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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*); a species reported in the *Summer Sightings (June -July 2004)*, Pp.54. Photograph by Peter G. May.

IMPACT OF EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES ON MOURNING DOVES

Robert A. Duncan

The Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) was first discovered in northwest Florida in 1987 near Destin in Walton County (Smith 1987, Duncan 2000). At that time it was at the northernmost limit of its range in the United States and has since undergone an explosive range expansion (AOU 1998). A native of India, it spread to western Europe by the late 19th century (Smith 1987, Hengeveld 1993). They were first observed in southern Florida in the late 1970s. The suspected source of the Florida birds was no more than 50 individuals that escaped from a Bahama pet store in 1974 (Smith 1987, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Locally well-entrenched, it is now a common breeder found throughout the year along the coast and in suburbs of Alabama and northwest Florida (Haggerty et al. 2004).

Because invasive species can have deleterious effects on native species (Temple 1992), studies are needed that investigate the impact of increasing populations of Eurasian Collared-Doves on native species (Hengeveld 1993). In this research I examine the possible effects of an increasing Eurasian Collared-Dove population on another columbid, the Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) in northwest Florida.

To study population trends for the two species, Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data from four coastal CBC circles (Gulf Shores, Perdido Bay, Pensacola, and Choctawhatchee) were analyzed both prior to and after the arrival of the Eurasian Collard-Dove.

Mourning Dove numbers for the five-year period prior to the invasion (i.e., 1983 – 1987) showed an average of 7.59 birds/party hr compared to 12.50 birds/party hr for the five-year period after the invasion (i.e., 1998 – 2002), a surprising increase of 61%. A comparison of Mourning Dove numbers with Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers for a five-year period (i.e., 1998 – 2002) showed that the populations of both species appear to be relatively stable (Figure 1).

In summary, this study found no evidence that increasing Eurasian Collared-Doves populations are impacting Mourning Dove populations in the coastal counties of Alabama and extreme northwest Florida in spite of the former's presence in the area for the past 15 years. Only time will tell whether this trend will continue.

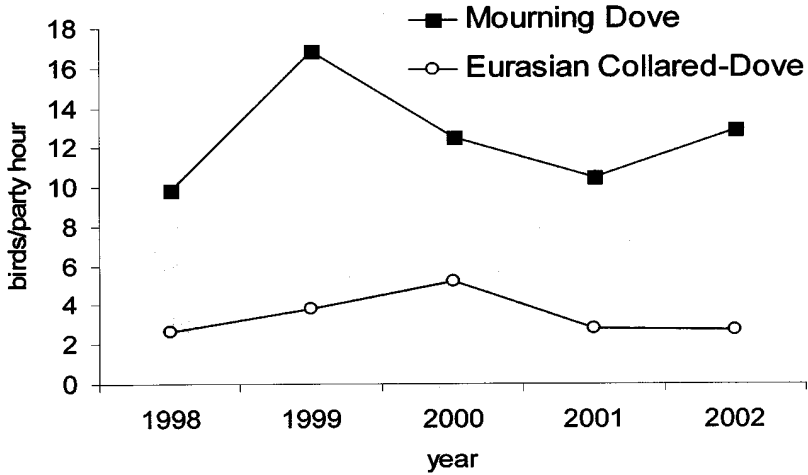


FIGURE 1. Average number of Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves observed per party hour for four Christmas Bird Counts along the Gulf Coast over a five-year period.

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A STATUS SUMMARY OF THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*ELANOIDES FORFICATUS*) IN ALABAMA, 1998–2003

Eric C. Soehren

INTRODUCTION

The Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) is a Neotropical-Nearctic migratory raptor that has exhibited severe declines throughout its entire breeding range. Once breeding in as many as 21 states a century ago, it now nests in only seven southeastern states, and probably no more than 5,000 individuals remain at the end of each nesting season (Meyer 1995). Although population declines appear to have leveled in recent decades, this species is on the Partners In Flight's Watchlist and is designated as an extremely high priority species in need of conservation attention. In Alabama, it was recently assigned a Priority 2 designation (High Conservation Concern) based on its low relative abundance, locally clumped distribution, specialized habitat requirements, and potential threats of disturbance or destruction to its breeding and communal roost locations (Soehren 2004).

The current status and distribution of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Alabama is poorly understood. Information is primarily limited to published anecdotal observations and collected specimens (Gosse 1859; Howell 1928; Barkalow 1939; Baker 1964; Skinner 1964; Imhof 1976). One of the more interesting publications was by Skinner (1964) who documented the collection of two individuals from Alabama that fit the measurements of *E. f. yetapa*; a slightly smaller subspecies known from southern Mexico through the northern two-thirds of South America. Prior to 1999, no active nests had been officially documented in Alabama and the only evidence of nesting was from several reported observations of adults carrying nesting material (Imhof 1976). Further, no documentation regarding its breeding, post-breeding, and migratory biology exists from the state. To address this lack of information, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section (NHS) initiated annual surveys and began soliciting sighting reports to assess the species' current status in Alabama. Survey objectives were to determine current distribution, identify high concentration areas, and document nest and communal roost locations. The data accrued would establish important baseline information and provide

support towards future research efforts addressing the Swallow-tailed Kite's biology and conservation in Alabama.

