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Cover: Red-Crossbill, Bill Summerour, 1998

A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS OF BREEDING RED CROSSBILLS (*LOXIA CURVIROSTRA*) IN NORTHEAST ALABAMA

Bill Summerour

A small population of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*; call type 2, verified by J. Groth) totaling between 11 and 20 birds, including several breeding pairs, was observed between June 1998 and May 1999 at two sites five miles (8 km) apart in Cleburne County in northeast Alabama. The first site, where seven crossbills were first discovered on 4 June 1998, was an open seed tree forest on private land 1.5 miles (2.4 km) south of the small rural community of Oak Level. The second site, where a pair was found feeding fledglings on 26 October 1998, was in the Shoal Creek District of the Talladega National Forest. The elevation of the two sites averaged 1,100 feet (335 m). Ninety trips were made to the two study sites between 26 October 1998 and 19 May 1999, 82 to the Talladega National Forest and eight to the Oak Level site. Six other trips were made to the Oak Level site between 4 and 21 June 1998.

Nine species of birds other than crossbills were observed feeding on the seeds of open pine cones, but only the crossbills were seen extracting seeds from closed cones. At both study sites, crossbills foraged only on the seeds of loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*). In winter this specialized diet was supplemented with the seeds of tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and in spring the emerging buds and catkins of oaks (*Quercus* spp.). The stomach contents of two nestlings, killed when their nest fell from the tree, contained loblolly seed kernels, seed coats, sand and carbon grit, and numerous oil droplets.

Courtship activities included males singing and chasing females, display flights above the canopy, and males feeding females. Display flights were observed October to January, while males chasing females were witnessed October to February. On several occasions, males were observed physically attacking and driving away intruding males that came too close to the nesting site. These attacks, or pursuits, were accompanied by vigorous singing. This active defense of the nesting area was interpreted as evidence of territoriality.

Both sexes participated in the search for a nesting site, but it was the female that made the final selection. The time spent searching for a site ranged from two to four days. Pairs were observed looking for nesting sites 20 to 21 December, 6 to 10 February, 20 February and 7 April. During the search for a nesting site and during the early stages of nest construction, the male and female would often engage in "gaping," a term coined by the author to describe a ritualistic behavior in which the two birds would sit or stand side by side on a potential nest site, or on the nest platform, hold up their heads with beaks pointed skyward, and open and close their beaks. Gaping was often followed by much "billing," or rubbing and touching the beaks together.

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Of eight nests found, six were in loblolly pines, one in a shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), and an old nest from a previous year was found on the ground under shortleaf pines. All of the nests were well concealed. Five were placed well out on horizontal or upward sloping limbs and two were almost completely hidden from view in the very top of tall loblolly pines. Nest trees averaged 46 cm (18 inches) in diameter, 18 m (60 feet) high and 69 years old. Height of nests from the ground ranged from 13 to 18 m (43 to 60 feet) with an average of 16 m (53 feet).

Nest construction was observed 21 December through 15 April, and time required for construction varied from seven to 13 days. Cold or windy weather had little effect on nest building activities, but a prolonged period of cold rain and freezing rain in December was suspected of causing one pair to stop construction. The shallow, loosely constructed, thick-walled nests (see cover) were made from the twigs of loblolly, shortleaf and Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) and southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), the racemes and skeletonized leaves of sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), bark shreds, pine needles, *Usnea* lichens, oak catkins (April) and a few rootlets. Tent caterpillar silk was used to loosely bind the materials together. The lining of the only nest examined in hand was composed of soft, weathered pine needles and bits of *Usnea* lichens. All materials were gathered from trees within a few hundred feet of the nest. The birds were never observed gathering any nesting material from the ground.

Inclusive egg dates were from 18 or 19 February to 20 May. The incubation period, based on behavior of the incubating female, was about 14 days. Two nestlings found dead after their nest fell from the tree were noticeably different in size, suggesting incubation started before the last egg was laid. Only the female incubated the eggs and brooded the young. Incubating females took short three to four minute rest breaks about every two hours.

The male sustained the female while she was on the nest by regurgitating to her food stored in his crop. This whitish, viscous "slurry" of loblolly seed kernels was delivered to the female in "loads" or "wads" containing an estimated 20 or more seeds in each load. After feedings, which were usually untidy, messy affairs, females were observed meticulously cleaning their beaks with their long, wet tongues for up to 20 minutes.

Nestlings were observed from 20 January to 24 May. The feeding interval for the nestlings varied, but tended to increase in frequency as the young grew older. In one nest, the feeding interval for two nestlings within three days of fledging averaged about one hour. For the first week of the nestling period, fecal sacs were ingested by the female. After the first week, both the male and female consumed the droppings. A few days prior to fledging, the fecal sacs were left to accumulate in the cup of the nest or on the rim. Fledging was gradual (as opposed to direct) in the one nest in which fledging was witnessed. After leaving the nest, the young continued to be fed by the parents for up to a month or more. Malocclusion was completed in about the same length of time.

