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**THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF BREEDING BALD
EAGLES (*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*) IN ALABAMA,
1985-2006**

M. Keith Hudson and Thomas M. Haggerty

The number of breeding Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in Alabama has varied significantly in the last century. At the beginning of the 1900's, the Bald Eagle was a fairly common resident on the Gulf Coast and occurred locally in the interior of the state, especially along the Tennessee River (Howell 1928). By about 1960, however, Bald Eagles were no longer breeding in Alabama (Imhof 1976). Similar Bald Eagle declines in the first half of the 20th century occurred throughout the contiguous United States because of the use of pesticides such as dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), as well as persecution by humans (Howell 1928, Federal Register 1995, Buehler 2000). Due to the species' precipitous decline in the contiguous United States, the population south of the 40th parallel was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1978 (Federal Register 1995, Buehler 2000). With the banning of DDT in 1972, the protection offered by the ESA, a new public environmental awareness, and state and federal breeding recovery programs, the Bald Eagle has made a dramatic recovery throughout its range in the last 20 years (Buehler 2000, Federal Register 2006). Due to the recovery of the Bald Eagle, it was reclassified as threatened by the USFWS in 1995, and is currently being considered for delisting (Federal Register 2006).

The ESA requires the USFWS to develop and implement recovery plans for listed species. In 1984, the southeastern recovery plan, which includes Alabama, was finalized (Federal Register 1995). During that year, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) initiated a state plan to recover the species (Hudson 2002) and set goals that included having a minimum of ten nests annually with average productivity estimates of 0.9 fledglings/nest, and 1.5 fledglings/successful nest, for three consecutive years. Although information concerning the recent wintering population of the Bald Eagle in Alabama has been published (Haggerty et al. 1999), a detailed report of the more recent breeding status of the eagle is lacking. Therefore, in this paper we present (1) the population trend data for nesting Bald Eagles in Alabama from 1985 through 2006, (2) productivity estimates for breeding

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COVER:

pairs, and (3) distribution information on nesting pairs in the state.

METHODS

As part of the state recovery plan, 92 juvenile eagles were released between 1985 and 2004. Thirty-five were released at Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area, Jackson County, between 1985-1989, and three were released at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, in 1991 and 1992. In 1991, an additional 53 eagles were released from 4 sites in four counties [Tuscaloosa (15), Sumter (12), Lowndes (13), and Choctaw (13)] in west-central Alabama. In 2004, a single juvenile was released along the Alabama River in Lowndes County. Some juvenile eagles were obtained from zoos, but the majority was obtained from eggs that were removed from the nests of wild pairs in Florida. Eggs from Florida nests were sent to the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma where they were incubated, and hatched, with the young being hand-reared. Young were 10-12 weeks old when they were received for release and typically fledged when they were approximately 15 weeks old. All released juveniles were banded with a USFWS metal band, and all but a few were also banded with numeric, color-coded plastic bands.

Nest searching and monitoring were conducted from 1985 through 2006. Nest searches were made from early January through May of each year and were carried out on foot, as well as by boat and/or airplane, following any report of a potential nest. Very few direct searches were made without a previous report of a potential nest. Nest monitoring included counting eggs, nestlings, and fledglings. Nests that fledged at least one young were considered successful. Only nests with eggs or young were considered active nests and counted. Nests were monitored from the ground, as well as by boat and/or fixed-wing airplane. In more recent years, about two eight-hour days of flying statewide were needed to monitor nests, and each nest was typically visited three times or more to determine productivity. Latitude and longitude measurements were taken at nest sites. JMP (version 5.1.2) was used for statistical analyses and P values < 0.05 were considered significant.

RESULTS

There were significant increases in the number of Bald Eagle nests ($r = 0.89$, $P < 0.0001$) and fledged young ($r = 0.94$, $P < 0.0001$) between 1986 and

2006 (Fig. 1), with an average annual increase of 32%. In just 22 years the breeding population went from 0 nesting pairs in 1985 to 77 in 2006 (Fig. 2). A total of 493 active nests was discovered and 355 (72%) were successful. The average yearly success rate was 66% and a total of 559 young fledged. The average number of fledglings/nest was 0.97 and the average number of fledglings produced per successful nest was 1.37. The population experienced exponential growth with an average doubling time of 3 years (range = 1-6) and there was no indication that the population had reached its carrying capacity (Fig. 1).

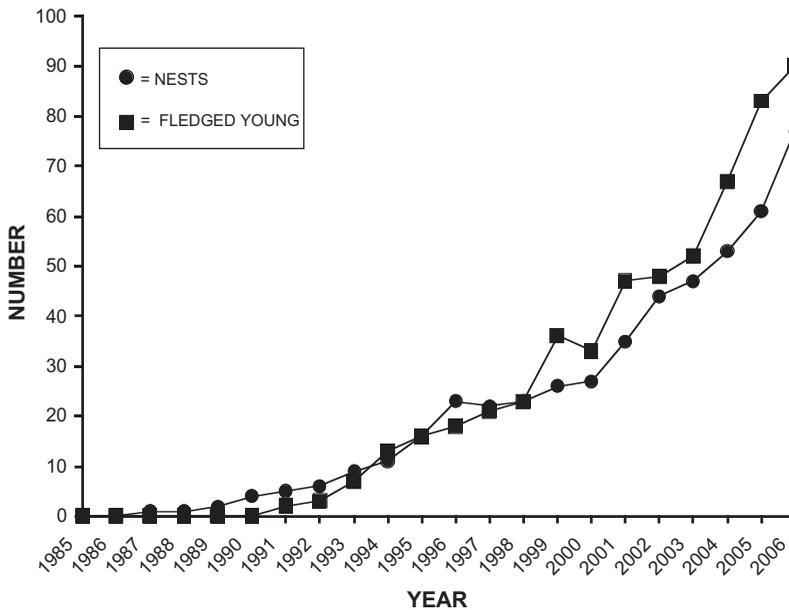


FIGURE 1. Number of Bald Eagle nests and fledged young in Alabama, 1985-2006.

Nests were found along 13 river systems with the greatest number of nests along the Tennessee, Tombigbee, and Alabama rivers (Table 1, Fig. 3). The nests of the Tennessee River system produced the greatest number of young (30% of total) and had nesting pairs for the longest period of time (Table 1, Fig. 3). The more coastal river systems (e.g., Mobile Bay, Escatawpa, Peridido, Pea) have had nesting pairs for the fewest number of years (Table 1). All of the river systems had nest success rates greater than 60%, and all nests in the Conecuh, Escatawpa, Mobile Bay, and Pea systems were successful. The nests

of the Coosa River system had the highest failure rate (39%)(Table 1). Four river systems (Escatawpa, Conecuh, Cahaba, and Mobile Bay) had productivity rates > 1.40 young/nest, whereas the Coosa and Tennessee River systems had productivity rates < 1 young/nest.

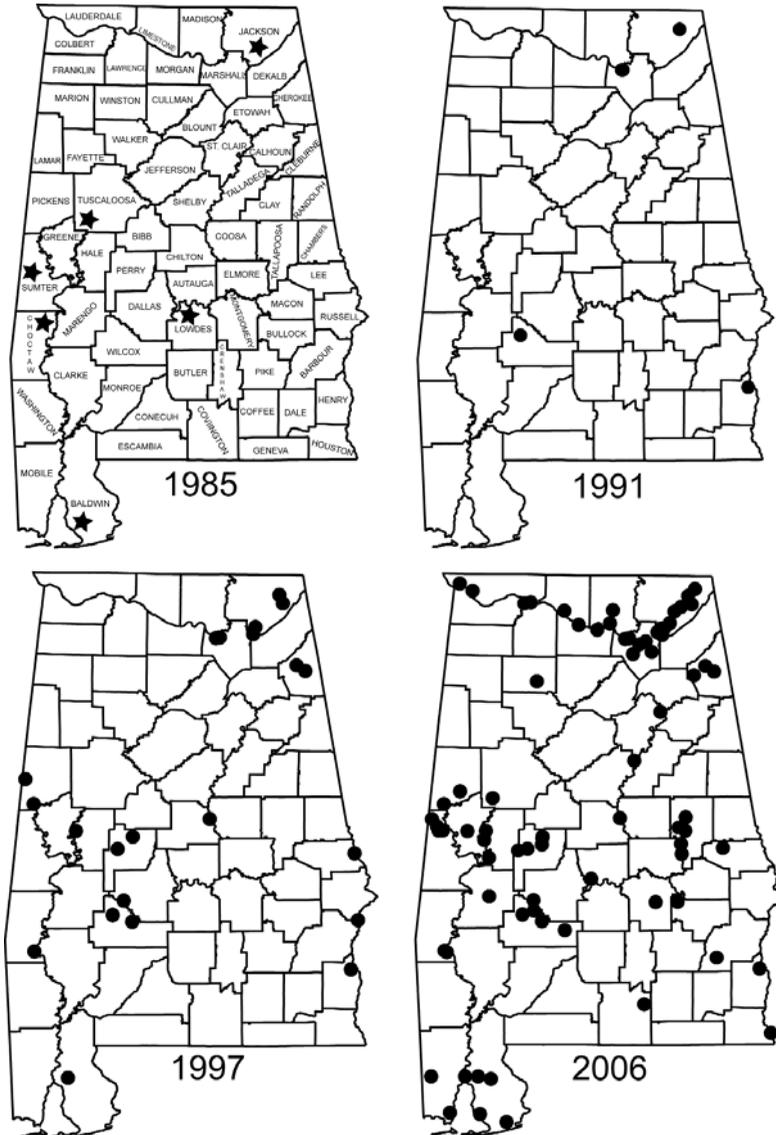


FIGURE 2. Density and distribution of Bald Eagle nests in 1985, 1991, 1997 and 2006 in Alabama. Note densities in northeastern and west-central portions of the state. Stars denote counties where hand-reared juveniles were released between 1985-2004.

