

Anyone interested in owl boxes should contact Howard and Larry Smith, 804 13th Avenue, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

### Literature Cited

Smith, Larry. 1988. Barred Owls use nesting box. *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 35, No. 1, p. 13.

Summerour, Bill. 1989. Barred Owls use box in Montrose. *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 36, No. 2, p. 15.

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## PREDICTING THE NEXT TEN SPECIES FOR ALABAMA

James F. Holmes

What will be the next species to be added to the Alabama state list? This question was probably easier to answer in March of 1990 as Alabama anticipated the unwanted visit of the Shiny Cowbird. Not only did the state get its first record of this species, but it came in large numbers.

Now, what will be the next species to be added to the state list? Better yet, what will be the next ten species to be documented within the state's borders? I posed this question to seven of Alabama's more active birders and received a large variety of ideas. The rules they had to follow were as follows: 1) they could not choose a species on the Alabama Records Committee Review List, 2) they could not choose a species to be reviewed by the committee (Shiny Cowbird) and 3) they had to rank their choices from one to ten, with one being the most likely.

Of the 33 choices made, only two received first place votes. Twelve choices could be grossly viewed as western, ten as northern, five as South Florida specialties, three as Mexican, two as European, and one pelagic.

The Purple Sandpiper, an Atlantic Coast rock-loving shorebird, received three first place votes and was on everyone's top ten. This species has occurred on the Mississippi Coast the past three winters and on the Louisiana Coast the past two. Although Alabama lacks extensive rocky shores, as Harriett Findlay states, "It's time one occurred in Alabama on some riprapping shore."

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

The Buff-bellied Hummingbird received four first place votes but, interestingly, was absent from two lists. This species, a native of Mexico, ranges north to the Rio Grande Valley and regularly occurs in late fall and in winter in Louisiana. It has now occurred in Northwest Florida (three records) and in Mississippi. As Greg Jackson proclaims, "It is amazing that we don't have a record yet." Bob Sargent states, "This year" (1990-91). The general opinion is that this species is long overdue.

Other species receiving strong consideration were Black-headed Gull, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Varied Thrush, and Limpkin. All of these species have vagrant tendencies and have occurred in nearby states. The Limpkin is the most interesting as it regularly occurs very close to the Alabama border in Northwest Florida.

The final aspect that I asked them to consider was in picking an "off the wall" species. This was to be a species like La Sagra's Flycatcher or Wheatear. Interesting, choices came from Greg Jackson with Spotted Redshank, Harriett Findlay with Ross' Gull, and Ann Miller with Mongolian Plover. Thus when one of these three shows up in Alabama, you will know whom to contact.

Finally, I agreed to pick my top ten, but to limit myself to choose from species that had not already been chosen. This was at first a handicap, but I came up with 27 choices. My top ten from these are:

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Red-naped Sapsucker      | 6. White-collared Swift     |
| 2. MacGillivray's Warbler   | 7. Western Wood Pewee       |
| 3. Lucy's Warbler           | 8. Lesser Goldfinch         |
| 4. Brown-crested Flycatcher | 9. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel |
| 5. Artic Tern               | 10. Bahama Swallow          |

Interestingly, before I could mail this article, a new species was discovered in Alabama. A Calliope Hummingbird was found dead in south Mobile this fall. Whose list was this on? Bob Sargent picked this hummingbird on his list. Who else?



TABLE 1. SPECIES SUBMITTED AS POSSIBLE FUTURE ADDITIONS TO ALABAMA'S STATE LIST

SPECIES	RD*	HF	BG	TI	GJ	AM	BS
Purple Sandpiper	4	1	7	1	4	1	2
Buff-Bellied Hummingbird	1	—	1	—	1	2	1
Common Black-headed Gull	—	—	8	3	5	3	—
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	5	—	5	9	2	—	—
Varied Thrush	2	6	9	—	8	8	—
Limpkin	—	—	3	5	—	—	3
Townsend's Solitaire	3	4	—	—	—	9	—
Eurasian Collared-Dove	—	—	2	—	3	—	—
Snow Bunting	7	7	6	—	10	—	—
Iceland Gull	—	2	10	10	—	—	—
Allen's Hummingbird	—	—	—	—	7	—	5
Thayer's Gull	—	—	—	—	6	6	—
Anna's Hummingbird	—	—	—	6	—	—	7
Lazuli Bunting	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Northern Shrike	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
California Gull	—	—	—	8	—	7	—
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Short-tailed Hawk	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Hepatic Tanager	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
White-winged Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Townsend's Warbler	8	—	—	—	9	10	—
Trumpeter Swan	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Vaux's Swift	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Calliope Hummingbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Barrow's Goldeneye	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Black-capped Chickadee	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Tufted Duck	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Scrub Jay	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Mangrove Cuckoo	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Violet-ear	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-nosed Albatross	10	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*RD, Robert Duncan; HF, Harriett Findlay; BG, Ben Garmon; TI, Thomas Imhof; GJ, Greg Jackson; AM, Ann Miller; BS, Bob Sargent.

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