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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Yellow-throated Warbler; photo by G. Lasley/VIREO

**COLLECTION OF YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS
(*DENDROICA DOMINICA*) IN NORTHWEST ALABAMA
WITH ABNORMAL PLUMAGE**

Bailey D. McKay

At around 0930 hours on the morning of 9 April 2006, Bruce Hitch and I were in the Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence County, Alabama, collecting Yellow-throated Warblers (*Dendroica dominica*) for my thesis research at Auburn University. I was using Yellow-throated Warbler song playback to lure the warblers down from the canopy, when I noticed a responsive individual that I could not immediately identify. Though it was clearly aggressive to my playback, had a mannerism suggestive of a Yellow-throated Warbler, and eventually sang a normal Yellow-throated Warbler song, the bird had a very dark throat. I thought of “Sutton’s” Warbler, a rare Yellow-throated Warbler/Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) hybrid described as having the burnt-orange throat, green back, and unstreaked flanks of a Northern Parula, but the tail and facial pattern of a Yellow-throated Warbler (C. W. Carlson, *Atlantic Naturalist* 34:1-11, 1981).

Thinking this would be an important specimen, I collected the bird and discovered upon closer inspection that the throat was not a burnt-orange but a charcoal black. Except for the throat, the bird had normal Yellow-throated Warbler plumage with black streaks on the flanks and no hint of green color on the back. Interestingly, however, the black formed a perfect ring across the throat (Fig. 1C) in very much the way the burnt-orange does in a Northern Parula. Later the same day in the same general location, I collected another Yellow-throated Warbler with the same throat pattern except that the black was less extensive and could be described as intermediate between the first abnormal bird I collected and a Yellow-throated Warbler with normal plumage (Fig. 1B). Whether or not this bird displayed the “ring” pattern that is evident in the first bird (Fig. 1C) can not be determined because several throat feathers were lost during collection (Fig. 1B).

During the spring of 2006, I observed nearly 300 Yellow-throated Warblers from 12 locations across the species’ range while collecting data for my thesis. It is interesting that the Bankhead National Forest was the only area that I observed this unusual plumage. Besides the well-documented “Sutton’s” Warbler, the only other report of an unusually plumaged Yellow-throated

Warbler is from Charles City County, VA (S.C. Rottenborn, Raven 64:32, 1993). In this report, the individual also had normal Yellow-throated Warbler plumage except for the throat, which had dark gray and reddish-orange bands along the throat that were nearly identical in coloration, size, and placement to the bands on the throat of a male Northern Parula. Rottenborn speculated on the possibility of a previously undescribed Yellow-throated Warbler/Northern Parula hybrid plumage. This seems possible for the birds I collected as well. I think it is also possible that this bird, and perhaps the birds I am reporting here, are second generation “Sutton’s” Warblers that have back-crossed with normal Yellow-throated Warblers.

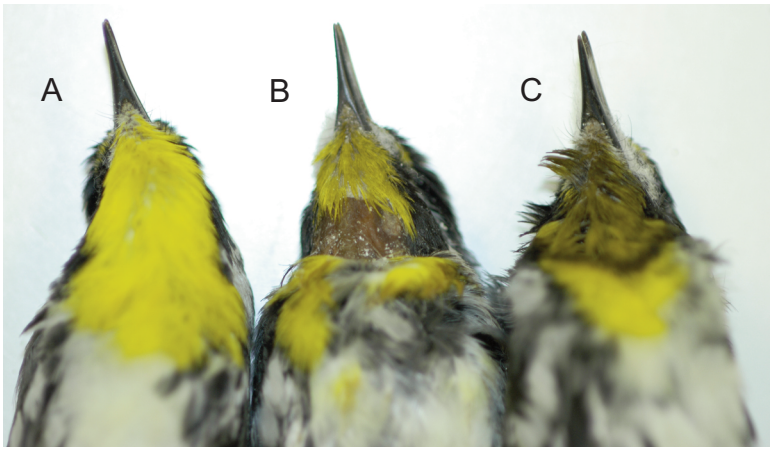


FIGURE 1. Yellow-throated Warblers collected in the Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence Co., AL on 9 April 2006. (A) Individual with a normally colored yellow throat. (B) Abnormal individual with some black color in the throat. The amount of black is intermediate between A and C. (Note that this individual is missing throat feathers as a result of the collection method.) (C) Abnormal individual with extensive black in throat. Note that the black forms a “ring” pattern.

Alternatively, it is conceivable that the abnormal birds I collected are Yellow-throated Warblers with a previously unreported mutation, possibly involving the melanin receptor gene. It may even be that the darker bird I found was homozygous for this mutation whereas the intermediate bird was a heterozygote. This scenario would not explain, however, why there such a high occurrence of this mutation in the Bankhead National Forest (2 of the 8 birds (25%) collected in the Bankhead had this dark throat) or why the black color forms a perfect ring against the normal yellow of the throat. Genetic

tests, both for evidence of hybridization and for anomalies in the melanin receptor gene, may help clarify this situation.