TABLE 1. Comparison of Bald Eagle nesting and productivity in major river systems of Alabama, 1985-2006. See Fig. 3 for location of river systems.

River System	Number of Nests	Number of Successful Nests	% Successful Nests	Number of Young	Number of Years
Alabama	56	42	75.00	59	16
Black Warrior	40	28	70.00	51	11
Cahaba	20	15	75.00	29	12
Chattahoochee	34	29	85.29	49	16
Conecuh	8	8	100.00	13	6
Coosa	49	30	61.22	47	14
Escatawpa	5	5	100.00	9	5
Mobile Bay	4	4	100.00	6	3
Pea	7	7	100.00	10	7
Perdido	6	4	66.67	6	5
Tallapoosa	21	18	85.71	30	7
Tennessee	167	108	64.67	166	20
Tombigbee	76	57	75.00	84	14

Active nests were found in 40 counties, and Marshall and Jackson counties had the greatest number of nests and produced the greatest number of young (Fig. 3). Five counties (Winston, Franklin, Limestone, Madison, and Shelby) had active nests that failed to produce any young. Marengo County had five nests from which only one young fledged (Fig. 3). The nests in Bullock, Covington, Houston, Elmore, Montgomery, and Mobile counties showed the highest levels of productivity (i.e., > 1.50 young/nest) (Fig. 3). Of the seven counties that had over 20 nests (Marshall, Jackson, Perry, Wilcox, Cherokee, Pickens, Baldwin), the Perry County nests were the most productive (1.50 young/nest).

DISCUSSION

These results indicate that Bald Eagles are again breeding in Alabama. All of the initial recovery program goals of the ADCNR have been met. The goal of having ten nests in the state for three consecutive years was reached in 1996, when the nest number doubled (i.e., 11 to 23) between 1994 and 1996 (Fig. 1). Since the greatest nesting densities occurred in areas where juvenile individuals were released (i.e., northeastern and central-east regions), we suspect that

the dramatic nesting increase was partly due to the release of juvenile eagles (Fig. 2). Banding data, however, were difficult to collect, so the actual number of individuals returning to nest near their release areas is not known. We also suspect that the recovery programs and growth of eagle populations in nearby states contributed to the growth of Alabama's eagle population during the study period. For example, between 1980 and 1997, Tennessee released 267 young Bald Eagles (Haggard 1999) and between 1979 and 1995, Georgia released 89 (Ozier 1997).

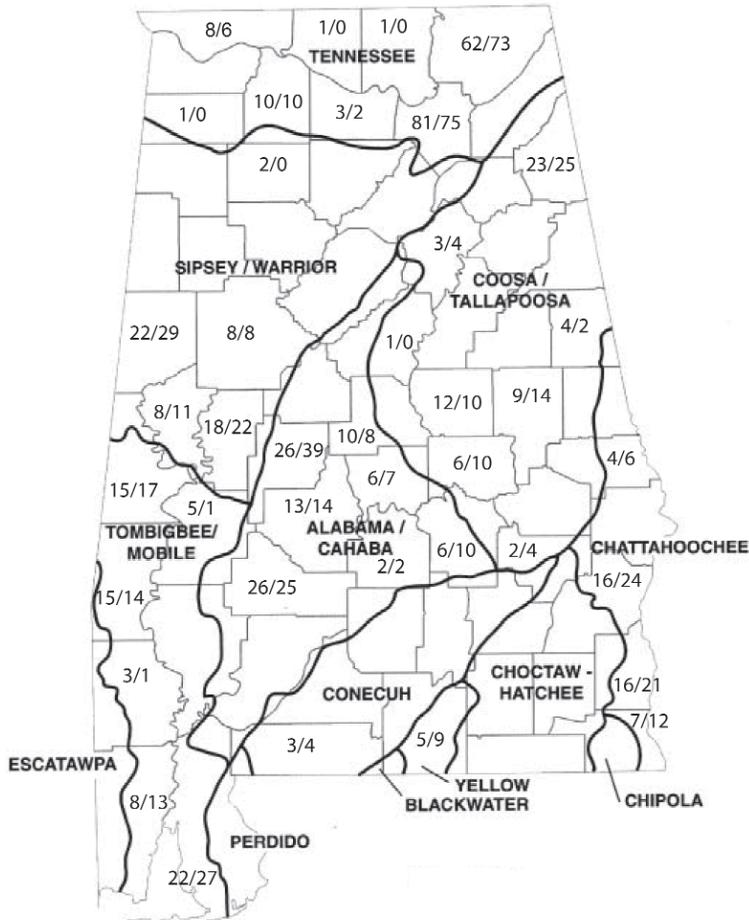


FIGURE 3. Alabama map showing number of Bald Eagle nests (top number) and number of fledged young (bottom number) in counties, 1985-2006, and outlines of river basins. See Fig. 1 for county names.

The ADCNR goal of having an average productivity of 0.9 fledglings/nest for three consecutive years was attained in 1999. The estimate has been 1.0 or greater since 1997, which is a productivity level high enough to support a stable population (Buehler 2000). The goal of having 1.5 fledglings/successful nest for three consecutive years has been more difficult to attain. Although the estimate was 1.2 or higher since 1993, the goal was not reached until 2001. The delay in obtaining this final goal may have been due to the young age of many of the individuals in the population. The possible positive relationship between pair age and productivity needs investigation.

Our distribution results indicate that the Bald Eagle has recovered throughout its historical range in Alabama and is probably more widely distributed today than it was prior to some of the environmental changes of the 1900's (Howell 1928, Imhof 1976). During our study, eagles nested along most of the major river systems in the state and in 60% of the counties (Fig. 3). Bald Eagles prefer to nest in forested areas with large, easily accessible nesting trees which are near large bodies of water that provide them with good foraging habitat (e.g., available fish prey, shallow water, absence of human development and disturbance) (Buehler 2000, Watts et al. 2006). The numerous lakes and reservoirs created by the building of dams on most major waterways in Alabama in the last century, as well as the creation of numerous catfish farms in the Black Belt region, have probably provided ample foraging habitat in areas where it previously did not exist.

In summary, Bald Eagles are once again breeding successfully in Alabama at rates that can easily sustain a stable population. The breeding population is probably greater today than it has been in the past, and population trend data suggest that growth should continue. The current breeding population is widely distributed in the state with the greatest densities occurring in the northeast and west-central regions. The relatively rapid recovery of the Bald Eagle population in Alabama can probably be attributed to the removal of pesticides from the food chain, state and federal recovery programs, protection laws associated with the ESA, and the availability of good foraging and nesting habitat throughout the state.

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Roger Clay, Mark Sasser and Bob McCollum (deceased) of the ADCNR Nongame Wildlife Program were intimately involved with juvenile releases and nest monitoring. Also, a special thanks to ADCNR pilot Ray Stroud for

his help with monitoring, and efficient and safe piloting of the airplane. Johndra Upton, Jeff Garner, and Paul Kittle helped improve the manuscript. We dedicate this article to the memory of our good friend Walt Burch. He was an superb naturalist and photographer (see cover) and will be deeply missed.