One pair was observed feeding three fledglings from a previous nesting while the female was working on a nest. Although the birds were not marked, this strongly

suggested the same pair of birds remained together for more than one brood. Once incubation was underway, the female discouraged the fledglings from begging food, but the male continued to feed the three young even after he was busy caring for the female and young of the present nest.

There was also convincing evidence of renesting. On 5 April, the nest of one pair fell from the tree, killing the nestlings. On 7 April, the male and female were observed searching for a nesting site in the immediate vicinity of the fallen nest. On 8 April, the female began work on another nest only 46 m (150 feet) from the tree from which the nest fell. She completed the nest in less than a week and was back on eggs in only 11 days. Although unmarked, it is highly unlikely that another pair would move into the area one or two days after the nest fell and build a nest only 46 m away. The male also continued to frequent the same favored singing posts. Interestingly, the female abandoned the nest at the time the eggs were due to hatch, or had already hatched. On 28 April, she was observed removing and discarding a dark object from the nest, wiping off her beak, then flying off. She never returned. Could the object have been a dead Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) hatchling, causing her to abandon the nest? This is a possibility since cowbirds were present and common in the area, which raises questions about the fate of young cowbirds hatched out in crossbill nests. It was not possible to examine the contents of the nest since it was 30 cm (one foot) from the top of an 18 m (58 foot) pine.

In the Talladega National Forest, Red Crossbills require mature or old growth stands of loblolly pines for foraging and nesting. Conservation and management should be directed toward preserving and maintaining the pine stands, or "recruitment stands," already in place and managed for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*).

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I would like to thank Mary Lynn Mentz of the U.S. Forest Service and Eric Soehren of the Alabama State Lands Division for helping with the GPS data and with other measurements collected in the field. Their help was appreciated. Thanks to Jeff Garner for typing the manuscript.

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AUBURN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

Julian L. Dusi

At the end of the second millenium it seems desirable to add to the previously published Auburn Christmas Bird Counts (*Alabama Birdlife* 38: 14-21) to complete the counts for the millenium. A greater number of participants, including several professional ornithologists, were present during the final years of the decade, resulting in better area coverage and higher species totals (Table 1). They were also better able to identify the unusual species present. The counts occurred between 17 December and 3 January within a 7.5 mile radius circle that was centered in the city of Auburn. The Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was a female banded as an immature by Robert Sargent and had just been recaptured by Fred Bassett for its fifth year.

TABLE 1. Records of Auburn Christmas Bird Counts 1991- 1999, Auburn, Alabama.

Species	Year								
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
Common Loon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*
Horned Grebe	0	0	1*	1	0	0	0	1	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	18	25	4	42	10	21	35
D.-c. Cormorant	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	1
Great B. Heron	11	10	40	21	20	22	33	32	41
Great Egret	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada Goose	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	20	50
White-fr. Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mallard	0	0	45	21	24	48	6	21	39
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	5
Green-w. Teal	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wood Duck	0	3	15	2	30	5	6	18	165
Ring-n. Duck	0	0	2	5	3	147	2	1	24
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	46	1	11	0
C. Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
Bufflehead	0	0	0	1	2	2	10	0	8
Ruddy Duck	2	0	0	1	0	4	8	12	12
Hood. Merganser	14	40	10	11	52	6	113	39	131
Red-b. Merganser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Turkey Vulture	14	17	43	0	24	57	31	57	112

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TABLE I. Continued

Species	Year								
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
Black Vulture	32	35	56	0	8	62	20	27	182
Sharp-sh. Hawk	0	1	2	0	2	1*	2	3	1
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	1	0	1	1*	0	3	10
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	21	0	11	8	9	10	46
Red-sh. Hawk	2	0	3	1	0	6	3	7	8
Broad-w. Hawk	0	0	1*	0	0	1	0	1	0
N. Harrier	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merlin	0	0	1*	0	0	0	1	0	0
Am. Kestrel	1	1	9	0	7	7	7	6	9
Bobwhite	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	7
Turkey	0	0	12	0	2	20	0	49	3
American Coot	0	0	0	0	60	1*	8	8	2
Killdeer	20	50	135	0	36	22	31	21	69
Am. Woodcock	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	12
Common Snipe	0	0	8	0	2	2	2	11	1
Sp. Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Gr. Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Least Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Gull sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0	73	1	0	0	30*
Forster's Tern	0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Dove	46	0	57	0	260	238	0	160	111
Mourning Dove	44	144	87	0	126	184	97	182	363
E. Collared-Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0
E. Screech-Owl	0	0	3	1	2	1	3	1	10
G. Horned Owl	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	9
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	6
Rufous Hum.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1*	1
B. Kingfisher	4	4	18	9	11	6	12	16	21
Northern Flicker	4	6	11	16	8	28	22	34	28
Pil. Woodpecker	1	1*	16	5	2	10	8	14	3
Red-b. Wood.	6	3	24	25	8	31	37	41	26
Red-h. Wood.	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	7
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	1	14	0	3	4	11	8	10	12
Hairy Wood.	0	1	1	2	1	5	3	11	3
Downy Wood.	0	4	7	10	8	18	13	36	32
Eastern Phoebe	2	0	20	5	6	9	12	18	34
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blue Jay	39	10	56	57	52	41	66	80	119
American Crow	32	28	206	240	359	180	259	364	493
Fish Crow	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	4	63

