

Bahamas Bird Report Winter 07-08

This winter season was relatively normal with lots of birds seen, but with no new species for the Bahamas. Highlights included a new Christmas Count in northern Abaco that was very productive, a brief survey of shorebirds on Little Ragged Island that proved we need a more thorough survey there, and new late and early dates for Gray Kingbird in the Bahamas.

A West Indian Whistling-Duck was at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 19 Dec (RB). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found sitting on a rock off Double-breasted Cay, Ragged Islands 15 Jan, near a part of the island that was devoid of goats and sheep and had a healthy growth of sea-oats (CS, AB). A Northern Shoveler wintered at Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama (BP, m. ob.), and two American Wigeon wintered at Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco (TH, m. ob.). A Northern Pintail and a Northern Shoveler were at Maillis's Ponds, Adelaide, New Providence 23 Jan (ph. TH). Over fifty Lesser Scaup (uncommon on Abaco) were in the Marls west of Marsh Harbour 22 Jan (EB, BH, TWr, FS), and a female Redhead was at West End, Grand Bahama 11-14 Jan (BH, EB, TW, T&JG). Up to four Red-breasted Mergansers wintered along western New Providence (ph. AM , m. ob), and one was off the Treasure Cay Beach, Abaco 17 Feb (EB, NBD).

Least Grebes are common in the Bahamas, but single birds in separate ponds on small Scotland Cay, Abaco 10 Feb (RR) is surprising. LM and his group saw 4 probable Audubon's Shearwaters while crossing from Port