

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Literature Cited

Dusi, Julian L. 1958. Dispersion of Little Blue Herons from a pond in Macon Co., Alabama. *Alabama Birdlife* 6: 9-11.

Dusi, Julian L. 1977. Impact of Cattle Egrets on an upland colony area. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group*, 20-23 Oct., 1977, N. Ill. Univ. pp. 128-130.

Dusi, Julian L. and Rosemary D. Dusi. 1988. Thirty-five-year summary of the status of heron colony sites in Alabama. *Alabama Birdlife* 35(1): 1-11.

Julian L. Dusi, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, AL 36849, and **Rosemary D. Dusi**, 560 Sherwood Dr., Auburn, AL 36830

BLACK SKIMMER (*RYNCHOPS NIGRA*) IN AUBURN

Julian L. Dusi

An immature Black Skimmer, *Rynchops nigra*, was found in a yard at Auburn, Lee Co., Alabama, on 28 August 1992. It had a broken wing and was taken to the Opelika Animal Hospital where it died. Veterinarian assistant, Kim Rasmussen, brought it to me for museum preparation. The specimen will be placed in the Auburn University Vertebrate Museum.

Apparently the bird was misplaced this far inland by Hurricane Andrew and flew into an object, breaking its wing. – **Julian L. Dusi**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, AL 36849

1991-92 FALL AND WINTER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

Birders in our area had plenty of excitement last fall and winter. Birding was generally good through the autumn migration, and winter birding inland was excellent. Many rarities were discovered, including two first and two second Alabama records. Mild temperatures prevailed through most of the period, and precipitation was slightly lower than expected. An unusual event was the seven inches of snow that fell at Birmingham 18 January! Cold fronts passed through this autumn on 19 and 25 September; 5, 15, and 20 October; and 1, 18, 20-21, and 23 November.

This report covers the period from August 1991 through February 1992 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (east to the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this column does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species, as these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. It is important that all submissions for birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. Reports should always describe the conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in

this matter is appreciated.

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

LOONS - WATERFOWL: The scarce **Red-throated Loon** was recorded twice at the coast. One was spotted 28 Dec at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin* (GDJ,p.a.), and another was seen 30 Dec on the St. Joseph Peninsula, *Gulf*, FL (SJS). **Pacific Loons** are more rare than Red-throateds, though the incidence of reports has increased in the last few years. One was observed 26-27 Oct at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL (RLB,JWB,mob). At Guntersville, *Marshall*, 1 Dec, one provided the third record for inland Alabama, and only the second for the TV (BCG,p.a.). Good numbers of Horned Grebes were seen in the TV this winter, with a peak in n.w. Alabama 9 Feb of 60 birds (GNP). A **Red-necked Grebe** was observed 9-11 Dec at Guntersville (BS, mob, p.a.). This represents the first TV record and only the seventh Alabama. Eared Grebes are uncommon visitors to the Alabama coast and are rare inland and in n.w. Florida. The fourth ICP record was of a single bird near Marion, *Perry*, 18 Sep (ALM,ASC). Up to three Eareds were noted 9 Oct to 21 Nov at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD).

An astounding **1147** N. Gannets were counted in a few hours flying E at Gulf Shores 28 Dec (LRD). This represented a new maximum for the area. Large flocks of Am. White Pelicans are sometimes encountered in autumn migration; 400 were seen moving SE in central *Baldwin* 9 Oct (GDJ). Three were interesting 3 Nov at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (SWM); nine birds at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 26 Jan (PCT,BT) represented the first WP records for January. A **Great Cormorant** was located for the second consecutive autumn at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 18 Oct (ALM,ADM,p.a.); this represented the 10th record for the state. An impressive 11,000+ Double-crested Cormorants were seen 31 Dec on the Ft. Morgan CBC.

Locally rare was an Am. Bittern 26 Jan at St. Andrews SP, *Bay*, FL (ACM,HL,EF). The 120 Great Egrets 4 Sep in *Colbert* (GDJ,HHK) was a significant number for n.w. Alabama. Five unidentified dark ibis provided a second September WP record at Gulf Breeze 29 Sep (LRD). Moderate numbers of Wood Storks were present this summer and early fall in the Alabama Black Belt region. The 475 storks at the M&K Ranch, *Gulf*, FL, 30 July (HMS,JS) were highly unusual for the Panhandle. Single Wood Storks in *Shelby* 2 Sep (ALM) and at Ft. Pickens, FL, 20 Sep (RAD) were locally rare.

