

## SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2007)

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This report covers the period from March through May 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; “b.” = banded; FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** – Two were seen at Aloe Bay on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 May (Ben Garmon, m.ob.; ph; @ABRC) to mark the fourth Alabama record. The fifth record for the state came from Southside, *Etowah*, where Esther Guenther observed one adult from 28 May (approximately) – 2 June (ph; @ABRC).



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 1 May 2007, Dauphin Island, AL; D. Dortch.

**SNOW GOOSE** – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count on 28 April recorded a single (rare in spring for the Mountain Region).

**CANADA GOOSE** – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count on 28 April tallied 167, a good number.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** – A single lingered at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 29 April (Lorna West) to mark a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**GREATER SCAUP** – One male was late on Wheeler Reservoir along the causeway north of Decatur, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**SCOTER SP.** – Six north of Isle aux Herbes, *Mobile*, 17 May (Roger Clay) were very late (but see summer report for additional scoters in May/June).

**HOODED MERGANSER** – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*)

spring count on 28 April recorded a single (rare so late for the Mountain Region). This species is a rare to uncommon and erratic breeder in Alabama, so reports of broods from two sites were notable: two broods of large young with females at the observation building, Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 19 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and one brood of downy young with a female at the fish hatchery, Marion, *Perry*, 25 May (Ty Keith, Helen Kittinger).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** – A female at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 May (John Porter) was late.

**RED-THROATED LOON** – Rare in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8 March (Jere French).

**PACIFIC LOON** – Rare but regular in the WP, one was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 12 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Also rare in Alabama, one was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 March (Larry Gardella).

**HORNED GREBE** – One was late on the Tennessee River near the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**BROWN BOOBY** – A sub-adult found on the *Walton/Okaloosa* line 20 May (Don Ware) provided the third spring record for the WP.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Steve McConnell counted 25 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 March (locally rare).

**ANHINGA** – Two were at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 25 March (Paul Franklin) (locally uncommon), while three were seen at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 29 April (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) and one there 20 May (Fred Carney) (rare in the Mountain Region).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** – Rarely detected inland, one was spotted 24 and 26 March along County Road 24 two miles north of the Alabama River, *Autauga* (Tommy Pratt *et al.*), while another single was found on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** – A good number (64) was recorded on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Rare in the WP, one lingered at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 18 April – 22 May (Don Ware).

**PLEGADIS SP.** – Eight were seen in flight at the I-65 bridge over the Mobile Delta, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 20 April (Greg Jackson) (rare this far inland).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – An immature was at the Gulf Shores sewage lagoons, *Baldwin*, 30 April (Mike Feduke; ph.) to mark the third spring record for Alabama.

**WOOD STORK** – Rare in spring, an immature was near Conecuh NF, *Covington*, 22 May (Mark Bailey; ph.).

**TURKEY VULTURE** – A maximum number (60) for spring in the Mountain Region was tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – Twenty-five at a roost in *Walton*, 12 May (John Walton) was a good number. One was considered locally rare near Society Hill,

*Macon*, 10 May (Barry Fleming).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were noted at two sites where the species has been regular in recent years: Winfield, *Marion*, 31 March (Jud Johnston), and Montevallo, *Shelby*, 30 April (Mac Braid). One seen at Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) was rare for the Tennessee Valley. Another single near Cullman, *Cullman*, 15 May (Greg Jackson) was rare for the Mountain Region, especially this far north.

**BALD EAGLE** – Now a rare but regular transient and breeder in the WP, nesting was observed at the mouth of the East River, *Santa Rosa*, 3 April (Bill Bremser), a pair fledged one young in the Milton area, *Santa Rosa*, and another pair fledged two young in west Pensacola, *Escambia*.

**NORTHERN HARRIER** – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, tallied five, a good number so late in the season.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** – A new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley was established when 21 were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April.

**AMERICAN KESTREL** – A new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley was established when 10 were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April.

**MERLIN** – An individual of the Prairie race was seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20-21 March (Bob Duncan).

**YELLOW RAIL** – Casual in the WP, one was at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 1 March (David Simpson). One at the airport marsh, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, was seen 16 April (Jack Throp) and 21 April (Drew Cowherd, Barry Fleming) and marked the 18<sup>th</sup> Alabama record (third in spring).