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REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2002-2005

Steve W. McConnell

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews reports of species that generally have fewer than ten accepted records or less than three records during previous ten years. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 80 species, are voted on by all committee members. If the first vote is indecisive, the committee members vote a second time. Vote totals with no more than one “not accepted” vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more “not accepted” votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions after two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

One hundred and seventy-three records from 69 observers were evaluated between 2002 and 2005 (Table 1). During this evaluation period, nine species and species pairs were added to the Alabama state list: Short-tailed Hawk, Flammulated Owl, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Eastern Yellow/Yellow Wagtail, Clark’s Nutcracker, MacGillivray’s Warbler, White-winged Crossbill, and Yellow-green Vireo. Three additional species, Garganey, Vaux’s Swift, and Spotted Towhee, were listed as hypothetical based on compelling visual reports made by less than three observers where no photo or other objective evidence was available.

As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 433 species. Of these, two are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet) and two extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Bachman’s Warbler). An accepted 2002 visual observation for Common Raven in Cherokee County (the first in 87 years!) moved this species from “extirpated” onto the regular list. Sixteen species are included in the hypothetical category.

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 173 records from 69 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
02-1	Cory's Shearwater	6/30/01	Pelagic	V	A	14
02-2	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	19
02-3	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	6
02-4	Red-billed Tropicbird	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	2
02-5	White-faced Ibis	7/14/01	Mobile	V	A	11
02-6	White-faced Ibis	10/11/01	Mobile	V	A	12
02-7	Willow Flycatcher	9/7/01	Jefferson	V	A	16
02-8	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	9/15/01	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
02-9	Couch's/Tropical Kingbird	9/22/01	Mobile	V	A	---
02-10	Cave Swallow	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	15
02-11	Sprague's Pipit	11/16/01	Baldwin	P	A	17
02-12	MacGillivray's Warbler	9/13/00	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
02-13	Spotted Towhee	4/18/01	Jefferson	V	A	1-H
02-14	Spotted Towhee	12/18/53	Wilcox	V	NI	---
02-15	Spotted Towhee	11/21/93	Limestone	V	NI	---
02-16	Chestnut-collared Longspur	11/16/01	Baldwin	P	A	1
02-17	Shiny Cowbird	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	20
04-01	Alder Flycatcher	8/24/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-02	Alder Flycatcher	9/28/02	Mobile	V	A	10
04-03	Alder Flycatcher	10/5/02	Montgomery	V	NI	---
04-04	Allen's Hummingbird	1/3/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	16
04-05	Allen's Hummingbird	1/27/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	17
04-06	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/1/03	Dale	B/P	A	1
04-07	Brown Booby	3/31/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-08	Bronzed Cowbird	9/14/02	Shelby	V	NI	---
04-09	Bronzed Cowbird	10/11/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-10	Brown Noddy	9/26/02	Baldwin	P	A	5
04-11	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/17/02	Pelagic	V	A	7
04-12	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/2/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	12
04-13	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	3/9/03	Baldwin	B/VT	A	13
04-14	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	11/6/02	Escambia	B/P	A	14
04-15	Calliope Hummingbird	1/19/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	13
04-16	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	14
04-17	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/02	Mobile	B/P	A	15
04-18	Cave Swallow	1/3/03	Baldwin	P	A	16
04-19	Cave Swallow	1/19/03	Baldwin	V	A	17
04-20	Cave Swallow	1/20/03	Mobile	V	A	18
04-21	Cave Swallow	4/8/03	Mobile	V	A	19
04-22	Cave Swallow	4/18/03	Mobile	V	A	20
04-23	Common Raven	5/26/02	Cherokee	V	A	10
04-24	Harris's Sparrow	2/8/03	Lauderdale	P	A	13
04-25	Little Gull	10/27/02	Baldwin	V	A	7
04-26	Shiny Cowbird	5/10/03	Baldwin	V	A	21
04-27	Sprague's Pipit	3/29/03	Baldwin	V	A	18
04-28	Thayer's Gull	1/4/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-29	Thayer's Gull	2/27/03	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-30	Vaux's Swift	1/18/03	Mobile	V	A	1-H

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
04-31	White-faced Ibis	10/1/02	Jefferson	V	A	10+
04-32	Willow Flycatcher	4/28/02	Lauderdale	V	A	17
04-33	Willow Flycatcher	5/4/03	Lauderdale	V	A	18
04-34	Willow Flycatcher	5/19/02	Mobile	V	A	19
04-35	Willow Flycatcher	6/2/02	Cherokee	P/A	A	20
04-36	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/17/02	Pelagic	V	A	20
04-37	White-tailed Kite	10/21/89	Baldwin	V	A	11
04-38(01-23)	Burrowing Owl	8/5/00	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-39	Roseate Spoonbill	9/21/01	Mobile	V	A	21
04-40	Ruff	3/17/02	Lowndes	V	A	7
04-41	Western/Clark's Grebe	2/24/02	Marshall	V	A	---
04-42	White-faced Ibis	3/19/02	Barbour	P	NO	---
04-43	Limpkin	8/10/00	Lee	V	A	2
04-44	Cave Swallow	4/16/02	Baldwin	V	A	21
04-45	Clark's Nutcracker	4/19/02	Cleburne	P	A	1
04-46	Black-throated Gray Warbler	12/3/01	Baldwin	V	A	11
04-47	White-winged Crossbill	3/12/02	Jefferson	V	NI	---
04-48	White-winged Crossbill	4/26/02	Lauderdale	P	A	1
04-49	Common Redpoll	3/17/02	Tuscaloosa	V	NI	---
04-50	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/7/02	Mobile	B/P	A	2
04-51	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1/5/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	6
04-52	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	11/24/01	Mobile	B/P	A	7
04-53	Calliope Hummingbird	1/23/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	16
04-54	Calliope Hummingbird	1/6/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	17
04-55	Alder Flycatcher	10/9/98	Mobile	V	A	11
04-56	Allen's Hummingbird	1/31/04	Mobile	B/P	A	18
04-57	Broad-billed Hummingbird	12/20/03	Monroe	B/P	A	3
04-58	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/6/04	Mobile	B/P	A	4
04-59	Bronzed Cowbird	1/8/04	Baldwin	P	A	7
04-60	Bronzed Cowbird	1/10/04	Baldwin	P	A	8
04-61	Bronzed Cowbird	2/8/04	Baldwin	P	A	9
04-62	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/2/02	Jefferson	B/P	A	8
04-63	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/4/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	15
04-64	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/31/03	Escambia	B/P	A	16
04-65	California Gull	1/3/04	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-66	California Gull	1/12/04	Baldwin	V	A	4-H
04-67	California Gull	1/20/04	Marshall	V	NI	---
04-68	California Gull	10/8/03	Lauderdale	P	A	5-H
04-69	Calliope Hummingbird	11/27/02	Calhoun	B/P	A	18
04-70	Calliope Hummingbird	12/1/02	Cullman	B/P	A	19
04-71	Calliope Hummingbird	10/3/03	Jefferson	V	A	23
04-72	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/03	Mobile	B/P	A	20
04-73	Calliope Hummingbird	12/17/03	Mobile	B/P	A	21
04-74	Calliope Hummingbird	1/6/04	Shelby	B/P	A	22
04-75	Eurasian Wigeon	11/13/03	Butler	V	A	9
04-76	Flammulated Owl	10/31/03	Mobile	P	A	1
04-77	Harlequin Duck	2/8/04	Mobile	P	A	5
04-78	Hudsonian Godwit	4/16/04	Mobile	P	A	16