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TABLE I. Continued

Species	Year								
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
C. Chickadee	1	4	47	27	0	102	76	77	80
T. Titmouse	6	5	35	28	26	122	54	66	68
W.-br. Nuthatch	1	1*	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.-br. Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1*
B.-head.Nuthatch	0	2	15	10	10	67	24	31	56
Brown Creeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
House Wren	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	9
Winter Wren	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	9	0
Carolina Wren	2	4	0	34	54	45	31	61	70
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Wren	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
N. Mockingbird	13	4	0	41	11	25	27	97	69
Gray Catbird	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Thrasher	1	1	10	7	9	6	7	12	26
Am. Robin	31	1	1875	16	237	604	1423	149	343
Hermit Thrush	0	0	9	5	4	0	3	7	7
Eastern Bluebird	11	5	54	83	66	110	61	99	142
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Golden-c. Kinglet	0	0	16	4	5	4	17	31	64
Ruby-c. Kinglet	5	8	53	30	13	17	31	41	88
Am. Pipit	1	0	20	1	54	10	73	117	48
Cedar Waxwing	100	0	238	269	100	55	53	20	70
L. Shrike	2	3	11	15	6	2	5	8	16
E. Starling	39	125	4076	610	179	72	252	688	1173
Blue-h. Vireo	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	2	4
Orange-c. Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Yellow-r. Warbler	17	18	80	172	71	239	64	340	147
Pine Warbler	3	3	22	120	33	56	25	99	118
Palm Warbler	0	0	1	0	9	1	0	1	0
C. Yellowthroat	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	4	15
House Sparrow	2	0	2	36	1	13	18	87	20
E. Meadowlark	29	1	257	98	92	66	31	72	112
Red-w. Blackbird	25	15	5011	405	9	176	253	482	590
Rusty Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	0
Brew. Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Com. Grackle	225	2062	10494	156	4	3095	415	1275	3555
Br.-h Cowbird	0	0	600	10	30	5	70	44	213
Northern Cardinal	7	9	51	70	76	51	99	81	101
Purple Finch	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
House Finch	2	28	45	142	23	42	0	84	22
Pine Siskin	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Am. Goldfinch	2	2	90	47	180	97	103	70	87

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TABLE 1. Continued

Species	Year								
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
E. Towhee	2	6	14	14	35	28	85	58	77
Sav. Sparrow	1	0	196	30	62	67	24	62	57
Hen. Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
LeC. Sparrow	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	0	1	57	3	60	36	71	72	27
Chip. Sparrow	25	10	5	59	106	252	94	121	529
Field Sparrow	2	12	78	47	140	3	8	20	131
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	9	2	76	90	63	60	169	100	193
Fox Sparrow	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	2
Linc. Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40*
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	23	22	87	60	35	120	56
Song Sparrow	4	0	59	87	148	191	66	197	142
Total Species	50	42	80	79	78	85	79	89	95
No. of Participants	11	25	21	8	8	14	15	22	22

* seen during the count period.

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**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
1996-97**

Steve McConnell, Secretary 1999-2001

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews reports of species that generally have fewer than 20 accepted records for the state. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes around 90 species, are voted on once by all committee members and then sometimes twice if the first vote is indecisive. Vote totals with no more than one "not accepted" vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more "not accepted" votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions following one or two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

Forty-nine records from 19 observers were evaluated in 1996 (Table 1). Forty-two were accepted and seven were not accepted. In 1997, 32 records from 15 observers were reviewed (Table 2). Twenty-three were accepted and nine were not accepted. During the 1996-1997 evaluation period, four species were added to the Alabama state list: Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, California Gull, Green Violet-ear, and Blue-throated Hummingbird.

Presently, the AOS state bird list has 415 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Carolina Parakeet) and two extirpated from Alabama (Common Raven and Bachman's Warbler). In addition, 12 species are listed in the hypothetical category due to the absence of a photograph or specimen, or written documentation of visual observations by at least three experienced observers.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the 1996 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 52 records from 19 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
95-24	Allen's Hummingbird	1/31/95	Mobile	NI	—
95-40	Ruff	5/14/95	Baldwin	A	4
95-45	Blue-throated Hummingbird	7/21/95	Jefferson	A	1, H ^c
96-1	Red-necked Grebe	2/20/96	Marshall	A	8

