

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - One was early in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL, 26 August (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - One on 24 October in Limestone Co. (Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten) was a good find in northern Alabama.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Very rare in autumn, a single was identified 20 October at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Nancy Gobris).

MOURNING WARBLERS - Six reports involving seven individuals between 23 August-30 September in n.w. Florida, was an unprecedented number for any season (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, Pam Beasley, Don Ware).

WESTERN Tanager - Both rare and early, a male was observed at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL, on 4 August (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 22-23 September was noteworthy (Stefan Woltmann, Greg D. Jackson).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 1 October was very early (David Cimprich et al.).

SWAMP SPARROW - This species was unusually plentiful at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, in late October (David Cimprich, Robert R. Sargent, Greg D. Jackson).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - A male was at a feeder in Okaloosa Co., FL, between 24 August-2 September (Arno Lutz, Mary Lutz).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - This is a rare coastal species, so singles on 6 and 30 November in Okaloosa Co., FL, is noteworthy (Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore, Hud Hudleston, Charlie Parkell).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - This species is rare in extreme northwest Florida, so the 11 seen in Santa Rosa Co. on 10 November was a good find (Phil C. Tetlow).

RED CROSSBILL - At least 22 at two sites were exciting in n. Cleburne Co., AL, beginning 27 October (Bill Summerour et al.).

PINE SISKIN - One was early at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 25 October (Michelle Davis, David Cimprich).

* Records and annotations provided by Greg D. Jackson and Robert A. Duncan

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 1998 - FEBRUARY 1999)*

RED-THROATED LOON - Three were observed on the Perdido Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Escambia Co., FL, 26 December (Phil C. Tetlow).

PACIFIC LOON - Singles were seen on 10 December at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, providing the 8th record for the Tennessee Valley (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson) and at Big Lagoon, Escambia Co., FL (Phil C. Tetlow et al.). Another at Wheeler Dam, Lawrence Co., AL, on 23 January was the 9th Tennessee Valley record (Steve W. McConnell, Jeff Wilson et al.).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - The 301 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties on 19 December, was a good number for n.w. Alabama.

EARED GREBE - Rare inland, one was seen at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, between 3-17 December (Richard A. Reynolds, Linda B. Reynolds). Was the one at Bayou La Batre, Mobile Co., AL, on 8 February the same individual seen last fall (John Porter, Jackie Porter)? Two individuals were at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, between 2-31 December (Robert A. Duncan, Will Duncan) and six were seen on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC, 21 December.

SOOTY SHEARWATER - The 9th Alabama record was one seen on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - A small shearwater that was probably this species was seen on 2 January at Gulf Shores, Baldwin Co., AL (Ann Miller).

GREAT BLUE HERON - An excellent count of 655 was made on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December.

CATTLE EGRET - One at Wilson Dam, Colbert/Lauderdale counties, AL, on 24 January was the 2nd winter Tennessee Valley record (Jim Height, many observers).

WOOD STORK - The first December record for the area was one seen on the 19th on the Pensacola CBC, Escambia Co., FL (Don Ware, Hud Huddleston).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Though uncommon in the area, 13 were seen at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour Co., AL, on 30 December (James F. Flynn, Giff R. Beaton, Earl Horn). One was in Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL, on 1 January and another was at the Marion Fish Hatchery in Perry Co., AL (David P. George, James V. Peavy, Allison Peavy). Up to 17 that arrived in November at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, lingered until 21 January (Don Ware, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, Will Duncan, Ginger Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow).

SNOW GOOSE - A good count for the coast in winter was 220 during the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

ROSS'S GOOSE - Although still considered rare, reports of this species are increasing. A first-year individual was at Bear Creek, Colbert Co., AL (Tom Haggerty, Jeff Garner) on 19 December. Three on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January was the 3rd Gulf Coast record. One was at Snowdoun, Montgomery Co., AL, on 16 January (Larry F. Gardella) and another was seen at Brown's Ferry, Limestone Co., AL, 20 January-20 February (Damien J. Simbeck, Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

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RING-NECKED DUCK - The 600+ that were seen at Walker Pond, Lauderdale Co., on 8 February, tied the high for n.w. Alabama (Paul D. Kittle).

BLACK SCOTER - Two of this rare species were at Gulf Shores and Perdido Key, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

OLDSQUAW - Two were at Bon Secour Bay, Baldwin Co., AL, on 1 January (David Plumb).

