

Bahamas Bird Report Summer 2008

GENERAL

In the 49th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds the checklist committee followed the Europeans' lead and split the American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) of the New World from the Old World's Greater Flamingo (*P. roseus*). They also moved flamingos to a position in the checklist immediately following grebes because DNA analysis shows flamingos are more closely related to grebes than to herons.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This winter's Christmas Bird Counts in the Bahamas are scheduled for the dates shown below. Please contact the person listed if you wish to participate.

Nassau 14 Dec, contact Carolyn Wardle - cwardlef@yahoo.com

Grand Bahama 16 Dec, contact Erika Gates - kayaknaturetours@aol.com

South Abaco 20 Dec, contact Anita Knowles - anita@friendsoftheenvironment.org

North Abaco 3 Jan, contact Anita Knowles - anita@friendsoftheenvironment.org

BIRD REPORTS SUMMER 2008

An imm. Brown Pelican at Warderick Wells, Exumas on 24 Jul was unusual (JT). LG found 2000 Neotropic Cormorants on Great Inagua 1 Jun. Single Magnificent Frigatebirds were observed over Paradise I. 23 Jul (WP) and Montagu Foreshore, New Providence 29 Jul (LG).

On 2 Jun LG saw 250 Reddish Egrets, 100 Great Egrets, 25 Snowy Egrets, 7 Great Blue Herons, 20 Green Herons, 20 Tricolored Herons, 20 Roseate Spoonbills, and 2000 American Flamingos on Great Inagua. White Ibis were confirmed nesting in mid-June on Pigeon Cay in Bimini Lagoon (JK, CH), their only known nesting site in the Bahamas. DB saw 20+ White Ibis regularly at AUTEK, Andros 26 Jul+, and 2 juvenals were at the egg farm, Grand Bahama 29 Jul (BP). An immature Roseate Spoonbill in the wetlands west of Owl Hole, Grand Bahama 15 Jun was very unusual (BP).

Asseasonal gulls in the Bahamas included a Ring-billed Gull 12 Jul on Paradise I. (WP), one at AUTEK, Andros 30 Jul (DB), and a juvenile Herring Gull at Cable Beach G.C., New Providence 28 Jul (TH).

JK and CH inventoried nesting waterbirds on cays near Grand Bahama and Bimini 10-15 Jun. They found new Roseate Tern colonies on Victory Cay near Bimini (20 nests) and Holm Rock near Grand Bahama (10 nests), and new Least Tern colonies on Gun Cay near Bimini (15 nests) and Holm Rock (14 nests). On Great Isaac, north of Bimini, they counted 62 Brown Noddy nests, 597 Bridled Tern nests, 81 Laughing Gull nests, 1498 Sooty Tern nests, 6 Roseate Tern nests. This Bridled Tern colony is the second largest in the West Indies; only the one on Penniston Cay, Turks & Caicos Is. is larger (WM). On 5 Jul CW and P&OS checked Goulding Cay off New Providence for nesting seabirds and found Sooty Terns, Bridled Terns, and Brown Noddies nesting successfully. The vegetation had recovered from hurricane damage. PD and LL photographed 20 pairs of Gull-billed Terns nesting on New Providence in mid-June.

Seven species of shorebirds at Green Turtle Cay 26 Jul (EB), and 8 species at the egg farm, Grand Bahama 29 Jul (BP) show that the shorebird migration was already underway.

Up to 100 White-winged Doves were seen on Great Inagua 1 and 2 Jun (LG). A single White-winged Dove on Warderick Wells, Exumas 18 Jul was the first JT had seen in the two years he has worked there. On 28 Jun a Key West Quail-Dove was seen at the abandoned Coral Harbour G.C., New Providence (CW).

A Belted Kingfisher at Maillis Ponds, Adelaide, New Providence 28 Jun (TH) was very unusual as this species does not breed in the Bahamas; one at the Marls near Treasure Cay, Abaco 26 Jul (EB) was probably an early migrant.

A Tree Swallow 15 Jul and 3 Barn Swallows 29 Jul near Treasure Cay, Abaco were early (EB).

Early warblers seen at St. Augustine's Monastery, Nassau include a Prairie 21 Jul and a Black-and-white and Yellow-throated 27 Jul (PD, TH). Five Prairie Warblers were at AUTEK, Andros 28 Jul (DB) and 4 at the Treasure Cay Dump, Abaco 29 Jul (EB). During the winter and spring seasons, the Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Program on south Eleuthera recaptured 22 previously banded warblers and colored banded 26 new ones (fide JDW). A Northern Waterthrush at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 30 Jul was early (EG).

A single male Northern Cardinal was reported from South Cat Cay 24 Jun (BP).

EXOTICS

A mixed pair, Sulphur-crested and Goffin's Cockatoos, nested in Nassau's Botanical Gardens in Jun (TH ph., PD).

ADDENDUM

On the night of 20 May LR anchored the research vessel Coral Reef II in the lee of Pimlico Cay in the northern Exumas, where he found an active Audubon's Shearwater colony that he compared to the large one on Allan's Cay (fide WM).

The last sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler at southern Eleuthera this spring was on 27 Apr near Rock Sound (JDW, RB).

ERRATUM

In the spring report I said Adderly Cay was south of Lee Stocking Island, I should have said north.

Observers:

Rudy Badia, Dylan Beyer, Elwood Bracey, Paul Dean, Lynn Gape, Erika Gates, Tony Hepburn, Catherine Hickey, Jim Kushlan, Lionel Levine, Will Mackin, William Pinder, Bruce Purdy, Lou Roth, Peter & Olga Stokes (P&OS), John Thompson, Carolyn Wardle, Jennifer D. White (JDW)