

1990-91 FALL AND WINTER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

The 1990-91 fall and winter seasons were highlighted by several rarities, including a first record for Alabama. The autumn migration was disappointing for passerines, however, and the mild winter resulted in low diversity on many Christmas Bird Counts.

The poor showing for many species in the fall was likely due to the lack of effective frontal activity. Best days on the coast for landbirds were 23-24 September and 19-21 October. Temperatures during the autumn were generally normal to warm, and rainfall was unusually low in the first half of the season. The winter was warm, in great contrast to the big freezes of the preceding winter, and precipitation was fairly normal for the period.

This report covers the period August 1990 through February 1991 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (east to the Apalachicola River). The appearance of an observation in this column does not indicate verification or acceptance of a record for a very rare species, as these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. It is important that all submissions for birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, 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, but should always describe the diagnostic characters observed, as well as the conditions of observation. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

County names are in *italics*. "GC" = Gulf Coast (Alabama), "ICP" = Inland Coastal Plain, "MR" = Mountain Region, "TV" = Tennessee Valley, "WP" = western Panhandle of Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties). Records not specifying Florida or "WP" are in Alabama. "ABRC" = Alabama Bird Records Committee, "acc." = accepted, "CBC" = Christmas Bird Count, "mob" = many observers, "NS" = National Seashore, "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge, "p.a." = pending acceptance, "ph." = photographed, "SP" = State Park, "WMA" = Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS - SHEARWATERS: Red-throated Loons are rare in our area, though they are recorded in most years on the coast. A single bird was very unusual inland at Guntersville from 18 Nov into early December (ALM,RRS,MO,mob,acc.ABRC). Another was spotted 1 Dec at Big Sabine, *Escambia*, FL (PWS,RAD). The Pacific Loon is noted much

less frequently than the Red-throated, so three birds at two locales were surprising. One Pacific was located at Guntersville from 23 Nov into December (BS,mob,acc.ABRC), and up to two were found at Big Sabine, FL, 21 Nov to 1 Dec (RAD,PWS). An unidentified small shearwater, probably an Audubon's, was spotted at Gulf Shores 1 Dec (BCG).

SULIDS - STORKS: Northern Gannets are found in the Gulf in small numbers even in the summer, so the individuals seen 18 Aug at Pensacola, FL (RAD), and 19 Aug at Ft. Morgan (GDJ), were not unexpected. An excellent count of 405 of these high-divers occurred 31 Dec on the Ft. Morgan CBC. Another high total was of 200 Am. White Pelicans 28 Sep at the Deer Point Dam, FL (RH). A first-year **Great Cormorant** was a rare find at Ft. Morgan 7-14 Oct (GDJ,mob,ph., acc.ABRC), and tied the previous Alabama arrival record for this northeastern vagrant. Double-crested Cormorants have now become routine inland at major bodies of water, but the count of 460 on the Montgomery CBC 29 Dec (JB) was noteworthy and established a new maximum for the ICP.

Higher than usual numbers of Great Egrets were noted inland this fall and winter. Concentrations of up to 40 birds were seen in *Lauderdale* in August and September (PDK), and a new winter maximum for the ICP was established by the 235 Great Egrets 29 Dec on the Montgomery CBC (JB). A Tricolored Heron, rare away from the coast, was discovered in *Montgomery* 26 Aug (LG). Reddish Egrets are found in small numbers on the coast in the warmer months, but the four immatures seen throughout the winter at Big Sabine (RAD,mob) were very unusual for the WP. Dark ibis are difficult to locate in our area, though autumn seems to be the best season. Two unidentified birds were found at Blakely I., *Mobile*, 18 Aug (PB), and a Glossy was studied at Gulf Shores 9 Oct (GDJ). Coastal records of Wood Stork are scarce, so four seen in north *Okaloosa*, FL, 3 Sep (RSD) were noteworthy. A single stork along I-85 in *Macon* 10 Jan (AM) was the first ever reported in mid-winter in Alabama.