HOODED MERGANSER - The 1057 that were seen on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December was a maximum count.

COMMON MERGANSER - This species is accidental in the area, so two females at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 4 December were a good find (Carolyn Henning, Phil C. Tetlow et al., Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley).

SWAINSON'S HAWK - The 5th area record was an adult at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 14 December (Don Ware et. al.).

RED-TAILED HAWK - A very rare sighting for Alabama was an individual of the western rufous form that was seen at Blountsville, Blount Co., on 6 December (Greg D. Jackson and Debra G. Jackson).

MERLIN - Rare in winter in n. Alabama, one was seen on the Waterloo CBC, Colbert Co., 19 December (Jeff T. Garner, Tom Haggerty) and another was seen on 22 January in Decatur, Morgan Co. (Steve W. McConnell).

WILD TURKEY - The 34 on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December was a good count.

SANDHILL CRANE - The 50 on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December, tied the Tennessee Valley maximum. Uncommon, but regular, 13 were seen at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour Co., AL, on 30 December (James F. Flynn, Giff R. Beaton, Earl Horn). The 35 on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January was a high count for the Gulf Coast (William J. Bremser, Greta Bremser). Northwest Florida sightings included up to five individuals at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, in December and early January (Robert A. Duncan et al., Phil C. Tetlow).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - On 8 February a maximum count of 35 was seen on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (John Porter, Jackie Porter).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A rare inland sighting, one was seen on 16 January in Decatur, Morgan Co., AL (Harry Dean).

WHIMBREL - A late individual spotted on 3 December on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, was the 6th winter record (Greg D. Jackson). Another was seen on 8 February on Little Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, establishing the 7th winter record (John Porter, Jackie Porter).

SANDERLING - A maximum of three was at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, between 27 December-7 March and established the 1st inland winter record (Steve W. McConnell et al.).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - A good count for the Tennessee Valley in winter was 10+ at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, on 27 December (Steve W. McConnell).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Three were early at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, on 27 February (Steve W. McConnell).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - A first for Alabama was one at Perdido Pass, Baldwin Co., 1-3 January (James V. Peavy, Ted Weems, many observers).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - The 4th winter Gulf Coast record and the 5th Alabama winter record was one on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson). Three on 22 January at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, was the the 1st winter record for north Alabama and the 6th winter record for the state. Up to 10 were recorded in January at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, Don Ware).

JAEGER SPECIES - One was at Wilson Dam, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, between 10-12 January (Kenneth Calhoun et al.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - The five at Perdido Pass, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 December were rare (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson), as was the one seen on the same date at Fort Pickens, Escambia Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan). An individual was also seen at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 3 December (Phil C. Tetlow et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - The 17th record for Alabama was an individual in first winter plumage seen at Wilson Dam and Wilson Lake, Colbert/Lauderdale counties on at least four occasions between 28 November-13 January (Greg D. Jackson, Damien J. Simbeck). Two birds in first winter plumage were also seen on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (Damien J. Simbeck, Michael A. Beuerlein) and another was seen on 24 January at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL. Single adults were at Wilson Dam on 17 and 23 January (Steve W. McConnell, Jeff R. Wilson et al.) and at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, on 24 January (David P. George).

GLAUCOUS GULL - A rare find, one was on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (Damien J. Simbeck, Michael A. Beuerlein).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Rare, a 1st year bird was seen on 2 December at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson et al.), and an adult was seen on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, on 3 December by the same observers.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - A count of 134 on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January suggests that this species is increasing.

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WHITE-WINGED DOVE - New high counts of 87 and 58 were made on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January (Phil C. Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow, Ben C. Garmon, Jan L. Loyd) and the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC on December 21 (Ed Case, Alan Knothe), respectively. A single individual was seen on 20 January at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Morgan Co., AL, establishing the 3rd Tennessee Valley and the 6th inland records.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI - Two birds found in November remained at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, until 2 December (Don Ware, many observers).

BURROWING OWL - Two birds were seen on 16 January during the Audubon monitoring of the colony at Eglin Air Force Base, FL (Lenny Fenimore).