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
04-79	Iceland Gull	1/25/04	Baldwin	V	A	3
04-80	Iceland Gull	12/16/02	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-81	Lesser Nighthawk	11/6/03	Mobile	V	A	5
04-82	Long-eared Owl	11/02	Montgomery	P	A	13
04-83	Little Gull	12/28/03	Lawrence	P	A	8
04-84	Mountain Plover	4/6/84	Mobile	V	NI	---
04-85	Neotropic Cormorant	1/3/04	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-86	Northern Goshawk	10/24/02	Cullman	S	A	4
04-87	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/30/03	Dekalb	H	A	7
04-88	Prairie Falcon	2/19/04	Marshall	V	A	4
04-89	Red-necked Grebe	11/21/03	Marshall	V	A	13
04-90	Red-necked Grebe	12/30/03	Marshall	P	A	14
04-91	Ruff	10/25/03	Limestone	V	A	8
04-92	Short-tailed Hawk	10/15/03	Baldwin	P	A	1
04-93	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10/10/03	Colbert	V	NI	---
04-94	Thayer's Gull	2/9/04	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-95	Virginia's Warbler	9/29/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-96	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	9/25/02	Mobile	P	A	2
04-97	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	9/27/02	Mobile	V	Withdrawn	---
04-98	White-faced Ibis	10/2/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-100	Yellow Rail	4/23/04	Mobile	H	A	13
04-101	Eastern Yellow/Yellow Wagtail	9/29/03	Baldwin	V	A	1
04-102	Yellow-green Vireo	10/10/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
05-01	Alder Flycatcher	9/13/04	Shelby	V	A	12
05-02	Alder Flycatcher	9/19/04	Lee	V	A	13
05-03	Alder Flycatcher	10/12/04	Montgomery	V	A	14
05-04	Allen's Hummingbird	12/11/04	Cullman	B/P	A	18+
05-05	Anna's Hummingbird	12/20/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
05-06	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/89	Morgan	P	A	3
05-07	Black-legged Kittiwake	11/13/04	Lawrence	P	A	15
05-08	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/20/02	Mobile	V	A	16
05-09	Bronzed Cowbird	1/29/05	Mobile	V	A	10
05-10	Brown Noddy	9/16/04	Wilcox	V	A	6
05-11	Bar-tailed Godwit	10/18/04	Mobile	V	NI	---
05-12	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/21/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	9
05-13	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/27/04	Mobile	B/P	A	10
05-14	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/3/05	Mobile	B/P	A	17
05-15	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/3/05	Baldwin	B/P	A	18
05-16	Cackling Goose	1/5/51	Limestone	S	NI	---
05-17	Cackling Goose	1/7/05	Limestone	P	Pending	
05-18	Cackling Goose	1/9/59	Morgan	S	Pending	
05-19	Cackling Goose	1/12/70	Jackson	B/S	Pending	
05-20	Cackling Goose	1/15/05	Baldwin	V	Pending	
05-21	Cackling Goose	1/24/51	Limestone	S	NI	---
05-22	Cackling Goose	1/26/03	Baldwin	V	Pending	
05-23	Cackling Goose	3/18/78	Barbour	V	NI	---
05-24	Cackling Goose	10/22/66	Jefferson	V	NI	---

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	--County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
05-25	Cackling Goose	12/2/74	Shelby	V	Pending	
05-26	Cackling Goose	3/4/89	Perry	V	Pending	
05-27	Deleted (duplicate)					
05-28	California Gull	2/20/05	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-29	Eurasian Wigeon	2/12/05	Barbour	V	A	10
05-30	Garganey	3/11/68	Baldwin	V	A	1-H
05-31	Green-tailed Towhee	10/12/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
05-32	Iceland Gull	1/15/05	Lawrence	P	A	4
05-33	Iceland Gull	2/15/05	Baldwin	P	A	5
05-34	Lesser Nighthawk	1/2/05	Baldwin	V	NI	---
05-35	Long-tailed Jaeger	10/28/04	Henry	P	A	3-H
05-36	Northern Goshawk	1/24/05	Jefferson	P	A	5
05-37	Red Phalarope	9/9/04	Shelby	V	NI	---
05-38	Red-necked Grebe	12/12/04	Marshall	V	Pending	
05-39	Red-necked Phalarope	9/8/04	Shelby	V	A	20+
05-40	Sage Thrasher	11/14/04	Baldwin	V	A	5
05-41	Sprague's Pipit	10/19/03	Baldwin	V	A	19
05-42	Sprague's Pipit	11/19/04	Baldwin	V	A	20
05-43	Deleted (duplicate)					
05-44	Thayer's Gull	1/3/05	Baldwin	P	A	3
05-45	Thayer's Gull	2/19/05	Elmore	P	A	4
05-46	Thayer's Gull	11/11/04	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-47	Thayer's Gull	11/12/04	Chambers	P	A	5
05-48	Thayer's/Iceland Gull	2/2/05	Marshall	P	A	---
05-49	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	10/13/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
05-50	Western Grebe	1/26/05	Lawrence	P	A	4
05-51	Willow Flycatcher	6/9/04	Limestone	P	A	21
05-52	Willow Flycatcher	8/25/04	Lee	V	A	22
05-53	Willow Flycatcher	9/13/04	Shelby	V	A	23
05-54	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	9/17/04	Barbour	P	A	21
05-55	Yellow-billed Loon	2/20/05	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-56	Red-necked Phalarope	9/17/04	Wilcox	V	A	19

^aV = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VT = videotape, A = audio recording, S = specimen, H = heard

^bA = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO – not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = under review by committee

^cNumber of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin Counties

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**FIRST RECORD OF THE EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL
(*MOTACILLA TSCHUTSCHENSIS*)/ YELLOW WAGTAIL
(*MOTACILLA FLAVA*) FOR ALABAMA**

Robert A. Duncan and Lucy R. Duncan

On 29 September 2003 at about 1130 hrs, Robert Duncan, Cecil Brown, and David Dortch were walking among the dunes south of the main fort at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama, when Dortch spotted a passerine perched on a low bush on a dune ridge about 30 meters away. Duncan immediately recognized it as a wagtail by its gray and white coloration, pipit-like appearance and long tail. All three observers had excellent views of the bird through a 20x Swarovski telescope, under a clear sky and with the mid-day sun to the left. The bird flew before photographs could be made, but the observers were able to follow it several times and get off and on observations over a 30 minute period. Each time it flushed, it flew low to the ground, calling as it flew. Returning to their car, a field guide (National Geographic Society 1987) was consulted, and it was concluded that the wagtail was an immature Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). A call was made to other birders, and between 1420 and 1715 hrs the bird was intermittently observed by Lucy Duncan, Howard Horne, Venetia Friend, Larry Gardella, Anabel Markel, Phil and Carolyn Snow, John Porter, and Laurie Bailey. All observers agreed it was a wagtail.

The bird was slightly larger than the Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum*) that were in the vicinity. The top of its head, nape and back were uniform gray. Its tail was long, the top of which was black with white outer rectrices. Its wings were gray with two distinct white wingbars. The throat was white and bordered on the sides by a diffuse, dusky grayish olive. Its bill was thin and black. A bold white supercilium and bold white malar streak were dominant features of the face pattern, with the supercilium tapering to a point both anteriorly and posteriorly and not curving downward to the rear, nor crossing the forehead. The side of the face was about the same color as the nape and back, solid and unflecked, and did not have a "surround" (i.e., white border surrounding auriculars). The bird's underparts were white with drab yellow undertail coverts, the yellow extending forward along the lower flank to the legs, which were black and long for a bird its size. We concluded it was a first winter Yellow Wagtail due to retention of dark sub-malar marks and the lack of significant yellow. Each time the bird flew it gave a sweet call

somewhat like the overlapped notes of an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Its flight was undulating and the bird sometimes landed on the ground or in low shrubs. Additional references were consulted including Astrom et al. (2003), and commercial recordings of the Yellow Wagtail were similar to the calls of the bird we heard at Fort Morgan.

The Yellow Wagtail is a morphologically complex species widely distributed in the Old World, breeding in the Palearctic from the British Isles across Eurasia to the Kurile Islands and south from northwest Africa across the Mediterranean region and central Asia. It winters from North Africa, India, southeast Asia, eastern China and the Philippines south to southern Africa, the East Indies and rarely to northern Australia. In North America it breeds across northern and western Alaska, but does not winter in the New World (Badyaev et al. 1998). During the course of review by the Alabama Bird Records Committee, the North American breeding sub-species (*Motacilla flava tschutschensis*) was given full species status (Banks et al. 2004) and given the name the Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*). However, immatures of this species are inseparable in the field from birds of the western Palearctic *Motacilla flava*.

There are sight records of the Yellow Wagtail complex from California, but this is the first record of the complex east of Nevada (Banks et al. 2004). Details of the Alabama sighting were submitted to the Alabama Bird Records Committee (04-101), and it was accepted as the first record of this complex for the state (McConnell 2006).

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2005)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan

This report covers the period from August through November 2005 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species; these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. All submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, must be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. For guidance, observers are encouraged to consult the Alabama Ornithological Society checklist. Reports should note conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Abbreviations and italics: County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b” = banded; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – This species is regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, where Neill Cowles found two on 22 October and Steve McConnell had 24 (good number) on 25 November.

GOOSE WHITE-FRONTED X CANADA GOOSE – This hybrid, rare in Alabama, was spotted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 and 23 November (Greg Jackson; ph.).

MOTTLED DUCK – Very rare in the WP, but three records of singles were received this season: downtown Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 1 September (Bob Duncan); and north *Escambia*, 6 November (Laura Catterton; ph.).

CANVASBACK – At Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 30+ on 25 November was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders).