The research was conducted using Alabama state collecting permit 3507 and federal collecting permit MB120568-0. The project was funded with a Frank M. Chapman Grant from the American Museum of Natural History. I thank Bruce Hitch for assistance in the field.

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SUMMER BIRD COUNT IN SOUTHERN PIEDMONT ECOREGIONS OF ALABAMA — 2005

Greg D. Jackson and Thomas M. Haggerty

INTRODUCTION

Summer Bird Counts (SBC) are excellent ways to explore areas that have received little fieldwork. Not only do they provide valuable breeding bird density and distribution data, they also can complement ongoing Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) efforts. The primary objective of the Alabama BBA (2000-2006) was to determine the breeding distribution of species by sampling uniformly distributed 25 km² (10 mi²) blocks throughout the state. Past SBCs have focused on a specific county (Jackson 2000, Gardella 2001, 2003, Haggerty and Jackson 2004); however, this restriction was removed in 2005 to help improve coverage needed to complete the BBA project. Ecoregions indicate areas of general similarity in ecosystems and environmental resources and are designed to serve as a spatial framework for research and assessment (Griffith et al. 2001). These ecoregions can offer a larger area from which to select BBA blocks, and baseline studies are necessary for characterization. Since BBA survey work was needed from numerous areas within the Southern Inner Piedmont and the Southern Outer Piedmont Level IV ecoregions, the 2005 SBC was conducted within four adjacent counties (Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, and Tallapoosa) of these two ecoregions (Fig. 1). This paper reports the findings of that survey.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

In Alabama, the Southern Inner and Outer Piedmont Level IV ecoregions form a triangular area that lies along the mid-eastern border with Georgia. Within their boundaries are five almost complete county areas and parts of six additional counties (Fig. 1). The rolling to hilly Southern Inner Piedmont is mostly forested with oak-pine and oak-hickory communities. Open areas are primarily pasture with some small areas of cropland. The Southern Outer Piedmont ecoregion has less relief and less precipitation than the Southern Inner Piedmont, with similar vegetation but with more loblolly-shortleaf pine forest (Griffith et al. 2001). Both regions are interlaced with riparian hard-

wood habitats, with the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers and associated reservoirs important hydrologic features.

To conduct the count, 19 BBA blocks in 17 U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles (quads) were surveyed by 17 observers 4-20 June 2005 (Table 1). Coverage was primarily by automobile and foot, but Hatchet Creek was also surveyed by kayak in the Hollins: SE, Goodwater: SW, Rockford: CW, and Flag Mountain: CE blocks. The counting period of the survey extended from roughly dawn until late morning (no later than 1100 hrs), with counts for each block occurring in a single morning during the period. Additional breeding status data were collected after 1100 hours and during pre-count scouting. A total of 90.9 party-hours was expended in quantitative counts of diurnal species. Another six hours of coverage was spent searching for nocturnal species, though relative abundance calculations have been excluded for these (Table 2).

In addition to counting, surveyors looked for evidence of breeding. The breeding designation codes used in this study are the same as those for the Breeding Bird Atlas project and have been used previously on Alabama SBCs

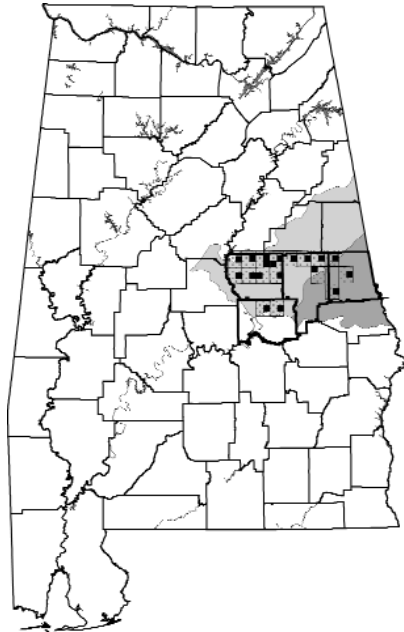


FIGURE 1. Location of 2005 Summer Bird Count. Dark squares denote surveyed blocks in 17 quads (stippled) of four counties within Southern Inner Piedmont (light shading) and Southern Outer Piedmont (dark shading) Level IV ecoregions, Alabama.

(Jackson 2000, Gardella 2003, 2004, Haggerty and Jackson 2005). “Confirmed” breeding was designated if a species was observed carrying nest material or food, constructing a nest, performing a distraction display, or incubating; discovery of a nest with eggs or young, a used nest, or dependent short-tailed young also confirmed breeding. “Probable breeding” for a species was indicated when at least seven well-distributed singing males were noted in a block within “safe dates” (i.e., when migrants are extremely unlikely to occur); this designation also was used within safe dates for the detection of a pair in suitable habitat, for individuals showing courtship behaviors or agitated behaviors associated with nest disturbance, and for nest building by wrens and woodpeckers. “Possible breeding” was noted if a species was found in suitable habitat within safe dates. “Observed” breeding status was used for species detected outside safe dates, even in suitable habitat; this designation also applied to independent juveniles, species not in suitable habitat, and soaring vultures and colonial species away from colonies.

