

## FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2008)

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This report covers the period from August through November 2008 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*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b” = banded; “BAS” = Birmingham Audubon Society; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NABS” = North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** – Four at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 26 September (Mike Rogers) marked the seventh record for Alabama and the latest departure date for the Gulf Coast (ph.; @ABRC).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Uncommon but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 25 were noted 8 November (NABS). Rare on the Gulf Coast, two were at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 11 November (David Dortch; ph.). Damien Simbeck found a single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 26 November, where the species is locally rare.

**SNOW GOOSE** – Eighty-five (mostly white morph) was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 8 November (Larry Gardella). Five blue morph individuals were notable at Opelika, *Lee*, 10 October (Rodney McCollum) (uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region).

**ROSS’S GOOSE** – Three visited Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 November (Steve McConnell) (rare but regular at this site).

**CANADA GOOSE** – On the 27 September fall count by the BAS in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 729 set a new maximum for the Mountain Region.

**MOTTLED DUCK** – The second August record for the WP was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 22 August (Don Ware). Eighteen was a locally good number at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

- SURF SCOTER** – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 November (Bob Duncan *et al.*) (rare in WP in fall).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK** – The first record for the WP in five years was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 30 October – 4 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Lyn Gould, Jay Gould, Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore).
- SCALED QUAIL** – One at Whiting Field, *Santa Rosa*, 22 September (Carrie Gindl; ph.) was considered an escaped bird.
- RED-THROATED LOON** – This species is rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, where one was sighted 23 November (Steve McConnell; ph.).
- AMERICAN FLAMINGO** – Observations of a single (probably the same individual), the fourth for the WP since 1885, caused considerable excitement at various sites in the WP: Big Lagoon SP, *Escambia*, 1 September (Rick Argo; ph.); Destin, *Okaloosa*, 5 September (anonymous, photograph in local newspaper), 6 September (Don Ware *et al.*), 8 September (Lucy Duncan; ph.), still present 12 September; Opal Beach near Navarre, *Santa Rosa*, 17 September (Kirsten Dahlen), seen by m.ob. through 20 September; and lingering until 1 October as far west as Pensacola Beach, *Santa Rosa*. The three previous reports of this species from the WP were of birds of questionable provenance, but considering the path of Hurricane Gustav and the associated very strong east and southeast winds along the northern Gulf Coast, this individual was likely a wild bird.
- GREATER SHEARWATER** – Casual in the WP, five birds were seen at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 24 August (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lanny Carpenter, Linda Carpenter) in association with Tropical Storm Fay. A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22 September (Patrick James; ph.).
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – Casual in the WP, eight birds marked the sixth area record at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 24 August (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lanny Carpenter, Linda Carpenter) in association with Tropical Storm Fay.
- SHEARWATER SP.** – Six birds were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 25 August (Peggy Baker), and a single was at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 25 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), both records in association with Tropical Storm Fay. A small shearwater, probably Audubon's, was seen from the Dauphin Island pier, *Mobile*, 2 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Eugenia Carey) in association with Hurricane Gustav (rare in Alabama).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** – The latest record for the WP was marked by one seen at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 23 September (Sue Yates) and found dead 25 September.
- MASKED BOOBY** – Two records associated with Tropical Storm Fay were received. A sub-adult at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 24 August (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lanny Carpenter, Linda Carpenter) marked the second August record for the WP. An immature was seen on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 August (Chazz Hesselein) (rare).
- BROWN BOOBY** – Casual in the WP, records of single immature birds came from Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 14 September (injured bird taken to Wildlife Rescue of

Northwest Florida and identified by Dorothy Kaufmann) and Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 25 September (Julia Babb).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Several records of this increasingly observed species were received: 300+ on 8 October and 400+ (new maximum for Mountain Region) on 13 October, Weiss Lake, *Cherokee* (Winston Baker, Linda Baker); 567 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 2 November (Jimmy Wells, m.ob.) and 600 (maximum for inland Alabama) at the same site 15 November (NABS); and 94 (locally good number) at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 26 November (Damien Simbeck).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** – Casual in August in the WP, a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 18-20 August (Bob Duncan) marked a very early arrival date.