**KING RAIL** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was calling at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), where the species is regular.

**VIRGINIA RAIL** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**SORA** – A maximum number (12) for spring in the Mountain Region was tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April.

**LIMPKIN** – The second record for the WP was marked by one on the Choctawhatchee River, *Walton*, 17 May (Justyn Stahl; ph.).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – Very late and locally rare, one bird was observed flying and calling at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

**WILSON'S PLOVER** – This species is a rare and local breeder in the WP and is seldom reported. Four nesting pairs were at Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Santa Rosa*, this season.

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – Rare in the WP, two reports were received: two, Pensacola, *Escambia*, 15 March – 8 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster), and

three, Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 14 May (Bob Duncan). The first inland record for Alabama was marked by a single along the Tennessee River in Sheffield, *Colbert*, 24 May (Steve Hacker, Ray Miller; ph.).



American Oystercatcher, 24 May 2007, Sheffield AL; S. Hacker.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – Fifty-five, a good number locally, were seen from the Dauphin Island-Fort Morgan ferry, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 30 April (Paul Lehman).

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – One or two were sighted at Limestone Bay, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), to set an early Tennessee Valley arrival date for probable migrants. A good number (eight+) for the Inland Coastal Plain was reported from Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella).

**WILLET** – A maximum spring count for Alabama was set when 153 were counted on Dauphin Island (five) and adjacent Pelican Island (148), *Mobile*, 23 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Rare for inland Alabama, seven were at Eufaula (Lakepoint Resort SP), *Barbour*, 29 April (Lorna West), and 33 (good number) were at Waterloo (25) and Wilson Dam (8), *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** – A late bird was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 7 May (David Dortch).

**WHIMBREL** – Good numbers were reported from Grand Bay, *Mobile* (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, m.ob.; ph.): 25 on 18 April, 100+ on 21 April (maximum count for Alabama), and reported on 23 April. The 16<sup>th</sup> inland Alabama record (and the second inland spring record) was marked by a single at Speigner, *Elmore*, 9-11 May (Tommy Pratt *et al.*; ph.). Forty-one was a good number at Barton Island, *Mobile*, 17 May (Roger Clay).

**MARbled GODWIT** – The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> records for inland Alabama were marked, respectively, by five at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 11 April (Damien Simbeck), and a single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**RED KNOT** – For a species that is becoming scarce in Alabama, six was a notable number from the west end of Dauphin Island (four) and Fort Morgan (two), *Mobile/Baldwin*, 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, singles were on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 April (Eric Soehren *et al.*) and on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 23 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain, singles were noted at Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella) and 12 May (Larry Gardella, Shawn Reed).

**STILT SANDPIPER** – Two were seen at Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella) (rare in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**RUFF** – A female at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 11 April (Damien Simbeck; @ABRC) marked the seventh record for Alabama and the second for the Tennessee Valley.

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK** – An uncommon to rare breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain, an adult and three fledged young south of Gallion, *Marengo*, 17 April (Don Self, Judy Self) provided a rare confirmed breeding record. One near Riverton, *Colbert*, 28 April (Paul Kittle *et al.*) was displaying unusually late.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Rare in spring, a female was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 11 May (John Eyre, Joan Eyre; ph.).

**LAUGHING GULL** – Rare but regular in the western Tennessee Valley, 10 were at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, and two or three at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).



Wilson's Phalarope, 11 May 2007, Mobile, AL; J Eyre.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – Rare but regular at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, a single was seen 29 April (Steve McConnell).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Generally rare but increasing and occasional in spring, singles were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 22 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) and 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** – Casual in the WP, singles were noted at Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 30 March (Heidi Moore; ph.) and at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 7 April (Steve Barlow).

**CASPIAN TERN** – Good numbers were reported from Wilson Reservoir at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*: 72+ on 12 April (Steve McConnell) and 133 on 16 April (Damien Simbeck), the latter a maximum for inland Alabama.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Rare inland but increasing, sightings of singles came from two sites at Valley, *Chambers*, 17 April (Rodney McCollum, Jeannie McCollum) and 29 May (Rodney McCollum).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** – The 150 reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was a good number.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – Three was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). One was heard at St. Florian, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck) (rare inland).