Waterfowl numbers were generally decreased this winter, likely due to the warm conditions. Up to three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks put in a rare appearance 14-21 Sep at Blakely I., *Mobile* (MN,mob). Three very cooperative immature Tundra Swans, rare in the MR, were in e. *Jefferson* 13 Dec to the end of the period (RRS,MBS,mob). A WP maximum for Blue-winged Teal was set by the count of 258 birds in *Okaloosa*, FL, 10 Sep (RAD). Greater Scaup are difficult to find inland; the maximum reported this year was eight birds 4 Jan at Guntersville (GDJ). A Lesser Scaup was seasonally rare 17 Aug at Blakely I. (GDJ). Bufflehead were considered "unusually abundant" in n.w. Alabama this winter (*vide* GNP). Oldsquaws are uncommon along the coast, and individuals were seen 28 Dec at Gulf Shores (RAD,RSD) and 30 Dec at Cape San Blas, *Gulf*, FL (SJS,BHS). Black Scoters are also uncommon, and I had four reports this year of six birds 26 Nov to 27 Feb along the coast. The eight White-winged Scoters 26 Nov on the Tennessee R. in *Limestone* (ALM,ASC) were rare; seven were

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

noteworthy 28 Dec at Gulf Shores (LRD).

RAPTORS - CRANES: Ospreys were unusually numerous this winter on the coast, with nine discovered on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec. A rare inland winter sighting was of a single bird near Montgomery 1 Jan (LG). Alabama's seventh **Black-shouldered Kite** was at Ft. Morgan 6 Oct (MS,mob,p.a.); probably the same bird was spotted 13 Oct on nearby Little Dauphin I., *Mobile* (JRW,ph.,mob). Encouraging numbers of Bald Eagles were found in n.w. Alabama this year. Near Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 21 were counted Nov. 24 (WCB,GNP), and the Waterloo CBC 14 Dec had a record 86 eagles. The eight Cooper's Hawks at Ft. Morgan 7 Oct (GDJ,RAD,mob) tied the previous GC maximum.

Swainson's Hawk is most often recorded on the coast in late October and early November; recent years have produced several records. An immature was in s. *Baldwin* 15 Oct (ALM,p.a.). The "Harlan's" form of the Red-tailed Hawk is rare in our area, so it was interesting that two were identified this winter. One was near the Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, for several weeks beginning 4 Jan (GDJ,DGJ,mob); another was spotted near Marion 19 Feb (ALM,HHF,ASC,MM). Rough-legged Hawks are rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, and are annual near the Guntersville Dam. A light-phased bird was near Decatur, *Limestone*, 3 Nov (SWM), and a very rare dark-phased Rough-legged was near Athens, *Limestone*, 8 Dec (GDJ,DGJ).

An impressive movement of an estimated 175 Am. Kestrels occurred at Ft. Morgan 6 Oct (GDJ,RAD,LRD,WWD). Normal numbers of Merlins were recorded, mostly at the coast; one seen 25 Aug at Ft. Morgan (PB,JL,GF) set a new GC early date. Peregrine Falcons are expected, though always exciting, transients in the autumn; most are found at the coast. Wintering birds are less common, especially inland. I had four reports of as many birds this winter in s. *Baldwin*; much more unusual were single birds at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 10 Nov to 30 Dec (GNP,mob) and at Hog Hollow, *Colbert*, 14 Dec to 9 Feb (GNP,mob).

Soras were plentiful this year. A new WP maximum was set by the 26 Soras at Ft. Walton Beach 24 Aug (RAD). The 31 birds recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec set a new GC high. American Coots are very rare breeders in the WP, so the discovery of several adults with downy young at Ft. Walton Beach 10 Aug (RAD) was notable. Sandhill Cranes are regular in small numbers in winter near Gulf Shores, but they were recorded several times this year at unusual sites. A single bird was at the M&K Ranch in Gulf, FL, as early as 13 Sep (HMS,JS); 18 were present there 18 Jan (RH,HL,mob). Up to seven cranes were at Ft. Morgan 9-11 Nov (PB,GF,FL,PCT,RAD). A rare inland record was of three Sandhills at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 Dec into January (SWM,mob).