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl numbers were low this winter, especially on the coast; this was likely due to the mild weather. The rare **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was seen on the Ft. Morgan Peninsula 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL). Alabama finally recorded the **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** this winter. Three birds were seen by hunters, and two shot, 24 Dec near Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (RS,JF). The surviving bird was rediscovered 31 Dec at the adjacent refuge observation building (HHK,RJ&JSK,acc.ABRC), and was seen intermittently over the next

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

several days. I received a strange report of an unidentified swan flying over Ft. Morgan 18 Aug (OEF)! Greater White-fronted Geese are regular in winter at Wheeler NWR, and one was observed at Limestone Bay 10 Nov (SWM). More unexpected were three at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 29 Nov (WF,GF,RAD). Two **Ross' Geese** were found 20 Jan on Limestone Bay in Wheeler NWR (JRW,DM,mob,p.a.ABRC), providing Alabama with its seventh record.

The first August record of N. Shoveler for the WP occurred 14 Aug with the sighting of two birds in *Okaloosa* (RLB,JWB). A male hybrid Eurasian X American Wigeon was spotted 1 Jan at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (GDJ,DGJ); this was likely the same bird noted at this spot during the previous winter. Three Am. Wigeons were found in *Montgomery* 29 Aug (LG), providing an early ICP record. The Lesser Scaup present from 2 Jul to 14 Aug in *Okaloosa* (RLB,JWB) was only the fifth recorded in summer in the WP. Oldsquaws are uncommonly found in our region, and this year I received three reports. One was at Gulf Shores throughout the winter (WJB,RAD,mob), another was spotted at Guntersville 23 Jan (ALM,HHF,AS,BJ), and the third resided at Decatur from 8 Feb through the end of the season (SWM). Very rare inland was the female Black Scoter at Guntersville 20 Nov (RRS,MO). The highest count of Surf Scoters reported was 16 on the Ft. Morgan CBC 31 Dec. This is the most frequently seen scoter species in our area. Five White-winged Scoters were discovered at Ft. Pickens, FL, 10 Nov (RAD), and three were seen 12 Jan at Gulf Shores (GF,JL,PG,SG). The Bufflehead noted 2 Nov in *Okaloosa*, FL (RLB,JWB) was locally early.

RAPTORS: Ospreys are very rare inland in the winter, so the single birds seen in *Montgomery* 26 Dec (H&SM, *vide* LG) and 20 Jan (LG) were noteworthy. An astounding 32 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites graced the skies of *Marengo* 3 Aug (RRS), with 27 in one field! This total broke the previous Alabama maximum by a wide margin. The adult Mississippi Kite 1 Nov in *Gulf*, FL (SCA) was late. An early N. Harrier was at Ft. Morgan 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL). Three immature Bald Eagles, uncommon on the Alabama coast, were spotted on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 17 Nov (VBF,MFF,MN,mob). The species appears to be more rare along the coast of the WP, so the immature 11 Nov at Gulf Breeze (WJB), and the adult 17 Nov in Pensacola (BM), were interesting. The highest count of Sharp-shinned Hawks reported this autumn was 75 seen 11 Oct at Ft. Morgan (GDJ).

The 725 Broad-winged Hawks spotted by VBF 24 Sep at her vantage point along *Baldwin's* Eastern Shore was the maximum count that I

received. **Swainson's Hawk** is rarely noted in our area, with most reports from the outer coast in middle or late autumn. Surprisingly, we had two records this fall, both from Ft. Morgan (acc.ABRC). An immature was photographed 19-20 Oct (ALM,mob), and an adult appeared 10 Nov (GDJ,GF,mob). The Krider's form of the Red-tailed Hawk is rare in the WP, and a single bird was described from Gulf Breeze 26 Oct (JWB). American Kestrels are now very scarce in the breeding season on the coast, and the solitary bird 18 Aug in *Baldwin* (PB) was likely an early migrant. Normal numbers of Merlins, one to two birds per day, were noted at Ft. Morgan this fall. Seven reports of 10 Peregrine Falcons were submitted from the coast in the autumn, mostly from Ft. Morgan. One seen there 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL) established a new early arrival date for the GC. Solitary Peregrines at Gulf Shores 29 Dec (LB,MS) and at Ft. Morgan 13 Jan (RAD) were more unusual, though not unexpected. Inland records are less frequent. An adult Peregrine was discovered at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 23 Sep (TAB); another, or possibly the same, was spotted nearby at Decatur the following day (GDJ). An immature was seen at Swan Creek WMA 15 Oct (GDJ,BCG), and a single bird was noted at Lake Land Farms, *Perry*, 15 Nov (MO).