**BARRED OWL** – Eleven on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** – Early birds were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 and 9 March (Michael Jordan *et al.*) and at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 April (Stan Hamilton).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** – Rare documentation of nesting for this species came from Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 16 May – 11 June, where Bill Summerour and Eric Soehren found a pair that raised two young.

**BLACK SWIFT** – The first record for Alabama was established by one or two seen 11-12 April, Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* (Lucy Duncan, Laura Catterton, m.ob.) and 11 April, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Peggy Baker *et al.*) (@ABRC).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – Early birds included two at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), and one at Hartselle,

*Cullman*, 30 March (Steve McConnell). The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** – Occasional on the outer coast, one male seen at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 April (Betty Lemley *et al.*) marked one of the few non-banding records for the state.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** – The 16 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** – The 132 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** – A pair feeding young in a nest along the Choctawhatchee River, *Walton*, 29 March (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) marked a rare breeding record for the WP.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** – The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** – The 13 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. The 88 tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April marked a spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** – The 45 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Singles were spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 27 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) and 12 May (Don Ware), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13-18 May (Bob Duncan) (rare spring transient in the WP). The fifth inland spring record for Alabama was marked by one at the Tuscaloosa Airport, *Tuscaloosa*, 5 March (Kevin Boles, Jerry Hoffman).

**GRAY KINGBIRD** – This flycatcher is still rare in Alabama, but increasing slowly. One was early at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 April (Duane Berger, Bob Sargent *et al.*; b.; ph.). Nesting by a pair was observed at Lake Shelby, Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 4 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), while Bailey McKay observed two pairs at the same site 7 May.



Gray Kingbird, 7 April 2007, Fort Morgan, AL; B. Sargent.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Casual in spring in the WP, one was spotted at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 May (Powers McLeod). A rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, reports were received from four locations: a pair along Ala. Hwy. 183 north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 29 April (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); one at the airport, Meridianville, *Madison*, 1 May (Arloe Mayne); one at Key Cave

NWR, *Lauderdale*, 11 May (Jason Vehrs; ph.); and one north of Priceville, *Morgan*, 20 May (Paul Franklin, Eva Franklin).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Early arrivals were at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton), and at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 31 March (John Ehinger). The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** – One carrying nest material was found along Piney Creek, *Limestone*, 30 March (Jeff Garner, Tom Haggerty) (early). The 23 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Three on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, were late departing.

**WARBLING VIREO** – Rarely detected in Alabama, three records (all of singles) were received: Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 20 April (Barry Fleming); Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 April (Lorna West, Larry Gardella *et al.*); and Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 28 April (Paul Kittle *et al.*).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – Reports from four sites were received for this species that is rare in spring in Alabama: one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 April (Laura Catterton); one at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 April (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne *et al.*); three on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley; and one at Madison, *Madison*, 14 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

**RED-EYED VIREO** – Two birds were early arrivals on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

**AMERICAN CROW** – The 185 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**FISH CROW** – Occasional but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, one was calling at Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 27 April (Steve McConnell).

**TREE SWALLOW** – Rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama, records were received from two sites: two+ north of Priceville, *Morgan*, and two+ at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, both records 20 May (Paul Franklin, Eva Franklin).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – An early bird was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West). The 286 tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April marked a spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

**CLIFF SWALLOW** – The 611 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**CAVE SWALLOW** – Casual in the WP, two individuals were found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 12 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). Rare but increasing in Alabama, 100+ were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7-11 April (Howard Horne, Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.) to establish a new maximum for the state by a wide mar-

gin. A single was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 April (Lorna West).

**BARN SWALLOW** – Early arrivals were singles southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 2 March (Larry Gardella) and at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West).



Cave Swallow, 7 April 2007, Fort Morgan, AL; T. Siegwald.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE** - The 238 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH** – Locally rare in the western Tennessee Valley, one was noted at Brush Creek Park, Wright, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**BROWN CREEPER** – A very late bird, possibly marking the all time late date for Florida, was along the Choctawhatchee River, *Holmes*, 20 April (Justyn Stahl).

**CAROLINA WREN** – The 174 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**MARSH WREN** – Rare in spring for inland Alabama, reports of singles came from three sites: Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April; Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, and Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – Lorna West found three+ at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain). The 138 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** – The 67 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**SWAINSON’S THRUSH** – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

**WOOD THRUSH** – One was early at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** – The 156 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** – Two found east of Shirley Bridge, *Tuscaloosa*, 1 May (Helen Kittinger, Maureen Shaffer, m.ob.) were late.