**GREAT CORMORANT** – The 16<sup>th</sup> Alabama record was marked by an immature bird on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 October (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald). The 17<sup>th</sup> Alabama record (and the first for inland Alabama) was marked by an adult seen at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17+ November (Eric Beohm, m.ob.; ph.).



Great Cormorant, 17 November 2008, Walter F. George Dam, AL; E. Beohm.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – There were numerous sightings of this species in the WP during and after Hurricane Gustav in August and Hurricane Ike in September. In Alabama, this species is rare away from the outer coast, so two seen from the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 2 September (after Hurricane Gustav) (Chazz Hesselein) were notable.

**LEAST BITTERN** – This species is rarely detected inland in the fall, so two found on the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 27 September (Ken Ward, Stan Hamilton *et al.*) were notable.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** – Ninety-two on the 27 September fall count by the BAS in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair* was a good number for the Mountain Region.

**GREAT EGRET** – An estimated 1,200 in the Marion/Uniontown, *Perry/Hale* area, 28 August (Greg Jackson) ties the maximum count for Alabama. The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced 237 (a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley), and the fall count by the BAS in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 27 September, tallied 149 (a new maximum for the Mountain Region).

**REDDISH EGRET** – Seven was a good number on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 August (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald *et al.*). The white morph is only occasional in Alabama, so an immature at the Dauphin Island Airport, *Mobile*, 7 September (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Leslie Marcus) was noteworthy.

**WHITE IBIS** – Damien Simbeck found one immature at Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 August (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley; ph.).

**GLOSSY IBIS** – Sightings on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, were made on three dates:

22 (maximum fall count for Alabama) on 2 September (Chazz Hesselein); 16 on 12 September (Geoff Hill); and 20 (good number) on 11 November (Greg Jackson).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Four on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 11 November (Greg Jackson) marked the 19<sup>th</sup> record and a maximum count for Alabama.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – Rare but increasing slightly in Alabama, the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the Inland Coastal Plain was established by two seen on 10 September along the Tallapoosa River east of U.S. 231, *Elmore* (Tommy Pratt, Fred Bassett).

**WOOD STORK** – Very rare in the WP, a single was at Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 22 August (Carol Lanthrip). An immature was at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 18 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (rare in the Mountain Region). Rare in the Tennessee Valley, singles were at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 22 August (Damien Simbeck; ph.) and near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 September (Neill Cowles, NABS). A new maximum count for Alabama was established by the 1,020+ in the Marion/Uniontown, *Perry/Hale* area, 28 August (Greg Jackson).

**TURKEY VULTURE** – This species is rarely seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, but a strong north wind on 21 November apparently pushed 17 migrants to this peninsular location (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – Four were seen along Ala. Hwy. 183 northeast of Uniontown, *Perry*, 6 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson *et al.*) and 10 August (Greg Harber) (locally rare).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Seventy+ was a good number in the County Road 85 area of *Pickens/Sumter*, 2 August (Greg Harber, BAS). Two late birds were seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 October (Mary Mehaffey, Janine Robin, Thomas Trenchard).

**COOPER'S HAWK** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied six, a new fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** – One light morph individual was seen 28 October at a site south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, where the species is now rare but regular (David Plumb).

**AMERICAN KESTREL** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied 11, a new fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**MERLIN** – Rare in the Mountain Region, a male was seen at the Birmingham Airport, *Jefferson*, 3 November (Greg Jackson).

**AMERICAN COOT** – A conservative count of 100,000+ on Pickwick Reservoir at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 26 November (Damien Simbeck) established a new maximum count for Alabama.