RAILS - SHOREBIRDS: A **Yellow Rail** was studied at close range at Ft. Morgan 1 Sep (JL,GF,PB,BG,acc.ABRC). This was only the second GC record of this recluse, and amazingly the bird was observed flying through a wooded area and perched in a low tree! The reliable Sandhill Cranes returned to the Gulf Shores area this winter, with a high tally of 27 on the CBC 29 Dec. Black-bellied Plovers are difficult to find inland, so the solitary bird 19 Aug in Decatur (SWM) was interesting. Autumn records of Lesser Golden-Plover are uncommon. A single bird 4 Aug at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF) provided an early GC record. Another Lesser Golden-Plover was near Decatur in *Limestone* 24 Sep (GDJ), and the individual 6 Dec at Big Sabine, *Escambia* (RAD) set a late record for the WP. Highest counts this year for Snowy Plover were eight at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ), 11 at Big Sabine, FL, 18 Nov (GF,JL,PB), and seven at Gulf Shores 29 Dec (RRR,mob). Wilson's Plovers do not normally winter in our area, though in recent years there have been a few lingering birds at Big Sabine, FL. At that site this year was a solitary Wilson's 18 Nov (GF,JL,PB); three birds spotted 24 Feb (RAD) could have wintered or might have been early migrants. Piping Plovers were present along the coast in small numbers at the regular sites; the single Piping described 7 Oct at Swan Creek WMA (SWM) was unusual inland.

American Oystercatchers are uncommon in *Baldwin*, and one was

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

seen at Ft. Morgan 18 Aug (OEF). The Craft Sod Farm near Gulf Shores continued this fall as the top regional area for Upland Sandpipers. Fourteen seen 21 Jul (PB) set a new early GC record; the high count for the season was 45 birds 18 Aug (GDJ,DGJ). The sod farm near Harpersville, *Shelby*, also yielded Upland Sandpipers this fall, with a maximum of four seen 29 Aug (GDJ,DGJ). Please remember that birders are not allowed to walk or drive on the grass at these sod farms. As is now the norm, two Long-billed Curlews were found this autumn at the Battleship near Mobile, with the first report on 30 Sep (GDJ,DGJ). Three Marbled Godwits were discovered 23 Sep at Swan Creek WMA (TAB), providing a first inland fall record. One bird lingered to 29 Sep (GDJ,SWM). Uncommon on the coast, a single Marbled Godwit was noted at Blakely I. 13 Oct (GDJ,AOS).

Sanderlings are unusual inland, and two juveniles were spotted in *Limestone* 9 Sep (GDJ). A Pectoral Sandpiper was late in *Perry* 15 Nov (MO). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were also tardy in s. *Baldwin* 11 Nov (GDJ), and four were spotted nearby on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (RAD,EL). This graceful wader is rare in the winter, but has appeared more frequently at that season in recent years. It was a good year for Buff-breasted Sandpipers. One located in s. *Baldwin* 5 Aug (J&JP) established a new GC early date. Five Buff-breasteds were near Harpersville, *Shelby*, 3 Sep (PHF), setting a new high count for the MR. Another inland record was of three birds in *Colbert* 16 Sep (SWM).

LARIDS: A **Parasitic Jaeger**, difficult to find in the state, was observed at close range on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (ALM, p.a.ABRC). Franklin's Gulls are rare in the WP, so the immature at Big Sabine 27 Nov (RAD,WF) was noteworthy. An early Bonaparte's Gull was in *Okaloosa*, FL, 2 Nov (RLB,JWB). Wilson Dam on the Tennessee R. near Florence is one of the better spots for concentrations of gulls in our region. A flock of approximately 6500 Ring-billed Gulls was at this site 13 Jan (GDJ,DGJ). "Ole One Foot," the long-lived, dark-backed, mystery gull, was found again this year in Pensacola, FL, from 19 Jul to 30 Aug (RAD). Beginning 20 Nov, an immature Glaucous Gull wintered at Guntersville (ALM,mob,acc.ABRC). Great Black-backed Gulls are now seen annually in the region, and a first-year bird was present at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (GF,PB,acc.ABRC). The discovery of a first-year **Black-legged Kittiwake** 29 Dec to 3 Jan at St. Andrews SP, FL (MAO,mob,ph.) provided the first *Bay* record. This vagrant is rarely encountered in our area.