**CEDAR WAXWING** – The 276 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. A pair was at a nest near Rhodesville, *Lauderdale*, 24 May (Larry Derrick, *fide* Keith Hudson) (rare breeder).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** – The 12 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER** – A single was discovered on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*,



26 April (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne *et al.*) (rare).

**“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER** – The ninth record for Alabama was marked by a male found at the Dauphin Island Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 22 April (Shirley Farrell, Dick Bruer, Bob Duncan, m.ob.).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** – The 61 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Rare in spring in Alabama, an early bird was found at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 17 April (John Ehinger). The four on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, was a good number.

**NORTHERN PARULA** – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). One at Clay, *Jefferson*, 10 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) marked an early arrival date for the Mountain Region.

**YELLOW WARBLER** – The 43 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Larry Gardella located a male at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 25 April.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Rare inland but regular at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, one occurred there 28 April, while another single was found at Coleman Lake, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 5 May (both Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** – “Hundreds” were feeding on the ground at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – Two were early at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 27 March (John Ehinger).

**PINE WARBLER** – The 47 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**CERULEAN WARBLER** – A female was early at Opelika, *Lee*, 31 March (Lorna West). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Larry Gardella found a singing male at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 April. As a breeder, this species is rare and localized and nests are seldom found, so the observation of a pair feeding large young in a nest along Flannagin Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 25 May (Eric Soehren, John Trent) was noteworthy.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Two found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), were probably non-wintering migrants and thus marked an early arrival record for Alabama. Three at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 March (Neill Cowles, Beth Wood) were early.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – One was an early arrival at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 31 March (John Ehinger).

**SWAINSON’S WARBLER** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was singing near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff

Garner).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** – An early arrival record for inland Alabama was set by a single at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 March (Rick Remy).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – One was found in Madison, *Madison*, 19 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) at a site where the species is rare but regular.

**MOURNING WARBLER** – This rare migrant was recorded on three dates at a site in Madison, *Madison*, where the species is rare but regular: one, 13 May (Ken Ward, Harry Dean *et al.*); one, 14 May (Bailey McKay *et al.*); and three (maximum for Alabama), 18 May (Harry Dean).

**HOODED WARBLER** – An early male was at Tannehill SP, *Jefferson*, 30 March (Helen Kittinger, Ronald Kittinger).

**SUMMER TANAGER** – The 99 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**WESTERN TANAGER** – Casual in the WP, Mickey Quigley found a winter male at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 23 February (ph.).

**BACHMAN'S SPARROW** – Rare and localized in the Tennessee Valley, two were notable on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 28 April (Dwight Cooley).

**CHIPPING SPARROW** – The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**VESPER SPARROW** – Two were late at Irvington, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**LARK SPARROW** – Rare but increasing as a breeder, the seven on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, was a good number. One was near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), while two were found at separate sites north of Deatsville, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella).

**SEASIDE SPARROW** – Rarely reported in the WP, one was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 1 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

**SONG SPARROW** – A very late bird was in *Walton* 12 May (John Walton).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** – A late departure date for the Gulf Coast was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Laura Catterton).

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – One was late at a feeder in Cairo, *Limestone*, 31 May (Jennifer Moses).

**BLUE GROSBEAK** – The 150+ counted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 22 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) set a maximum for the Gulf Coast and a spring maximum for Alabama. The 65 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**INDIGO BUNTING** – The 1,076 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for Alabama.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – A bird was singing in Molino, *Escambia*, 6 May (Alan Gantzhorn); two birds were documented about 15 miles north of there this

winter.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Casual in spring in the WP, a first-year male was in *Calhoun*, 6 March (Travis McClendon), and a female was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14 April (Les Kelly).

**SHINY COWBIRD** – Occasional in Alabama, one was found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 April (Lucy Duncan).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – The 54 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**PURPLE FINCH** – Eight at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 12 May (Pat Baker, Bob Penhollow, Terry Baker), marked the latest departure date for the WP.

**RED CROSSBILL** – Two+ were at Oakmulgee west of Coleman Lake, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 5 March (Lorna West) (continuation at this site).

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** – The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

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