

**WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2006 – FEBRUARY 2007)**

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This report covers the period from December 2006 through February 2007 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; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Uncommon but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, eight were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, 16 December, while 67 (good number) were found 26 December (Steve McConnell). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, three reports were received, all from *Baldwin*: six north of Fairhope, 29 December (Bill Summerour); two at the Gulf Shores sewage lagoons, 22 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and a single south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 25 February (Michael Jordan *et al.*).

**SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH)** – The second highest count (700) for this morph in Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December.

**ROSS’S GOOSE** – Rare but increasing in Alabama, several reports were received as follows: one on Donovan Lake south of Marion, *Perry*, 12 December through February and on 17 March (Thomas Wilson, m.ob.); Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*,

one on 12 November and 15 on 15 December (Steve McConnell), 18 (new maximum count for Alabama) on 16 December (Wheeler NWR CBC), three on 20 January (Dwight Cooley *et al.*); one in the Montgomery CBC circle, *Autauga*, 29 December (Tommy Pratt); two north of Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 29 December (Bill Summerour); one at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 17 January (Damien Simbeck; ph.); and two at McCalla, *Jefferson*, 7 February – 7 March (Sharon Hudgins).

**CANADA GOOSE** – The 67 recorded 30 December on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast.

**TUNDRA SWAN** – A single immature visited Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 11 December – 10 March (Dwight Cooley, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** – The first accepted record for the WP since 1965 was marked by four birds at catfish ponds in northern *Escambia*, 13 December (Laura Catterton; ph.). Only occasional for the Gulf Coast, a single was counted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December (Dwight Cooley, Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

**CANVASBACK** – The Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, tallied 287 (good number) 26 December.

**GREATER SCAUP** – At the W. F. George Dam, *Henry*, four males and one female were found 2 and 6 December (James Flynn, Earl Horn *et al.*) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SURF SCOTER** – This scoter is uncommon on the Gulf Coast, so the 16+ (15+ at Point Clear, one at Pelican Point) on Mobile Bay, *Mobile*, 25 January (Bill Summerour *et al.*) was a good number.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – Jud Johnston *et al.* noted 1-2 on four dates between 13 February and 13 March at Fayette, *Fayette* (rare inland).

**BLACK SCOTER** – Rare in the WP, an immature was seen on Santa Rosa Sound, *Santa Rosa*, 5-8 January (Peggy Baker). This scoter is uncommon on the Gulf Coast, so one seen on Aloe Bay, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 January (Linda Reynolds, John Porter), was notable.

**SCOTER SP.** – All species of scoters are uncommon on the Gulf Coast, so the unidentified 30+ noted at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 27 January (Ann Miller) was a good number.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** – Rare in Alabama, two records were received: one on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 16 December, and an immature male on Lake Shelby in Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 28 December – 1 March (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.).

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** – Rare so far south on the Inland Coastal Plain (and a good number), three were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 26 January (Lorna West).

**COMMON MERGANSER** – Damien Simbeck spotted two on the Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 19 December (rare in Alabama).

**RED-THROATED LOON** – Rare but regular for the Tennessee Valley, one was noted on the Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 19 December (Damien Simbeck).

**PACIFIC LOON** – Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was recorded 2 December and 17 March, while two were found 5 January (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.). Also rare elsewhere in Alabama, reports of singles were received from Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 5 January (Damien Simbeck), and Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 17 January (Ann Miller).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – The eighth record for the WP was marked by a single first winter bird at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 4 February (Charles Saleeby; @FOSRC). Occasional in Alabama, one adult was seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

**EARED GREBE** – Rare in the WP, two birds were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, from September – 18 December (Bob Duncan, Don Ware *et al.*).

**WESTERN GREBE** – The fifth Alabama record for this species was marked by a single that lingered at the W. F. George Dam, *Henry*, 6 December – 19 February (Eric Boehm, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).

**MASKED BOOBY** – The second November record for the WP was marked by an adult on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 14 November (Joe Kern; ph.).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – This species is now increasing and regular in winter at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, where Steve McConnell counted 75 on 15 December and where 180 were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC 16 December. Rare in winter for the Inland Coastal Plain, 43 were seen at Gees Bend on the Alabama River, *Wilcox*, 3 January (Robert Reed), and three were noted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 16 February (Lorna West). Two were at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 10-15 January (William McBride *et al.*; ph.) (rare in the Mountain Region).