The 475 Sandwich Terns flying east along the beach at Ft. Morgan

in a few hours 30 Sep (GDJ,DGJ) established a new state maximum. Common Terns are seen in good numbers along the coast only in late summer and fall. Highest reported count this season was of 42 at Gulf Shores 9 Oct (GDJ). Two were still present there 11 Nov (GDJ), and two were also seen 29 Dec on the CBC (HHK,OEF, CDC,BCG,mob). A rare winter sighting for the ICP was a Forster's Tern 19 Jan in *Montgomery* (LG). A Least Tern at Pensacola Beach 4 Dec (RAD) provided the first December record for the WP.

DOVES - HUMMINGBIRDS: In December, Mr. Pittman counted 42 Eurasian Collared-Doves at his home near Destin, FL, a significant increase from the six birds discovered there in 1987. They have now spread over a ten-mile area from the Pittman residence. It was a good fall for White-winged Doves along the coast, with a maximum of five seen at Ft. Morgan 14 Nov (TAI,PB,MN,mob). Another was located 20 Oct at Gulf Shores (PB,GF,JL,mob). The species is harder to find in the WP, and solitary birds were spotted 25 Oct and 2 Nov at Gulf Breeze (WWD,LRD,mob) and 25-27 Oct at Ft. Pickens (RAD,RLB,JWB,JS). Record late Black-billed Cuckoos were seen 28 Oct at Gulf Breeze, FL (LRD,WWD), and 3 Nov at nearby Ft. Pickens (RLB,RB). Groove-billed Anis are rare and erratic in occurrence on the coast, and seem to have an affinity for Ft. Pickens, FL. One was noted there 17 Oct (GF), and remained until at least 28 Oct (RLB,JWB,JS,OEF,mob). An entertaining rarity is the **Burrowing Owl**, which is only occasionally found along our coast. A lone bird was encountered at Ft. Pickens, FL, 3 Nov (RLB,RB). Whip-poor-wills are uncommon winter residents on the coast, but the larger Chuck-will's-widow is only rarely found at that season. A "Chuck" was found freshly killed in the road at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (GF,PB).

This was a fantastic year for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds throughout the region, with some locations reporting up to 200 birds visible at a single time in late summer and early fall. In a six-week period beginning in early August, the Sargents used 57 gallons of sugar water at their home near Birmingham! Black-chinned Hummingbirds are now known to be regular migrants in the region, and the Sargents banded three young birds in east *Jefferson* from 18 Aug to 5 Oct. An immature male was studied in Pinson, *Jefferson*, 29 Sep (RRS, MBS, MO, SO, acc. ABRC). A female **Calliope Hummingbird** near Montevallo, *Shelby*, spiced up the late winter for a multitude of birders. It was present all winter at the TH residence, and was identified and banded 26 Feb (RRS,acc.ABRC). This was only the second record for the state of this

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

diminutive vagrant, and the bird remained into the early spring. A male Rufous Hummingbird was studied in east *Jefferson* 11 Aug (MO,SO), and single birds were banded by the Sargents 12 Nov in Huntsville and 25 Jan in Mobile.

WOODPECKERS - SWALLOWS: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Walker* 21 Sep (JG) tied the previous MR early arrival date; one at Ft. Morgan 7 Oct (PB) was also early. Rare for the WP was a Hairy Woodpecker in Pensacola 10 Sep (GF). A GC maximum was established on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec for N. Flicker, with 150 tallied. Olive-sided Flycatchers can be difficult to locate in our region, and are most often seen in September. One of these "Big-headed Bug-eaters" was spotted at Ft. Morgan 15 Sep (JL,AF,DF,GF,mob). An E. Wood-Pewee in *Montgomery* 3 Nov (LG) provided a new late ICP record. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rare-but-regular transients in the state; a single bird was studied at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ,acc.ABRC), and another was banded there 20 Oct (RRS,MBS) for a new late Alabama record. The uncommon Least Flycatcher was detailed at Ft. Morgan 6 & 8 Oct (GDJ). An E. Phoebe at Pensacola 15 Sep (PT) set a new early record for the WP. A new Alabama maximum was established for this flycatcher with 130 counted on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec.