In 1998, NHS personnel initiated two surveys in July, one by boat and one by plane, to determine general distribution in the southwestern portion of the state. Results from this survey were published (Soehren 1998). The following year, survey efforts focused on nest and communal roost searches along the lower stretches of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers where kites were observed during the 1998 surveys. In 2000, the NHS began soliciting sighting reports from the public and conducted limited nest and roost searches in portions of southwestern Alabama. From 2001 to September 2003, the NHS continued receiving sighting reports and performed limited nest and roost searches along the rivers and creeks associated with the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta (MTRD). All data gathered from surveys and submitted public sighting reports were consolidated and entered into the NHS Geographic Information System (GIS) observation database. Public sighting reports that did not include latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates were assigned a coordinate position based on written site descriptions. Reports that lacked written site descriptions were not included in the observation database. Data were then analyzed for status and distribution determination.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from 17 counties in Alabama between 1998 and 2003. During that time, a total of 249 independent sighting reports was entered in the observation database and accounted for 744 individuals observed (Figure 1). The highest concentrations of Swallow-tailed Kites were observed along the floodplain forests of the MTRD and the lower stretches of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers (Figure 2). Aggregation sizes of Swallow-tailed Kites ranged from one to 56 and averaged 3.0 ± 0.4 ($n = 249$) kites per observation (Figure 3). The seven counties associated with high concentration areas (i.e., Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, Monroe, Washington, and Wilcox) accounted for 232 (93%) of the 249 total observations and accounted for 671 (90%) of the 744 total individuals observed. Further, 60 (26%) of the 232 observations were made over public lands, particularly within the ADCNR managed lands of the MTRD. The remaining 17 (7%) sighting reports were isolated and generally distributed along the floodplain forests of the upper Tombigbee (Marengo and Pickens counties), upper Alabama (Autauga and Lowndes counties), Conecuh (Escambia County), Sepulga (Conecuh County),

Pea (Geneva County), and Choctawhatchee (Geneva County) Rivers as well as the Pigeon (Butler County) and Patsaliga (Covington County) Creeks (Figure 2). One extralimital observation was made in St. Clair County within the Ridge and Valley ecoregion in late July. Of these 17 observations, two (12%) were made over public lands.

One hundred sixty-five (66%) observations were reported during breeding months (March–June) and the remaining 84 (34%) observations were reported during post-breeding months (July–October). However, more individuals were observed during post-breeding months ($n = 418$) than during breeding months ($n = 326$). The earliest observation date reported was 14 March. The earliest on record for Alabama is 28 February (Jackson 1994). Surprisingly, the latest observation date was 8 October, which set a new late date record for Alabama (Kittle et al. 2003). There was a total of two observations reported in October and both were made at Fort Morgan State Historical Park, Baldwin County in 2002. Interestingly, no observations were made in September.

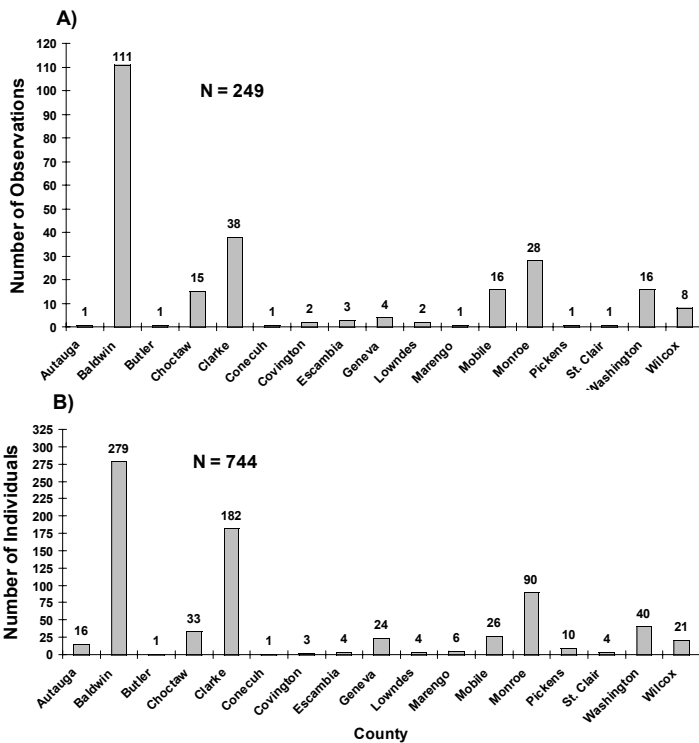


FIGURE 1. (A) Number of observations submitted by county, and (B) number of individuals seen per observation by county, 1998-2003.

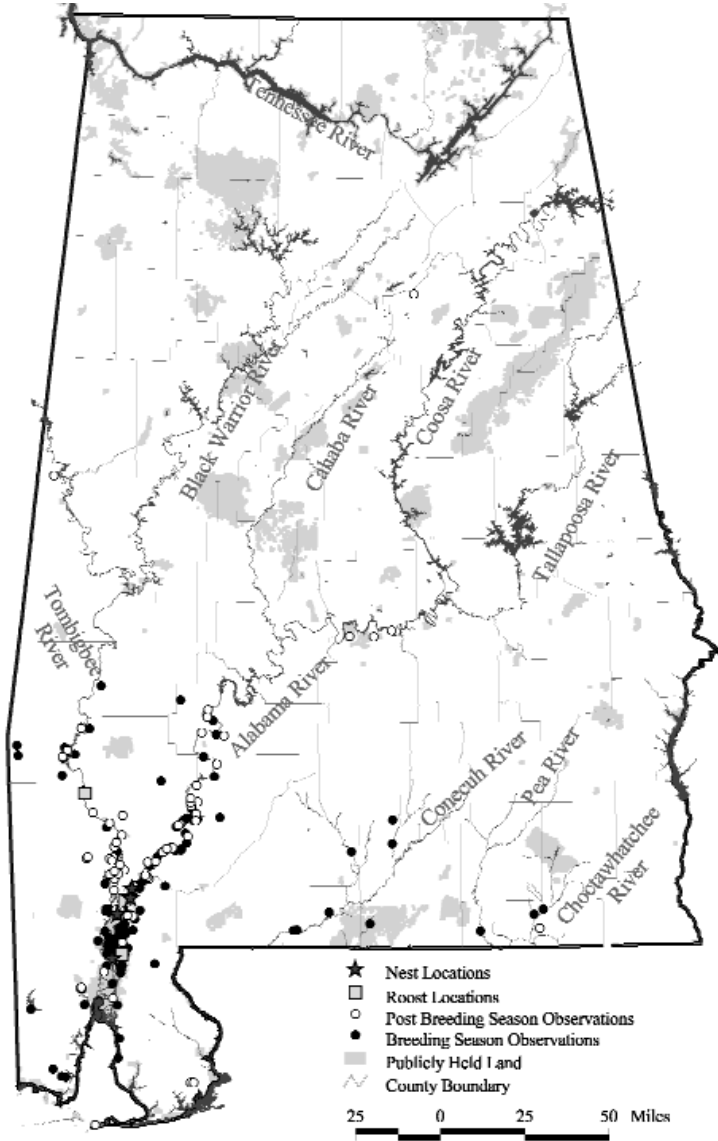


FIGURE 2. Current distribution of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Alabama based on 249 submitted observations (1998-2003). Shaded areas represent federal and state managed lands.