SHORT-EARED OWL - At least two were seen regularly between 29 November-17 March at Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge, Lauderdale Co., AL (Damien J. Simbeck, G. Ned Piper, Paul D. Kittle et al.). Another was seen on the Waterloo CBC, Smithsonia, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (William J. Rogers, Larry Derrick).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - An individual recaptured at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL, on 21 December had been banded in November 1997 in Metairie, Jefferson Parish, LA, by Nancy Newfield (Fred Bassett).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - One was banded in Niceville, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 21 December and two in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 11 January (Fred Bassett).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - An individual that was banded in January 1998, Niceville, Okaloosa Co., FL, was recaptured on 8 December at the same location (Fred Bassett).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - An individual banded in 1995 was recaptured on 11 January in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL (Fred Bassett).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - One to two birds found at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, in November, remained at that location until 23 February (Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, many observers).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER - The adult found in November at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, was still present as of 30 January (Don Ware et al., many observers). This is the third consecutive year in a row that this species has been seen at this location.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - This species is rare in winter, so singles on 30 January and 6 February at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, were noteworthy (Nancy Gobris, Don Ware).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - An adult male was at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - One or two were heard on 9-10 February and again on 28 February at Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL (Larry Gardella).

TREE SWALLOW - One was early on 27 February at Lake Porter, Jefferson Co., AL (Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow, Sharon S. Hudgins). Another was at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, on 28 February (Steve W. McConnell).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - One was early on 27 February at Lake Porter, Jefferson Co., AL (Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow, Sharon S. Hudgins).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - A high count for the Tennessee Valley was 55 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - The 394 that were recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January, was a high count for Alabama.

AMERICAN PIPIT - A maximum for Alabama was the 1204 counted on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Morgan/Limestone counties, AL, on 19 December.

NORTHERN PARULA - The 4th December record for the area was an individual on 4 December at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - The first winter record for n.w. Alabama and the Tennessee Valley and the 3rd winter record for the state was one in Killen, Lauderdale Co., between 10 January-3 March (Shirley Wayland, many observers).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - An individual seen at Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., FL, on 25 December and 8 January was the first local December record (Robert A. Duncan, Sam Tagatz, Scotty Tagatz).

WILSON'S WARBLER - One seen on 6 February on the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, was the 1st winter Tennessee Valley record and the 7th winter record for the state.

SCARLET TANAGER - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 17 December was the 1st winter record for the state (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

WESTERN TANAGER - A first year male was at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 19 January (Don Ware, Carol Ware, Helene King).

CHIPPING SPARROW - A maximum count for the Tennessee Valley was the 214 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, 19 December.

LARK SPARROW - An adult on 2 January in Petersville, Lauderdale Co., was the 2nd winter record for inland Alabama (Jeff T. Garner). Singles were also seen on the Pensacola CBC, 19 December (Merilu Rose, Rufus Rose), and in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 25 February (Don Ware).

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HENSLow'S SPARROW - The good winter record was one on 19 December at Auburn, Lee Co., AL (W. Douglas Robinson, Geoff E. Hill). One was also seen on 6 February at Greenville, Butler Co., AL (Charles Kennedy, many observers).

LECONTE'S SPARROW - Three were at Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 7 February (Tony Meyer).

SONG SPARROW - A good count was 556 that were recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - A good count was 386 on 27 December on Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL (Steve W. McConnell).

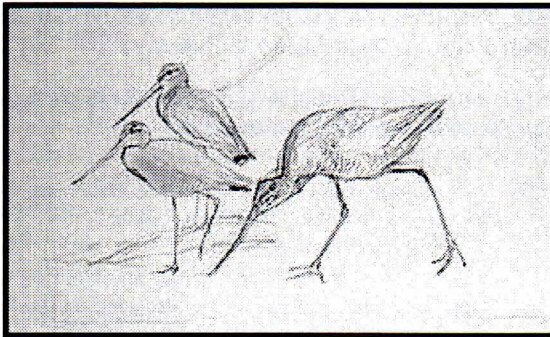
INDIGO BUNTING - A rare occurrence for the season was a male at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

PAINTED BUNTING - A female was present between 17 December and at least 7 January at Foley, Baldwin Co., and was the 5th winter record for Alabama (Ann L. Miller).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - An adult male seen 9 January at Montevallo, Shelby Co., AL, was a rare winter find, as were two females at Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 21 December (Lenny Fenimore).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - This species is very rare in the coastal area, so the five at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, that appeared in late November and remained until January 26 were noteworthy.

* Records and annotations provided by Greg D. Jackson and Robert A. Duncan



Godwits, 1925c, Louis A. Fuertes