Ash-throated Flycatchers are very rare in the area, so the discovery of an individual 18 Nov at Ft. Pickens, FL (GF,BCG,JL,PB) was exciting. Western Kingbirds are regular in small numbers along the coast in the autumn, and this year I received four separate reports of single birds at Ft. Morgan. The species is rare in winter, and thus the lone kingbirds 7 Dec at Ft. Morgan (RAD,WJB) and 6 Jan at Pace, FL (GF,JL,KD,MSt) were interesting. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nested this summer in Alabama for the first time. A pair fledged four young west of Florence 5-6 Aug (DCP,PDK), and they remained to 3 Sep. One or more adult Scissor-taileds were seen 7-11 Oct at Ft. Morgan (GDJ), where they are regular in the fall. Another was located at Ft. Pickens, FL, 20 Oct (RLB,JWB,RB). The first report of returning Purple Martins was of a male at Gulf Shores 13 Feb (PB). The two N. Rough-winged Swallows at Ft. Morgan 1 Dec (WJB) were late.

WRENS - WOOD WARBLERS: Bewick's Wrens have become exceedingly scarce throughout our area, but they are particularly unusual on the coast. The single wren seen 2 Oct at Gulf Breeze, FL (WJB), and the two noted 11 Nov at Marianna, FL (BDN,RC), were thus notable. Unlike the situation with the Bewick's Wren, the numbers of E. Bluebirds have increased in recent years. Encouraging numbers on the coast included a flock of over 55 at Ft. Morgan 17 Nov (GF,PB,BG,SG,BCG),

and a state maximum count of 293 on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec. The Duncans commented on "excellent numbers" of bluebirds inland in n.w. Florida and in *Covington* and *Escambia*, AL. A Veery 5 Sep at Montrose, *Baldwin* (VBF) was early. Two Wood Thrushes described on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (CLK,IR,JJ) represented only the third winter record for Alabama. The five White-eyed Vireos counted at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (PB,GF) were a good number for that season. On the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec, a Yellow-throated Vireo was located (RRS), providing one of the few winter records for the state.

An Orange-crowned Warbler 16 Sep at Ft. Morgan (PB,JL) provided a new arrival record for the GC. The species is rare in n. Alabama in the winter. One late Orange-crowned was spotted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17 Nov (RRS,mob), and a wintering bird was discovered near Florence 16 Feb (HHK,PDK,mob). Three Nashville Warblers, uncommon transients, were banded at Ft. Morgan 20-21 Oct (RRS,MBS). At the same location 20 and 23 Oct, the Sargents banded two Black-throated Blue Warblers. This species is often hard to locate in our region, particularly in the autumn. Three additional birds were seen in e. *Jefferson* 18 - 27 Aug (RRS,MBS), setting a new early arrival record for inland Alabama. A Black-throated Green Warbler in *Montgomery* 27 Oct (LG) was late, but not as tardy as the notable wintering bird at Panama City, FL, 25 and 28 Jan (JO,EK).

Cerulean Warblers have appeared more scarce in recent times, but this summer quite few were seen in passage. "Many" were seen in July and August in e. *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS), and one to two birds were found on multiple days from 31 Jul to 2 Sep at Montrose, *Baldwin* (VBF). Large numbers of Am. Redstarts were reported at coastal migration spots 23-25 Sep (RAD). The individuals discovered 14 Nov at Pensacola, FL (LGo) and 19 Nov at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (MSk) were late, with the Alabama bird establishing a new GC record. Ovenbirds are casual in winter on the coast, and one was discovered on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (RRS,MS). A new late WP date was set by the observation of a N. Waterthrush 3 Nov at Ft. Pickens (RB,RLB). The Wilson's Warbler at Montrose, *Baldwin*, 4 Sep (VBF) was very early.

GROSBEAKS - FINCHES: Several locations reported late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Two were in *Gulf*, FL, 3 Nov (TM,HL,mob), an additional two Rose-breasteds were in Panama City, FL, to 10 Nov (BCM), and the latest bird set a new GC record 30 Nov at Ft. Morgan (RAD). A male Painted Bunting was a surprise winter visitor in *Escambia*, FL, 7-12 Feb (JM,OEF). **American Tree Sparrows** are very

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

rare visitors to the area, most often in the TV. Three were described from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 19 Jan (SWM,p.a.ABRC). It was a good autumn for Clay-colored Sparrows, with four reports from Ft. Morgan (acc.ABRC). What were thought to be different birds were seen 29 Sep (GDJ), 6 and 7 Oct (GDJ,DGJ), and 7-10 Nov (RAD,mob). This species is a rare annual visitor to the outer coast.