**ANHINGA** – A single was recorded on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December (rare this far north in winter). One was noted on Lake Tolocco, *Dale*, 2 and 4 February with three seen 5 February (Ken Kranik) (uncommon in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – On the 30 December Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, one immature was counted at Perdido Pass (Steve McConnell; ph.) (occasional in winter).

**GREAT BLUE HERON** – A maximum winter count (45) for the Mountain Region was made on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.

**REDDISH EGRET** – The Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, had an excellent count of 13 on 16 December. A single on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 17 December (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) was a good find (occasional this far north in winter).

**GREEN HERON** – Only occasional in winter in the Mountain Region, one was recorded on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – Four (a maximum winter count for the Mountain Region) were tallied on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – One adult was found during the

Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 23 December (Sharon Hudgins *et al.*; ph.) (occasional in winter in the Mountain Region).

**WHITE IBIS** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, five adults were noted at Camden, *Wilcox*, 3 January (Robert Reed), while 80+ (mostly adults) at Hacoda, *Geneva*, 26 February (Odis Johnson) established a winter maximum for inland Alabama.

**BLACK VULTURE** – A maximum count for Alabama (458) was recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

**TURKEY VULTURE** – The 318 recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, set a record high for the Tennessee Valley and a winter high for Alabama.

**OSPREY** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, three was a good number on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December, while the 32 tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December, established a new maximum count for Alabama.

**BALD EAGLE** – Seen with increasing frequency in the WP, a new WP maximum was set by the 14 immatures and sub-adults seen at the catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 19 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

**COOPER'S HAWK** – On the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December, 12 were tallied (ties the maximum winter count for the Mountain Region).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – An adult was seen along Ala. Hwy. 41 at the county line north-east of Camden, *Wilcox/Dallas*, 3 January (Robert Reed) (rare).

**MERLIN** – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Larry Barkey reported a single from Smith Lake south of Houston, *Winston*, 23 December. Rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was near Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 1 January (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, an adult spent much of the winter (6 December – 20 February) at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert* (Damien Simbeck). Five (maximum for inland Alabama) were counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December, with a single noted 26 December (Steve McConnell). Two were spotted in downtown Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 21 January (Pelham Rowan, m.ob.) (rare but regular at this site).

**PURPLE GALLINULE** – The third (and first inland) winter record for Alabama was marked by two seen east of Florala, *Covington*, 23 February (Odis Johnson).

**COMMON MOORHEN** – Eight was a good number for winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, east of Florala, *Covington*, 21-26 February (Odis Johnson).

**AMERICAN COOT** – The Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, reported 11,025 on 15 December (maximum winter count for the Inland Coastal Plain). The 48,574 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, was the second highest count for Alabama.

**SANDHILL CRANE** – Casual in the WP, three were at Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 23 November (Anna Stalcup). This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, but is now regular and increasing at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*. From the Alabama portion

of the Eufaula NWR CBC, 57 (good number) were reported 15 December (Barry Fleming *et al.*). Large numbers continue to be reported from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*: 118 on 23 November (Steve McConnell), 305 on 24 November (Barry Fleming), and 637 on 16 December (Wheeler NWR CBC). Large numbers were also reported from Weiss Lake, *Cherokee* (Linda Baker, Winston Baker), where the species is regular and increasing: one on 3 November; 11 on 21 November; 2,000 on 22 December (maximum count for Alabama); and 600 on 31 December. At Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, Steve Seibert reported five on 6 February (locally rare).

**WHOOING CRANE** – Occasional in Alabama from the release program in the eastern U.S., a single was in *Baldwin*, 9 December – 2 January (Teal Corte, Operation Migration; ph. Bill Summerour), while two were at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 9 January – 17 March (*vide* Dwight Cooley and Operation Migration)

**SNOWY PLOVER** – At Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 18 January, 10 was a good number for the WP (Bob Duncan).