TABLE 1. Southern Piedmont Summer Bird Count Survey Areas, June 2005.

Quad: Block	County (primary)	Survey Date	Party Leaders
Buttston: NW	Tallapoosa	14 June	A. Miller
Camp Hill: CE	Chambers	20 June	M. Hodges
Daviston: CE	Tallapoosa	18 June	M. Hodges
Dexter: CE	Elmore	4 June	L. Gardella
Eclectic: CE	Elmore	18 June	R. Reed
Flag Mountain: CE	Coosa	8 June	G. Jackson
Goodwater: CE	Coosa	12 June	T. Schneider
Goodwater: SW	Coosa	12 June	R. West
Hackneyville: CE	Tallapoosa	7 June	B. Fleming
Hollins: CE	Coosa	16 June	R. West
Hollins: SE	Coosa	12 June	R. West
Kellyton: CE	Coosa	9 June	T. Pratt, C. Kennedy
Lafayette: CE	Chambers	9 June	B. Fleming
Mitchell Dam NW: CE	Coosa	19 June	G. Harber
New Site: CE	Tallapoosa	4 June	M. Hodges
Rockford: CW	Coosa	15 June	R. West
Talladega Springs: CE	Coosa	10 June	S. McConnell
Wadley South: CE	Chambers	18 June	L. Gardella
Weogulfka: CE	Coosa	15 June	H. Wright

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 95 species (90 diurnal) and 7773 individuals (7683 diurnal) was recorded during 90.9 hrs of surveying. This resulted in a total of 84.5 individuals per party-hour (excluding nocturnal species), with a mean of 0.94 birds per party-hour per diurnal species. Forty-one species (43%) on the count were confirmed as breeders, 35 (37%) were probable breeders, 17 (18%) were possible breeders, and two (2%) were noted as only “observed” species (Table 2).

In descending order, the most frequently encountered species (> 2.0 individuals/party-hr) were Northern Cardinal, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, Carolina Wren, Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove, Pine Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. The most widely distributed species, detected in all blocks surveyed by land, were Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting. Species with a limited distribution (seen in only one or two blocks) included Canada Goose, Mallard, Great Egret, Cooper’s Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Great Horned Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Fish Crow, Cliff Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, American Redstart, and Bachman’s Sparrow.

TABLE 2. Southern Piedmont Summer Bird Count Totals, June 2005.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Canada Goose	9	0.10	1	Possible
Wood Duck	11	0.12	5	Probable
Mallard	5	0.06	1	Confirmed
Wild Turkey	16	0.18	5	Possible
Northern Bobwhite	56	0.62	14	Probable
Great Blue Heron	13	0.14	3	Possible
Great Egret	1	0.01	1	Possible
Green Heron	11	0.12	5	Probable
Black Vulture	64	0.70	6	Observed
Turkey Vulture	71	0.78	14	Observed
Cooper's Hawk	1	0.01	1	Possible
Red-shouldered Hawk	29	0.32	11	Confirmed
Broad-winged Hawk	9	0.10	7	Confirmed
Red-tailed Hawk	10	0.11	8	Confirmed
Killdeer	11	0.12	3	Possible
Rock Pigeon	23	0.25	3	Probable
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	0.03	1	Possible

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TABLE 2. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Mourning Dove	200	2.20	15	Probable
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	112	1.23	16	Probable
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	-----	3	Possible
Great Horned Owl	2	-----	1	Probable
Barred Owl	9	-----	5	Probable
Chuck-will's-widow	46	-----	9	Probable
Whip-poor-will	27	-----	5	Probable
Chimney Swift	85	0.94	15	Probable
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	19	0.21	12	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	13	0.14	8	Confirmed
Red-headed Woodpecker	8	0.09	5	Probable
Red-bellied Woodpecker	109	1.20	18	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	57	0.63	17	Probable
Hairy Woodpecker	9	0.10	5	Probable
Northern Flicker	6	0.07	6	Possible
Pileated Woodpecker	33	0.36	13	Confirmed
Eastern Wood-Pewee	51	0.56	13	Probable
Acadian Flycatcher	51	0.56	13	Probable
Eastern Phoebe	87	0.96	17	Confirmed
Great Crested Flycatcher	97	1.07	18	Confirmed
Eastern Kingbird	97	1.07	13	Confirmed
Loggerhead Shrike	3	0.03	2	Possible
White-eyed Vireo	147	1.62	17	Probable
Yellow-throated Vireo	54	0.59	14	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	384	4.22	18	Confirmed
Blue Jay	177	1.95	18	Confirmed
American Crow	293	3.22	18	Confirmed
Fish Crow	6	0.07	1	Possible
Purple Martin	107	1.18	13	Confirmed
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	53	0.58	9	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	31	0.34	2	Confirmed
Barn Swallow	207	2.28	17	Confirmed
Carolina Chickadee	180	1.98	18	Confirmed
Tufted Titmouse	276	3.04	18	Confirmed
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	0.10	6	Possible
Brown-headed Nuthatch	41	0.45	10	Confirmed
Carolina Wren	226	2.49	18	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	159	1.75	18	Confirmed
Eastern Bluebird	184	2.02	16	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	163	1.79	18	Probable
American Robin	65	0.72	13	Confirmed
Gray Catbird	28	0.31	9	Confirmed
Northern Mockingbird	186	2.05	15	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	80	0.88	16	Confirmed
European Starling	108	1.19	11	Confirmed
Cedar Waxwing	2	0.02	1	Confirmed
Blue-winged Warbler	2	0.02	1	Possible