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TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
96-2	Western Grebe	12/13/95	Marshall	A	2
96-3	White-faced Ibis	10/10/95	Mobile	A	9
96-4	duplicate record (deleted)		—		
96-5	Ross's Goose	11/12/95	Limestone	A	14
96-6	Ross's Goose	2/24/96	Colbert	A	15
96-7	Harlequin Duck	10/15/95	Mobile	NI	—
96-8	White-tailed Kite	10/22/95	Baldwin	A	9
96-9	Swainson's Hawk	10/13/95	Mobile	A	20+
96-10	Swainson's Hawk	10/21/95	Baldwin	A	20+
96-11	Swainson's Hawk	10/24/95	Baldwin	RC	—
96-12	Ferruginous Hawk	11/2/95	Mobile	NI	—
96-13	Hudsonian Godwit	11/8/95	Mobile	A	14
96-14	Red Phalarope	10/26/95	Marshall	A	17
96-15	duplicate record (deleted)				
96-16	Lesser Black-backed Gull	11/24/95	Marshall	A	8
96-17	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/1/95	Henry	A	10
96-18	Brown Noddy	9/10/95	pelagic ^a	A	4
96-19	Green Violet-ear	11/1/95	Mobile	A	1
96-20	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	11/14/95	Mobile	A	2
96-21	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/29/95	Baldwin	A	3
96-22	Anna's Hummingbird	11/10/95	Montgomery	A	2
96-23	Calliope Hummingbird	10/18/95	Baldwin	NI	—
96-24	Allen's Hummingbird	12/8/95	Shelby	A	5
96-25	Allen's Hummingbird	10/31/95	Montgomery	A	6
96-26	Allen's Hummingbird	12/29/95	Baldwin	A	7
96-27	Ash-throated Flycatcher	10/29/95	Baldwin	A	18
96-28	Bell's Vireo	9/10/95	Baldwin	A	18
96-29	Bell's Vireo	9/17/95	Baldwin	A	19
96-30	Bell's Vireo	9/25/95	Baldwin	A	20
96-31	Bell's Vireo	10/7/95	Baldwin	A	20+
96-32	Smith's Longspur	1/29/96	Limestone	NI	—
96-33	Red-necked Grebe	12/3/95	Marshall	A	9
96-34	Western Grebe	3/31/96	Marshall	A	3
96-35	Cory's Shearwater	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	3
96-36	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	15
96-37	Leach's Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	2

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96-38	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	1
96-39	Roseate Spoonbill	7/14/96	Colbert	A	12
96-40	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	5/12/96	Colbert	A	2
96-41	Pomarine Jaeger	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	16
96-42	California Gull	4/15/96	Baldwin	A	1, H ^c
96-43	Thayer's Gull	2/23/96	Marshall	A	2, H ^c
96-44	Lesser Black-backed Gull	4/20/96	Baldwin	A	9
96-45	Bridled Tern	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	14
96-46	Cave Swallow	4/5/96	Baldwin	A	10
96-47	Shiny Cowbird	5/8/96	Baldwin	A	14
96-48	Western Grebe	2/1/96	Baldwin	NI	—
96-49	Clark's Grebe	2/1/96	Baldwin	NI	—

^a Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin Counties

^b A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; RC = removed from circulation due to greater than 20 accepted records.

^c H = hypothetical

^d number of accepted records

TABLE 2. Evaluations by the 1997 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 32 records from 15 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
97-1	Greater Shearwater	9/14/96	Baldwin	A	19
97-2	Neotropic Cormorant	10/5/96	Baldwin	NI	—
97-3	Ross's Goose	11/14/96	Limestone	A	16
97-4	Brant	11/22/96	Lawrence	A	6
97-5	White-tailed Kite	9/22/96	Baldwin	A	10
97-6	Black-headed Gull	11/29/96	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-7	Lesser Black-backed Gull	10/26/96	Baldwin	A	10
97-8	Black-legged Kittiwake	11/28/96	Colbert	A	11
97-9	Willow Flycatcher	5/12/96	Morgan	A	9
97-10	Townsend's Solitaire	10/7/96	Baldwin	NI	—
97-11	American Tree Sparrow	1/8/96	Lauderdale	A	14
97-12	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	11/11/96	Mobile	NI	—
97-13	Red-necked Grebe	11/26/95	Colbert	A	10
97-14	Western Grebe	12/14/96	Marshall	A	4
97-15	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	15

TABLE 2. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
97-16	Leach's Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	3
97-17	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	2
97-18	Great Cormorant	4/2/97	Baldwin	A	13
97-19	Ross's Goose	1/4/97	Lauderdale	A	17
97-20	Eurasian Wigeon	12/8/97	Morgan	A	6
97-21	Northern Goshawk	3/2/87	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-22	Northern Goshawk	1/9/96	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-23	Prairie Falcon	12/28/96	Marshall	A	2
97-24	Ruff	8/15/94	Colbert	NI	—
97-25	Red-necked Phalarope	5/7/97	Shelby	A	16
97-26	Pomarine Jaeger	1/30/97	Marshall	A	17
97-27	Pomarine Jaeger	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	18
97-28	California Gull	2/17/96	Colbert	NI	—
97-29	California Gull	3/17/97	Mobile	A	2, H ^c
97-30	Lesser Black-backed Gull	12/5/96	Colbert	A	11
97-31	Arctic Tern	5/10/97	Baldwin	NI	—
97-32	Shiny Cowbird	4/15/97	Mobile	A	15

^a Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin Counties

^b A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions

^c H = hypothetical

^d number of accepted records

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SIGHTINGS: FALL AND WINTER 1999-2000

Greg D. Jackson

Autumn and winter are exciting times, especially for those in search of off-course strays. This year did not disappoint, as witnessed by the rarities presented below for both seasons. A bonus was Alabama participation in the Migration Over the Gulf Project, monitoring trans-Gulf migration from offshore drilling platforms. Previously this was performed only off Louisiana, but this fall the program was expanded to include several rigs in Texas and one in Alabama waters.

