

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 447 Apalachicola, Florida 32329



11 March 2004

Ref. Mar Asst. Mar 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,

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Thom Lewis Wildlife Biologist

enclosure

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A	В	С	D	E	F	G	H	.	J
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		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				
0					K.Malone				
11									
12									
13									
14 Hours									
15 owling	0	0	0.5						1.5
16 foot	0	3	3						28
17 car	0		4			-			26
18 boat	6.25					1			9.25
19 Total	6.25	10	10.5	9.5	<u> </u>	13	6.5		64.75
20					<u> </u>				0
21 Miles									
22 owling	0								6.6
23 foot	0								
24 car	0								169
25 boat	60				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				263.1
26 Total	60	32	29.5	3	5 19.1	1 76	\$ 11.5		203.1
27									
28 Species=	14	77	71	57	7 42	2 87	49		
29									
30 Red-throated Loon									1:
31 Common Loon	2	<u> </u>			2		5		1.
32 Pied-billed Grebe	·		e	3			2 1		
33 Horned Grebe	2	2		1	7				
34 Northern Gannet									
35 American White Pelican			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	5 86	,	28
36 Br. Pelican	99	20	39	9	8	3	D 80	<u> </u>	20

	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н		J	
1	2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC	1	1								
2											
3	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals	
37	Double-crested Cormorant	299	5	9	14		20	26		37	'3
38	Anhinga	i		5							5
39	American Bittern										0
40	Great Blue Heron		9	14	2		3			2	28
41	Great Egret		22		1		3			Ż	26
42	Snowy Egret		18	3	5		15			4	11
	Little Blue Heron	1		3							3
	Tricolored Heron		5	2							7
	Cattle Egret										0
46	Green Heron			1							1.
	Blcrowned Night-Heron						12			1:	2
	Yecrowned Night-Heron										0
49	White Ibis		70							7.	<u>'</u> 0
50	Glossy Ibis										0
51	Dark Ibis sp.										0
	Wood Stork										0
53	Black Vulture					2	4				6
	Turkey Vulture	6	9	4	5	9	31	1		6	65
	Snow Goose (blue form)										0
	Snow Goose (white form)								•		0
	Ross's Goose										0
	Wood Duck		12	4						1	6
	Gadwall										0
	American Widgeon			15				·		1	5
_	American Black Duck										0
	Mallard			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							0
	Blue-winged Teal										0
	N. Shoveler										0
	Northern Pintall										0
	American Green-winged Teal										0
	Duck Sp. Dabbling							**			0
	Canvasback	<u> </u>									0
69	Redhead										0

	Â	B	C	- D		E	F	G	Н		J
1	2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC										
2											
3	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SV	I) 4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals
	Ring-necked Duck										0
71	Gr. Scaup										0
72	Le, Scaup						2			-	0
73	Scaup sp.	1400	•	1	4						1405
74	Black Scoter		1 1 A								0
	Surf Scoter										0
	White-winged Scoter										0
	Scoter sp.										0
78	Bufflehead	135		29		24		1			189
	Common Goldeneye	8		1	2	12					23
80	Hooded Merganser			9	1	12		2			24
	Red-br. Merganser	13		7	14	48		12	2		96
82	Ruddy Duck				2						2
	Duck sp. Diving	1822					-				1822
	Osprey				1			1			2
	Bald Eagle	1		4	4	3	3	8 8	3		26
86	11 Adult, 7 Immature, 5 Unkn.	0.0.1	3.1.0	0.0.4	2.1	1.0	2.1.0	6.2.0	1.2.0		0
	N. Harrier			2	2				1		5
	Sharp-shinned Hawk			1		2		2			5
	Cooper's Hawk							1			1
	Red-sh. Hawk			2			1	3	1		7
_	Red-tailed Hawk			1				2			3
	Am. Kestrel			2			1	3			6
	Merlin										0
	Wild Turkey										0
	Çlapper Rail			5		1		2			8
	King Rail						-				0
	Virginia Rail	s									0
	Sora										. 0
	Purple Gallinule										0
100	Common Moorhen			1	5			2			8
101	Am. Coot			3	48			11			62

	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	
1	2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC										
2											
3	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. ŠVI)	3 (S, SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals	
	Blbellied Plover		2	9			22		3	41	•
104	Snowy Plover			3)	12	
	Semipalm. Plover			4					3	10	
106	Piping Plover			1						1	
107	Killdeer		3	2	14		32		3	60	
	Plover Sp.			1	1					1	
	Am. Oystercatcher		4	7	4					15	
	American Avocet					ļ				0	
	Greater Yellowlegs				1					1	
	Lesser Yellowlegs									0	
	Willet	· · · · ·	1	8	5	;		5	7	71	
	Spotted Sandpiper				1					1	
	Ruddy Turnstone		11	12	35	5		1	3	71	
	Red Knot	_							3	3	
	Sanderling		8	57	14	L		14	3	227	
	Western Sandpiper		1							1	
	Least Sandpiper									0	
	Dunlin		32	8			29	3	7	134	
	реер			-	45	5				45	
	Short-billed Dowitcher							3	5	35	
	Common Snipe		ļ				2	·		2	
	American Woodcock									. 0	
125	Laughing Gull	4	24	21	4	¥	70	9	2	215	
	Franklin's Gull					. ·				0	· ·
	Bonaparte's Gull		1	14				1		29	
	Ring-billed Gull	22		· · · ·			100			338	
	Herring Gull	2	2 5	3	1	<u> </u>	15	3	3	59	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull									0	
	Greater Black-backed Gull									0	
	Caspian Tern								2	18	1
	Royal Tern	_	7	4	5	5	1	11	8	135	7
134	Sandwich Tern								1	0	