**SANDHILL CRANE** – A rare fall transient in the WP, a single was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 30 October (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lyn Gould, Jay Gould). Ten were seen east of Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 28 November (Greg Jackson) where the species is locally rare.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** – Rare in the Mountain Region, three records were received: a single at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 26 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); three at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 27 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson, Jessica

Germany); and four (maximum for the Mountain Region) at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 27 September (Alice Christenson, Dale Carruthers). A single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 September (Neill Cowles, NABS) (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, reports from four sites were received. A single was at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 17 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Two were at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). At Harpersville, *Shelby*, observations were made on four dates: two, 31 August (Greg Harber); six, 1 September (Greg Harber *et al.*); six, 6 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and five, 10 September (Helen Kittinger *et al.*), with the two records of six tying the maximum fall count for the Mountain Region. A single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 September (Neill Cowles, NABS) (rare but regular in fall).

**WILSON'S PLOVER** – A late bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 October (Ronnie Blackwell, Lin Harper *et al.*).

**PIPING PLOVER** – A bird banded in South Dakota was seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 October (Bob Duncan). Occasional for inland Alabama, those seen at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 26 August (three birds; Tommy Pratt *et al.*) and 27 August (a single; Larry Gardella, Tommy Pratt) marked the seventh record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**KILLDEER** – A record of an extremely late nesting came from Opelika, *Lee*, where Lorna West observed a pair with one downy young (ph.) on 10 November.

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – The first August record for the WP was marked by one on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 20 August (Dusty Varble).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – This species is rare for inland Alabama, so 12 was a good number at Speigner, *Elmore*, 9 November (Larry Gardella).

**WILLET** – Rare for inland Alabama, records were received from three sites. Three were at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). Singles were at Marvyn, *Lee*, 24 August (Barry Fleming), and at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 27 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson, Jessica Germany).

**RED KNOT** – Occasional for inland Alabama, a single was at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (third record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SANDERLING** – At the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, a single was observed 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow), while 10 (good number) were seen 26 August (Tommy Pratt) (uncommon to rare for inland Alabama).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – The first August record for the WP was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14 August (Don Ware). At the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, a single was observed 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (rare in fall).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – The fourth, fifth, and sixth August records for the extreme WP were established, respectively, by two birds at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14 August (Don

Ware); three at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27 August (Bob Duncan); and a single at Fort Pickens 4 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). A single was found at Opal Beach, *Santa Rosa*, 20 September (Alex Harper; ph.). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were seen along County Road 38 south of Marion, *Perry*, 16 August (Larry Gardella), and two were at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, a single was seen west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 26 August (Damien Simbeck). Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were recorded near Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 26 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.), and at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 27 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson, Jessica Germany).

**PECTORALSANDPIPER** – Two late birds were southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 8 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), while six were even later at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 November (Ken Ward, NABS).

**DUNLIN** – The second and third August records for Alabama were marked, respectively, by one at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 10-12 and 30 August (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*; ph.), and 15+ (good number) at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 27 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson, Jessica Germany).

**STILT SANDPIPER** – Greg Jackson found four at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 24 August (uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region), while Tommy Pratt recorded two at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 26 August (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Uncommon to rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was spotted west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 1 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and four were found near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 September (Ken Ward, NABS). Also uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region, a single was at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 26 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and at Harpersville, *Shelby*, five were counted on 6 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) and eight on 16 September (Maureen Shaffer, Helen Kittinger *et al.*).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Five were at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). Two were at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 24 August (Greg Jackson) (uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – A single was spotted at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – A single was found at the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 and 26 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow *et al.*) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** – At the Sprague Sod Farm, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, a single was noted 24 August (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) and five (maximum for inland Alabama) were counted 26 August (Tommy Pratt) (occasional in Alabama and fifth record for the Inland Coastal Plain).



**SABINE'S GULL** – An adult was found on Wilson Reservoir, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, two miles above Wilson Dam, 18 September (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell, Raymond Moore; ph.; @ABRC) (sixth record for Alabama and second for the Tennessee Valley).



Sabine's Gull, 18 September 2008, Wilson Reservoir, AL; D. Simbeck.

