress on him how I feel about his manipulating the data that we work so hard to gather. If you would be interested in seeing a copy let me know. I would also encourage you to voice your opinions to me or directly to Bill if you so desire. I'll be glad to provide his instructions to compilers and his contact information upon request. My email address is thom.lewis@fws.gov. I just want to keep you informed about the changes and I'll get off my soap box now.

I thank all of you for helping to make this such a great count. I hope everyone had a great time. Thanks to the CBC veterans and newcomers for their knowledge and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the landowners who allow us the privilege to bird on their property. I've included a copy of the count results. You can also view all CBC data at

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc> on the internet.

Tentatively, I've planned the eleventh annual Apalachicola Bay-SVNWR CBC for Tuesday, 28 December 2004 to avoid the holiday weekends and make travel easier for those who come from afar. Mark your calendar. Everyone is welcomed back and encouraged to invite others. Thanks again for making this such a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thom Lewis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thom Lewis
Wildlife Biologist

enclosure

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC									
2										
3	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals
4										
5	Leader	C.Leftwich	B. Stedman	P. Lang	T.Lewis	M. Collins	J. Dozier	B.Henderson		
6										
7	Party Members	J.Moses	G. Farr	J.Palgut	S.Herbert	S.Klink	J.Murphy	D.Wells		
8		A.Clevenger	E.Levine	K.Watson	E.Herbert	C.Boggs		G.Watkins		
9			M.Johnson			J.Wilson				
10						K.Malone				
11										
12										
13										
14	Hours									
15	owling	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0		1.5
16	foot	0	3	3	8	8	3.5	2.5		28
17	car	0	7	4	1.5	0.5	9	4		26
18	boat	6.25	0	3	0	0	0	0		9.25
19	Total	6.25	10	10.5	9.5	9	13	6.5		64.75
20										0
21	Miles									0
22	owling	0	0	2.5	0	0.1	4	0		6.6
23	foot	0	3	3	8	4	2	2.5		22.5
24	car	0	29	19	27	15	70	9		169
25	boat	60	0	5	0	0	0	0		65
26	Total	60	32	29.5	35	19.1	76	11.5		263.1
27										
28	Species=	14	77	71	57	42	87	49		
29										
30	Red-throated Loon									
31	Common Loon	2	1	3	2		5			13
32	Pied-billed Grebe			6			2	1		9
33	Horned Grebe	2			17					19
34	Northern Gannet									0
35	American White Pelican									0
36	Br. Pelican	99	20	39	8		35	86		287

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2										
3	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals
136	Forster's Tern		14	13		1	3	48		79
137	Tern sp.	2								2
138	Bl. Skimmer									0
139	Rock Dove						30			30
140	Eurasian Collared-Dove				12		200			212
141	White-winged Dove									0
142	Mourning Dove		4			135	30			169
143	Common Gr.-Dove		11							11
144	E. Screech-Owl									0
145	Great Horned Owl		1				1			2
146	Barred Owl									0
147	Short-eared Owl									0
148	Whip-poor-will			1						1
149	Vaux's Swift									0
150	Black-chinned Hummingbird									0
151	Archilochus sp.									0
152	Rufous Hummingbird									0
153	Belted Kingfisher		3	11	4		5	2		25
154	Red-headed Woodpecker									0
155	Red-bellied Woodpecker		15	2	5	12	10	11		55
156	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2	1	1	2	1	2		9
157	Downy Woodpecker		3	2	3	5	4			17
158	N. Flicker		1	1		1	2	3		8
159	Pileated Woodpecker				2	3	1			6
160	E. Phoebe		3	15		8	6			32
161	Vermillion Flycatcher									0
162	Western Kingbird		1							1
163	Loggerhead Shrike									0
164	White-eyed Vireo						1			1
165	Blue-headed Vireo				1	2	2			5
166	Blue Jay		1			2	15			18
167	Am. Crow					3				3
168	Fish Crow				3		50			53

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2										
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202	Palm Warbler				1	2	11			14
203	Black-and-white Warbler						1			1
204	Ovenbird									0
205	Common Yellowthroat		3		3	7	4	3		20
206	Summer Tanager						1			1
207	E. Towhee		11	11	8	10	8	15		63
208	Chipping Sparrow		4	40		30	1			75
209	Field Sparrow			1						1
210	Vesper Sparrow						4			4
211	Savannah Sparrow		12				8	2		22
212	Henslow's Sparrow									0
213	Nelson's Sh.-tailed Sparrow									0
214	Saltmarsh Sh.-tailed Sparrow									0
215	Seaside Sparrow		2							2
216	Fox Sparrow									0
217	Song Sparrow						10			10
218	Swamp Sparrow		3	1	1	35	12	2		54
219	Wh.-throated Sparrow				1		2	1		4
220	Wh.-crowned Sparrow					1				1
221	Dark-eyed Junco									0
222	Snow Bunting									0
223	N. Cardinal		12	11	6	13	17	7		66
224	Indigo Bunting									0
225	Painted Bunting						1			1
226	Red-winged Blackbird		90	64	24	1	50	68		297
227	E. Meadowlark		8			1	15	305		329
228	Common Grackle		12	10			400			422
229	Boat-tailed Grackle		23	5	121		500			649
230	Shiny Cowbird									0
231	Br.-headed Cowbird		1				200			201
232	Blackbird sp.									0
233	Baltimore Oriole						2			2
234	House Finch						2			2

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