TABLE 2. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Northern Parula	160	1.76	16	Probable
Yellow-throated Warbler	22	0.24	7	Probable
Pine Warbler	190	2.09	16	Confirmed
Prairie Warbler	133	1.46	15	Confirmed
Black-and-white Warbler	26	0.29	12	Confirmed
American Redstart	1	0.01	1	Possible
Worm-eating Warbler	11	0.12	4	Probable
Swainson's Warbler	6	0.07	4	Probable
Ovenbird	5	0.06	3	Possible
Louisiana Waterthrush	28	0.31	10	Confirmed
Kentucky Warbler	89	0.98	16	Confirmed
Common Yellowthroat	127	1.40	17	Probable
Hooded Warbler	145	1.60	17	Confirmed
Yellow-breasted Chat	347	3.82	17	Confirmed
Summer Tanager	113	1.24	17	Probable
Scarlet Tanager	28	0.31	10	Confirmed
Eastern Towhee	276	3.04	17	Probable
Bachman's Sparrow	1	0.01	1	Possible
Chipping Sparrow	173	1.90	15	Confirmed
Field Sparrow	51	0.56	12	Probable
Northern Cardinal	416	4.58	18	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	109	1.20	17	Probable
Indigo Bunting	324	3.56	18	Confirmed
Red-winged Blackbird	29	0.32	9	Confirmed
Eastern Meadowlark	35	0.39	10	Probable
Common Grackle	70	0.77	12	Probable
Brown-headed Cowbird	69	0.76	16	Probable
Orchard Oriole	65	0.72	14	Probable
House Finch	33	0.36	8	Confirmed
American Goldfinch	28	0.31	9	Probable
House Sparrow	25	0.28	4	Probable

Data were collected on species of conservation concern. Although no “Priority I” species (Mirarchi et al. 2004), of highest conservation concern, were noted on the count, four “Priority II” species (high conservation concern) were found. Of these, Wood Thrush and Kentucky Warbler both had individual counts greater than the relative species abundance mean for the count and were distributed widely (18 and 16 blocks, respectively; Table 2). Swainson’s Warbler and Bachman’s Sparrow, however, had counts considerably below the

relative abundance mean and occurred in only four blocks (Flag Mountain: CE, Hackneyville: CE, Camp Hill SE: CE, Eclectic: CE) and 1 block (Wadley South: CE), respectively (Table 2).

Prior to the count, certain species were designated by Jackson as target birds to be sought by participants; these were selected on the basis of likelihood of occurrence as well as distributional interest. Of these 28 target species, 14 (50%) were detected during the surveys, including two Priority II species mentioned above (Swainson's Warbler and Bachman's Sparrow). Whip-poor-will was surprisingly numerous near the southern edge of its range, with 27 birds heard in five blocks. A nesting pair of Cedar Waxwings in Daviston: CE provided the southernmost confirmed breeding of this species in



Figure 2. Cedar Waxwing adult on nest 19 June 2005 in Daviston: CE block, Tallapoosa County, Alabama, providing the southernmost breeding evidence for species in state (photograph by Malcolm Hodges).

Alabama (Fig. 2). Two Blue-winged Warblers were notable so far southeast in Hackneyville: CE, as were five Ovenbirds in three CE blocks (Mitchell Dam NW, New Site, and Daviston), and 28 Scarlet Tanagers in 10 blocks. Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, Cliff Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Yellow-throated, Black-and-white, and Worm-eating warblers were the other species of interest recorded on the SBC.

Of the undetected target species, the following were recorded during the multi-year BBA project within the quads surveyed on the SBC, though not always in blocks covered on the count. Bald Eagle was discovered nesting in Mitchell Dam NW: CW in 2004, and Sharp-shinned Hawk was recorded in Rockford SW: CW in 2003. Common Ground-Dove was noted in Flag Mountain (CW and SE blocks) in 2004; another was found during the 2005 SBC period in Buttston: CE. Red-cockaded Woodpecker nested, with young produced, in Mitchell Dam NW (SW and SE blocks) in 2006. Black-throated Green Warbler was found in Flag Mountain: NW during the SBC period in 2005, and Grasshopper Sparrow was noted in Camp Hill: CE in 2006. The other target species (Pied-billed Grebe, Mississippi Kite, American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Yellow Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, and Red Crossbill) were not recorded during the BBA project in the quads included on the SBC (unpublished data).