Weather in early fall was dry, with normal to mildly elevated temperatures. October and November continued to be slightly warm, but with normal rainfall totals. Numbers of transients on the coast were generally good through much of September, and after fronts 10 and 14 October. No tropical storms struck our area this autumn, though in late September Tropical Storm Harvey passed through the northern Gulf. Weather was mostly dry and warm throughout the winter season.

This report covers the period from August 1999 through February 2000 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. 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 recently revised AOS 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. Locations not indicating Florida are in Alabama. "AFB" = Air Force Base; "b." = banded; "CBC" = Christmas Bird Count; "et al." = and others (small number); "FWBSF" = Ft. Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa County, FL; "GC" = Gulf Coast (Alabama); "ICP" = Inland Coastal Plain (Alabama); "m.ob." = many observers; "MR" = Mountain Region; "NF" = National Forest; "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge; "p.a." = pending acceptance by the state bird records committee; "Petronius" = Viosca Knoll 786 Texaco platform, 71 miles south of Gulf Shores, Baldwin County (water depth 1750 feet); "ph." = photographed; "SP" = State Park; "TV" = Tennessee Valley; "v." = videotaped; "WMA" = Wildlife Management Area; "WP" = Western Panhandle of Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa

Counties). Other abbreviations in parentheses correspond to observers listed at the end of this article.

LOONS TO DUCKS

Red-throated Loons, rare but regular in our area, were spotted 20 December at Destin, *Okaloosa* (WJB) and 2 February at West Point L., *Chambers* (SWM). Expected now on the coast and in the TV, Pacific Loons were observed 23 December-30 January at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* (RAD, LRD, SRM et al.), 25 December-9 February at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* (SWM, m.ob.), and 1 and 26 January at two sites in coastal *Baldwin* (RRR, ALM, ADM). Good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were tallied this year, with at least 600 at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 7 November (SWM), and 96 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 1 January, the latter setting a new GC maximum. An alternate-plumaged Eared Grebe 6 August+ at FWBSF (RAD, EC, m.ob.) established a new early WP date; also early was the individual east of Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 8 September (RAD, LRD). The Eared 26 December-8 January at Guntersville, *Marshall* (SWM et al., ph.) was rare inland. Setting a new state high count, 22 Eareds were at Week's Bay, *Baldwin*, 31 January (ALM, ADM).

The offshore migration project at the Petronius platform yielded major pelagic dividends this fall. At least 10 **Cory's Shearwaters** were documented there 19 August-6 October (SJP, some v., p.a.); Alabama had only seven prior accepted records. Additionally, a minimum of 10 Greater Shearwaters was recorded 18 August-13 October (SJP, WDP, some v., p.a.), more than half as many as the previous 19 state records. Representing an eighth WP observation, a **Sooty Shearwater** was seen at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, 23 December (RAD). Three **Audubon's Shearwaters** appeared 13 October at Ft. Pickens, with two seen 20 October (both RAD); only two previous Audubon's have been identified in the WP. Another Audubon's can be identified from videotape obtained 31 October at Petronius (SJP, p.a.), for the seventh Alabama record. An unidentified storm-petrel was late 4 October at Petronius (SJP).

A stellar find, Alabama's first **Red-billed Tropicbird** was an adult at Petronius 30 August (SJP, ph., p.a.). A few Masked Boobies are expected well offshore, and six were documented on five dates 18 August-13 November at Petronius (SJP, v.); an adult was spotted 6 December at Ft. Pickens, FL (LFG, PB, PJ). Two very rare immature **Brown Boobies** were unexpected in winter. One was near Little Dauphin I., *Mobile*, 22 December (MSVH, RWH, p.a.), and a differently-patterned bird was at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 January (SER, p.a.). An impressive congregation of 600 Northern Gannets was at Ft. Pickens, FL, 22 January (RAD). Difficult to find inland, especially in numbers, up to 34 American

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White Pelicans were a surprise 31 October-26 November at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone* (TAB, DB, HD, SWM, m.ob.). Even more unusual was a Brown Pelican wandering the Tennessee R. between Decatur and Florence 15 October-28 November (SW, TAB, SWM, m.ob., ph.), for only the seventh inland Alabama record. An immature **Great Cormorant** 14-22 December at Dauphin I., *Mobile* (RWH, MSVH, p.a.) was only the 14th noted for Alabama.