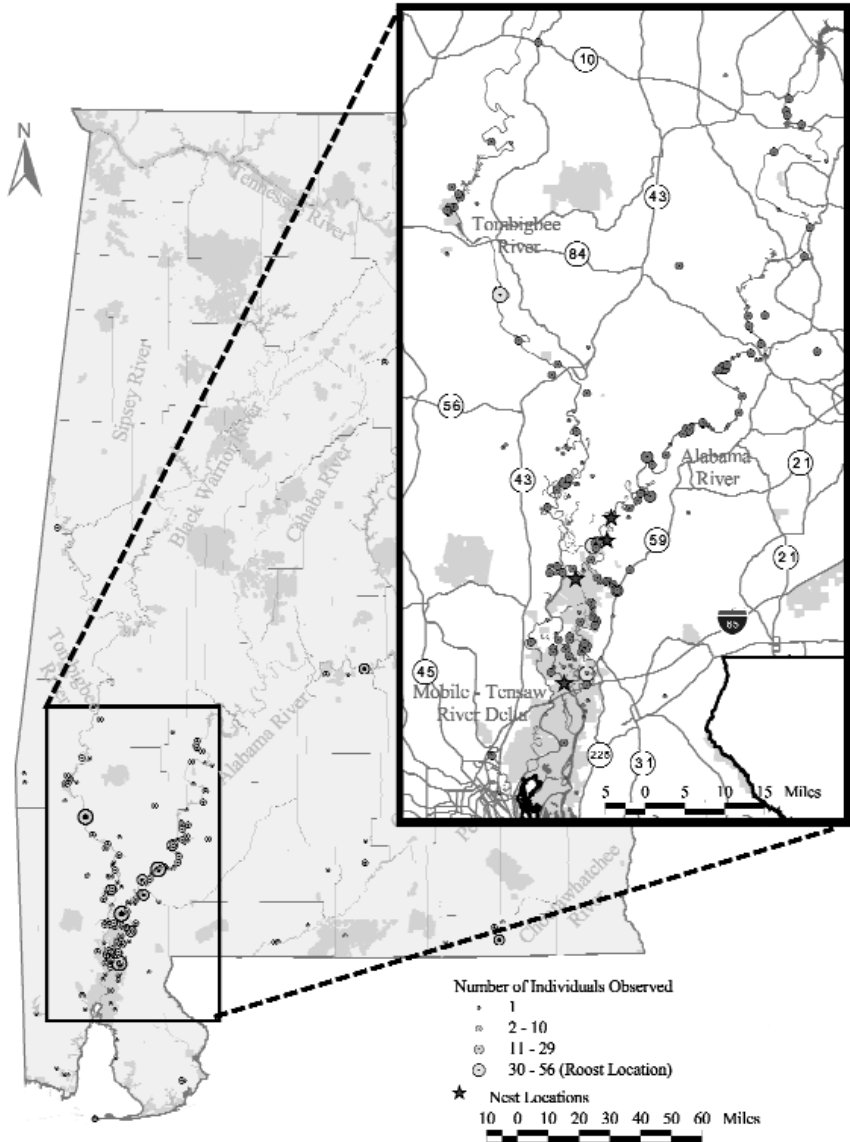


FIGURE 3. Aggregation size of Swallow-tailed Kite observations within the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta and lower stretches of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers (1998-2003). Shaded areas represent federal and state managed lands.

Nests.— A total of five nests was found during this study period, four in Baldwin County and one in Mobile County (Table 1). The discovery of the first nest in 1999 confirmed breeding for this species in Alabama. Nests were found in the floodplain forests of the upper MTRD and along natural levees adjacent to the Alabama River. Two of the five nests were located on public lands. All five nests were built in hardwoods, which included cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and Nuttall's oak (*Quercus nuttallii*). Breeding ranged between 24 March (nest building; E. Soehren pers. observ.) and 6 July (young fledging; C. Parnell, pers. comm.). Four of the five nests successfully fledged at least one young. The unsuccessful nest was abandoned one week after its initial discovery.

TABLE 1. Nesting records for the Swallow-tailed Kite, 1998-2003.

Date	Location	Nest Tree	Outcome
3/24/1999	Baldwin Co., Alabama River Mile (RM) 19.1 on levee	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	successful
5/03/2000	Mobile Co., adjacent to clearcut on Middle River	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	unsuccessful
6/22/2000	Baldwin Co., Alabama RM 10 in floodplain woods	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	successful
4/20/2001	Baldwin Co., same tree as previous year	<i>Q. nigra</i>	successful
5/23/2002	Baldwin Co., Clearwater Tract in floodplain woods	<i>Q. nuttallii</i>	successful

Pre-migratory Communal Roosts. — A total of three pre-migratory communal roosts was found (Table 2). The first roost was located in 1999 just west of the Tensaw River in Baldwin County and contained approximately 30 individuals. The second and third roosts were found in Clarke County in 2002, one along the Tombigbee River with approximately 50 individuals and the other just north of the Alabama River Cutoff with approximately 56 individuals. All three roosts were adjacent to permanent water. Only one roost was located on public lands. It is currently unknown whether these roosts are being used on a year-to-year basis.

TABLE 2. Swallow-tailed Kite pre-migratory roosting sites, 1998-2003.

