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**FIRST DOCUMENTED OCCURRENCE OF HAMMOND'S
FLYCATCHER (*EMPIDONAX HAMMONDII*) IN ALABAMA**

Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent



Figure 1. Hammond's Flycatcher banded at Fort Morgan. (Photo by Martha B. Sargent)

The Study of *Empidonax* Flycatchers in Alabama has been difficult and incomplete. One reason for this is that all members of the genus are very similar in appearance and are notoriously difficult to identify in the field. To add to the problem, only one, the Acadian (*Empidonax vireescens*), breeds in the state. All of the other five species of empids known to occur in Alabama are transients and are usually silent as they pass through on migration. Identification by voice is therefore next to impossible.

In the summer of 1992, with my banding associate Martha B. Sargent, an effort was undertaken to determine the ideal time to locate and identify empids at our bird banding station located at Fort Morgan on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Our own banding records and conversations with veteran bird bander Thomas A. Imhof indicated that the fall migration should be a good time for this study. Additional conversations with Greg D. Jackson, seasons editor for *American Birds* and *Alabama Birdlife*, plus access to his extensive records, revealed that September should yield an excellent sampling of empids in Alabama.

We had long suspected that some western empids were rare but regular fall

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migrants in Alabama, but occasional netted specimens yielded only Acadian, Least (*E. minimus*), Yellow-bellied (*E. flaviventris*), Willow (*E. traillii*), and Alder (*E. alnorum*). In addition, many netted birds were released unbanded and unidentified. With the exception of the Acadian, which molts after breeding and before departing North America, all other adult empids in eastern North America are in badly worn plumage during migration with few if any identifying features.

Recent publications such as Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*, Pyles's, et. al. *Identification Guide To North American Passerines and The North American Bird Bander*, Volume XIII, No. 3, have made the work of bird banders much easier and less frustrating. In particular, the wing formulas now available, when used with other keys, have allowed banders to identify over 90% of all empids captured. The field work of many researchers and the study of specimen skins has been combined in the above works. Armed with this knowledge at our fingertips, the identification of empids has become a routine part of current banding operations.

As predicted by Jackson and Imhof, mid-September netting efforts resulted in the capture, identification, and banding of many empids of several species, including Yellow-bellied, Least, Acadian, Alder, Willow and a few that could not be positively identified. These unidentified empids were released unbanded.

The rapid pace of banding on 19 September 1992 was routine "first in-first out" with no special attention given to flycatchers until they were being examined prior to actual banding. The normal procedure was to age and sex the birds first. As we removed a somewhat grayish empid from one of the holding bags, we noticed that it was very small and appeared big-headed and short-tailed. An examination revealed that the skull was completely ossified, indicating an adult. In addition, the bird was in fresh plumage with no signs of wear. Since the only adult eastern empid that molts before migrating in autumn is the Acadian, it was immediately apparent that this was an *Empidonax* we had not banded before.

The following measurements were then taken: wing 70mm; tail 57mm; exposed culmen 9mm; width inside nostrils 3.03mm; width of culmen at basal end of nostril 6.11mm; width at distal end of nostril 3.66mm. A series of measurements of the primaries revealed p-10 longer than p-5 by 3.2mm, but shorter than p-6 by 4.5mm. P-6 was emarginate, and p-9 was longer than p-5 by 7.1mm. These measurements, when applied to the wing formulas in our keys, suggested Hammond's Flycatcher (*E. hammondii*). Another in-hand observation noted was the fresh olive-gray head and back that was bright and showy. The head appeared slightly darker than the back. The tail appeared short and was sharply forked with the outer rectrices having prominent gray outer webs that showed no wear. The bill was *very short and narrow with straight sides*. The upper mandible was black but the lower mandible dark orangish on the basal one half grading into black on the distal half. The chin was whitish and the throat whitish-gray. The facial area was gray contrasting with the darker crown. The breast was dark olive-gray, and the belly and crissum light gray washed with yellow. The breast had a dark vested look with the vest almost

closed near the throat. The wings were paler when compared with those of an Alder flycatcher which we had also netted, and the whitish wing bars did not contrast with the wings as much as they did in the Alder. The wing extension was long and when folded made the tail appear short. The flanks and sides were dark olive-gray with a pale yellow wash. The feet and legs were black. The eye ring was prominent and whitish and fuller behind the eye.