Eight Wood Storks 26 September in north *Baldwin* (BS) were rare for the GC; one stork 31 October in *Lowndes* (LFG) was unusually late. A flock of 70 Black Vultures 22 November in Guin, *Marion* (JJ) set a new MR maximum; the tally of 145 Turkey Vultures on the Gulf Shores CBC 1 January similarly raised the ante on the GC. Rare on the coast in winter, 14 Greater White-fronted Geese were at FWBSF 23 December (DMW), and up to 18 were near Foley, *Baldwin*, 20-31 January (ALM, ADM). At Speigner L., *Elmore*, 25 White-fronteds established an ICP maximum 6 February (BCG). A large movement of Snow Geese was observed 14 November, with 4000-5000 in the Florence area, *Lauderdale/Colbert* (DJS, PDK, WJR et al.); an estimated 500 Snows that day in east *Jefferson* (SWM) provided an MR maximum. Ross's Goose continues to appear annually in Alabama. Two were at the usual site in Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 November+ (SWM, m.ob.). The Ross's 29-31 January in south *Baldwin* (ALM, ADM) was only the fifth for the GC, while a first MR record was furnished by an individual near Harpersville, *Shelby*, 5 February+ (ALM, ADM, m.ob.).

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared again this winter at Wheeler NWR 24 November+ (GEH, WDR, m.ob.). Rarely seen in winter in north Alabama, a Blue-winged Teal was at Blountsville, *Blount*, 14 January (SWM). At least 150 Greater Scaup were noteworthy 15 January at Guntersville, *Marshall* (WDR et al.); these were overshadowed by more than 1000 birds, setting an Alabama maximum, 9 February in the Tennessee R. at Town Cr., *Colbert/Lauderdale* (DJS). Another high count for the state was furnished by 80 Surf Scoters 1 December at Ft. Morgan (LRD, RAD et al.); up to 18 Surfs and 12 Blacks were noteworthy 6 January-9 February in east Mobile Bay, *Baldwin* (BS, m.ob.). Rare inland, a White-winged Scoter was in the Tennessee R., *Colbert*, 15 and 23 January (PDK, WJR, PJN, GNP et al.).

RAPTORS TO OWLS

At least 75 Mississippi Kites provided an Alabama high count 13 August in *Autauga* (RRS); one bird 29 September near Wilson Dam, *Colbert* (TMH) was unusual for that area. Extremely rare both for winter and an inland locale, an adult Swainson's Hawk was spotted 10 January at Huntsville, *Madison* (SRM).

A Black Rail observed at Dauphin I. 8-10 October (TAP, GLH, PK et al.) was rare. Three early Soras were at FWBSF 14 August (DMW, AK). Fifteen Sandhill Cranes were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 December (GEH), and up to 45 were counted at Wheeler NWR this winter (WDR, m.ob.); cranes are now regular in winter at these sites. More unusual were three Sandhills 23 January at Speigner, *Elmore* (LFG).

Setting a late ICP date, an American Golden-Plover was at the Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, 21 November (LFG, CTS). Two American Oystercatchers were unusual at Ft. Pickens, FL, 7 September (RAD). Rare inland, an American Avocet appeared in *Lauderdale* 10 October (TMH). Only the second in winter in the state, a Solitary Sandpiper was in Gulf Shores 1-2 January (HHK et al.). Two Spotted Sandpipers 2-9 January at Wilson Dam (PDK, m.ob.) were rare for the TV in winter; six on the Gulf Shores CBC 1 January were unusually abundant at that season. A fall inland maximum for Alabama was provided by 13 Upland Sandpipers in *Lowndes* 13 August (GDJ, GSA). The second MR sighting of Whimbrel occurred 12 September, when one appeared at Harpersville, *Shelby* (GJH, HHK, m.ob.). Up to 14 Marbled Godwits were impressive 11-13 October at Dauphin I. (JKS, m.ob.). Rare inland, a Ruddy Turnstone was located 29 August in *Shelby* (SWM).

White-rumped Sandpiper is rare in autumn. Two birds were in *Lowndes* 8 August (LFG) and another was at FWBSF 15 September (DMW); a White-rumped 28 October at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (GEH et al.) established a late Alabama date. Also behind schedule was a Baird's Sandpiper 7 October at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile* (SWM). For a new TV arrival date, a Pectoral Sandpiper was found at Swan Creek WMA 13 February (DR & RC). The **Purple Sandpiper** at the Pensacola Bay Bridge, *Santa Rosa*, 27 February+ (PCT, BT, m.ob.) was only the fifth in the WP, and the first in 21 years. Late for the GC, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was near Foley, *Baldwin*, to 21 October (BS). Rare in winter, two Long-billed Dowitchers were at Swan Creek WMA 16 December (GDJ). The Wilson's Phalarope 10 August in *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD, LRD) was locally rare.