- GREATER SCAUP** – A new maximum count (50+) for the Inland Coastal Plain was made at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 25 November (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders).
- RED-THROATED LOON** – The third record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by one seen at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 25 November (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders).
- PACIFIC LOON** – The second August record for the WP was established by a single found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 31 August (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan).
- COMMON LOON** – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- RED-NECKED GREBE** – One on Limestone Bay at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19+ November (Harry Dean, Milton Harris, Ken Ward, Bill McAlister *et al.*; ph.) marked the 19th record for Alabama.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** – Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – One hurricane-related record, of a single being chased by an immature Bald Eagle, was received (Table 1).
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD** – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1). This adult bird was taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, identified by Dorothy Kaufmann, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.* (ph.), and later died (specimen to Florida State Museum).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Good numbers were at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 28 October (143) and 30 October (130+) (Linda Baker, Winston Baker). Three were at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 October (Neill Cowles), with 150+ (good number) there 11 November (Harry Dean).
- BROWN PELICAN** – This species is very rare for inland Alabama, and two sightings were reported: one immature, Brown's Creek, Guntersville, *Marshall*, 18 and 20 September (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds *et al.*) (fourth record for Tennessee Valley), and one, Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 25 November (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders) (becoming almost annual at this site).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).
- GREAT EGRET** – A good number (66) for the Mountain Region was recorded at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 31 August (Greg Jackson). The 150 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 October (Neill Cowles) also was a good number.
- CATTLE EGRET** – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

- WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Casual in the WP, one was spotted at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 30 August (Laura Catterton).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 9-16 September (Don Ware, Bill Garner, Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) to mark the fifth record for the WP. Three-five immatures were seen near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5-8 August (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell *et al.*) to establish the third record for the Tennessee Valley. One was noted 10 miles west of Greensboro, *Hale*, 13-24 August (Augusta Robinson *vide* Tend Deason) (rare).
- WOOD STORK** – Occasional on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was recorded at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 23 October (Chazz Hesselein). One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** – The Birmingham Audubon Society counted 1,280 (good number) 1 October in the Birmingham area (*Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair*).
- SWAINSON'S HAWK** – An adult was found at Foley, *Baldwin*, 10 November (Bill Summerour, Eric Soehren) (occasional on the Gulf Coast of Alabama).
- GOLDEN EAGLE** – An adult was found injured 18 or 19 November at Browns, *Dallas* (*vide* Tommy Pratt; ph.) where rare.
- PEREGRINE FALCON** – One seen at Blakeley State Park, *Baldwin*, 7 August (Ben Garmon) was very early if not summering.
- BLACK RAIL** – One was heard and seen at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 November (David Plumb; rare).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** – One was found in an unusual habitat (a wooded area) at McCalla, *Jefferson* 9 September (Tom Clark; ph.) (rarely detected in the Mountain Region).
- COMMON MOORHEN** – Damien Simbeck found one at Fox Creek, *Morgan* (17 August) (occasional in north Alabama).
- SANDHILL CRANE** – Casual in the WP, one was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 October (Lucy Duncan, Mac Myers).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – Rare in fall in the WP, one was spotted at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 6 November (Laura Catterton). Uncommon in fall in Alabama, an adult was found at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 15 September (Jud Johnston), while another single was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 18 September (Greg Jackson).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – Casual in the WP, one was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 23 September (Alan Sheppard).

- BLACK-NECKED STILT** – Occasional for inland Alabama, two were spotted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 9 September (Michael Jordan), and one was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 22 October (Neill Cowles).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, five and three were present 22 October (Neill Cowles *et al.*) and 30 October (Linda Reynolds), respectively. Three hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Three late birds were at the W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 25 November (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW** - One was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 6 September (David Muth), to mark the first WP record since 1995.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE** – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- SANDERLING** – Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare in the WP, one was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 6 September (David Muth). This sandpiper is rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in fall. Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck *et al.* had one-two between 5-10 August and one on 15 September. One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Six were found at Vincent, *St. Clair*, 23 August (Helen Kittinger *et al.*) and 31 August (Greg Jackson) (good number for the Mountain Region). One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Five were counted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 15 October (Carolyn Snow, Peggy Baker, Jane Crittenden) (uncommon for the Inland Coastal Plain; late record for inland Alabama).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Rare for inland Alabama, two were spotted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 10 August (Craig Brown). One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** – Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER** – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).
- LAUGHING GULL** – Three were noted on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 8 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region). This species is considered uncommon for inland Alabama, although regular in the Tennessee Valley and along the Chattahoochee River. One-two adults were found at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 19 November (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson). One in first-basic plumage was seen at

Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 23 November (Greg Jackson). Numerous hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – One adult in basic plumage was noted in *Walton*, 1 November (Damien Simbeck). Another single was spotted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 7 November (Linda Reynolds), where the species is rare but regular.

RING-BILLED GULL – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – One (possibly) hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

SABINE'S GULL – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

GULL-BILLED TERN – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

CASPIAN TERN – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

SANDWICH TERN – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

COMMON TERN – Three hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

FORSTER'S TERN – At Wheeler and Wilson dams, *Lawrence/Lauderdale/Colbert*, 100+ (95+ at Wheeler, five at Wilson) were counted 26 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (good number).

LEAST TERN – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

BRIDLED TERN – Three hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

SOOTY TERN – Many hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

BLACK TERN – Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

BROWN NODDY – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

TERN SP. (SOOTY/BRIDLED) – One hurricane-related record was received (Table 1).

BLACK SKIMMER – Occasional for inland Alabama, and probably related to the passage of Hurricane Katrina earlier, singles were seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 11 September (Lynn Baumgardt, Al Baumgardt; ph.), and at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 17 September (Lorna West). Two hurricane-related records were received (Table 1).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – The seventh record for the Mountain Region was marked by a single heard at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 31 August (Greg Jackson).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – A single was at Atmore, *Escambia*, Alabama, 3 September (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder) (occasional for the Inland Coastal Plain). At Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one was banded 11 October and another was seen 17 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*) (rare in fall).

- GROOVE-BILLED ANI** – Rare in the WP, one was observed 27 October – 11 November at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* (Bob Duncan, Mac Meyers, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown).
- BURROWING OWL** – The census at Range 70, Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 5 November revealed 11 birds (Lenny Fenimore).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – An adult female that had been banded 11 December 2004 returned to Cullman, *Cullman*, 21 August (early; 20th Alabama record) (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Caila Lamont, Loran Lamont).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – Rare in the WP, two were noted 10-29 September at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (Bob Duncan). Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, singles were found at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 9 September (Larry Gardella, Stan Hamilton), at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 13 September (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, six reports were received: one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 18 September (Greg Jackson); one-two at Opelika, *Lee*, 18 and 20 September (Lorna West; calling); one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 September (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown); one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 30 September (Damien Simbeck); and two singles at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 and 11 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Casual in the WP, an adult male was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15 November (Peggy Baker). Occasional for inland Alabama, single adult males were seen 14 November at Enterprise, *Coffee* (Teri Stallsmith, Bob Stallsmith), and at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 November+ (Harry Dean, Milton Harris, Ken Ward, Bill McAlister *et al.*; ph.)
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but regular in the WP, a single was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 2 November (Bob Duncan). Another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19+ October (Bob Sargent, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – In the WP there was a total of five individuals noted 22-31 October (m.ob.).
- BELL'S VIREO** – A single was banded and photographed 16 October at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*) (rare).
- WARBLING VIREO** – Rare in Alabama, singles were found at Winfield, *Marion*, 29 September (Jud Johnston), at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 8

October (Larry Gardella), and at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 October (Howard Horne).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – One was late at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 18 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

FISH CROW – Casual but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, Damien Simbeck had a calling bird along the Elk River near Rogersville, *Lauderdale*, 12 August.

PURPLE MARTIN – A huge flock of an estimated 200,000+ birds was seen below Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 4 August (Bill Rogers, Keith Hudson) (maximum by a large margin for Alabama).

BROWN CREEPER – A single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 October, tied the early arrival date for the Gulf Coast (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – One was early at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 7 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

HERMIT THRUSH - One was early at Clay, *Jefferson*, 26 September (Bob Sargent).

WOOD THRUSH – A very late bird was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22-26 November (Scot Duncan, Mac Myers).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – Three was a good number at Opelika, *Lee*, 24 September (Lorna West).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – An early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by one at Pintlala, *Lowndes*, 17 September (Carolyn Snow). A late bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 November (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell, Mac Braid).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – One was at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 8 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in Mountain Region). A total of eight was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15-20 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Two at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 26 August, established an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley (Damien Simbeck).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Casual in November in the WP, an adult female was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 12 November (Bob Duncan). Rare for inland Alabama, a female was noted at Opelika, *Lee*, 13 September (Lorna West).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER – The fifth and sixth records for the WP were established, respectively, by an adult male at Eglin Air Force

Base, *Okaloosa*, 8 September (Jim Kowalski), and by a hatching year female at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 7 November (Bob Duncan, Don Ware) and 11 November (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Pat Baker).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – One at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 3 September (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) was early.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – The first November record for the WP was marked by a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 10 November (Bob Duncan).