At this stage it became a process of elimination. Feature number one was an adult empid in *freshly molted fall plumage*. Of the eastern empids, only the Acadian was a possibility. Of the western empids, only adult Hammond's and Buff-breasted (*E. fulvifrons*) undergo a complete molt before migrating. The Buff-breasted, and Acadian could be eliminated by plumage alone, leaving only the Hammond's as a real option.

Feature number two was the *small, short, narrow bill with straight sides*. Although the Least has a small bill, it is convex in shape and the lower mandible is uniformly orange-yellow. Our unidentified empid had the basal one-half dark orangish with the distal one-half dusky black, with the dusky color extending posteriorly along the cutting edges, or tomia, back toward the base of the lower mandible. Although the Least is also large-headed in appearance, nothing else indicated this species. The bill size, shape and color clearly indicated Hammond's.

Our identification of Alabama's first Hammond's Flycatcher (Figure 1) was supported not only by extensive notes made while the bird was in hand, but also by many in-hand photographs of individual field marks and features exclusive to Hammond's. In addition, these photos included side by side comparison with an Alder flycatcher that had been netted at the same time.

The process of studying *Empidonax* flycatchers in Alabama is only in its early stages. More information will be gathered and in all probability additional species will be identified in the future. Unfortunately, field identification of non-vocal *Empidonax* has remained at about the same confidence level, near zero. **Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent**, 7570 Mac Hicks Road, Trussville, AL 35173.



**SECOND RECORD OF ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD
(*SELASPHORUS SASIN*) IN ALABAMA**

Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent

Five years of banding wintering hummingbirds in the southeastern United States has resulted in the second documentation of an Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) in Alabama. The first known occurrence was a bird banded in Mobile on 3 December 1991 by the authors and was reported in *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 39, No. 1. Now a second Allen's has been captured, banded, and studied in detail in Prattville in south central Alabama.

Discovery of this second bird came on 9 January 1992 in response to a telephone call from Dorothy Baker of Prattville notifying us of a hummingbird at the residence of Mrs. Francis Finch, also of Prattville.

We arrived at Mrs. Finch's residence to find a very small *Selasphorus* feeding regularly at her hummingbird feeder and hawking insects over a compost pile. We first noticed the lustrous, freshly molted all-green back and head which contrasted sharply with the chestnut-rufous rump, sides and flanks. Interestingly, the bird had no tail feathers. A partially completed iridescent rufous gorget that included several feathers on the sides of the throat and the very short bill indicated the bird was probably a young male. Sexing and aging, however, would have to wait until the tail feathers had completed development.

Capturing and banding was accomplished without difficulty and after taking a series of photographs the following measurements were recorded: wing 39.93mm; exposed culmen 15.93mm; weight 3.40 grams. No tail measurement was possible since only pin feathers were present. The bird was then released.

On 26 January, Mr. Larry Locklin of Montgomery, who had been monitoring the bird's progress, notified us that the retrices were fully unsheathed. We returned and were able to recapture the bird promptly. The new set of retrices and the all-green back confirmed our preliminary identification that this bird was a second year male. More evidence to support this conclusion was the narrow outermost retrix #5 and the distinctive shape and color pattern of retrices #1 and #2. These features are well described in Kenn Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*. Gary Stiles' paper published in the *Condor* (74:25-32) also proved useful in verifying our identification. Because of the very short wing and exposed culmen, this individual could be identified as *Selasphorus sasin sasin*. It was much too small to be *Selasphorus sasin sedentarius*, the larger coastal race of Allen's.

Allen's Hummingbird breeds from northern coastal California southward to near Santa Barbara (Johnsgard 1983). Although closely related to the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), a regular winter visitor throughout the southeastern United States, Allen's is known to winter only rarely outside of Mexico. A few Allen's have been observed yearly in Louisiana by Nancy Newfield (per. com.), but east of the Mississippi River the species has been virtually unknown until

recently. Further study will probably show the species is present throughout the southeast, in winter but only in small numbers. Any hummingbird found after 15 November in the area covered by our federal and state permits, which include Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee should be banded and needs in-hand identification and documentation. **Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent**, 7570 Mac Hicks Road, Trussville, AL 35173.

**FLEDGLING ROBIN (*TURDUS MIGRATORIUS*)
KILLED BY BULLFROG (*RANA CATESBEIANA*)**

Billy F. Gilliland and Joann S. Gilliland

The nesting season here at Drummond Switch in eastern Walker County always brings with it the serendipitous. I'm sure the same is true for the rest of the state, but since we are privy mostly to what transpires here at home, our experiences are most often confined to our own yard.