Date	Estimated Size	Location
7/14/1999	30	Baldwin Co., west side of Tensaw River
7/27/2002	56	Clarke Co., west side of Alabama River at RM 9.3
8/09/2002	50	Clarke Co., east side of Tombigbee River at RM 108

Conservation and Further Research Needs in Alabama. — The Swallow-tailed Kite International Work Group identified protection of nesting and pre-migratory communal roost sites as being the highest priority for the conservation of this species in North America. This is based, in part, on the species' strong philopatry to nesting and roost sites, sociality, and susceptibility to human disturbances and destruction. The latter is of particular concern since a considerable percentage of this species' population breeds and roosts on private lands (especially in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina). In Alabama, however, a significant portion of this species' high concentration area (Figure 3) is being protected as a result of recent conservation actions taken within the MTRD. In 1999, the Alabama Forever Wild Public Land Acquisition Program and ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division purchased over 47,000 acres of wetland forests as part of the MTRD Wetland Conservation Project. More recently, the Forever Wild Program secured an additional 7,000 acres through matching grants awarded by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), a program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, additional monies were secured from other federal programs such as the Coastal Impact and Assistance Program and the Environmental Protection Agency's wetlands restoration programs, which support habitat restoration and enhancement projects. These recent acquisitions combined with the already existing Corps of Engineers and ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division lands in the lower MTRD account for approximately 100,000 acres of protected river delta. These lands are managed under the principle of multiple-use. Not only does securing these lands facilitate the interests of the hunting and recreational constituencies, they also benefit the native flora and fauna by being set aside and managed as nature preserves. Currently, acquisition efforts are now targeting adjacent upland tracts not only to serve as buffers for the MTRD, but also to maintain the diverse assemblage of distinct upland communities unique to this watershed.

Although the basic objectives of this project were accomplished, surveys must continue to better assess this species' status in Alabama. Future efforts should focus on nest and pre-migratory communal roost searches within the high concentration areas of the MTRD and lower stretches of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, particularly where nests and roosts have already been discovered (Figure 3). Consistently used nesting areas and established communal roost sites discovered on private lands should be protected and maintained. Incentives such as conservation easements or cooperative agreements should be offered to landowners to help protect sites if acquisition

is not possible. Once nest and roost locations have been identified, implementation of detailed studies on breeding biology, demographics, habitat usage, post-breeding dispersal, and migration should commence. Annual monitoring of established pre-migratory communal roost sites would allow for determination of general population size and identifying trends. Information obtained from these data then could be applied towards the development of specific, on-site management plans not only to help maintain viable populations, but also to promote expansion into their historic breeding areas in Alabama.

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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2004)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2004 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 *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = subject to review by appropriate records committee; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “BBA” = Breeding Bird Atlas; “CE” = central east; “CW” = central west; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Facility; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NW” = northwest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SE” = southeast; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – This species is rare on most of the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, so one spotted at Hugo, *Marengo*, 17 March (Don Self, Judy Self) was noteworthy.

GADWALL – Damien Simbeck found a late bird near Leighton, *Colbert*, 14 May.

RING-NECKED DUCK – Reports of late birds came from two locations: one east of Leighton, *Colbert*, 3-14 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner, Greg Jackson), and one on Point A Lake, *Covington*, 20 May (Douglas Robinson).

SURF SCOTER – An adult male seen on Grand Bay west of Point-aux-Pins, *Mobile*, 28 April (Eric Soehren) tied the late departure record for the Gulf

Coast.

- RUDDY DUCK** – One was late at Andalusia, *Covington*, 19 May (Douglas Robinson).
- RUFFED GROUSE** – This species is rare and local in the uplands of north-central *Jackson*, from which came two records: one heard in the Hytop CW BBA block 1 May (Jim Schrenkel *et al.*), and one seen at the Walls of Jericho, 10 May (Doug Fears).
- RED-THROATED LOON** – One was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 March (Scott Atkinson) (rare).
- COMMON LOON** – A single in basic plumage was late at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 9 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – One was on a nest in a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 April (Greg Jackson), but the nest was dry and abandoned 5 May (uncommon breeder in Alabama).
- HORNED GREBE** – Greg Jackson observed one in alternate plumage on a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 April (late).
- EARED GREBE** – This species is very rare in spring in the WP, so one found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 19 March (Brian Monk) was noteworthy. A single was found on a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 12 March (Damien Simbeck) where the species is rare but regular.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – A pelagic trip organized by Brian Monk, with 14 other observers, went as far as 100 miles south of Destin, *Okaloosa*, 23 May. Five Audubon's Shearwaters were recorded (five previous records for the WP).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** – Rare but regular offshore in summer in the WP, the same trip described under Audubon's Shearwater above yielded three individuals of this species.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – Now rare but regular in summer in the Gulf off the WP, the same pelagic trip described above yielded a total of 28 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, a maximum for the WP. Additionally, a single found in the Gulf was brought to the Wildlife Sanctuary of West Florida 20 April where it expired. This bird was identified by Dorothy Kaufmann, Bob Duncan, and Lucy Duncan, with the specimen being sent to the Florida State Museum.
- MASKED BOOBY** – The first April records for the WP were established by an immature bird off Destin Beach, *Okaloosa*, 22 April (Brian Monk) and one adult and four immature birds at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 29 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan).

- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – This species is rare in the Mountain Region, so six seen on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 2 April (Renee Morrison, Pete Conroy) were notable. A single bird, presumably the crippled individual seen through summer and into fall, was observed 26 April-31 May at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert* (Greg Jackson, Ned Piper, Harry Dean).
- ANHINGA** – Singles of this species, uncommon to rare at the north edge of the breeding range, were found north of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 1 May (Larry Gardella) and along Interstate 65 at Crescent Lake, *Elmore*, 3 May (Greg Jackson).
- AMERICAN BITTERN** – This species is rarely detected as an inland migrant, so one found at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 May (Greg Jackson) was noteworthy.
- TRICOLORED HERON** – Lorna West found one at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 15 May (occasional in spring in inland Alabama).
- GLOSSY IBIS** – One to two dark-eyed adults in breeding plumage were observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14 April – 11 May (Alan Knothe, Bob Duncan *et al.*) (rare in the WP).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Two birds with red eyes and complete white borders around eyes and face were observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 19 April – 11 May (Brian Monk, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Alan Knothe *et al.*) (sixth WP record). This species is becoming more regular in Alabama, with a single establishing the 17th record at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 1 May (Geoff Hill *et al.*; @ABRC).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – The first spring (and 28th overall) record for Alabama was set 3 March by an immature bird reported by Gena Tobia (*vide* Bill Summerour) from east of Daphne, *Baldwin*.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – At Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, a single was early 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). The 13 counted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 March (Roger Hoffman) was a good number. Bill Summerour observed nest building by this species at the Clearwater Tract, *Baldwin*, 29 March (nesting is rarely documented in Alabama).
- BALD EAGLE** – An adult was found at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 31 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) where the species is locally rare.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** – Records of two singles came from south Alabama, birds that were either late in departing or casual if nesting this far south: Fulton East CE BBA block, *Clarke*, 10 May (Rick West), and Rome, *Covington*, 20 May (Douglas Robinson).
- GOLDEN EAGLE** – An immature bird found near Weogufka Creek, *Coosa*,

18 April (Ryan Shurette *et al.*) set a late departure record for south Alabama.

YELLOW RAIL – One was seen briefly and heard at the airport marsh on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton) (14th Alabama record; @ABRC).