SHOREBIRDS: Black-bellied Plovers are uncommon inland transients in the autumn; as many as six were at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 20 Oct (GDJ,RRS,SWM). This was a fantastic year for Lesser Golden-Plovers in our area. Usually a scarce fall migrant, the species was recorded frequently and in good numbers at a variety of locations. Peak counts were of 14 birds 3 Oct at Swan Creek WMA (SWM) and eight at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 7 Oct (ALM). Late golden-plovers included three at Gulf Shores 22 Nov (PB,GF), and one at L. Purdy, *Shelby*, 5-21 Dec (HHF,JF,mob). The latter bird established a new late date for Alabama. At Big Sabine, *Santa Rosa*, FL, 28 Snowy Plovers were counted 7 Dec (RAD), an excellent total for this beleaguered species. Another small plover in trouble is the Piping Plover, so it was encouraging to learn of 30 at Cape San Blas, *Gulf*, FL, 28 Dec (SJS,BHS). The first WP breeding record for Black-necked Stilt came 10 Aug, when adults with young were found at Ft. Walton Beach (RAD). A local maximum was set there 10 Sep by the observation of 30 stilts (RAD). The stilt

at Decatur, *Morgan*, 6-25 Sep (SWM) provided only the fourth TV record. Three Am. Avocets were rarities at nearby Swan Creek WMA 26 Sep (SWM). The 131 Lesser Yellowlegs at Ft. Walton Beach 10 Sep (RAD) set a new WP maximum. Five Lessers were unusual for winter at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 9 Feb (GDJ, DGJ). A Willet 18 Aug at L. Purdy, *Shelby* (HHK, PP) was a rare find in the MR.

The peak count this year for Upland Sandpiper came at the usual site near Gulf Shores 10 Aug, when 34 were tallied (PB, GF). A new autumn MR maximum was provided by five birds at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 28 Aug (ALM, HHF, ASC). The single Upland Sandpiper at Dauphin I., *Mobile*, 12 Oct (AOS) was late. Two Whimbrels were seasonally rare 30 Dec on the Port St. Joe CBC, *Gulf*, FL (RLW). One to two Long-billed Curlews on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, beginning 17 Aug (GDJ) were expected at that site. This stately bird is rare elsewhere, so single birds near Gulf Shores 12-22 Sep (GF, PB, GDJ) and 30 Dec on the Port St. Joe CBC (RLW) were interesting. The similarly-patterned Marbled Godwit occurs on the coast uncommonly as a migrant, but is very difficult to locate in the winter. The first December WP record was of a single bird at Big Sabine, *Santa Rosa*, 7 Dec into January (RAD). Three godwits were on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 29 Dec (GDJ), and five appeared 30 Dec on the Port St. Joe CBC, FL.

Sanderlings are uncommon inland in autumn. Of several reports, the latest was of an individual 11 Nov in *Limestone* (SWM) that established a new TV late date. Another late Sanderling was at Guntersville 10 Nov (LBR). Blakely I. produced an impressive 2320 Western Sandpipers 5 Oct (GDJ). Baird's Sandpiper is uncommon in the fall, and is widely distributed inland and on the coast. One was at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 14-25 Aug (ALM, mob), and another appeared 4 Sep near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* (GDJ, HHK).

This was a great fall for Pectoral Sandpipers. A new WP maximum was set by the 248 birds 7 Aug at Ft. Walton Beach (RAD). The 220 Pectorals 25 Aug at Harpersville (GDJ) provided a new high count for the MR. Another 300 near Muscle Shoals 4 Sep (GDJ, HHK) broke the previous TV record. A late Pectoral was in *Limestone* 11 Nov (SWM). Two were located on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec (WJB, mob) for only the third winter record for the state. An early Dunlin was at Ft. Morgan 14 Sep (PB); a new inland Alabama maximum for this species was set by the 450 birds 4 Nov at Swan Creek WMA (GDJ, HHK). A TV maximum for Stilt Sandpiper was superseded by the count of 32 at Swan Creek WMA 6 Oct (SWM). Two of these slender birds in Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 Nov (GDJ, HHK) were the latest ever recorded in the TV.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present in good numbers this fall. Three birds 18 Aug in Muscle Shoals (SWM) set a new early TV record. An individual 29 Sep at Swan Creek WMA (SWM) established a new late date for that region. Two spotted at L. Porter, *Jefferson*, 21 Sep (TAI) were also late. Five Buff-breasteds at Harpersville 7 Aug (GDJ) matched the previous MR high count. The largest number reported was seven at Gulf Shores 12 Sep (PB, GF, FL). A Long-billed Dowitcher 24 Aug at Ft. Walton Beach (RAD) was only the third identified in August in the WP. Wilson's Phalaropes are expected in small numbers in the autumn, especially on the Alabama coast. One was at Decatur, *Morgan*, 18 Aug (SWM); the individual 21 Aug to 10 Sep at Ft. Walton Beach (RAD) was unusual for the WP. High count this season was of seven birds 21 Sep at Blakely I. (GDJ).