This past spring and summer my husband Bill and I watched a pair of American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) as they built their first nest in an apple tree some distance from the house, the second in a pear tree down by the vegetable garden, and their third and final nest of the season in a tall loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) in the front yard near the water garden. Their nesting success was not great. The first was broken up by a predator of some sort, probably a cat since it was so close to the ground and quite exposed. One young, which paraded frequently around the yard, seemed to be the crop of the second effort. The third effort looked as though it would be a bit more successful since on the morning of 23 July 1993 both parents were seen busily feeding two fledglings in the front yard.

The following morning, as I am prone to do, I made my way out the front door to the water garden (located somewhat between the front and back yards), coffee in hand, to sit on the bridge over the garden and enjoy the birds, frogs and fishes that abound there. The water garden is approximately 30 inches deep at one end and runs to less than one inch deep at the other. Sundry trees, flowers and shrubs are planted and occur naturally around the garden. In the water itself grow various water lilies and bog plants. These provide good cover and some food for the frogs and fish, and at the shallow end the birds frequently come to drink and bathe.

As I readied myself to take a seat on the bridge, I noticed a rather large frog floating belly-up just under the surface of the water. Obviously it was dead, but the odd thing was that there appeared to be some object caught in its throat. A closer look disclosed the object to be a bird, also dead. Hardly daring to believe what I was seeing, I hastily summoned Bill who confirmed that this was a bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) with a bird hung in its throat and indeed both frog and bird were dead. Pictures were taken and we surmised that both had drowned when the frog attempted to swallow the fledgling. It appeared the bill of the bird had gotten caught

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in the frog's throat, or maybe it was just too large for him to swallow (Figure 1).

We speculate that very early that morning the young robin had wandered too close to the water's edge or maybe had fallen into the water, and the opportunistic frog had taken it for a meal. The parents of the two fledglings were nowhere to be seen at this particular time. I had hoped the second young bird would make it to adulthood, but this did not appear to be the case when, a few days later, I found what I guessed to be the second young robin drowned in another shallow of the water garden. Such, I suppose, is nature's way. **Billy F. Gilliland and Joan S. Gilliland**, Route 2, Box 91-C, Empire, AL 35063.



Figure 1. This large bullfrog apparently choked to death while trying to swallow a fledgling robin. The fledgling presumably drowned during the struggle. (Photo by Billy F. Gilliland)

ARE MIGRANTS ARRIVING EARLIER IN SPRING?*

Robert A. Duncan

In recent years, several birders have expressed opinions that birds seem to be arriving earlier in spring migration than years ago. It seemed to me this was indeed the case, but impressions are not facts. In an effort to put to rest my own impressions and perhaps that of others, I decided to do an analysis of the timing of migration based on records that I have been keeping since 1974.

My family and I reside in Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida, a migrant trap at the end of a peninsula in Pensacola Bay. I had begun recording the presence of migrants daily since 1974. With some exceptions such as vacations or absences because of work, etc., I spent about 15 to 25 minutes daily during spring and fall migrations, walking a fairly standardized route in my yard and neighborhood. The presence of migrants as to species, as well as their relative abundance, was noted. Exact numbers, however, were not recorded. On weekends more time was spent in the field. This information was also gathered from Ft. Pickens, Escambia County, Florida, another migrant trap, and was supplemented by information obtained from other observers from both locations. In the spring of 1978, Lucy Duncan began operating a banding station which continued until 1985. In effect, our yard and neighborhood, known for being a haven for migrant land birds, has been well monitored since 1974.

Nine neotropical trans-Gulf migrants were analyzed to determine their frequency of occurrence in March, comparing the five year period 1975-1979 to the current period 1989-1993. In Table 1, numbers represent the average number of days they occurred in March for the five year periods represented. Numbers in parentheses represent total aggregate days for the whole five year period when the birds were considered relatively abundant.

TABLE 1. FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF NINE NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS IN THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE, MARCH 1975-1979 AND 1989-1993.