**LAUGHING GULL** – This species is rare but regular at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, where 32 birds Sabine(only three in Alabama) were reported 28 August in association with Tropical Storm Fay (Walt Chambers, James Flynn). Also rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, several reports were received: one on 2 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds), three on 20 September (Steve McConnell), five on 25 October (Greg Jackson; ph.), and one on 17 November (Greg Jackson).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – A rare winter visitor to the WP, three birds were at the landfill, *Santa Rosa*, 12 November (Bob Duncan), and one-two were noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20-29 November (Bob Duncan, Steve McConnell *et al.*). Numerous records were received for this species that is rare in Alabama: Guntersville, *Marshall*, 31 (good number) on 25 October (Greg Jackson; ph.) and a single on 23 November (Steve McConnell); west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, one on 2 November (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald), and three on 9 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 182 (maximum for Alabama) on 8 November (Linda Reynolds, NABS); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, a single on 8 November (Howard Horne, m.ob.); and Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, six+ on 11 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), one on 20 November (Bill Summerour), and three on 25+ November (Bill Summerour).

**CALIFORNIA GULL** – An adult was found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 25 October (Greg Jackson; ph.) and 14 November (Larry Gardella) to mark the eighth record for Alabama (@ABRC).

**ICELAND GULL** – An immature was found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 22-26 November (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.) to mark the ninth record for Alabama (@ABRC).



Iceland Gull, 23 November 2008, Guntersville, AL; S. McConnell.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, several records were received: Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, one on 18 September (early arrival for inland Alabama) (Damien Simbeck, Jason Mitchell, Raymond Moore); Guntersville, *Marshall*, two adults on 4 October and one adult through the fall season (Linda Reynolds, NABS, m.ob.; ph.); west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, two on 11 October (Greg Jackson, Stan

Hamilton), one on 2 November (Howard Horne *et al.*), and one on 17 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one on 4 November (Larry Gardella); and Guntersville, *Marshall*, one first cycle on 14 November (Larry Gardella).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** – The first November record for the WP was established by a single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 November (Kirsten Dahlen; ph.).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Rare in fall in the WP, an adult was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 November (Sally Shultz; ph.). Rare in Alabama, one adult on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Jacob Walker) was the earliest arrival for Alabama; also seen 11 and 18 October (Eric Soehren). A third year bird was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 November (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald).

**BROWN NODDY** – The third and fourth records for the extreme WP were marked, respectively, by a single at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 1 September (Dana Timmons, Sue Timmons, Carol Ascherfeld, Peggy Baker; ph.) (associated with Hurricane Gustav), and a single seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 September (Julia Babb) and recovered dead on 20 September (identified by Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

**SOOTY TERN** – Hurricane Gustav brought 17 birds to Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare storm-driven waif in the WP). Two records associated with Tropical Storm Fay were received: three adults were at Lake Oliver, *Lee*, 24 August (Walt Chambers) (fifth record for the Mountain Region), and a single adult was noted at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 28 August (James Flynn) (10<sup>th</sup> record for the Inland Coastal Plain). A juvenile was photographed on Lay Lake near Waxahatchie Creek, *Shelby*, 7 September (Rick Remy *et al.*) (sixth record for the Mountain Region).

**BRIDLED TERN** – In association with Hurricane Gustav, three birds were observed at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and a single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, also 1 September (Ann Forster) (very rare storm-driven waif in the WP).

**CASPIAN TERN** – Two were at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 13 August (Tommy Pratt) (uncommon to rare on the Inland Coastal Plain), and a single was at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 1 September (Greg Harber *et al.*) (uncommon to rare in the Mountain Region).

**BLACK TERN** – A conservative estimate of 4,000 was made at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). In the area of Logan Martin Dam and Harpersville, *St. Clair/Shelby*, 13 were counted on 26 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) and 30 (good number for Mountain Region) on 27 August (Harriett Wright *et al.*). At Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 150+ was a good number on 2 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

**WHITE-WINGED TERN** – Dan Forster photographed a possible White-winged Tern at Bayou Grande, *Escambia*, 14 August (@FOSRC).