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2006)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 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. “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b” = banded; “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 – Damien Simbeck found one at Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 27 November (locally rare).

ROSS’S GOOSE – Records of three singles were received: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 12 November (Steve McConnell) (rare but now expected annually at this site); Alabama waters of Lake Eufaula, *Russell*, near Florence Marina SP, Georgia, 13 November (Eric Beohm) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain); and Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 27 November (Damien Simbeck) (locally rare).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – Don Self tallied 84 in *Hale/Marengo*, 27 September, a good number this early for the Inland Coastal Plain.

SURF SCOTER – Rare for inland Alabama, one female-type was observed at Opelika, *Lee*, 5-6 November (Bailey McKay *et al.*).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – This species is rare in Alabama, especially inland, and the fourth record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a single seen 14 and 19 November and two seen 20 November at Speigner, *Elmore* (Helen Kittinger, Tommy Pratt, m.ob.).

- BLACK SCOTER** – One was spotted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 November (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds) (rare in Alabama, especially inland).
- COMMON LOON** – One at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 15 August, was rare so early, especially for the Mountain Region (Helen Kittinger *et al.*).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – This species is uncommon to rare in summer in Alabama, and three at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 12 August (Greg Harber), were either nesting or early migrants.
- EARED GREBE** – Rare in the WP, one arrived early 5 September at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, and lingered until 2 November (Bob Duncan, Don Ware). Rare for inland Alabama, a single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 14 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- MASKED BOOBY** – A sub-adult was seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 September (Ben Garmon) (rare).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Several records were received from the Tennessee Valley, where the species is increasing and now uncommon rather than rare. Twenty-five were on the Tennessee River east of Decatur and 17 were at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 14 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), while Steve McConnell had 175+ (good number) at Swan Creek WMA, 19 November. On 20 November, Bill Rogers counted 34 on Wilson Lake, *Colbert/Lauderdale*. At Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 were noted 27 November (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds). This species is still rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, where it has become regular on Weiss Lake, Cherokee, which produced the first August record for the region with 24 on 16 August and a new maximum number for the region with 250+ at the same site on 3 November (Winston Baker, Linda Baker). Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, 56 were at Gallion, *Marengo*, 12 November (Judy Self, Don Self).
- BROWN PELICAN** – This species is occasional for inland Alabama, and two sightings of single immatures were reported: Alabama River above U.S. Highway 84, *Monroe*, 1 August (Jeff Garner *et al.*; ph.), and Gantt Lake, *Covington*, 4-5 November (Jeff Garner; ph.).
- AMERICAN BITTERN** – Rarely detected in the Mountain Region, one was found at Limestone Swamp near Saginaw, *Shelby*, 1 October (David George).
- GREAT BLUE HERON** – Casual in the WP, an individual of the white morph (“Great White Heron”) was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 18 August – 6 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Peggy Baker, Jane Crittenden).
- SNOWY EGRET** – A good number (19+) for inland Alabama was recorded along Alabama Highway 39, *Sumter*, 6 August (Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society).
- GREEN HERON** – A single at Gantt Lake, *Covington*, 4 November (Jeff Garner) was late.
- WHITE IBIS** – Steve McConnell noted three immatures at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 5 August (rare in Tennessee Valley).

GLOSSY IBIS – Rare in the WP, six were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 11 September (Bob Duncan). Only occasionally identified to species for inland Alabama, a single was noteworthy at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 20 September (Ben Moore; ph.).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Two were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 20 September (Ben Moore; ph.), to mark the fourth record for inland Alabama.

WHITE IBIS X WHITE-FACED IBIS – An apparent hybrid (with overall dark plumage but with three white bands across the upper neck; prominent white border across the upper face; dark eye) was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 2 August (Bob Duncan).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – Occasional in Alabama but increasing, the third and fourth Mountain Region records were marked, respectively, by single immatures at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 11-22 August (Harriett Wright, m.ob.; ph.), and Saginaw, *Shelby*, 15 August (Larry Knorr; ph.). Still another single immature was seen along the Apalachee River, *Baldwin*, 29 October (Bob Andrews).

WOOD STORK – At Saginaw, *Shelby*, six adults were found 15 August and two on 4 September (Larry Knorr, m.ob.; ph.) (rare in Mountain Region). Don Self counted 331 (good number) in *Hale/Marengo*, 27 September.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – One spotted along the Tennessee River at the mouth of the Flint River, *Madison/Marshall*, 20 August (Marion Roberts, Mary Roberts, *vide* Linda Reynolds), marked the third record for the Tennessee Valley.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Jud Johnston saw a single at Winfield, *Marion*, 24 August, where the species is locally rare.