SPECIES	1975-1979	1989-1993
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)	1.4 (0)	2.2 (0)
White-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo griseus</i>)	4.2 (4)	3.2 (9)
Parula Warbler (<i>Parula americana</i>)	6.8 (3)	5.4 (8)
Black & White Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	.8 (0)	3.4 (0)
Hooded Warbler (<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>)	.8 (0)	4.0 (5)
Prothonotary Warbler (<i>Prothonotaria citrea</i>)	.8 (0)	4.4 (0)
Louisiana Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>)	.6 (0)	2.8 (0)
Summer Tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>)	.6 (0)	1.2 (0)
Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	.4 (0)	1.2 (0)

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As one can see from Table 1, seven species were more frequent and two less so in March. Although the White-eyed Vireo and Parula Warbler occurred fewer times, when observed, they were abundant more frequently. Most noteworthy was the Hooded Warbler, a species thought to be impacted by tropical deforestation and forest fragmentation. It has apparently been seen more often in March in recent years and in good numbers on occasion. In addition, since 1988, new all time early arrival dates have been established on eight species as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. NEW EARLY ARRIVAL DATES OF EIGHT NEOTROPICAL SPECIES IN THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE.

Species	Old Date	New Date
Blue-winged Warbler (<i>Vermivora pinus</i>)	29 March	23 March
Tennessee Warbler (<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>)	1 April	30 March
Blackburnian Warbler (<i>Dendroica fusca</i>)	25 March	24 March
Cape May Warbler (<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>)	4 April	29 March
Blackpoll Warbler (<i>Dendroica striata</i>)	12 April	9 April
Worm-eating Warbler (<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>)	25 March	17 March
No. Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>)	5 April	29 March
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	31 March	17 March

What conclusions can be drawn from this data? A standard transect was not run nor was the amount of time spent afield or the number of observers consistent. This mitigates the information obtained somewhat. Further, in recent years the number of observers visiting Ft. Pickens and Gulf Breeze has risen considerably, possibly inflating the days of observations, particularly early in the season when many birders are out "jumping the gun." Still, Gulf Breeze and Ft. Pickens was monitored daily by the Duncan family and others during the late 1970's and it isn't likely many birds were undetected. This data were gathered to disprove my "impressions" but the result was a surprise, which certainly gives food for thought or further research. And what if this data is pointing in the direction of earlier migration? What would be the cause? On this point I would rather not speculate. **Robert A. Duncan**, 614 Fairpoint Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

* This article was published in the previous issue of *Alabama Birdlife* (Vol. 40, No. 2), but due to an error caused in the editing process which altered the clarity of certain sentences, the paper is being reprinted here in its entirety. The editor assumes full responsibility and regrets the error.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*BUTEO LINEATUS*)
VISITS BIRD FEEDER**

Harriett Wright Findlay



Figure 1. Red-shouldered Hawk feeding on suet at bird feeder.(Photo by Harriett Findlay)

For the last three years a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) has nested in some vacant woods beyond our property. Occasionally, one of the hawks could be observed perched in a tree about 50 feet from bird feeders near our house that attracts birds, chipmunks and squirrels. A swinging feeder is 15 feet from the breakfast room windows and a sweet gum stump, about 18 inches high and 31 inches in diameter, is ten feet beyond the swinging feeder and serves as an additional bird feeder.

Following the 15 inch snow of 12 March 1993 there were no rodents stirring to feed hungry Red-shouldered Hawks. Large chunks of suet were placed on the sweet gum stump and on three occasions a Red-shouldered Hawk was seen to swoop down, peck at, then carry away in it's talons the suet which was placed on the feeder (Figure 1). **Harriett Wright Findlay**, 2749 Millbrook Road, Birmingham, AL 35243.

1993 SPRING AND SUMMER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

After the poor migration noted in Spring 1992, we had better luck in 1993. Observers at coastal locations had the opportunity to view excellent numbers of passerines, and the migration inland also was good. The number of rarities was not high this year, though a few exciting species appeared.

Spring and summer were generally dry; at Birmingham every month from March

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through June showed a deficit of one to two inches, with a four-inch drop from normal in July. The spring was cooler than usual; temperatures were above average in June and July. The big weather event was the winter storm 12-13 March, when up to *18 inches* of snow fell on Birmingham! Best birding days were 14 March, 8-10, 15-16, 21-22, and 25-26 April, and 2-4 and 13-14 May; as usual, these were associated with frontal systems.

This report covers the period from March through July 1993 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; 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 (Alabama), "MR" = Mountain Region, "TV" = Tennessee Valley, "WP" = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa*). Records not specifying Florida are in Alabama. "m.ob." = many observers, "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge, "p.a." = pending acceptance by the state bird records committee, "ph." = photographed, "SP" = State Park.