Rare but regular in the Gulf, three Pomarine Jaegers were identified at Petronius 24 August, 9 October, and 2 November (SJP). The surprising **Long-tailed Jaeger** 8 August at Ft. Pickens (RAD) provided a first WP record. Unidentified jaegers were noted 2 September at Petronius (SJP), 11 September at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD), and 1 January at Gulf Shores (SWM). Rare but regular in the TV, a Laughing Gull was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale*, 25 November-5 December (SWM, GNP, MA). Expected in small numbers in our region, I received seven reports of 11 Franklin's Gulls beginning 7 October from the WP, GC, and TV

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(SWM, AS, GNP, MA, DMW, RAD). Slowly increasing in incidence, rare Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed again this winter. Adults were in the Florence area 6-18 January (GDJ, m.ob.) and at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 31 January (ALM, ADM); a first-year bird occurred at Guntersville 12 February (SWM). A rare immature Glaucous Gull was at Guntersville from at least 13 February (GDJ, DGJ, LBR, RAR, v.). The immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** 14 November at Riverton, *Colbert* (GNP, MA, p.a.) was an exciting find and only the 13th for the state.

Bridled Tern, expected far offshore in the warmer months, was recorded at Petronius 24 August and 1 November (both SJP), the latter a late date for Alabama. A stellar find, a **White-crowned Pigeon** was at Dune Allen Beach, *Walton*, 14-15 August (GB, DMW, AK et al., ph.); this southern vagrant had been recorded twice previously in the WP. Eurasian Collared-Dove continues to increase in our area; an Alabama maximum of 265 was recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC 1 January, and 96 collared-doves 22 December in *Limestone* (SWM) provided a new high count for the TV. While expected, and increasing, on the coast, White-winged Dove is very rare inland; one at Greenville, *Butler*, 22 November (AM) furnished a seventh inland record. Rare but regular in the WP, a Groove-billed Ani was spotted at FWBSF 25 November (LW).

Pelagic owl records are slim indeed, so the **Long-eared Owl** at Petronius 16 November (SJP, v., p.a.) was a shock; this represented the 12th record for Alabama, and the first since 1977. The erratic Short-eared Owl was noted inland 6 November+ in *Lauderdale* (TMH, PDK, MA, m.ob.), 14 December at Eufaula NWR (BF), and 14 January-7 March in *Autauga* (three birds; TAP, SER, m.ob.). Coastal records are scarce, but this year single birds were observed 1 December at Ft. Morgan (LRD, RAD et al.), 27 December at Big Lagoon SP, *Escambia*, FL (WJB, DZ, TM), and 29-30 January in *Santa Rosa*, FL (BCG, LFG et al.). A tardy nighthawk (unidentified) was spotted 30 December at Wilmer, *Mobile* (MC). Three Whip-poor-wills 13 August in Oakmulgee WMA, *Bibb* (GDJ, GSA) probably represented a new, or at least unreported, southern breeding locality.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO WOOD-WARBLERS

The rare **Buff-bellied Hummingbird**, recorded in Alabama seven times before 1999, appeared this fall and winter at several coastal locales beginning as early as 15 September in Cantonment, *Escambia*, FL (BK). One was banded at Daphne, *Baldwin*, 17 October (RRS, MBS, SF, ph., p.a.), another Buff-bellied was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL, 24 December+ (B&CK, FB, b.), and an individual was seen 14-16 January at Gulf Shores (PBI, JAL, p.a.). With only one previous inland record, the Buff-bellied at Brewton, *Escambia* 15 January+ (FB, A&MBW

et al., b., ph., p.a.) was particularly noteworthy. **Calliope Hummingbird** had been found six times in Alabama, and nine times in the WP, before this season. Immatures were banded 29 November at Albertville, *Marshall* (RRS, MBS, BP, ph., p.a.), 21 December in Pensacola, FL (FB, PB), and 15 January in Mobile (RRS, MBS, SWH, ph., p.a.). Alabama's fourth **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was in Mobile 15 January-14 February (FB, RRS, MBS, LB, m.ob., b., ph., p.a.). Furnishing a 13th Alabama record, an **Allen's Hummingbird** was in Montgomery 7 November (FB, RC, b., ph., p.a.); another was in Mobile 16 January (RRS, MBS, JE, b., ph., p.a.).

A count of 113 Red-bellied Woodpeckers 18 December on the Waterloo CBC, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, furnished a new TV maximum. Rare but expected in early fall, Olive-sided Flycatchers were found 31 August in Birmingham (BCG), 3 September in Guin, *Marion* (JJ), and 5 September at Ft. Morgan (DC, MD, JF). An impressive total of 17 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was recorded at Ft. Morgan 3 September-2 October (DC et al., b.). Scarce Vermilion Flycatchers were noted at FWBSF 30 September+ (RAD, LRD, m.ob.), Gulf Shores 1 December (LRD), and 14 December+ at Eufaula NWR (BF, m.ob.), the last especially rare inland. One to two rare Ash-throated Flycatchers were at FWBSF 11 December-15 January (LRD, MN et al.). An early Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Gulf Breeze 28 August (RAD), providing a first WP record for August; another 20 December at Cedar Point, *Mobile* (BS) was rare in winter.