MOURNING WARBLER – One was at Winfield, *Marion*, 25 September (Jud Johnston) (rare). Rare but regular during fall migration on the Gulf Coast, another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – The 63 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*) was a good number. One was late at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 November (Howard Horne *et al.*).

WILSON'S WARBLER – Rare for the Inland Coastal Plain, singles were found 12 and 15 September at Shorter, *Macon* (Eric Soehren).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Casual in the WP, two were seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 19 October (Bob Duncan).

LARK SPARROW – In the vicinity of Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck counted eight on 12 August, and Steve McConnell counted 21 (excellent number) on 13 August.

SAVANNAH SPARROW – One at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 3 September (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow), marked an early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – Occasional in Alabama, one was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 October (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne)

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Casual in the WP, one was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 13 September (Don Ware, Bill Garner).

RED CROSSBILL – Two were west of Coleman Lake in Talladega National Forest, *Cleburne*, 24 November (Eric Soehren) (continued presence at this known breeding site).

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH – A single of this exotic frequented a feeder in Milton, *Santa Rosa*, from early August to 26 August (Mike Schiller).

TABLE 1. Sightings associated with hurricanes, Fall 2006.

Species	Number	Date	County	Location	Hurricane	Observer	Comments
Common Loon	2	31 August	St. Clair	Logan Martin Dam	Katrina	Greg Jackson	entry
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	29 August	Santa Rosa	Pensacola Bay, Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Bob & Lucy Duncan, Peggy Baker	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	30 August	Lauderdale	Tenn. R. @ Waite Cemetery	Katrina	Greg Jackson	2nd inland, 1st TN Valley, 25th AL
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	30 August	Lauderdale	Tenn. R. @ Waite Cemetery	Katrina	Greg & Debra Jackson	1st inland, 8th AL, @ABRC
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Michael Boehm	4 prior inland records
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	30 August	Colbert	mouth of Bear Cr., Pickwick Res.	Katrina	Steve McConnell	4 prior inland records
White-tailed Tropicbird	1	30 August	Escambia	Pensacola Beach	Katrina		see text
Cattle Egret	510	31 August	Shelby	Harpersville	Katrina	Greg Jackson	max. for north AL
Wood Stork	1	30 August	Colbert	Ala. Hwy. 157 @ Town Creek	Katrina	Greg Jackson	occasional TN Valley
American Avocet	7+	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Michael Boehm	rare inland, ph.
American Avocet	7	30 August	Barbour	Eufaula	Katrina	Lorna West	rare inland
Ruddy Turnstone	1	26 September	Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg Jackson	
Sanderling	4	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Geoff Hill, Mark Liu, Michael Boehm	rare inland
Sanderling	4	30 August	Marshall	Guntersville	Katrina	Steve McConnell	uncommon inland
Band's Sandpiper	4	26 September	Morgan	Solutia, Decatur	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson	uncommon inland, juvenile, ph
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	21	30 August	Colbert	Leighton	Katrina	Damen Simbeck et al.	rare but regular TN Valley
Wilson's Phalarope	1	26 September	Morgan	Leighton & Town Cr. Marsh	Katrina	Damen Simbeck et al.	good number for the TN Valley
Red-necked Phalarope	1	30 August	Escambia	Solutia, Decatur	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson	rare inland ph.
Red-necked Phalarope	2	30 August	Lauderdale	catfish farms, northern county	Katrina	Laun Carterton	3rd WP record
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	26 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale	west of Florence	Katrina	Tom Haggerty, Jeff Gamer	occasional AL, ph.
Laughing Gull	4	30 August	Henry	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson et al.	4th AL immature @ABRC
Laughing Gull	10+	30 August	Colbert/Lauderdale	Wilson Dam	Katrina	Steve McConnell	
Laughing Gull	6	30 August	Colbert	Leighton	Katrina	Damen Simbeck et al.	
Laughing Gull	9	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Michael Boehm	
Laughing Gull	5	30 August	Marshall	Guntersville	Katrina	Steve McConnell	
Laughing Gull	5	30 August	Lauderdale	west of Florence	Katrina	Steve McConnell	
Laughing Gull	20	30 August	Colbert/Lauderdale	Tenn. R. @ Natchez Trace	Katrina	Jeff Gamer, Tom Haggerty	
Laughing Gull	2	30 August	Colbert	Bear Creek, Pickwick Res.	Katrina	Steve McConnell	2 ad., 1 2nd year, 2 jrv.
Laughing Gull	5	30 August	Lauderdale	Waterloo	Katrina	Greg & Debra Jackson	juvenile
Laughing Gull	1	30 August	Lauderdale	Tenn. R. @ Waite Cemetery	Katrina	Greg & Debra Jackson	rare Mountain Region, max. count 5 jrv., 19 ad., 1 imm.
Laughing Gull	25	31 August	St. Clair	Logan Martin Dam	Katrina	Greg Jackson	
Laughing Gull	4	30 August	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Katrina	Damen Simbeck	max. TN Valley
Laughing Gull	81	31 August	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Katrina	Damen Simbeck	max. inland AL, 102 Wheeler, 54 Wilson, 1 Decatur
Laughing Gull	157	26 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale/Colbert/Morgan	Wilson & Wheeler dams, Decatur	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson	
Laughing Gull	155	30 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson	
Laughing Gull	1	26 September	Jefferson	Birmingham	Rita	Rick Remy	rare Mountain Region, imm.

TABLE 1. Continued

Species	Number	Date	County	Location	Hurricane	Observer	Comments
Ring-billed Gull	250	26 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson et al.	high count early in season
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	26-30 September	Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson et al.	adult early for AL by 1 month, rare but increasing
Sabine's Gull	1	29 September	Morgan	Wheeler NWR	Rita	Dwight Cooley	5th AL, 1st inland juvenile found dead ph. @ABRC
Gull-billed Tern	1	30 August	Colbert	Leighton	Katrina	Danien Simbeck et al.	4th inland AL, 1st TN Valley
Caspian Tern	3	31 August	St. Clair	Logan Martin Dam	Katrina	Greg Jackson	rare Mountain Region
Sandwich Tern	1	30 August	Barbour	Eufaula	Katrina	Loma West	3rd inland
Common Tern	1	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Michael Boehm	rare Inland Coastal Plain AL
Common Tern	2	31 August	St. Clair	Logan Martin Dam	Katrina	Greg Jackson	rare Mountain Region
Common Tern	20	26 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Rita	Greg Jackson	max. TN Valley
Forster's tern	100+	26 September	Lawrence/Lauderdale/Colbert	Wilson & Wheeler dams	Rita	Greg & Debra Jackson	good number 95 at Wheeler, 5 at Wilson
Least Tern	5	30 August	Colbert	Town Creek Point	Katrina	Danien Simbeck	rate
Bridled Tern	3	29 August	Santa Rosa	Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Bob & Lucy Duncanson, Peggy Baker	rate
Bridled Tern	3-4	29 August	Santa Rosa	Navarre	Katrina	David Muth	rate
Bridled Tern	6	30 August	Walton	Navarre	Katrina	Jon Bortle	rate
Sooty Tern	1	28 August	Santa Rosa	Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Lucy Duncanson	
Sooty Tern	10	29 August	Santa Rosa	Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Bob & Lucy Duncanson, Peggy Baker	
Sooty Tern	1	29 August	Santa Rosa	Navarre	Katrina	David Muth	
Sooty Tern	3	30 August	Walton	Navarre	Katrina	Jon Bortle	
Sooty Tern	1	31 August	Escambia	Pensacola	Katrina	Dorothy Kaufmann	taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest FL
Sooty Tern	1	30 August	Henry	W. F. George Dam	Katrina	Geoff Hill, Mark Liu, Michael Boehm	rare inland after tropical storms
Sooty Tern	6	30 August	Lawrence/Lauderdale	Wheeler Dam	Katrina	Danien Simbeck	rare inland after tropical storms, adults
Sooty Tern	1	30 August	Colbert/Lauderdale	Term. R. @ Natchez Trace west of Florence	Katrina	Jeff Garner, Tom Haggerty	rare inland after tropical storms
Sooty Tern	1	30 August	Lauderdale	Guntersville	Katrina	Tom Haggerty	rare inland after tropical storms
Sooty Tern	1	30 August	Marshall	Guntersville Dam	Katrina	Dick & Linda Reynolds	rare inland after tropical storms
Sooty Tern	15	30 August	Marshall	Guntersville Dam	Katrina	Dick & Linda Reynolds	rare inland after tropical storms
Black Tern	200	30 August	Colbert/Lawrence	Leighton/Wheeler Dam	Katrina	Danien Simbeck et al.	good number - estimated
Black Tern	50	30 August	Henry	Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Michael Boehm	good number
Brown Noddy	1	29 August	Santa Rosa	Gulf Breeze	Katrina	Bob & Lucy Duncanson, Peggy Baker	
Black Skimmer	1	30 August	Marshall	Guntersville	Katrina	Steve McConnell	rare inland after tropical storms
Black Skimmer	1	30 August	Colbert/Lauderdale	Wilson Dam	Katrina	Steve McConnell	occasional inland
Black Skimmer	1	31 August	Madison	Huntsville Airport	Katrina	Steve Threlkeld	occasional inland, found dead