BLACK RAIL – The first May record for the WP was set by one seen and heard at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 5 May (Alan Knothe).

KING RAIL – Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, two were found at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 3 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), a site where the species is regular in spring. Damien Simbeck found two in a marsh in the Falkville CE BBA block, *Morgan*, 21 May.

VIRGINIA RAIL – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was seen at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 3 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Three were found at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 April (Greg Jackson) (occasional inland, seventh record for Tennessee Valley). Two were seen at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 22 May (Larry Gardella) (occasional in inland Alabama, fifth record for Inland Coastal Plain).

WHIMBREL – Good numbers were found at Grand Bay, *Mobile*: 22 on 17 April (Rick West); 80 on 19 April (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds; maximum count for Alabama); 60 on 21 April (Ben Garmon). Mark Van Hoose had 12 in the Kreole SE BBA block, *Mobile*, 5 May.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT – One at the airport marsh on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, was first observed 10 April (Lisa Churchill), later identified by Jeff Wilson, and seen by m.ob. 15-18 April (ph; @ABRC). This bird was the 19th recorded from Alabama, and the 10 April observation ties the earliest arrival date for the state.

SANDERLING – This species is uncommon in inland Alabama. Damien Simbeck located one in basic plumage at a sinkhole pond east of Leighton, *Colbert*, 14 May.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Casual in spring in the WP, one to four birds were counted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 9-22 April (Alan Knothe, Brian Monk, Bob Duncan *et al.*). A mini-incursion of this species seemed to occur in Alabama where it is rare in spring and rare inland. The following records were received: Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, three birds 15 April (David Dortch *et al.*); Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, two birds 15-16 April (Greg Jackson *et al.*) and five birds 17 April (Steve McConnell *et al.*); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*,

two birds 15 April (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.); Russellville, *Franklin*, 12 birds (a new maximum for Alabama) 14 May (Damien Simbeck); sinkhole pond east of Leighton, *Colbert*, one bird 14 May (Damien Simbeck).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Two were early at the sod farm, Harpersville, *Shelby*, 8 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

STILT SANDPIPER – Jan Lloyd found an early arrival at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 13 March.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – Uncommon in inland Alabama, a single in alternate plumage set an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley at a sinkhole pond east of Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 April (Greg Jackson), while another single in alternate plumage was at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 May (Damien Simbeck).

DOWITCHER SP. – Greg Jackson found 10, probably Long-billed, in alternate plumage at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 April (good number for inland Alabama).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – This species is an uncommon breeder on the lower portion of the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Rick West found single birds (possibly nesting) in the Range CE and Frisco City CE BBA blocks, *Conecuh*, 3 March.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Five individual birds were identified at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14-22 April (Alan Knothe, Bob Duncan, Lynda Rowe, Dale Rowe, m.ob.) (casual in spring in the WP). One was at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 15 April (Jeff Garner) (rare in spring).

PARASITIC JAEGER – Brian Monk found one at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 25 April. A pelagic trip that went as far as 100 miles south of Destin, *Okaloosa*, 23 May (Brian Monk *et al.*) yielded an adult light morph individual (casual in spring in the WP).

LAUGHING GULL – Rare inland but regular at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, two adults were present 3 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

GLAUCOUS GULL – A bird at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 April (Laura Catterton, Allen Catterton) was only the second adult for Alabama.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – An immature bird was on Dauphin Bay, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 April (Greg Jackson) (rare).

BRIDLED TERN – A pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, 23 May (Brian Monk *et al.*) produced four individuals (casual in the WP).

BLACK TERN – One was noted at Andalusia, *Covington*, 18 May (Douglas Robinson) (casual in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – This species is increasing rapidly on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, as evidenced by the following records: 25+ at Foley, *Baldwin*, 20 March (Bill Summerour); six+ at Loxley, *Baldwin*, 22 March (Bill Summerour); three+, 22 March, and a nest with two eggs (first documented nest for Alabama; ph.), 30 March, at Robertsdale, *Baldwin* (Bill Summerour); six+ at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 28 March (Bill Summerour); and one at Point Clear, *Baldwin*, 22 May (Howard Horne, Betsy Eager, Venetia Friend *et al.*). A single was noted at Selma, *Dallas*, 16-24+ April (Catherine Jones) (rare inland, but increasing).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – A new maximum spring count (nine) for the Gulf Coast of Alabama was made at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 April (Larry Gardella).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – This species is rarely noted away from the immediate coast. One was west of Theodore, *Mobile*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- BARN OWL** – A pair with a nest containing six eggs was documented at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 27 March (Bill Summerour; ph.). Nests of this species are uncommonly documented in Alabama.
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but regular in the WP, a bird banded earlier in winter by Fred Bassett remained at the feeder of Dawn John in Pensacola, *Escambia*, until 3 April (Bob Duncan).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – One on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) was early.
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but regular in the WP, a bird banded earlier in winter by Fred Bassett remained at the feeder of Dawn John in Pensacola, *Escambia*, until 3 April (Bob Duncan).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – An adult male that was banded at Glenda Bowman's feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, in December (Fred Bassett) remained until 18 April (second or third record for Florida).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – Late singles were at Killen, 27 May and in the Center Hill CE BBA block, 28 May (both *Lauderdale* and Damien Simbeck), with the latter bird establishing a new late departure record for Alabama.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – David Dortch found an adult male at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 18 April (rare).
- GRAY KINGBIRD** – This species is now rare on the Gulf Coast. One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 April (Carrie Dortch, Tasha McLain *et al.*). Another single was at Battleship Park on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 8