LOONS - SHOREBIRDS: This was a good spring for the rare **Pacific Loon** on the coast. The 12th record for Alabama was provided by the individual 28 February at Dauphin I., *Mobile* (BCG,p.a.). Another was at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 6 March (JH,JFH,p.a.), and the third was at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 April (GDJ,p.a.). A Pacific Loon also occurred 2 May at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD,LRD). Eleven Com. Loons were noteworthy as late as 2 May in the Tennessee R. at Town Cr., *Colbert* (GDJ). Eared Grebes are uncommon at the coast; one was nearly in alternate plumage 6 March at Gulf Shores (JH,JFH).

A rare **shearwater** spotted from shore 24 April at Gulf Shores (JH,JB) could not be definitely identified. Large flocks of Am. White Pelicans are not as common in the WP as in coastal Alabama, so 200 birds 30 March were interesting at Niceville, *Okaloosa* (RT). The Anhinga 20 June in n.e. *Montgomery* (LRG) was unusual for that portion of the ICP. A Cattle Egret set an early record for *Bay*, FL, 14 March (R&AI). An immature White Ibis was rare for the TV 25 July in Decatur, *Morgan* (SWM). Glossy Ibis is rare inland, especially in the spring; one identified 30 May in e. *Colbert* provided only the third TV record in that season. The season's first Wood Stork report was of three birds 10 July at Demopolis, *Greene* (RRS,MBS).

A Green-winged Teal in s. *Limestone* 14 May (SWM) set a new late TV record. Also tardy were two Gadwall 23 May at Decatur, *Morgan* (SWM), and three Ring-necked Ducks in s. *Limestone* 16 May (SWM). Eight Greater Scaup were unusual 14 March in the Tennessee R. in *Morgan* (SWM). Black Scoters are always good finds,

and eight were spotted 6 March at Ft. Morgan (JH,JFH). Rare inland, an immature male and two female Surf Scoters were in the Tennessee R. near Wheeler Dam 28 March (ALM,MJO); the same combination of birds was seen nearby 29 November 1992. Bald Eagles are rare in the WP. It was good to have reports from Niceville, *Okaloosa*, of an adult 6 March (DMW) and an immature 15 April to 8 May (DMW,BM). The Peregrine Falcon in s. *Limestone* 14 May (SWM) established a new late date for Alabama.

One to two Am. Oystercatchers were unusual at Ft. Morgan 19-20 April (GDJ,DGJ). The flock of 121 Am. Avocets was noteworthy as late as 24 April at Blakely I., *Mobile* (JH,JB). Eleven Upland Sandpipers represented a good number for the MR at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 26 April (GDJ,DGJ). Long-billed Curlews are expected near Mobile, but are rare elsewhere on the coast; a lone bird was at Dauphin I. 13 March (CK). A solitary Marbled Godwit was an uncommon find at Ft. Morgan 17 April (JH *et al.*). Baird's Sandpiper is rare inland in the spring; one discovered 16 April at Harpersville, *Shelby* (ALM,ADM) provided only the second MR spring record. Eleven Buff-breasted Sandpipers were notable in s. *Baldwin* 21 April (GDJ,DGJ). Identified Long-billed Dowitchers are rare in the MR; four were at Harpersville 26 April (GDJ,DGJ).

LARIDS - CREEPERS: The unidentified **jaeger** soaring over the Tennessee R. in *Limestone* 20 June (SWM,PD) was exciting. This was only the second jaeger observation for inland Alabama. Two early Gull-billed Terns were at St. Joseph Peninsula SP, *Gulf*, FL, 20 March (DMW,mob). Four Caspian Terns were early 11 April in n.e. *Colbert* (GDJ,DGJ). A Least Tern appeared near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, at the odd date of 20 June (SWM). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued to establish a beachhead in our area. There were still birds throughout the period at Montgomery (LRG) and Dauphin I. (AOS); nesting was noted for the first time this spring in *Bay*, FL (ACM). Unusual numbers of White-winged Doves were present in the Florida Panhandle in early spring; this species is usually rare then. An unprecedented 28 White-wingeds appeared 1 March in Gulf Breeze (RAD), dwindling to one bird by 28 March. Six were unusual 21 March to 3 April at Baypoint, *Bay*, FL (ACM). A solitary White-winged Dove was at Dauphin I. 24-25 April (JH,JB).