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WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2005 – FEBRUARY 2006)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan

This report covers the period from December 2005 through February 2006 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species; these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. All submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, must be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. For guidance, observers are encouraged to consult the Alabama Ornithological Society checklist. Reports should note conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Abbreviations and italics: County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “CE” = central east; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Rare but regular in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10-19 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*). Twenty+ was a good number at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 January (Shelley Ducharme, Frank Ducharme) (rare for the Inland Coastal Plain, but regular at this site). This goose is uncommon in the Tennessee Valley, but Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, is a regular site for a flock of this species. A maximum of 34 (good number) was recorded at Wheeler NWR 8 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Three were found west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 20+ January (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) (rare in northwest Alabama). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain (except for Eufaula NWR), one was seen at Marvyn, *Lee*, 24 February (Bailey McKay).

ROSS’S GOOSE – Casual in extreme northwest Florida, but becoming more

regular, nine birds were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10-19 December (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Peggy Baker, Morris Clark *et al.*; ph. by Paul Johnson; @FOSRC). Rare but becoming regular on the Alabama Gulf Coast, up to three were in the Magnolia Springs/Foley area, *Baldwin* (ph.; one, 12 December, David Plumb; two, 29-30 December, Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; and an additional bird 30 December, Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser). Rare but becoming regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, one adult was noted at Lee County Lake, *Lee*, during the Auburn CBC, 3 January (Geoff Hill), and an immature was at Auburn, *Lee*, 30 January (Barry Fleming). Eight was a good number 8 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, where this species is rare but regular.

CAACKLING GOOSE – A very small goose, present with three Greater White-fronted Geese, three large Canada Geese, and one Ross's Goose at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10 December – 4 January, was identified as this species (Don Ware, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, m.ob.). This is the first documented record for the WP.

CANADA GOOSE – The 477 recorded 31 December on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, was a locally good number.

TRUMPETER SWAN – Two immatures were found at Marvyn, *Lee*, 17 February – 7 March (Geoff Hill, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC). The origin/wild status of these birds is unknown, but they are likely from the current re-introduction program in the Midwest.

TUNDRA SWAN – Two adults occurred at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 30-31 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow, Larry Gardella) (occasional for the Inland Coastal Plain).

MALLARD – A maximum count (45,787) for Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December.

GREATER SCAUP – One female was at Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 January (Greg Jackson) (rare for the Inland Coastal Plain).

LESSER SCAUP – The 6,675 recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, was a good number.

SURF SCOTER – This scoter is uncommon on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, so the 10 seen on Bon Secour Bay, *Baldwin*, 3 December (David Plumb), was a good number.

BLACK SCOTER – Two birds, immatures or females, were noted in Pensacola, *Escambia*, during the Pensacola CBC, 17 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Roy Hall) (rare). Also rare in the

Tennessee Valley, female-type birds were found at Guntersville, *Marshall* (one, 1 December, Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds; two, 26-27 December, Lorna West *et al.*). This scoter is rare but regular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, so the 10 seen on Bon Secour Bay, *Baldwin*, 3 December (David Plumb), was a good number.

RUFFED GROUSE – While a permanent resident in northeast Alabama, this species is rarely recorded. Amy Silvano observed one on Little Coon Mountain in Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 26 February.

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one occurred there 26 December (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds), and four (good number) were there 21 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, a single was there 25 December (Steve McConnell), and two were found 21 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON – The first record for Alabama was marked by a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 19 January (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds; @ABRC).

RED-NECKED GREBE – One at the W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 19 February (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm; ph.), marked the first record for the Inland Coastal Plain (very rare in Alabama, with more records in recent years).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, 116 on the Wheeler NWR CBC, 17 December, set a new maximum count for inland Alabama, while 17 were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 26+ January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – A maximum count for inland Alabama was established by the 7,104 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

ANHINGA – A single female was recorded on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, and found again on 2 January (Larry Gardella) (rare in winter, especially this far north).

GREAT EGRET – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, 254 were recorded (good number for winter).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – One adult was found during the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 23 December (David George, Sharon Hudgins) (occasional in winter in the Mountain Region).

BLACK VULTURE – A good number (203) for the Tennessee Valley was recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

- OSPREY** – Singles were observed at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 December (Carolyn Snow), and for count week of the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, ~23 December (rare in winter for inland Alabama). The 29 tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December, established a new maximum count for Alabama.
- BALD EAGLE** – Four (one adult and three first-year birds) at Arcola, *Hale*, 19 February (Judy Self, Don Self), was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- HARRIS'S HAWK** – An adult first seen 8 January on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Don McKee), continued at this site 10 February – 11 March (Harry Dean, Sue Dean, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC). While this record would be the first for Alabama, its origin is questionable because dispersal is usually minimal and mostly by juveniles, and this is a common falconry species with frequent escapes.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK** – One light morph was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Morris Clark, Don Ware *et al.*; ph. by Paul Johnson) to mark the 11th WP record.
- RED-TAILED HAWK** – A dark morph bird (rare in Alabama) occurred at the Birmingham Airport, *Jefferson*, 15 February (Paul Franklin).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** – Two birds, a light morph and a dark morph (ph.), were found below Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 21 January (Linda Reynolds, Ty Keith, m.ob.), a site where the species has traditionally occurred (rare, particularly in recent years).
- MERLIN** – Very rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, a single was counted on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December (Floyd Sherrod). Rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was east of Alfalfa, *Hale*, 19 February (Judy Self, Don Self).
- PEREGRINE FALCON** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, three was a good number on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December. Another single was observed for count week of the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, ~23 December.
- AMERICAN COOT** - The 57,263 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, established a new maximum count for Alabama.
- SANDHILL CRANE** – At Florala, *Covington*, 27 were observed 8 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow), a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain where the species is rare (except for Eufaula NWR). The 1,243 recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, established a new maximum count for Alabama. A single was seen at Montgomery,

Montgomery, 30-31 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow *et al.*).

SNOWY PLOVER – At Big Sabine, *Escambia*, 14 December, 16 was a good number for the WP (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

KILLDEER – A good number locally was the 431 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – Casual in the WP, singles were noted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8 December (Bob Duncan), and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Jan Lloyd).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - A maximum winter count (53) for inland Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – A single was observed for count week of the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, ~31 December (Carolyn Snow) (rare in winter for inland Alabama).

MARbled GODWIT – Two were discovered on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 17 December (rare in winter).

WILSON'S SNIBE – A good number locally was the 97 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – Two were present in a yard at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8-26 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), the species was tallied on the Choctawhatchee CBC, *Okaloosa*, 19 December, and there were several occurrences in suburban yards, perhaps indicative of an invasion year. Displaying singles were noted in the Stapleton and Carlton CE blocks for the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas, *Baldwin*, 7 and 22 February, respectively (Claire Krusko) (rare breeder on the Gulf Coast).

POMARINE JAEGER – The second record for inland Alabama, and the first for the Inland Coastal Plain, was marked by a juvenile at the W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 10 December (Steve McConnell) and 11 December (Paul Lehman). The third record for inland Alabama, and the second for the Tennessee Valley, was marked by a single at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16-17 December (Craig Brown *et al.*; ph.)

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Rare in winter, a first-year individual was seen at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 9 January (Bob Duncan, Mac Myers).

LITTLE GULL – The ninth record for Alabama, and the second for the Inland Coastal Plain, was marked by a first-year bird at Speigner, *Elmore*, 16 December (Shawn Reed; @ABRC).

RING-BILLED GULL – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, 2,182 was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain.

- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Casual in the WP, an adult was found at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, during the Choctawhatchee CBC, 19 December (Merilu Rose, Rufus Rose). Several sightings of first-year, second-year, and adult birds (maximum of 5) were made at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 29 December – 19 February (Greg Jackson, Bob Duncan, Mac Meyers *et al.*), where the species is rare but regular and increasing.
- GLAUCOUS GULL** – An immature seen 11-27 December south of Southside, *Etowah* (Lorna West, Neil Cronin *et al.*; ph.), marked the first record for the Mountain Region. Another immature was spotted at several sites along the Tennessee River (Town Creek Marsh, Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale/Lawrence*) 7 January – 4 February (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A first-year bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall* 1 January (Steve Matherly) (rare).
- FORSTER'S TERN** – Forty was a good winter count for inland Alabama at Waterloo and Wilson and Wheeler dams, *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence*, 14 January (Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Uncommon in winter, a new maximum count for Alabama was established by the 161 tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December (Howard Horne *et al.*). A single was on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December, while 40 (good number) were at Mobile, *Mobile*, 31 December (Ben Garmon).
- BURROWING OWL** – The colony continues on the B-70 area of Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, with 15 birds reported 15 January (Lenny Fenimore).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK** – A late bird was at Hoover, *Jefferson*, 4 December (Paul Franklin).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare in Alabama, a banded bird returned to East Brewton, *Escambia*, 2 December (Fred Bassett, Pat McArthur), and another single was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 14-15 December (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – Eleven (good number) were banded 6 December – 25 January in *Mobile/Baldwin* (Fred Bassett *et al.*) (rare in winter in Alabama).
- COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD** – The first record for Alabama was established by an immature male at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, seen between late November and 17 February (Fred Bassett, m.ob.; b.; ph.; @ABRC).
- CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – Casual in winter in the WP, an immature

male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 January (Fred Bassett, Pat Taylor, Don Taylor; b.). Rare in Alabama, another immature male was at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 28 December (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson *et al.*; b.; ph.), and an adult female returned to Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 13+ January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, m.ob.; b.).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – A hatching-year male was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 15 December (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.; 11th record for Alabama).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – One female occurred at Foley, *Baldwin*, 25 January (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare in Alabama).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Rare in the WP, a male was at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 11-12 December (Larry Tilley, Bill Bremser).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Rare in the WP, singles were noted at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 14 December (Don Ware), and at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 4 January – 17 February (Bob Duncan). Occasional in winter in Alabama, one was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 December (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman; ph.) to set the fourth record for inland Alabama and the second record for the Inland Coastal Plain. Another single was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser; ph.).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – One occurred at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 12-18 December (Bob Duncan, Jeri French), while another was in downtown Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Roy Hall) (rare but regular in winter in the WP).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Rare in winter in Alabama, Jan Lloyd *et al.* had one at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 1-30 December (ph.).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – A single was on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Larry Gardella) (rare in winter for inland Alabama). Another single in northern *Lee*, 21 January (Barry Fleming) marked the second winter record for the Mountain Region.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, CBCs produced three records: four (maximum for north Alabama in winter), Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December; one, Birmingham, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December; and one, Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December. On the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 50 were tallied 30 December to set a new maximum count for Alabama.

CAVE SWALLOW – Casual in the WP, the first winter record was marked by one at Cantonment, *Escambia*, 8 January (Laura Catterton).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – On the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*,

74 were tallied 26 December to establish a maximum count for the Tennessee Valley.

CAROLINA WREN – A maximum winter count (147) for the Inland Coastal Plain was made on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.

HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in north Alabama, one was noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, and six (good number) were found on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December. Seven on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, marked a new maximum winter count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

MARSH WREN – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, three were discovered on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (Bert Harris, Milton Harris, Brett Scheffers) (maximum winter count for the Tennessee Valley). Two were noted on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – Participants on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, tallied a good number (227).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, one occurred at Hoover, *Shelby*, 16 December (Paul Franklin), and another single was noted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Carolyn Snow).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – The second winter record for Alabama was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 December (Barry Fleming).

HERMIT THRUSH – Good numbers were found on two north Alabama CBCs. The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, produced 105 (maximum for the Tennessee Valley) on 17 December, while the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, produced 74 on 26 December.

GRAY CATBIRD – Rare in winter in north Alabama, singles were found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (Steve McConnell), and on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

CEDAR WAXWING – A maximum count (3,713) for the Tennessee Valley was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – Rare in winter in north Alabama, one was recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, and two were found during the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December. Thirteen on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, marked a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – A single was at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 19

December (Jim Kowalski; Choctawhatchee CBC) (rare in winter in the WP).

YELLOW WARBLER – Two birds at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Merilu Rose, Rufus Rose; Pensacola CBC) marked the fifth December record for the WP.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – A maximum count (900) for the Tennessee Valley was made during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December. A good number (631) for the Inland Coastal Plain was recorded on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.

PALM WARBLER – Uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, four were seen during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Three were noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

SUMMER TANAGER – An adult female was at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 January – 28 February (Paula Palmer, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan; ph.) (casual in winter in the WP). Rare in winter in Alabama, three records, all singles and females, were received: Anniston, *Calhoun*, 13 December – 11 February (Debbie McKenzie; ph.); Mobile, *Mobile*, 1 February (Linda Floyd; ph.); and Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 19 February through March (John Hall; ph.).

SCARLET TANAGER – A female at a feeder in Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 30 December through early February (John Dillon, Kate Dillon *et al.*), marked the second winter record for Alabama.

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in winter in the WP, an adult male was at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 January – 28 February (Paula Palmer, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan; ph.).

EASTERN TOWHEE – The 157 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, was a good number locally.

CHIPPING SPARROW – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 455 (good number) were counted 17 December, while the 528 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, set a new maximum count for the Tennessee Valley.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – Rare in north Alabama, one was sighted at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 3 December (Paul Kittle). Rare but regular at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, one was noted there 23 December (Lorna West, Neil Cronic, Nick Holler).

SALTMARSH SPARROW (SALTMARSH/NELSON'S) – A sharp-tailed

sparrow was photographed 30 December on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin (Mac Myers [ph.], Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow). Several characteristics suggest Saltmarsh Sparrow, but definitive field identification in this complex is difficult out of the usual ranges. Expert review of photographs is underway to help determine if this bird is outside the wide range of variability seen in Nelson's Sparrow. If determined to be a Saltmarsh Sparrow by the ABRC, this would represent a first Alabama record.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in Alabama, especially inland, three reports were received: one at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 December (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman); one on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); and two on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Eric Soehren, Larry Gardella).

SWAMP SPARROW – A new maximum count (941) for Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – Several were at the Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, 16 December (Shawn Reed) (rare but regular at this site).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK – Casual in winter in the WP, a male was at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Pat Baker; Choctawhatchee CBC).

INDIGO BUNTING – Occasional in winter for inland Alabama, a male was observed at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 11 December (Debbie McKenzie; ph.).

DICKCISSEL – One was seen at Mobile, *Mobile*, 18 February (Chazz Hesselein) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK – One singing at the Dauphin Island Airport, *Mobile*, 24-28 February (Ben Garmon *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) marked only the second confirmed record for Alabama in the last 30 years.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, 72 was a good number for the Tennessee Valley (David George).

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 10th record for Alabama was established by an adult male at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 January – 6 February (Howard Horne *et al.*; @ABRC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare in winter in Alabama, five reports were received: one male at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 21 December (Bill Summerour); six (three male Baltimore Orioles and three female-type "Northern" Orioles) on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Eric

Soehren, Carolyn Snow, Glenda McNair) (maximum for winter in Alabama); an adult female at a feeder in Gallion, *Marengo*, 11 January (Judy Self, Don Self); an adult male at a feeder in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27+ January (Carol Alford); and an adult male at a feeder in Cropwell, *St. Clair*, 10 February (*vide* Bob Sargent; ph.).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - The 461 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, was a good number locally.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH – One at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 21 December (Morris Clark) was a probable escape.

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This exotic species continues to be reported from feeders in the WP.

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation, identification or other related topics. Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer, it saves time and money if you submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with a hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred). A manuscript may also be submitted over the Internet as a file attached to an e-mail addressed to: tmhagerty@una.edu.

Manuscripts should be typed and double spaced. A 8 1/2 x 11 inch page format should be used.

Digital images submitted over the Internet, black and white prints, color prints, and slides are acceptable.

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*).

The author's full name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use only the metric system for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

Table titles should be in CAPS and placed above the tables.

Figure legends should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in past issues for the correct format.

Three or fewer references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, *Alabama Birds*).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.

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CONTENTS

**THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF BREEDING BALD EAGLES
(*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*) IN ALABAMA, 1985-2006.**

M. Keith Hudson and Thomas M. Haggerty.....1

REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2002-2005.

Steve W. McConnell9

**FIRST RECORD OF THE EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (*MOTACILLA
TSCHUTSCHENSIS*)/ YELLOW WAGTAIL (*MOTACILLA FLAVA*) FOR
ALABAMA.**

Robert A. Duncan and Lucy R. Duncan.....14

FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2005).

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....16

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2005 - FEBRUARY 2006).

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....26

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