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Rare in Alabama, records from three sites were received: Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, one on 18 October, two on 20 October, and three on 29 October (David Plumb, m.ob.; ph.); Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, a single on 21 October (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler); and southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, three on 5 November, two on 7 November, and three on 18 November (John Dillon, Kay Dillon, Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.).

GOLDEN EAGLE – One at Hardaway, *Macon*, 7 October (Eric Soehren), was rare and early.

CRESTED CARACARA – Fred Bassett observed a single along U.S. Highway 98 between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe, *Gulf*, 15 November, to mark the second area record and one of only a few west of the Apalachicola River.

PEREGRINE FALCON – A single at Foley, *Baldwin*, 26 August (Michael Jordan), was early.

SORA – The Birmingham Audubon Society, during its 30 September annual fall count in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, recorded eight, a good number.

AMERICAN COOT – A rare summering (and injured) individual was found along County Road 85, *Pickens/Sumter*, 6 August (Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society). Nine at Whitsitt, *Hale*, 12 August (Greg Harber), were rare and a good number for this early in the season.

SANDHILL CRANE – An adult bird along Ala. Highway 39, *Sumter*, 6 August (Greg

Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society), marked the second summer record in Alabama since 1960. Rare but increasing inland and becoming regular at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, one was noted on 3 November and 11 on 21 November (Linda Baker, Winston Baker). This species is now expected at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, and Steve McConnell counted 118 there on 23 November while Barry Fleming had 305 on 24 November.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – The first August record for the WP was marked by one at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 31 August (Lenny Fenimore). Uncommon to rare in fall in Alabama, Damien Simbeck *et al.* noted one at Gnat Pond, *Colbert*, 30 August – 2 September.

SNOWY PLOVER – Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, was made partially inaccessible by Hurricane Ivan, and this allowed Snowy Plovers and terns to have a good breeding year. On 31 August, 28 Snowy Plovers were counted (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

PIPING PLOVER – Twelve (good number) were counted on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Pam Brown).

AMERICAN AVOCET – A single was at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 12 August (Ty Keith, Helen Kittinger, Harriett Wright *et al.*) (occasional in the Mountain Region).

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, two records were received: a single near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 August (Craig Brown), and seven at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 20 August (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (ties fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

UPLAND SANDPIPER – Rare in the WP, two were found at Site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 27 August (Lenny Fenimore).

RUDDY TURNSTONE – A single was noted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Carolyn Snow) (rare inland).

RED KNOT – Now rare and decreasing, five were seen on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 October (Greg Jackson).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Rarely seen in fall, one was spotted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 August (Craig Brown).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – The first August record for the WP was marked by one on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 24 August (Bob Duncan), and one was noted at the same site on 8 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow, Linda Bogaiges). This sandpiper is rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in fall. Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck had two on 11 August and three on 30 August. Four were tallied at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 9 November (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell) (late and a good number). A single was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Carolyn Snow) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

DUNLIN – Steve McConnell had a good number (200+) at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 19 November.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Rare in the WP, one was on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 24 August – 6 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and two were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 11 September (Bob Duncan). At Harpersville, *Shelby*, Barry Fleming counted 13 on 2 September, while Fred Carney *et al.* had 20+ at the same site 9 September, the latter number the second highest count for the Mountain Region.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – A single visited Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 18 August – 6 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in the WP). Occasional for the Mountain Region, one was at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 30 September – 4 October (Harriett Wright, Shirley Farrell, Frank Ferrell, John Imhof *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL – This species is rare but regular at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, where singles were found 19 August (Steve McConnell) and 8 November (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell). Also rare but regular at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, one was there 24 November (Damien Simbeck, Michael Beuerlein). Steve McConnell found one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 24 September (rare in Tennessee Valley; ph.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Numerous records, all of singles unless otherwise noted, were received for this species that is rare in Alabama: Guntersville, *Marshall*, 24 September (early) (Steve McConnell; ph.); Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*); two, Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 3 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 November (Barry Fleming *et al.*), 14 November (Helen Kittinger *et al.*), and 19 November (Ira Kupferberg) (sixth record for the Inland Coastal Plain); Guntersville, *Marshall*, 15+ on 7 November (Linda Reynolds), 40+ (new maximum for inland Alabama) on 9 November (Linda Reynolds), and six+ on 11 November (Steve McConnell); Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 18 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) and 24 November (Damien Simbeck, Michael Beuerlein).

RING-BILLED GULL – A good number for so early in the season was the 56 counted at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 19 August (Steve McConnell).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, two records of singles were received: Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 18 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.), and Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 28 November (Bill Summerour).

GLAUCOUS GULL – Casual in the WP, one at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 8 October (Ben Garmon) marked the earliest arrival date and first October record.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Two on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 26 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.; ph.) were rare and early. A single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 7 October (Steve McConnell; ph.) was rare and marked an early arrival date for inland Alabama.

GULL-BILLED TERN – A late bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 November (Ben Garmon).