	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	l	J	
1	2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC						,				
2											
_	Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals	
	Forster's Tern		14	13		1	3	48		79	
	Tern sp.	2					· · · · ·			2	
	Bl. Skimmer						1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			0	
	Rock Dove				·		30			30	
	Eurasian Collared-Dove		14 A.		12		200			212	
141	White-winged Dove									0	
142	Mourning Dove		4			135	30			169	
143	Common GrDove		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	
	Vaux's Swift						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			0	
-	Black-chinned Hummingbird						• .			0	
	Archilochus sp.				<u></u>					0	
_	Rufous Hummingbird	:								0	
_	Belted Kingfisher		3	11	4	<u> </u>	5	2		25	
	Red-headed Woodpecker					<u>.</u>				0	
	Red-bellied Woodpecker		15	2	5		10			55	
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u></u>	2	1	1	2	1	2		9	
	Downy Woodpecker		3	2	3	5	4			17	
_	N. Flicker		1	1		1	2	3		8	
	Pileated Woodpecker				2					6	
· · ·	E. Phoebe	<u> </u>	3	15	41	8	6			32	
	Vermillion Flycatcher									0	
	Western Kingbird		1			· · · · · ·				1	
	Loggerhead Shrike							• *		0	
	White-eyed Vireo						1			+1	
165	Blue-headed Vireo	<u> </u>			1	1 2				5	
166	Blue Jay		1			2				18	
167	Am. Crow	<u> </u>				3				3	
168	Fish Crow				3	3	50			53	

A	·B	C	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J
1 2003 Apalachicola Bay CBC									1
2									
3 Territory	1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals
69 Crow sp.									0
70 Tree Swallow		200	15	33	5	. 25	24	· ···· · ·	302
71 N. Rough-winged Swallow			1						1
72 Barn Swallow									0
73 Carolina Chickadee		16	4	1	4	2			27
74 Tufted Titmouse						1			1
75 White-breasted Nuthatch									0
76 Brheaded Nuthatch		10	4	4	2		2		22
77 Carolina Wren		6	1	2	4	10	1		24
78 House Wren		2	2	1	11	6	2		24
79 Winter Wren									0
80 Sedge Wren		2			2				4
81 Marsh Wren		7	11	3	2		. 3		26
82 Wren sp.			2						2
83 Golden-cr. Kinglet									0
84 Ruby-cr. Kinglet		2	2	5	6	6	1		22
85 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1	7	4			12
86 Eastern Bluebird			6		5	2	2		15
87 Hermit Thrush						2			2
88 Am. Robin		60	121	75	130	60	80		526
89 Thrush sp.									0
90 Gray Catbird		2	2	3	10	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	22		49
91 N. Mockingbird		2	1	7	7	18	7		42
92 Br. Thrasher						3			3
93 European Starling			1	:		400			401
94 American Pipit									0
95 Sprague's Pipit									0
96 Cedar Waxwing		3		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		20			23
97 Orange-cr. Warbler						2			2
98 Yerumped Warbler		110	8	55	45	115	88		421
99 Yethroated Warbler		1	1	1		2			5
200 Pine Warbler		4	18	3	7	1	2		35
01 Prarie Warbler									0

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	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	H	. 1	J
1 2003 Apala	chicola Bay CBC		1							
2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·									
3 Territory		1 (Bay/Gulf)	2 (N. SVI)	3 (S. SVI)	4 (W. Miles)	5 (Box-R)	6 (Apalach)	7 (CSGI)		Totals
202 Palm Warbl	er				1	2	11			14
203 Black-and-v	hite Warbler						1			1
204 Ovenbird										0
205 Common Yo	llowthroat		3		3	7	4	3		20
206 Summer Ta	nager						1	·		1
207 E. Towhee			11	11	8	10	8	15		63
208 Chipping Sp	arrow		4	40		30	1			75
209 Field Sparro	w			1						1
210 Vesper Spa	rrow						4			4
211 Savannah S	parrow		12				8	2		22
212 Henslow's S	parrow									0
213 Nelson's Sh										0
214 Saltmarsh S	htailed Sparrow									0
215 Seaside Sp	arrow		2							2
216 Fox Sparrow	V									0
217 Song Sparro							10			10
218 Swamp Spa	rrow		3	1	1	35	12	2		54
219 Whthroate					1		2	1		4
220 Whcrowne	d Sparrow					1				1
221 Dark-eyed	unco									0
222 Snow Bunti	ng									0
223 N. Cardinal			12	11	6	-13	17	7		66
224 Indigo Bunt	ng									0
225 Painted Bur	iting						1			1
226 Red-winged	Blackbird		90	64	24	1	50	68		297
227 E. Meadowl			8			1	15	305		329
228 Common G	rackle		12	10			400			422
229 Boat-tailed	Grackle		23	5	121		500			649
230 Shiny Cowb	ird									0
231 Brheaded	Cowbird		1				200			201
232 Blackbird s).									0
233 Baltimore C	riole						2			2
234 House Finc	h						2			2

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Н	1	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
235 Am. Goldfinch				1	40				50
236 House Sparrow						27			27
237					1 1		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	
238			-		1			-	
238 239			•			· .		Total Ind.	11263
240						· .			
241 Count Week Species									