May (Katherine White, Randy White) (casual away from outer coast).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Casual in spring in the WP, a single was recorded from *Okaloosa*, 8 May (Alan Knothe). Still rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama, one was noted at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 15 April (Robert Register), to set a new early record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Seven birds (including three pairs) were counted at the Alabama A&M Farms, *Madison* (a known nesting site), 1 May (Tom Brindley *et al.*). At another known nesting site at Priceville, *Morgan*, one was noted 26 May and a pair was building a nest 6 June (Steve McConnell).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – The arrival of one at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 March (Andrew Haffenden) set a new early record for north Alabama. Also early were three in the Oakmulgee WMA, Talladega NF, *Bibb/Hale*, 18 March (David George).

BELL'S VIREO – Only occasional for inland Alabama, the sighting of one at the Birmingham Zoo, *Jefferson*, 7 May (Ben Garmon, Helen Kittinger) was noteworthy.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – One was early in the Oakmulgee WMA, Talladega NF, *Bibb/Hale*, 18 March (David George).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – A bird found 8 May in *Okaloosa* (Larry Wright) set the late departure record for the WP by six days.

WARBLING VIREO – At Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, one was observed 14 April (Alan Knothe, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan *et al.*) (rare). A single was found at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 1 May (Ann Miller, Alice Stevenson) (rare).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – One was found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in spring).

BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO – Roger Hoffman observed one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 March (early for Alabama by two weeks).

FISH CROW – Locally rare but increasing, two were at Cahaba Heights, 1 May, and one was at Hoover Sports Park, 9 May (both *Jefferson*, Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

TREE SWALLOW – A pair at gourds 8 May, east of Shelby, *Shelby* (Harriett Wright *et al.*) may have been attempting to nest, rare this far south.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – Jud Johnston found an early arrival at Guin, *Marion*, 10 March, while one on the same date along the Tennessee River upstream from Guntersville, *Marshall* (Greg Jackson) tied the early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

- CAVE SWALLOW** – Accidental in the WP, a single was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 9 April (Alan Knothe *et al.*). One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 March (Barry Fleming; 24th record for Alabama) set an early arrival record for Alabama.
- BARN SWALLOW** – Two at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 March (Larry Gardella) were early, as was one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 14 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- HOUSE WREN** – Rick West found a singing and possibly nesting individual in the Pinson CE BBA block, *Jefferson*, 18 May (rare breeder in Mountain Region).
- AMERICAN ROBIN** – Don Ware observed one nesting 8-19 May in *Walton* (rare breeding species in Florida).
- GRAY CATBIRD** – A single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 May (Michael Jordan) tied the late departure date for the Gulf Coast of Alabama.
- CEDAR WAXWING** – An estimated 5000 at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 2 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) was a good number.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** – An early bird was at Opelika, *Lee*, 27 March (Lorna West).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – One was late on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 April (Howard Horne).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – A single was found in Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 3 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner) (rare in spring).
- NORTHERN PARULA** – An early bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). Also early were three males at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West), and two birds at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 March (Larry Gardella). Thirteen was a good number so early in the Oakmulgee WMA, Talladega NF, *Bibb/Hale*, 18 March (David George).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Rare but regular in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, one was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 4 May (Larry Gardella).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Rare but regular for inland Alabama, a female was observed at Opelika, *Lee*, 3 May (Lorna West).
- YELLOW-RUMPED (AUDUBON'S) WARBLER** – A male in alternate plumage on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 April (Lorna West) was late and set the 11th record of this subspecies for Alabama.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – A singing male at Hoover,

Shelby, 18 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) was early.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – One at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 2 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) may have been an early migrant or a rare but regular wintering bird. A single in the Conecuh NF, *Escambia/Covington*, 7 March (Tasha McLain, Michael Jordan) set an early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Twenty-three was a good number in the Oakmulgee WMA, Talladega NF, *Bibb/Hale*, 18 March (David George).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – An early bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 March (David Dortch *et al.*).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – A single at the Clearwater Tract, *Baldwin*, 31 March (Bill Summerour) was early. Another single was recorded at the mouth of Little River Canyon, *Cherokee*, 26 May (Barbara Stedman) (locally rare).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – Early spring arrivals were at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 16 March (Scot Duncan, Bailey McKay), and Deatsville, *Elmore*, 17 March (Larry Gardella).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - Nineteen was a good number so early in the Oakmulgee WMA, Talladega NF, *Bibb/Hale*, 18 March (David George).

WILSON'S WARBLER – This species is rare in spring in inland Alabama, so one found at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Ben Garmon) was notable.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT – One at Opelika, *Lee*, 27 March (Lorna West) was early.

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in the WP, an adult male was found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 18 April (Brian Specht, Brian Monk *et al.*).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Occasional in spring in Alabama, but increasing, a single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 March (Barry Fleming) set a new early arrival date for the state, while one+ birds at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 May (Lorna West) set the eighth record for inland Alabama and the latest departure date for the state.

LARK SPARROW – Rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama, three were at the Alabama A&M Farms, *Madison*, 1 May (Tom Brindley *et al.*), and a single was in the Marbury CE BBA block, *Autauga*, 26 May (Larry Gardella).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – Twenty-five was an excellent number for one site, especially for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, in the Forester

CE BBA block, *Autauga*, 31 May (Shawn Reed).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – A very rare winter visitor in the WP, a female that wintered at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia* (m.ob.) lingered until 17 April.

PAINTED BUNTING – A singing male in northern *Escambia* (Jon Yoder) indicated possible nesting. Rare but increasing as a breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, a singing and possibly nesting bird was in the Whatley NW BBA block, *Clarke*, 3 May (Laurie Bailey), while an adult male was in the Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 19-22 May (Tyler Hicks). On the Gulf Coast, this species is a local breeder and evidence of nesting came from two new sites: an adult male, an immature male, and a female at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 29 May (Claire Krusko), and one exhibiting territorial behavior in the Grand Bay CE BBA block, *Mobile*, 29 May (Rick West).