BLACK TERN – An estimated 6800 birds were on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 31

August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Counts at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, included 30+ on 19 August (Steve McConnell), 50+ on 26 August (Linda Reynolds, m.ob.), and 300+ on 2 September (Steve McConnell) (second highest count for inland Alabama). Jacob Walker reported 12400 (good number) from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 September.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Increasing on the Gulf Coast, 30+ was a good number at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 3 September (Bill Summerour; ph.).

BURROWING OWL – A count at site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 29 July revealed 55 birds, a good number (Lenny Fenimore).

SHORT-EARED OWL – Rare and erratic in Alabama, singles were noted at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 8 November (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell), and Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 28 November (Damien Simbeck).

CHIMNEY SWIFT – At a roost in Hartselle, *Morgan*, 2000+ were estimated 12 September (Steve McConnell, Vicki McConnell) (good number). At Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one was seen as late as 29 October (Ann Miller, Al Miller).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – Rare in Alabama, one set an early arrival date for the state on 25 August, *Mobile*, *Mobile* (Fred Bassett, Virginia Culbertson, P.D. Culbertson; b.; ph.). Another single was at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 8 November (Fred Bassett).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Rare but regular in fall, early birds were at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 31 August (Kay Keigley, *fide* Fred Bassett); Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 2 September (Jere French); and Mountain Brook, *Jefferson*, 2 August (Eleanor Womack, *fide* Bob Sargent).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – Rare in Alabama, an adult female that had been banded 11 December 2004 returned to Cullman, *Cullman*, 26 August (early) (Caila Lamont, *fide* Bob Sargent; ph.). A hatching year male was at Irondale, *Jefferson*, 17 October – 15 December (Rick Remy, Susan Remy, Bob Sargent; b.; ph.). An immature male occurred at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 October 2006 – February 2007 (Fred Bassett, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch; b.; ph.).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in fall, one was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 September (Bob Duncan); three+ (good number) were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 September (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Mark Van Hoose *et al.*; ph.); and a single was spotted in Mountain Brook, *Jefferson*, 24 September (Greg Harber).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – Ty Keith *et al.* found a late bird at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 3 November.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – Rare but expected in fall in Alabama, numerous reports were received: at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, two were found on 8 September and one on 15 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.); on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, Jacob Walker had two on 11 September and one-two on 21 and 24 September; a single at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 15 September (Helen Kittinger, Mac Braid); one at Opelika, *Lee*, 16 September

(Barry Fleming); and singles at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 and 13 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.; b.).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – The seventh record for the Mountain Region was marked by a single at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 22 November (Harriett Wright, Jessica Germany).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Rare but increasing, one was noted at Meridianville, *Madison*, 16 August (Arloe Mayne) (known to breed in this area). At Falkville, *Morgan*, where the species is not known to breed, a single was seen 21 October (Charlie Thompson, Jimmy Wells; ph.). Rare on the Gulf Coast away from the immediate coast, one was along Alabama Highway 193 north of Bayley's Corner, *Mobile*, 21 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – A maximum fall count for the Gulf Coast was established by the 54 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.).

BELL'S VIREO – A single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 September (Ben Garmon) (rare). Another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 October (Michael Jordan *et al.*), where the species is rare but regular.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – One was found at Houston, *Winston*, 16 August (Larry Barkey) where the species is locally rare in summer. A late bird was at Mallard Creek Recreation Area, *Lawrence*, 24 November (Damien Simbeck, Michael Beuerlein).

WARBLING VIREO – Rare in Alabama, singles were noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 29 September (Larry Gardella).

FISH CROW – A new maximum count for Alabama was established by the estimated 1500+ at a roost near Shorter, *Macon*, during the last week of September and first week of October (Eric Soehren). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, a single was calling on 9 and 28 November at the Mallard/Fox Creek WMA, *Lawrence* (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell)

TREE SWALLOW – Steve McConnell had two late birds at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 11 November.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – A late bird was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 November (Steve McConnell).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – One was recorded at Snowdown, *Montgomery*, 7 September (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (locally rare).

BROWN CREEPER – This species is absent from the WP in most years, so one seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 21 October – 2 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was notable. Early for Alabama, singles were found at Smith Lake south of Houston, *Winston*, 10 October (Larry Barkey *et al.*), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 October (Helen Kittinger *et al.*).

HOUSE WREN – Two were late at Colbert Ferry Park and Riverton, *Colbert*, 25 November (Steve McConnell).