Black-billed Cuckoos were noted with unusual frequency in late spring at the coastal migrant traps (*vide* RAD). This species is not often seen inland, so an individual 2 May in *Jefferson* (ALM) was interesting. Two Groove-billed Anis at Blakely I. 3 April (AOS,ph.WCB) provided the first spring record for Alabama. A Rufous Hummingbird banded in *Morgan* 19 March (RRS,MBS) was the only report of this rare-but-regular species. The singing Willow Flycatcher 13 May at Huntsville, *Madison* (CWB) was a good find; this species is rarely identified in our area. Rare for the coast in spring was a Least Flycatcher 8 May in *Okaloosa*, FL (SC, TB). An E. Phoebe in Montgomery was noteworthy as late as 8 May (LRG). The discovery of a **Vermilion Flycatcher** is always exciting, particularly in the spring; one appeared at Ft. Morgan 2 April (SWM,DRJ,JHe,SRM). The prize of the season was Alabama's third **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Dauphin I. 26 April (MLB,CDC,ph.,p.a.). All state records have occurred on the outer coast within the narrow window of 20-26 April. An extremely late Brown Creeper was reported 8 May in *Walton* (EG), setting a new WP date.

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WRENS - BLACKBIRDS: House Wrens are occasional breeders in n. Alabama. One was discovered 24 May in *Jefferson* (ALM), and a pair produced young in June at Sheffield, *Colbert* (PDK,SW,WCB). Two Cedar Waxwings, a rare nesting bird in n. Alabama, were noted 9 July in Decatur, *Morgan* (SWM). A Yellow-throated Vireo set a new early date for *Bay*, FL, 14 March (R&AI). Red-eyed Vireos were "abundant" on the coast this spring (*fide* RAD). Black-whiskered Vireo is an expected rarity in spring from Dauphin I. east to Gulf Breeze, FL. This year I received five reports of six birds beginning 26 April and continuing as late as 14 May (CK,RAD,LRD,OEF); unusually, four of these sightings were in May.

A Blue-winged Warbler 14 March was the earliest ever for *Bay*, FL (R&AI). Golden-winged Warblers are uncommon in spring in the ICP; one appeared 18 April in Montgomery (LRG). The rare "**Lawrence's**" Warbler, the recessive Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid, was an exciting find 25 April at L. Purdy, *Shelby* (GDJ,DGJ). This singing male was only the third for the MR, and the ninth for Alabama. Black-throated Blue Warblers are uncommon in the spring; the individual 11 May at Dauphin I. (SWE) set a new late GC record. Another tardy migrant on Dauphin I. was the Palm Warbler 9 May (PWS). Eight Cerulean Warblers 18 April at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (SWM) provided a new TV maximum. Swainson's Warblers were unusually plentiful at the coast in early April (*fide* RAD). The Louisiana Waterthrush 14 March was early for *Bay*, FL (R&AI). A rare **Connecticut Warbler** was quite a "yard bird" 4 May in e. *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS,p.a.). A new early record for *Bay*, FL, was provided by the Hooded Warbler 14 March (R&AI).

An early Blue Grosbeak was discovered at Dauphin I. 7 March (JH). Painted Buntings appeared in excellent numbers at Dauphin I. and Ft. Morgan in mid April. Two Bachman's Sparrows, rare in n. Alabama, were located in w. *Lauderdale* 4 July (SWM). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Ft. Morgan 24-25 April (JH,JB,mob,ph.) was only the second recorded in spring in the state. Lark Sparrows are difficult to find in the spring. Single birds were at Dauphin I. 7 March (JH) and Ft. Morgan 10 April (JH,mob). The species nests occasionally in the TV. One Lark Sparrow occurred near Wheeler Dam in *Colbert* 25 April (SWM); a pair produced three young nearby in *Lawrence* 30 May to 4 July (SWM,GNP,SRM,GM). Lingered sparrows included a Savannah 9 May at Dauphin I. (PWS), and a Grasshopper 20 & 23 April at Ft. Morgan (GDJ,DGJ). Lincoln's Sparrows are interesting in the spring; two were banded 12-16 April at Ft. Morgan (RRS,MBS). This species is rare inland at that season, and I had a single report of one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 5 May (ALM,ADM). The **Shiny Cowbird** continues a low-level incursion on the coast, with single males seen 9 April at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL (RAD,LRD,WWD) and on Dauphin I. 10-24 April (JH,JB,CK,mob,p.a.).

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year: deadlines for submitting articles are **1 June** and **1 November**. 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 the hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred).

Submit manuscripts typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch typing paper.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color prints and slides are acceptable. *Convert slides to prints before submitting article.*

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 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.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use the metric system only for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

The title of tables should be in CAPS and placed above the table.

The description of figures should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in this issue for the correct way to state references.

Three or less 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.