JAEGERS - HUMMINGBIRDS: Two unidentified jaegers were seen this winter. Single birds were at Gulf Shores 28 Dec (RRS, MBS) and on Dauphin I. 15 Feb (BCG). Franklin's Gulls are rare but regular visitors to our region, especially in the fall and winter. The

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

earliest sighting this year was of two at Ft. Morgan 6 Oct (GDJ). Coastal reports of single Franklin's Gulls were 16 Oct in Gulf Shores (JH,JFH), 4 Nov at Ft. Morgan (RAD), 15-21 Nov at Mary Ester, *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD,WF), and 27 Nov in Pensacola, FL (RAD). More unusual was the lone bird at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale*, 8 Dec (GDJ). Alabama's second **Little Gull**, an elusive immature, was on the Elk R. on the *Limestone/Lauderdale* boundary 20-21 Nov (DJS,mob,p.a.).

Unprecedented numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls, almost all adults, were seen in the TV in early winter. The 10,500 Bonaparte's 8 Dec at the Wilson and Wheeler dams on the Tennessee R. (GDJ) set a new maximum for inland Alabama. The same day at these sites, 14,500 Ring-billed Gulls were noted (GDJ). The view from Wilson Dam that day was reminiscent of a Christmas snow globe! A rare immature **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at Ft. Morgan 4 Nov (RAD,p.a.). The high tally this fall for Common Tern was of 150 at Ft. Morgan 21 Sep (GDJ,DGJ). This species is difficult to find in winter. Of a few coastal reports, the most noteworthy was one at St. Andrews SP, Bay, FL, 4-12 Jan (EF,ACM,mob), which provided a first local winter record. A Forster's Tern at Millbrook, *Elmore*, 1 Jan (LG) was seasonally rare for the ICP. Ten Forster's were unusual 22 Jan at Waterloo, *Lauderdale* (GDJ).

Single Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Gulf Breeze, FL, 25 Aug and 18 Sep (RAD,WWD); there was only one previous *Santa Rosa* record. I received five reports of single White-winged Doves 14 Oct to 22 Nov from Ft. Morgan east to Gulf Breeze. This species is an uncommon fall transient on the coast. Less easily found is the Groove-billed Ani, though in fall and winter at least one is usually seen. A new early WP record was established by the bird at Ft. Pickens 20 Sep (RAD). Two more were discovered at Dauphin I. 11 Oct (T&JS,mob). The scarce and comical **Burrowing Owl** was enjoyable at Ft. Morgan 8 Oct (GDJ). Short-eared Owls are always exciting finds in our area. One was near Town Creek, *Lawrence*, beginning 26 Feb (GDJ,DGJ,mob).

A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird with a deformed bill was banded in Birmingham 5 Nov (HHK,RRS,GDJ). A rare Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded 2 Nov in Montgomery (RRS), and a male was observed in Mobile from late November into January (EM,RRS,p.a.). Rufous Hummingbirds are expected in small numbers each year. The Sargents banded six in our area from 30 Aug into January. One bird that had been banded by the Sargents in *Shelby* 6 March 1991, was recaptured over 100 miles to the north at Madison 19 Nov! A Rufous in *Bay*, FL, 28 Dec to January was only the second local record. **Allen's Hummingbird** was added to the Alabama list this year, with not one but two birds! The first state record was a female present in w. Mobile from November to late December. This bird was banded 3 Dec (RRS,MBS,p.a.) (see Sargent (1992, *Al. Birdlife* 39(1):2-3)). The second bird spent much of the winter in Prattville, *Autauga*, and was banded 26 Jan (RRS,p.a.). Fortunately for the many listers who made the trek, the latter bird was an identifiable male. Four unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported inland and at the coast from 19 Aug to 20 Dec.

