

Hello fellow Bahamian and TCI birders:

Here is a summary report for fall 2007. It was a good migration with many sightings of uncommon but annual birds, and a few real rarities. Good birding in the winter season.

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BAHAMAS/TCI FALL 2007 BIRD REPORT

No hurricanes, but frequent heavy rains, provided ideal conditions for an extremely strong migration in September and October in the Bahamas. Kingbirds, vireos, warblers, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, and Baltimore Orioles were all reported in good numbers. Only exceptional records are cited below.

Seasonal sightings:

Three Magnificent Frigatebirds were photographed over Nassau Harbour 30 Oct (OS).

A White-cheeked Pintail was at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama, where rare, 3-6 Sep (BH). A male Redhead was at Reef G.C., 20 Nov (BP).

A Northern Harrier was seen flying over the Marls near Treasure Cay Airport 11 Nov (EB), and a Peregrine Falcon flew over Blue Water Cay, New Providence 27 Oct (CW, WP, LH).

Piping Plovers were first noted at the Green Turtle Cay sandspit 3 Aug with a high count of 5 on 6 Aug (EB, BH). Four were at Sandy Point, Abaco 5 Aug (EB, BH), one at St. George's Park, Grand Bahama 3 Oct (BP), and 14 near the Seabreeze Canal, New Providence 26 Nov (OG).

A Hudsonian Godwit, rare in the Bahamas, was at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 12 Aug - 4 Sep (BP, ph. BH, m. ob.). A well-described Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at the Marsh Harbour landfill 10 Oct (EB). The sandspit at Green Turtle Cay continues to be the most reliable place in the Bahamas for Red Knot; 6 were there 7 Nov (EB). Twenty Short-billed Dowitchers at Green Turtle Cay 3 Aug were a good count early in the fall. A Long-billed Dowitcher was videotaped at Treasure Cay landfill 1 Nov (EB,

BB). Twelve Wilson's Snipe, a high count, were in a field off Hannah Rd., New Providence 13 Nov (TH).

Approximately 1,000 juvenile Laughing Gulls were on Bottle Cay in the Schooner Cays off Eleuthera 2 Aug (CW, PM). A Ring-billed Gull on the Paradise I. G.C. 12 Aug was extremely early (PD, WP, ph. TH). On 24 Nov RZ found a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Great Black-backed Gull near the cruise ship piers on Grand Turk.

A Caspian Tern was at Brown's Pt., New Providence 19-20 Oct (PD, ph. TH, TW); and 3 were at Treasure Cay, Abaco 27 Oct (EB). Roseate Terns were noted nesting on One Rock and Bridled Terns nesting on Don't Rock (both rocks are off Treasure Cay) 3-7 Aug (BH, EB). Approximately 100 pairs of Bridled Terns were nesting on cays south of Lighthouse Point, Eleuthera 2 Aug (CW, PM). Two Black Terns fed on the ponds at Emerald G.C. and one at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 3-6 Sep (BH, BP).

On 3 Aug CW and PM found large numbers of White-crowned Pigeons nesting on the Schooner Cays, Eleuthera. Many were sitting on eggs of a second brood.

Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen at different locations on Grand Bahama and New Providence 14 Oct - 11 Nov (EG, BP, PD, TH). One was at the abandoned fruit farm, Abaco 21 Oct (EB) and another on Grand Turk 24 Nov (RZ).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was found on South Andros the last week of Oct (ph. TH). An *Empidonax* flycatcher, possibly a Yellow-bellied, was observed at the Marsh Harbour landfill 10 Oct (p.a. EB, JHB). Two Acadian Flycatchers were photographed at the Government Farm, New Providence 2-3 Nov (PD, ph. TH, TW). At least two Western Kingbirds were at Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama 16 Oct through Nov (BP, m. ob.). On Grand Bahama there were 75-100 Eastern Kingbirds near BP's house in Freeport 2 Sep, and 12 at EG's house in Lucaya 20-22 Sep.

The Bahamas first documented Warbling Vireo (photo), up to eight Red-eyed Vireos, and a Philadelphia Vireo (photo) were in the same tree at St. Augustine Monastery, New Providence 7-8 Oct (all PD, ph. TH, WP). Another Philadelphia Vireo was at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 17 Oct (RB, AD). Blue-headed Vireos were reported at St. George's Park, Grand Bahama 18 Sep (BP) and at Lakeview Ponds, Paradise Island 22 Nov (CW).

A Swainson's Thrush was at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 15 Oct (JDW); single

Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Reef G.C. 16 Oct (BP) and the Botanic Gardens, Nassau 19 Oct (PD, TH, TW). A Bicknell's Thrush was banded at Rock Sound 24 Oct (ph. JDW, JW, RB, AD). Twelve Bahama Mockingbirds were noted in Abaco N.P. 6 Aug (BH, EB).

Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Hooded Warblers, all uncommon but annual, were reported in good numbers in the northern Bahamas in Sep and Oct (m. ob.). Ten Tennessee Warblers at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 17 Oct was an exceptional count (EG, BP). The Bahamas' second Cerulean Warbler was photographed at St. Augustine Monastery 26 Aug (PD, ph. TH); the first flew into a lighthouse at remote Cay Lobos on 26 Apr 1901. A Blackburnian Warbler was at the Botanical Gardens, Nassau 19 Oct (PD, ph. TH, TW). An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama 19 Oct (BP). In Oct and Nov the research and training program on Eleuthera captured or sighted 10 previously banded Kirtland's Warblers and banded 6 new ones (fide JDW). A Wilson's Warbler was at the Treasure Cay landfill 11 Nov (EB).

On Grand Bahama high counts of 40+ Bobolinks were noted at Reef G.C. 3 Sep and the chicken farm 4 Sep (BH, BP), and 10 were at the Treasure Cay landfill 24 Sep (EB, JHB). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 26 Oct – 2 Nov (JDW, JW, ph. RB, AD, SL, MR) provided the fifth record for the Bahamas.

Observers

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