**KILLDEER** – A good number locally was the 411 tallied at Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 15 December (Damien Simbeck).

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – A good number (58) was counted on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 16 December.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** – Rare but regular in winter at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, a single was noted 10 February (Michael Jordan).

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, singles were observed on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 29 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow), and at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 3 February (Steve McConnell).

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – A single at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 16 February (Lorna West) marked a new early arrival date for inland Alabama.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** – This species is rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, where 45 were recorded on the 16 December CBC (second highest winter count for the Tennessee Valley). A single was at Colbert Creek, *Lauderdale*, 17 January (Damien Simbeck).

**RED KNOT** – Declining and now rare in Alabama, the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, tallied eight on 16 December.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** – On the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 342 (locally good number) were counted 30 December.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – Occasional in winter in Alabama, a single was noted for the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone* (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske; ph.).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Larry Gardella found two at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 2 December (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**DOWITCHER SP.** – One was found at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 18 January (Steve McConnell) (rare in midwinter in Alabama).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – Rare in winter, a first-year individual was seen at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 2 February (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

- ICELAND GULL** – The fourth record for the WP (and the 11<sup>th</sup> for Florida) was marked by a first winter bird at the Perdido Landfill, *Escambia*, 13 January – 17 February (Laura Catterton; ph; accepted by FOSRC). The sixth and seventh records for Alabama were marked, respectively, by single immatures at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 12 January (Ann Miller, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bill Summerour; ph.; @ABRC), and Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, *Lawrence*, 18-19 February (Shawn Reed *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Very rare in the WP, an adult was found at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 16 December (Bill Bremser). In Alabama, records were received from three sites where the species is rare but regular: four different individuals on various dates throughout the winter period at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (Bill Summerour, Steve McConnell, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.); one at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 1 January and 19 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.); and one at Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, *Lawrence*, 20 February (Steve McConnell).
- GLAUCOUS GULL** – A second winter individual was at Fort Walton Beach and Destin, *Okaloosa*, 5-14 February (John Grossa, Carol Grossa *et al.*; ph.) (casual in WP). An immature was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 December (David Chaffin, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A first-year bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 February (Don McKee *et al.*) and 19 April (Clay Sutton *et al.*) – 30 April (Paul Lehman) (rare).
- FORSTER'S TERN** – Good winter counts (39 and 54, respectively) for inland Alabama came from the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 16 December, and Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 19 December (Damien Simbeck). Rare in winter for the Mountain Region, a single was at McCalla, *Jefferson*, 24 January (Sharon Hudgins).
- ROCK PIGEON** – A new maximum count for Alabama (3,943) was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Locally rare in winter but increasing on the Gulf Coast, a new maximum count for Alabama was established by the 400+ roosting in a yard at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, to 4+ December (Bill Summerour; ph.). Four were tallied on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 16 December. Steve McConnell had a single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 December. A good number (174) was counted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December.
- MOURNING DOVE** – The Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, recorded a locally good number (838) 16 December.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – Tommy Pratt found a single in the Montgomery CBC area, *Autauga*, 29 December (locally rare). Damien Simbeck had a single at Paint Creek east of Marble Valley, *Coosa*, 23 January (rare in the Mountain Region).

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** – Rare in winter in Alabama, a single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 January (Don McKee; ph.).

**HUMMINGBIRDS** – In the WP, 22 individuals of five species were banded by Fred Bassett of the Hummer/Bird Study Group 8 November – 17 December in *Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, *Okaloosa*, and *Walton* counties. They were: Ruby-throated (four), Rufous (10), Black-chinned (three), Buff-bellied (three), and Calliope (two).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, one was banded at Huntsville, *Madison*, 6 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent).

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare in Alabama but becoming regular, an adult male and a female were at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 28 December (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson; male banded at this site last year; ph.), and a female was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 7 January (Fred Bassett, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch; b.).

**BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – One was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Fred Bassett, Sandi Nicosia; b.; ph.; 12<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, a new maximum (eight) for Alabama was tallied on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** – Rarely reported from the WP, Don Ware had two birds on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 18 December, while a canoe/kayak trip on the Escambia River, *Escambia*, 27 December, yielded three birds in the adjacent swamp forest (Scot Duncan, William Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Howard Horne).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** – The first winter record for Alabama was marked by one at Foley, *Baldwin*, 17 February (Francis Schmitz; ph.).

**EASTERN PHOEBE** – The Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December, established a new winter maximum count (40) for the Mountain Region of Alabama.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – A total of nine birds was reported from the WP 3-18 December (*vide* Bob Duncan). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, records were received from four localities: two, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 December (Dauphin Island CBC) and one 31 December (Christine Kelley *et al.*); one, Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 20 January (Ann Miller, Al Miller); one, south of Foley, *Baldwin*, 11 February (Michael Jordan); and one, Saraland (unusual location), *Mobile*, 24 February (Michael Jordan).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were found on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December (Larry Gardella, Shawn Reed), and a different individual was at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 1 January (Eric Soehren, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow, Larry Gardella).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, CBCs produced two records of singles: Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 16 December (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Jerrod Finlay *et al.*), and

Birmingham, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December. Eleven, a good number for winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, were tallied on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December.

**FISH CROW** – Locally rare in winter, two were counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December. A maximum winter count (480) for inland Alabama was recorded on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December. Rare but slowly increasing in the Tennessee Valley, a single was at the Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, *Morgan*, 20 February (Steve McConnell).

**HORNED LARK** – Three birds were found in *Jackson*, Florida, 14-16+ January (Andy Bankert, m.ob.; ph.).

**PURPLE MARTIN** – Two were early 13 January at Fairhope, *Baldwin* (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). One at Atmore, *Escambia*, 23 January (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder), marked an early record for inland Alabama.

**TREE SWALLOW** – An early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain was set by one on 16 February at Livingston, *Sumter* (Jim Ezell).

**BARN SWALLOW** – A very late bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 December (Greg Jackson).

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December, 54 was a good number.

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH** – Two on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December, were locally rare.

**BROWN CREEPER** – A rare winter visitor in the WP, singles were at the FWBSF, *Okalosa*, 10 January (Bob Duncan), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 11 February (Jere French). The six found on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 16 December, ties the maximum winter count for the Gulf Coast of Alabama. Seven was a good number on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December.

**HOUSE WREN** – A single along Smith Lake south of Houston 24 November and 2 December (Larry Barkey *et al.*) was late. Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 16 December, and on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, ~16 December (CBC count week).

**WINTER WREN** – Rare in the WP, one was noted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13 December (Jere French), while four birds were seen in swamp habitat along the Escambia River, northern *Escambia*, during a 27 December kayak/canoe trip (Scot Duncan, William Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Howard Horne). This river swamp habitat is rarely sampled by birders, and Winter Wren may be more common locally in this habitat.

**MARSH WREN** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, four were discovered on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (ties maximum winter count for the Tennessee Valley).

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** – Participants on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December, tallied a good number (72) for the Inland Coastal



Plain.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** – The fourth record for Alabama, and first in winter, was marked by one south of Foley, *Baldwin*, 3 February – 18 March (John Dillon, Kay Dillon, Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** – The Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, tallied 323 on 17 December to set a new winter maximum for the Mountain Region.

**AMERICAN ROBIN** – In the WP, thousands were present from late January – 19 February. A trip from Cedar Key to Pensacola by Bob Duncan and Lucy Duncan revealed the phenomenon was widespread in the panhandle of Florida.

**GRAY CATBIRD** – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, a single was found on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – Although generally a very rare species in the WP, one was found at site B-70 on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 3 December (Lenny Fenimore), where the species is consistently found in winter.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Rare in winter in north Alabama, singles were recorded on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 16 December; the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, ~16 December (count week), and the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December. Eleven on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December, marked the second highest count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – Barry Fleming noted one at Auburn, *Lee*, 20 December (occasional in winter for inland Alabama). Uncommon on the Gulf Coast in winter, three (good number for a single site) were noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 February (Steve Neitzel; ph.).

**PINE WARBLER** – A maximum count (212) for inland Alabama was made on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Rare in winter in the WP, one was seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 January (Bob Duncan). Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast, a single was found on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 16 December (John Winn).