WOODPECKERS - WOOD-WARBLERS: The 20 Red-headed Woodpeckers 19 Oct at Seven Mile Island WMA, *Lauderdale* (WCB,GNP) were unusual for a single site. Olive-sided Flycatchers are uncommon migrants in the fall; I received reports of three separate birds 16 Aug to 2 Oct from Gulf Breeze, FL, and Ft. Morgan (RAD,PB,JFu,CLK,mob). Much easier to find on the outer coast is the Western Kingbird, though numbers this fall seemed low compared to those in most years. I had only four reports of five birds 7 Oct to 22 Nov (GDJ,RAD,TLs,PB,mob); more unusual was the one on the Dauphin Island CBC 21 Dec. Five records were submitted of seven Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from s. *Baldwin* 12 Oct to 22 Nov

(PB,GF,JH,JFH,FL). The single birds on the Pensacola CBC, FL, 21 Dec, and at Port St. Joe, FL, 29 Dec (SJS) were unusual for that season.

Two immature Horned Larks were unusually early 20-28 Aug at Harpersville, *Shelby* (ALM,HHF,ASC). A flock of 200 larks was locally significant 19 Jan in *Lauderdale* (GNP). I had a report of six very late Purple Martins 15 Nov in *Bay*, FL (R&AI). Late Tree Swallows were recorded 3 Nov at Guntersville (ALM) and the following day in *Limestone* (GDJ,HHK). Bewick's Wrens have become very difficult to find in the region, so it was good to learn of one in *Lauderdale* 14-22 Dec (GNP,mob). The House Wren 24 Sep in *Montgomery* (LG) set a new ICP early date. Another House Wren was seasonally rare 14 Dec at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (HHK). Seventy Marsh Wrens on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec surpassed the previous state maximum.

Large numbers of kinglets were present this winter in n.w. Alabama. On the Waterloo CBC 14 Dec, 226 Golden-crowneds and 228 Ruby-crowneds were recorded, the latter a new TV maximum. An impressive 342 E. Bluebirds on the same count exceeded the previous state high. The Swainson's Thrush 31 Aug in Birmingham (HHK,PHF,PP) was early. A good flight of Wood Thrushes transpired 7 Oct, with 50 estimated at Ft. Pickens (RLB,JHS). Alabama finally recorded the **Varied Thrush** this winter. An immature delighted birders 20 Feb to 7 Apr in Birmingham (JBr,ALM,mob,ph.,p.a.) (see Miller (1992, *Al. Birdlife* 39(1):1-2)). This northwestern species has visited many eastern states, including Tennessee and Georgia; the only previous record in the AOS area was at Ft. Pickens in November 1984. Many thanks are due to the Bruce's, who graciously allowed the hoards of observers into their home.

The 73 Gray Catbirds reported at Ft. Pickens 6 Oct (RLB,JHS) indicated a good migration day for this species. Two Am. Pipits were early 13 Oct at Waterloo, *Lauderdale* (GNP). Unusual for n. Alabama in winter were single Solitary Vireos 25 Dec at Birmingham (HHK,PP) and 4 Jan in *Marshall* (HHK). Also locally rare in winter was the Orange-crowned Warbler 14 Dec in *Limestone* (HHK). The Nashville Warbler 12 Sep at Ft. Morgan (PB) was early. Locally early was a N. Parula 25 Feb in *Bay*, FL (EF). Conversely, the Black-throated Green Warbler 30 Nov at Guntersville (HHK,BJ,PP) established a new departure date for inland Alabama. A Cerulean Warbler 6 Oct at Ft. Morgan (GDJ,mob) eclipsed the previous GC late date. Ft. Pickens yielded an impressive 170 Am. Redstarts 6 Oct (RLB,JHS). One Am. Redstart 28 Dec in *Bay*, FL (BC) was a locally late sighting. Alabama's fifth winter Ovenbird record occurred 28 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (RRS). Mourning Warblers are rare in autumn in our area. Single birds were noted 7 Sep at Pensacola, FL (PCT,BT), and 21 Sep in Birmingham (RRR,p.a.).