- MARSH WREN** – Uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region, three were tallied on the Birmingham Audubon Society fall count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 30 September, and a single was at Limestone Swamp, Saginaw, *Shelby*, 8 October (Shirley Farrell, Frank Farrell, John Imhof, Harriett Wright *et al.*).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** – In the WP, the first arrivals on 21 October heralded the presence of many individuals through mid-November (Bob Duncan, m.ob.) and one of the best invasions in many years. One was early at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 7 October (Steve McConnell).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** – A single was early at Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 20 September (Larry Barkey). The 65 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.) was a good number.
- VEERY** – An early bird was at Winfield, *Marion*, 30 August (Jud Johnston).
- HERMIT THRUSH** – A maximum fall count (50+) for Alabama was made at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- WOOD THRUSH** – The 73 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.) was a good number. One was late at Oak Mountain State Park, *Shelby*, 5 November (Pelham Rowan).
- GRAY CATBIRD** – The 185 and 188 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 and 21 October, respectively (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.), were good numbers. A late bird was at Winfield, *Marion*, 5 November (Jud Johnston).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – Rare in the WP, but found regularly at Site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa* (a Burrowing Owl location), one was spotted there on 9 November (Lenny Fenimore). Also rare on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, two were noted at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 November (Bill Summerour). Southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, sightings were as follows: three on 13 November, four+ on 18 November, four+ on 30 December, and three on 23 April (Bill Summerour, m.ob.).
- "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER** – Rare in Alabama, one was banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, m.ob.).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Uncommon in Alabama, a new fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley was marked by the five tallied at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 15 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.). A single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 14 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- YELLOW WARBLER** – A late bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 October (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – Early fall arrivals were seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 24 August (Greg Harber) and 26 August (Ty Keith), as well as four at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 1 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Rarely seen in fall in Alabama, one was spotted at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 October (Howard Horne, John Stowers *et al.*).

- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Reports from three sites were received for this species that is rare for inland Alabama: three (good number) at Hullett's Chapel, *Jefferson*, 3 September (Duane Berger); one at Opelika, *Lee*, 3 October (Lorna West); and a male at Prattville, *Autauga*, approximately 1 November (Dick Huckaby) (late record for inland Alabama).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – A late bird was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 14 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** – A late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was marked by one at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 17 November (Lorna West).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – Casual in the Florida Panhandle, a female was noted at Henderson Beach, *Walton*, 25 October (Don Ware). Occasional in fall on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, a single occurred at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 20 September (Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow).
- MOURNING WARBLER** – One adult was noted at Clay, *Jefferson*, 3 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (rare in Alabama).
- CANADA WARBLER** - The second latest record for Alabama was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 October (Bob Sargent *et al.*; b.).
- SCARLET TANAGER** – One was late at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 3 November (Ty Keith *et al.*).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Only occasional for inland Alabama, one was found at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9 November (Lorna West, Carolyn Snow). Rare on the Gulf Coast away from the immediate coast, a single was noted along Roscoe Road, Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 10 November (Larry Gardella). A third single was recorded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 November (Larry Gardella), where the species is rare but expected.
- BREWER'S SPARROW** – One was carefully described and sketched from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 November (Ben Garmon). If accepted by the Alabama Bird Records Committee, this would represent a first (Hypothetical) record for Alabama, and one of only a few for the East.
- LARK SPARROW** –The 15 that were counted in the vicinity of Leighton, *Colbert*, 25 August (Damien Simbeck, Francis Markine), was a good number.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW** – One was observed near Saginaw, *Shelby*, 30 September – 1 October (Shirley Farrell, Frank Farrell, John Imhof, Harriett Wright *et al.*) (occasional in the Mountain Region). Rarely reported for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, although probably regular in winter in some areas, a single was seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 31 October (Lorna West).
- NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** – One was observed near Saginaw, *Shelby*, 30 September (Shirley Farrell, Frank Farrell, John Imhof, Harriett Wright) (seventh inland Alabama record).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** – A maximum of 25 was counted at Oneonta, *Blount*, in late October (D. Brown, L. Brown), to mark a new fall high count for

the Mountain Region.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – Uncommon and erratic in Alabama, 10 were at Belle Mina, *Limestone*, 23 November (Steve McConnell; ph.), and two were at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 24 November (Damien Simbeck, Michael Beuerlein).

PAINTED BUNTING – One was late on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 November (Howard Horne).

BOBOLINK – Uncommon to rare in fall in Alabama, one was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 October (Greg Jackson).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Very rare in the WP, a single was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 28 September (Bob Penhollow, Thelma Phillips). An immature male was reported along Cane Creek west of Tuscumbia, *Colbert*, 26 September (Jim Shedd, *fide* Damien Simbeck) (occasional for inland Alabama).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This exotic species has been well established for many years in the WP, surviving hurricanes and cold weather. Bernice Gilley observed young birds at her feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 20 August.

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Corrigenda: In *Alabama Birdlife* Vol. 52, No. 2, the Brown Pelican and Tree Swallow, 27 May 2006 records from Lake Logan Martin should read “St. Clair/Talladega” and not “St. Clair/Tallapoosa”. Also, the observer for the Louisiana Waterthrush, 13 March 2006 sighting should read “Harriett Wright” and not “Helen Kittinger”.

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2006 – FEBRUARY 2007)

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

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 11th 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.; 12th 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, *Okaloosa*, 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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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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