**COMMON TERN** – One was late at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 November (Ben Garmon, William Lilly).

**BLACK SKIMMER** – The first local and fifth Mountain Region record was marked by



a juvenile at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 26 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (occasional inland).

**JAEGER SP.** – An unidentified single was at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 15 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds) (occasional inland).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Rare and increasing inland, six+ were seen at Atmore, *Escambia*, 19 August (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder) (maximum for inland Alabama). A maximum fall count for Alabama was established by the 150+ at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

**MOURNING DOVE** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced 927, a new fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – Six were at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 17 September (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson (a maximum count for the Mountain Region, where the species is rare).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied 13, a new fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** – Rare in Alabama, a single was noted at Whiteside, *Limestone*, 22 November (Andrew Haffenden, Bill Turnock).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – Bob and Martha Sargent banded and photographed 11 birds on 10 dates between 30 October – 27 November at Clay, *Jefferson*, to establish the 18<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> records for Alabama.



Northern Saw-Whet Owl, 27 November 2008, Clay, AL; B. and M. Sargent.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** – A late bird was calling at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 30 September (Paul Kittle).

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, a single was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 6 November (Fred Bassett, Ken Underwood; b.; ph.). At Fairhope, *Baldwin*, one was observed 25+ November and banded 7 December (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Fred Bassett *et al.*; ph.). A different individual captured 7 December at this site had been banded in January 2008 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but increasing, an adult male was at Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 19 November (Fred Bassett, Wanda Garner; b.; ph.).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 127, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** – Rare in the WP, one was reported from Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 24 November (Kelly Jones).

**PILEATED WOODPECKER** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 25, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – Three (good number) were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 25 August (David Dortch, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare but regular at this site). A single was found east of Vincent, *St. Clair*, 2 September (Maureen Shaffer, Helen Kittinger *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region). Another single visited Tyler, *Dallas*,

4-5 October (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** – A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 November (Howard Horne *et al.*).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, numerous reports were received: singles were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 25 August (David Dortch, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and 15 and 16 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.); two were seen at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 29 August, and a single was at the same site 12 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); two were at the Birmingham Zoo, *Jefferson*, 30 August (Greg Harber); singles were at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 4 September (Ben Garmon) and 18 September (Greg Harber); one stopped at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 September (Ben Garmon); one was found on Ruffner Mountain in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 20 September (Greg Jackson); and the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, found a total of five, a maximum fall count for inland Alabama (Stan Hamilton, Duane Brown, Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** – Larry Gardella found 20 birds west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 23 September to mark a new fall maximum for Alabama. The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 5, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** – One was calling west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 5 October (Larry Gardella) (third record for the Inland Coastal Plain, 17<sup>th</sup> for Alabama).

**“TRAILL’S” FLYCATCHER** – One was located west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 18 September (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** – An early arrival was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 August, and four + (good number) were counted there on 5 October (Ben Garmon). A single was noted at Old Lock No. 1 Park, *Clarke*, 5 September (Ben Garmon) (uncommon to rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**DUSKY FLYCATCHER** – Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, hosted Alabama’s second Dusky Flycatcher, 14 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC).

**EASTERN PHOEBE** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied 41, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley, while a similar count by the BAS in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 27 September, produced 115 (good number).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – A very rare winter visitor in the WP, a male was observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 23 October – 29 November (Bob Duncan, Don Ware, Kelly Jones, Steve McConnell *et al.*).

**COUCH’S/TROPICAL KINGBIRD** – The record of a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 2 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) has been accepted by the FOSRC (ninth record for the WP).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – The eighth record for the Mountain Region was marked by a single at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 2 August (Bob Sargent).



Dusky Flycatcher, 14 October 2008; Fort Morgan, AL; B. and M. Sargent, Fred Bassett.