**PALM WARBLER** – This species is uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, so a single on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 16 December (Steve McConnell) was notable. A maximum count (378) for Alabama was made on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** – One was noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**OVENBIRD** – The third December record for the WP was marked by one on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 18 December (Jim Kowalski; Choctawhatchee CBC).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, a single was at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 18 December (Sandra Lefstad; Choctawhatchee CBC). Another single was at Opelika, *Lee*, 9 December (Quint Lupton; ph.) (occasional in winter for inland Alabama).

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one

was sighted on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 1 January (Michael Jordan).

**SUMMER TANAGER** – Casual in winter in the WP, one was found in *Okaloosa*, 18 December (Gene Estes; Choctawhatchee CBC). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, records from four sites were received: one in Mobile, *Mobile*, 7 December – 16 February (Donna Bullard; ph.); two at feeders, Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, winter of 2006-2007 (John Dillon, Kay Dillon; ph.); one at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 20 January (Michael Jordan *et al.*); and one, Dyas Creek at County Road 61, *Baldwin*, 17 February (Michael Jordan).

**WESTERN TANAGER** – Casual in winter in the WP, single adult males were found at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 31 December (Robin Stiles, Tom Stiles; ph.), and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 January (Paula Palmer).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one made an extended stay at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 18 January – 7 April (Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.).

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** – Participants on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 16 December, counted 487, the second highest count for the Tennessee Valley.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** – Two were spotted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 16 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley). Uncommon to rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was near Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 29 December – 1 January (Carolyn Snow *et al.*). Four was a good number for winter on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, two were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 16 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent). Occasional in the Mountain Region, one found on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 23 December, was seen through 7 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was found on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December (Larry Gardella, Robyn Bailey).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were counted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 30 December (Larry Gardella, Robyn Bailey). Also rare in the Mountain Region, two were seen at Opelika, *Lee*, 16 February (Roger Johnson *et al.*).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** – Approximately 20 birds in *Santa Rosa*, 8 February (Heidi Moore, Brenda Francisco) was a good number for a species that is rare in the WP.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – Uncommon in Alabama, 90 was a locally good number south of Mallard Creek, *Lawrence*, 29 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**INDIGO BUNTING** – Occasional in winter in the Mountain Region, a male was observed at Anniston, *Calhoun*, early December – 14 December (Debbie McKenzie; ph.).

**DICKCISSEL** – One was seen at Foley, *Baldwin*, 23 December (Michael Jordan *et al.*) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – Many specimens of this species were taken in the WP by Burt Monroe in the 1950s, with the last local record from 1967. One-two birds were seen and heard singing near the catfish ponds in northern *Escambia*, 19 January – 21 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.; record accepted by FOSRC).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** – Formerly uncommon but now decidedly rare in the WP, discovery of the Western Meadowlark (above) resulted in multiple sightings (with a maximum of an estimated 50 birds), mostly in fallow agricultural fields near the catfish ponds in northern *Escambia*, 19 January – 16 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.). Uncommon on the Gulf Coast of Alabama and declining, 40 was a good number at Blakeley SP, *Baldwin*, 17 December (Michael Jordan).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – Uncommon-rare in winter in the WP, three were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 January (Bob Duncan). Good numbers were seen in fields near the catfish ponds in northern *Escambia*: ~75 on 19 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); 122 on 4 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Dottie Robbins, John Murphy); and 40-50 on 16 February (Bob Landry). Uncommon and local in the Tennessee Valley, an estimated 100 was a good number east of Leighton, *Colbert*, 17 January (Damien Simbeck).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, seven reports were received: one at Greenville, *Butler*, 5 December (Annabel Markle); one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 31 December+ (Carolyn Alford; third year at this site); one at Shorter, *Macon*, 23 January (Eric Soehren); one at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 26-31 January (Lorna West; ph.); two at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, to 16+ February (Glenda McNair *et al.*; return to site for third year); one on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 17 February (Steve Neitzel; ph.); and two at Peterman, *Monroe*, 18 February (Cheryl Helton; ph.).

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