Usually easier to find is the Lark Sparrow, but this season I only had one report from Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ). As is usual, I received a couple of Lincoln Sparrow records from Ft. Morgan in late October (RRS,MBS,RAD,GF,mob). One was seen inland 28 Oct at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (SWM). The White-throated Sparrow 7 Oct at Ft. Morgan (PB,mob) was early. Two White-crowned Sparrows 24 Sep at Ft. Pickens (RAD,RR) set a new WP early record, and the single bird spotted at Ft. Morgan 5 days later (GDJ) was also very early. The 12 White-crowns in *Gulf*, FL, 18 Nov (BDN,NW,SCA) represented an unusual number for that area. Forty-four Lapland Longspurs were seen in *Limestone* 19 Jan (JRW,DM), and some of these remained to at least 28 Jan (SWM,HHK,GA,BJ).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds are rare-but-regular visitors on the outer coast in the fall, and this year I had three reports. Singles were at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ,mob), at Gulf Breeze, FL, 2 Oct (WJB,GB), and 13 Oct in *Bay*, FL (HL,TM,mob). As you proceed east along the coast, Brewer's Blackbirds become scarce in the winter. Seven birds were considered rare in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 12 Nov (RAD,JP). A male **Shiny Cowbird** was observed in Pensacola, FL, 3 Feb (GF,CDF), providing our area with the first evidence of wintering for this new scourge. Along the same lines, a **Bronzed Cowbird** was seen at Ft. Morgan 7-10 Nov (RAD,mob,ph.,acc.ABRC). This was only the third record of this species in Alabama. Unfortunately, we will probably be seeing a lot more of both of these pests in the future.

Approximately 100-150 Orchard Orioles were seen flying over Gulf Breeze, FL, in a 45-minute period 19 Aug (RAD). A N. Oriole was seen on the Montgomery CBC 26-29 Dec (RAD, LG) for one of only a few ICP winter records. The Bullock's form of this species is a rare vagrant to our area, and a female-plumaged bird was at Ft. Morgan 5 Oct (JH,JFH). The House Finch continues steadily marching across the land, with increased numbers along the coast this winter. They were reported from Ft. Morgan to Ft. Walton Beach, FL, with a GC maximum of 28 on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (EL,SL,RAD,mob). It was a poor year for visiting Pine Siskins, though some did reach the coast. Only a few

Evening Grosbeaks were reported, all from the Birmingham area from 23 Dec to 6 Jan (RRS,MBS,BiG,JG).

CITED OBSERVERS: Alabama Ornithological Society , Sybil C. Arbery, Gussie Arnett, Jane W. Ballman, Richard L. Ballman, Rick Ballman, Joel Black, Paul Blevins, Greta Bremser, William J. Bremser, Thomas A. Brindley, Linda Buzzard, Ron Christen, C. Dwight Cooley, Kim Davis, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan, R. Scot Duncan, William W. Duncan, Owen E. Fang, Harriett H. Findlay, Carol D. Fleming, Gene Fleming, Mary F. Floyd, Ann Forster, Dan Forster, Paul H. Franklin, Jim Frazier, Venetia B. Friend, Will Fullilove, Larry Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Peggy Gibbs, Bernice Gilley, Bill Gilliland (BiG), Joann Gilliland, Lyn Gould (LGo), Sandra Gunn, Taylor Hill, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, Ron Houser, Thomas A. Imhof, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Bettye James, Joyce Johnson, Ed Keppner, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Rick J. & Jo S. Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Eric Lefstad, Sandra Lefstad, Jan Lloyd, Horace Loftin, Joel Martin, Steve W. McConnell, Tony Menart, Andrea Menyhert, B.C. Messer, Ann L. Miller, Bill Milmore, Howard & Sue Morris, Dollyann Myers, Bruce D. Neville, Minnie Nonkes, Mary Ann Olson, John Oswald, Michael Owens, Suzanne Owens, Dee C. Patterson, James Pfeiffer, John & Jackie Porter, Robert R. Reid, Ila Roose, Rufus Rose, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Jim Saunders, Maureen Shaffer, Robert Shell, Maud Skiba (MSk), Alice Stevens, Mike Strangeland (MSt), Bill Summerour, Paul W. Sykes, Phil Tetlow, Noel Warmer, Jeff R. Wilson.

Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244.