**GRAY KINGBIRD** – Now rare but increasing, singles were seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Leslie Marcus) and 3 October (Lin Harper *et al.*).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10 November (Patrick James) (rare but regular fall transient in the WP). A single returned to site at Bridgeport, *Jackson*, 15 August (Damien Simbeck) (occasional locally).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 43, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**PLUMBEOUS VIREO** – A single, the first for Alabama, was identified at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown) (@ABRC).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Six were counted on Monte Sano Mountain, *Madison*, 1 November (Ken Ward, NABS) to set a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**WARBLING VIREO** – Casual in fall in the WP, singles were noted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 and 10 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Reports of singles came from west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 18 September (Larry Gardella) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain); Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 26 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (rare in the Tennessee Valley); and Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 September (Michael Jordan) (rare on the Gulf Coast).

**BLUE JAY** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 427, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**FISH CROW** – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, eight (maximum for the Tennessee Valley) were counted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 September (Steve McConnell) and two were there 4 October (Linda Reynolds).

**CAVE SWALLOW** – One was seen at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 19 November (James Flynn *et al.*; ph.) (second record for inland Alabama, first in fall for Alabama).



Cave Swallow, 19 November 2008, Walter F. George Dam, AL; J. Flynn.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 260, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 218, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – One arrived early at Clay, *Jefferson*, 12 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (ties Mountain Region record).

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – One was west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 18 September (Larry Gardella), and two were at a feeder in Wetumpka, *Elmore*, 1-3 November (Jeffrey Harris) (locally rare at south edge of range). The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied 49, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH** – A single was noted on the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 27 September (Ken Ward, Neill Cowles, Beth Wood), where the species is locally rare.

**CAROLINA WREN** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 156, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**BEWICK'S WREN** – Now occasional in Alabama, a single was recorded from the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10-12 October (Jacob Walker *et al.*).

**WINTER WREN** – An early bird was reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.).

**MARSH WREN** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied four, a good number for this species that is uncommon inland (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette). A single was at Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 5 October (Scot Duncan) (rare in Mountain Region).

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – Two were early at the Birmingham Zoo, *Jefferson*, 30 August (Greg Harber). A late departure record for inland Alabama was marked by a single at Steele, *St. Clair*, 8 November (Fred Moore; b.).

**VARIED THRUSH** – Alabama's second record, and the first for the Gulf Coast, was established by one in Cadillac Park, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16-22 November (Leslie Marcus, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Jacob Walker, Allison Walker *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC).

**GRAY CATBIRD** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 75, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 135, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** – A single was the earliest ever for Alabama at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 27 September (Pelham Rowan).

**"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER** – One was noted on the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 27 September (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy) (rare).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** – A late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain was set by two at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 8 November (Larry Gardella).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Usually considered a rare fall migrant in the Mountain Region, eight reports were received: on Ruffner Mountain, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, a single was noted on 21 September (Greg Jackson), two were there on 27 September (Scot Duncan), and another single was seen on 4 October (Greg Jackson); at Anniston, *Calhoun*, two were found on 1 October, a single on 6 October, and two on 14 October (Debbie McKenzie; ph.); at the Walls of Jericho, a single was seen on 9 October (John Trent); and south of Houston, *Winston*, one was found on 17 October (Larry Barkey). The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied five (ties maximum for the Tennessee Valley) (Stan Hamilton, Dwight Cooley, Linda Reynolds). Larry Gardella found one west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 5 October (rare



Varied Thrush, 19 November 2008, Dauphin Island, AL; D. Dortch.

on the Inland Coastal Plain). Four (good number) were counted at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 10 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) where the species is uncommon.

**YELLOW WARBLER** – A late bird was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 13 November (Leslie Marcus).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – An early arrival was at Shorter, *Macon*, 27 August (Eric Soehren). Larry Gardella counted 20 west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 18 September (maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – An early arrival was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 31 August (David Dortch). The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 134, a maximum for the Tennessee Valley. Sixty-one was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Three records, all of singles, were received: Ruffner Mountain, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 20 September (Greg Jackson) (rare inland); Short Creek, *Jefferson*, 27 September (Sharon Hudgins) (rare inland); and Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 November (Greg Jackson) (late).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – One was found at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 August (Chazz Hesselein) to mark an early arrival date for the Gulf Coast.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – A late fall record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 October (Larry Gardella).