BOBOLINK – One found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 March (Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley) was the first March record for the WP. One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 April (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) was early. At the WTF, *Lowndes*, 700+ was a good number 4 May (Lorna West, Barbara David).

SHINY COWBIRD – Casual in the WP, one was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 19 April (Brian Faherty). Two males and two females were found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 May (Michael Jordan) and set the 24th record for Alabama.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – A single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 8 April (Larry Gardella) set an early spring arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2004)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 2004 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 *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “BBA” = Breeding Bird Atlas; “BBS” = Breeding Bird Survey; “CE” = central east; “CW” = central west; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NW” = northwest; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “SW” = southwest; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, *Okaloosa*, and *Walton* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

LESSER SCAUP – A male was at Town Creek Marsh, *Lawrence*, 1 July (Tom Haggerty, m.ob.) (rare in summer).

COMMON LOON – Two were seen at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 21 June (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell), and one at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 5 July (Peggy Baker; ph.) (rare in summer).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – This species is an erratic breeder in Alabama. One was found in the Scott Station CW BBA block, *Perry*, 3 June (Shawn Reed).

NORTHERN GANNET – Uncommon along the Gulf Coast of Alabama in summer, a first-year bird was found at Pelican Passage, *Mobile*, 22 June (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Howard Horne; ph.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare but increasing in summer for inland Alabama (non-breeders), three reports were received: a bird with an injured wing at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 1 July (Tom Haggerty, m.ob.);

11 in the Casemore CE BBA block, *Hale*, 7 July (Judy Self, Don Self); and seven near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 22 July (Damien Simbeck).

AMERICAN BITTERN – A single discovered at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 15 June (Morris Clark) established the first June record for the WP.

SNOWY EGRET – Three found along the Tallapoosa River, *Elmore*, 11 June (Tommy Pratt, Fred Bassett) were considered locally uncommon.

CATTLE EGRET – A rookery of about 1,000 birds with nests and downy young, present June through July, was discovered in central *Escambia* (Florida) (Morris Clark).

GLOSSY IBIS – Casual in the WP, Laura Catterton found a single in *Escambia*, 4 July. Eric Soehren identified 24 at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 13 July, a new maximum for Alabama.

ROSEATE SPONBILL – An immature bird on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 July (Jon Stovers, Mike Wilson) marked the 28th record for Alabama.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Twenty-seven were counted along the Tallapoosa River, *Elmore*, 11 June (Tommy Pratt, Fred Bassett), a good number locally. One adult was noted in the West Blocton East CE BBA block, *Bibb*, 5 July (Greg Jackson) (rare in Mountain Region).

BALD EAGLE – This species continues to increase as a breeder in Alabama, as evidenced by the following records: two adults and one or more immatures at the Auburn University Fisheries Unit, *Lee*, May – August (Tyler Hicks) (locally rare, but probably nested at this site in 2003); one adult along the Cahaba River in the West Blocton East CW BBA block, *Bibb*, 3 June (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and one adult along the Coosa River, *Talladega*, 10 June (Eric Soehren).

NORTHERN HARRIER – A juvenile first seen 31 July at the WTF, *Lowndes* (Tommy Pratt, m.ob.) set a new early arrival date for Alabama.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – One exhibiting agitated behavior, indicative of probable nesting, was in the Suggsville CE BBA block, *Clarke*, 17 June (Rick West). This species is a rare breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

AMERICAN KESTREL – The following records come from areas of Alabama where this falcon is locally rare in summer: a single in the Pine Hill CE BBA block, *Wilcox*, 3 June (Rick West, Ron Christen), and one at Tombigbee Farms, *Pickens*, 31 July (Greg Harber, m.ob.).

MERLIN – The third June record for Alabama was marked by one seen north of Northport, *Tuscaloosa*, 27 June (Jud Johnston).

COMMON MOORHEN – One found at Columbiana, *Shelby*, 11 June (Stan

Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) marked the first record for the Mountain Region in 21 years. Rick West recorded another single in the Warrior Dam NW BBA block, *Greene*, 13 July (locally rare).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – One in alternate plumage was at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 18 July (Lorna West, Barbara David) and established a new early arrival date for Alabama. A single at the same site 31 July (Tommy Pratt) was also early (if not the same bird as above).

SNOWY PLOVER – Twenty were counted on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 June (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Howard Horne), a maximum number for Alabama in recent decades.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER – Twelve was a good number for late June on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 June (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Howard Horne).

PIPING PLOVER – The first June record for Alabama was set by two discovered on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 June (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Howard Horne).

WILLET – A single was seen west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 June (Tom Haggerty) (third June record for inland Alabama).

UPLAND SANDPIPER – An early arrival record for the Gulf Coast of Alabama was set by two seen at Foley, *Baldwin*, 20 July (Laura Catterton).

RUDDY TURNSTONE – Twelve, a maximum number for June in Alabama, were counted on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 June (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Howard Horne).

PARASITIC JAEGER – A light morph immature bird was seen along the beach at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 June, and another light morph was at the same site 23 June (Bob Duncan) (second and third June records for the WP).

LAUGHING GULL – One in alternate plumage was on the Tennessee River at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 1 July (Tom Haggerty, m.ob.) (rare inland).

LEAST TERN – A single was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 10 June (Tom Haggerty, m.ob.) (occasional for inland Alabama in June).

BLACK TERN – Sixteen, many in alternate plumage, was a good number at Aliceville, *Pickens*, 31 July (Greg Harber, m.ob.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Expanding as a breeder on the Gulf Coast, one was at a feeder in Mobile, *Mobile*, 17 June (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald), and Howard Horne observed one carrying nest material at

Foley, *Baldwin*, 20 June.

- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – One was in the Pletcher CE BBA block, *Chilton*, 6 July (Rick West) (rare so far north).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – The first confirmed nesting for Alabama was documented along the White Springs Dike, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 9 June+ (Dwight Cooley *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC). Three birds were recorded, two heard singing and one observed carrying food.
- LEAST FLYCATCHER** – One was heard singing and calling in the Trinity SW BBA block, *Morgan*, 5 July (Damien Simbeck). This established the second summer record for Alabama, but there is no confirmed breeding record for the state and this bird was not observed in nesting habitat.
- EASTERN PHOEBE** – This species is casual on the Gulf Coast of Alabama in summer and may be increasing. One was singing in the Vaughn CE BBA block, *Baldwin*, 17 July (Claire Krusko).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – A pair, probably nesting, was at a previous nesting site in the Scott Station CW BBA block, *Perry*, 3 June (Shawn Reed) (rare but increasing breeder).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO** – Two birds were seen and heard singing at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 4-7 June (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) (rare in the WP). A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 10 and 22 June (Jan Lloyd).
- TREE SWALLOW** – Expanding as a breeder in Alabama, the following records document its spread: one adult at Ariton, *Dale*, 8 June (Larry Gardella) (first June record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama); two pairs building nests at Wood's Ferry along the Coosa River, *Talladega*, 10 June+ (Eric Soehren; ph.); and a pair, probably nesting, at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 4 July (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany).
- CLIFF SWALLOW** – A single, possible nesting, was in the Coy NW BBA block, *Wilcox*, 1 June (Rick West). This record comes from the southern edge of the breeding range for a species that continues to expand its breeding range in Alabama.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – Two were recorded from the Moundville East CE BBA block, *Tuscaloosa*, 4 June (Shawn Reed) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).
- HOUSE WREN** – One exhibited territorial behavior at a nest box in Tuskegee, *Macon*, 5 June (Tyler Hicks). This is the first possible breeding record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, although the species has attempted nesting just to the north in the adjacent county.

- CEDAR WAXWING** – A single at Wadley, *Randolph*, 5 June (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany) may have been a rare breeder this far south or a late migrant.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – A singing male was in the Tsinia area of Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 3-4 June (Tyler Hicks). This bird was more likely to be a late migrant rather than a breeder (late departure date for southern Alabama).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – An adult male was in the West Blocton CW BBA block, *Bibb*, 29 June (Greg Jackson). This record of a possible breeder is the farthest southwest in Alabama.
- CERULEAN WARBLER** – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 31 July (Laura Catterton) was rare for the WP. One was in the Sylacauga West CE BBA block, *Talladega*, 11 July (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany). This bird may have been an early migrant rather than a local breeder (no breeding population is now known for this part of the state). A single was an early migrant at Opelika, *Lee*, 23 July (Lorna West).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Two reports were received from the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, where this species is a rare and local breeder: several pairs in the Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 1 June (Tyler Hicks), and a singing male in the Bullock CE BBA block, *Crenshaw*, 21 June (Don Ware).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER** – This species is a rare and local breeder in southeast Alabama, from which there were two reports: a pair at the Uphappe Creek Plantation east of Tuskegee, *Macon*, 25 June (Tyler Hicks), and one at Loachapoka, *Lee*, 20 July (Tyler Hicks).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – Eric Soehren counted six (a good number for the Mountain Region) on a BBS route along the Coosa River, *Talladega*, 10 June.
- SCARLET TANAGER** – Two pairs south of Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 25 June (Tyler Hicks) established the southernmost probable breeding record in Alabama. A total of six birds (including four males, two females, and one pair) was found in the West Blocton East CW BBA block, *Bibb*, 29 June (Greg Jackson) (good number this far south).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW** – Two were found singing at a new site near Pogo, *Franklin*, 18 June (Damien Simbeck) (rare and local in the Tennessee Valley).
- LARK SPARROW** – Several reports of this species, a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, were received: six to eight at Prattville, *Autauga*, 2-

5 June (Tommy Pratt, Shawn Reed) (a good number, probably nesting); one singing and one carrying nest material at separate and new sites in the Marbury CE BBA block, *Elmore*, 12 June (Larry Gardella); a single at a new site near Priceville, *Morgan*, 13 June (Bob Reid); three in the Epes CW BBA block, *Sumter*, 23 June (Terrence Schiefer, Malcolm Hodges); one at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 30 June (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson) (rare in the Mountain Region at any season and not expected as a breeder).

PAINTED BUNTING – This species is rare away from the Mobile Bay area, but is increasing as a breeder in Alabama. Two singing males in the Epes CW BBA block, *Sumter*, 23 June (Terrence Schiefer, Malcolm Hodges) were at a new site and indicated possible nesting. One female-type in the Millport Northwest CE BBA block, *Lamar*, 26 June (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid) was the farthest north possible breeder. A maximum of four was observed 29 May – 4 July at Elberta, *Baldwin* (Claire Krusko); observation of a fledgling on 4 July confirmed nesting at a new site for this species.

SHINY COWBIRD – Casual in spring in the WP, a male was observed 2-25 June at Fort Pickens, *Escambia* (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Laura Catterton), and a female was at the feeder of Jere French, Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 June (*vide* Bob Duncan).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Because this species is a rare and erratic breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, a single seen in the Moundville East CE BBA block, *Tuscaloosa*, 4 June (Shawn Reed) was noteworthy.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

The Bird Almanac: A Guide to Essential Facts and Figures of the World's Birds. — David M. Bird. 2004. Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY. xx + 460 pp., ISBN 1-55297-925-3. If you are looking for a great reference book on birds that does not take up much shelf space or puts too much of a hole in your wallet, then you need to consider this fine little book. It is full of tidbits that will amaze, entertain, and educate. For example, it contains information on the fossil history of birds, anatomy and physiology, flight, reproduction, longevity, conservation, and attracting birds to backyards and feeders, to mention just a few topics.

Have you ever wondered who has received the major ornithological awards? What teams and individuals have won the major birding competitions? Who are the bird-watching record holders? What are the ornithological societies of the world? Do birds smell? How can sea birds survive in such a salty environment? These are just a few of the questions that are answered in this fine volume.

The book is also full of informative lists. For example, it contains lists of bird courses and volunteer opportunities, companies that make and repair optical equipment, birding trails in North America, birding hotspots of the world, bird touring companies, birding festivals in the United States, and much much more. The 24 page glossary is concise and thorough, and the book ends with an indexed checklist of birds of the world. I recommend it for your library. — TMH

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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