TANAGERS - FINCHES: The Summer Tanager 4 Jan in Gulf Breeze (RAD) provided the second January record for the WP. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was a rare find 12 Oct at Dauphin I. (SH,p.a.). I received two rare winter reports of Indigo Buntings. Lone birds were found 28 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (JH) and 4 Jan at Gulf Breeze (WWD,*fide* RAD). The latter Indigo was only the second ever noted in that month in the WP. Clay-colored Sparrows are regular on the outer coast in fall, but the flock of up to 14 seen 13-17 Oct at Ft. Morgan (ALM,mob) greatly exceeded the previous state maximum. Unusual Lark Sparrow reports included three birds 24 Sep in e. *Jefferson* (RRS) and another on the Ft. Morgan CBC 31 Dec. This species, which breeds rarely in w. Alabama, is an uncommon autumn visitor on the outer coast.

Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare inland; the single bird near Harpersville 23-25 Sep (ALM,mob) was the second for the MR. Many were at Ft. Morgan in early October, with a peak

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

of 12 noted 7 Oct (GDJ,PB,RAD,GF,mob). The Lincoln's Sparrow on that day at Ft. Morgan (GDJ) was early. A good count of six Lincoln's was produced by the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec. This species is regular in small numbers throughout the state from mid-October to mid-November, but it is scarce in n. Alabama in winter. One was seen 10-11 Feb in s.e. *Jefferson* (BCG).

This was an excellent year for longspurs in the TV. Over 250 Lapland Longspurs in a single flock were seen in s. *Limestone* from late December into February, but total numbers in this area were likely much higher. The species is rare in n.w. Alabama, so the three in *Lauderdale* 11 Jan (GNP), and the 75 birds 16 Feb in e. *Colbert* (GNP), were noteworthy. A **Smith's Longspur** was discovered in the s. *Limestone* flocks 1 Jan (GDJ,ph,p.a.) and continued to be seen into February by many persistent observers. This was the seventh state record, and the first in 23 years; there were no previous TV sightings. What appeared to be two different Smith's were noted at this site 23 Jan (DJS).

Bobolinks are unusual in the autumn, and this year I received two reports. One was near Harpersville 1-2 Sep (ALM,ADM) and another was at Ft. Morgan 7 Oct (GDJ,RAD,mob). The Yellow-headed Blackbird is a rare species that is found most fall seasons along the outer coast. One was at Ft. Morgan 12 Sep (PB,GF,FL) and two more were there 7 Oct (GDJ,mob). A single bird was in Gulf, FL, 12 Oct (HL). More unusual was the lone Yellow-headed on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec (RRS,MBS). The 300 Brewer's Blackbirds 6 Feb near Town Creek, *Lawrence* (GDJ,JH) established a new TV maximum.

The first fall record of **Shiny Cowbird** for Alabama came 29 Nov, when a male was seen at Ft. Morgan (JH,JFH,JB). Alabama's fifth record of **Bronzed Cowbird** was of a lone bird at Ft. Morgan 18 Aug (GDJ,DGJ,p.a.). Another was seen at this site 12 Oct (TLS,p.a.). There was a repeat visit this winter of N. Orioles in Montgomery; this species is casual inland at that season. One to two birds were seen 29 Nov (RAD) to 28 Dec (LG). The 28 House Finches on the Gulf Shores CBC 28 Dec tied the previous GC maximum. Only a few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were reported this year, mostly from e. *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS).

ADDENDUM: Omitted from the last "Sightings" column was a record of a female Chestnut-sided Warbler feeding a dependent young bird 24 July in n.e. *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS,R&NC). This was the first confirmed breeding for the state, though there have been several summer records.

CITED OBSERVERS: Alabama Ornithological Society, Jane W. Ballman, Richard L. Ballman, Paul Blevins, Julie Boone, William J. Bremser, John Bruce (JBr), Walt C. Burch, Alice S. Christenson, Richard & Nancy Cole, Bob Cummings, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan, R. Scot Duncan, William W. Duncan, Harriett H. Findlay, John Findlay, Gene Fleming, Eula Fontaine, Paul H. Franklin, John Fulton (JFu), Larry Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, Ron Houser, Sharon Hudgins, Thomas A. Imhof, Richard & Ann Ingram, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Bettye James, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Jan Lloyd, Horace Loftin, Frank Logan, Edith McClinton, Steve W. McConnell, Mabel McDonald, Anton C. Menart, AID. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Minnie Nonkes, G. Ned Piper, Pat Price, Linda B. Reynolds, Jim H. Saunders, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Terence L. Schiefer, Tim & Jan Schultz, Damien J. Simbeck, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Henry M. Stevenson, Jim Stevenson, Bill Summerour, Betsy Tetlow, Phil C. Tetlow, Richard L. West. – **Greg D. Jackson**, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244