**PALM WARBLER** – An early arrival was at Tyler, *Dallas*, 21 September (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell). Northeast of Opelika, *Lee*, Lorna West counted 300 (maximum for inland Alabama) on 11 October, with 200 at the same site on 12 October (Lorna West, Rita Kempf)

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** – Occasional in fall in Alabama, singles were recorded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 and 9 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.).

**CERULEAN WARBLER** – The latest departure date for Alabama was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Two late birds were at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 26 October (Terry Baker, Larry Gardella).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – One was a late departure at the Hays Nature Preserve, Huntsville, *Madison*, 20 September (Ken Ward, NABS). Two on the Wheeler NWR count, *Limestone*, 27 September (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy) marked the latest departure date for the Tennessee Valley. Still another late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 13 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.) (latest fall record for the Gulf Coast and ties the latest fall record for Alabama).

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** – One was late at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 27 September (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – A single occurred at Cypress Pond, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 1 October (Bill Campbell) (third record for the Inland Coastal Plain).



**MOURNING WARBLER** – Rare in Alabama, three records of singles were received: Anniston, *Calhoun*, 11 August (Debbie McKenzie; ph.) (earliest arrival for Alabama); Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 September (Larry Gardella); and Wheeler NWR count, *Limestone*, 27 September (Rick Remy).



Mourning Warbler, 11 August 2008, Anniston, AL; D. McKenzie.

**CANADA WARBLER** – Two late birds were at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 4 October (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Ken Ward, NABS).

**WESTERN TANAGER** – Casual in fall in the WP, one was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 September (Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow, Bob Duncan).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Very rare in fall in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 4 November (Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore). Singles were noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.), 4 November (Larry Gardella), and 9 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), as well as at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28 October (Howard Horne *et al.*). The species is rare but regular in fall at both sites.

**LARK SPARROW** – Rare in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 August (Bob Duncan). Three (good number) were at the Dauphin Island Airport, *Mobile*, 24 August (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald *et al.*) where the species is uncommon. One was spotted at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 16 September (Maureen Shaffer, Helen Kittinger *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – A single was at the Walls of Jericho, *Jackson*, 9 October (John Trent) (rare in the Mountain Region).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** – This species was seen on two dates at Oneonta, *Blount*, with four birds on 15 October and 14+ birds (good number for the Mountain Region) on 18 November (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown).

**NORTHERN CARDINAL** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 313, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – At Montgomery, *Montgomery*, two late birds were found 26 October and one 8 November, the latter marking a late departure record for the Inland Coastal Plain (Larry Gardella).

**BLUE GROSBEAK** – A late bird was on the eastern Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Rodney Cassiday).

**INDIGO BUNTING** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, produced a total of 300, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**DICKCISSEL** – Three (maximum fall count for the Mountain Region) were noted in *St. Clair* on the Birmingham area count, 27 September (Jim Sherrill) (rare in fall).

**BOBOLINK** – The latest fall departure date for the WP was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 November (Bob Duncan). Uncommon in fall on the Gulf Coast, a single was at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Howard Horne,

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Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Leslie Marcus *et al.*). Rare in fall in the Mountain Region, 10 were noted at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 10 September (Helen Kittinger, Martha Coghlan).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** – A rare winter visitor in the WP, 60 was a good number on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 10 November (Kelly Jones).

**SHINY COWBIRD** – The second November record for the WP was marked by one at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 17 November (Don Ware).

**BRONZED COWBIRD** – The 15<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama was marked by one seen at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 September, tallied 95, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** – This introduced species is increasing in south *Baldwin*. Six were seen at Lillian 10 November (David Dortch, Jim Dickerson) and 10 were south of Foley 12 November (Merilu Rose *et al.*).



Bronzed Cowbird, 9 November 2008, Fort Morgan, AL; G. Jackson.

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