Regular in small numbers on the coast in early autumn, Bell's Vireos were banded 31 August and 7 September at Ft. Morgan (DC et al., ph.). A lingering Blue-headed Vireo was spotted in Florence, *Lauderdale*, 30 November (TMH). Warbling Vireo can be difficult to find, so five at Ft. Morgan 31 August-6 October were notable (DC, RRS, ALM et al., three b.); one was spotted 26 September in Guin, *Marion* (JJ). Horned Larks continued at the Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, with over 100 noted 6 November (TAP) for a recent ICP maximum; at least 50 larks were unusual 10-11 November at the Birmingham airport (RRS). Two Purple Martins 22 February at Florence (DCI) were early for northwest Alabama. An early Red-breasted Nuthatch was in north *Shelby* 30 September (FM), and 38 on the Waterloo CBC 18 December set a TV high count.

A rare Bewick's Wren was discovered 2 October at Margerum, *Colbert* (GNP, MA). For an early WP record, a Sedge Wren was spotted 18 September at FWBSF (DMW). Eight Marsh Wrens in *Lowndes* 8 November (LFG) were notable for an inland locale. Good numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared at the coast this fall, with an early individual 13 October at Ft. Morgan (DC et al., b.). On the Waterloo CBC 18 December, 286 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were tallied for a new TV maximum. Good numbers of Veeries were banded at Ft. Morgan

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this autumn, including one bird 30 August setting an early GC date (DC et al.). **Sprague's Pipits** were observed at two sites on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 19 and 26 February (CP, DMW, LF), representing fourth and fifth WP occurrences.

The Golden-winged Warbler banded 12 October at Ft. Morgan (DC et al.) was tardy. Excellent numbers of Magnolia Warblers occurred coastally (*fide* DC, SJP), with a peak count of 112 at Petronius 12 October (SJP). Rare autumn Cape May Warblers were noted on Petronius 25 and 30 September (SJP, one v.); even more unusual was the Cape May 1 January on the Gulf Shores CBC (RRR), fourth for the state in winter. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, difficult to find inland, were seen 3 and 15 October near Birmingham (BCG). Alabama's ninth "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** appeared at Petronius 12 October (SJP). Eight Blackburnian Warblers were noteworthy as early as 31 August on Petronius (SJP), and one bird 16 October in Montgomery (LFG) was behind schedule. A total of 357 Pine Warblers 1 January on the Gulf Shores CBC set a new Alabama maximum. Two Prairie Warblers on the Gulf Shores count (JVP, PCT et al.) were very rare, with only five prior winter records in the state.

An early Palm Warbler was banded at Ft. Morgan 11 September (DC et al.). Occasional in autumn, a Blackpoll Warbler was on Dauphin I. 9 October (JKS, v.). Considering negative population trends in recent years, the observation of eight Cerulean Warblers 31 August on Petronius (SJP) was notable, and furnished a GC fall maximum. Another good count on Petronius was of 158 American Redstarts 12 October (SJP). The retiring Mourning Warbler was plentiful this autumn on the coast, with one bird on Petronius 28 August (SJP), and a surprising 10 Mournings banded 31 August-30 September at Ft. Morgan (DC et al., ph.). Rare in the TV in winter, a Common Yellowthroat was in *Limestone* 12 February (DR&RC). A Wilson's Warbler 4 September in *Madison* (DR&RC) provided a new early TV date; Alabama's eighth Wilson's in winter was on the Gulf Shores CBC 1 January (PCT, BT).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Rare Western Tanagers were noted twice this fall in the WP; one appeared as early as 15 August at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (RAD, LRD), and another was in *Okaloosa* 1 September (CP). Rare but regular on the coast in fall, Clay-colored Sparrows were noted 22 September on Petronius (SJP), 9-10 October (SWM, JRW et al.) and 13 October (DR&RC) at two sites on Dauphin I., 18-21 October at FWBSF (DMW, LF, LRD et al.), and 26 November+ at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD, LRD, RSD et al.). For a fourth inland record, and first for the ICP, a Clay-colored was discovered 11 February at Eufaula NWR (DMW, LF, m.ob.). A Lark Sparrow at Auburn, *Lee*, 30 September-2 October (GEH) was both rare

and late for the MR. Single Lark Sparrows, uncommon to rare on the coast, were at Ft. Pickens, FL, 18 September-7 October (PCT et al.), Dauphin I. 11 October (JKS, v.), Petronius 14 October (WDP), FWBSF 28 October (LRD et al.), and on the Mobile Causeway 2 December (LRD et al.).

An early Savannah Sparrow was in Shelby 12 September (HHK, m.ob.). The Henslow's Sparrow 12 October at Dauphin I. (DR&RC) furnished an early state arrival date. Another Henslow's was rare for the MR in *Marion* 21 November (JJ), and six were notable 6 February in Conecuh NF, *Covington* (WDR et al.). Three Le Conte's Sparrows 7 October on the Mobile Causeway (RAR, LBR) set an early GC date; four to six birds were rare 21 November+ west of Florence (PDK, GNP, MA, TMH, m.ob.). Three Lincoln's Sparrows 24 October at Ft. Pickens, FL (PCT, BT), and four birds 31 October+ in *Lowndes* (LFG), were unusually plentiful; another Lincoln's in Montgomery 2 January (LFG) was rare for winter. Six White-crowned Sparrows 12 January at Harpersville, *Shelby* (GDJ, DGJ) represented a good recent concentration for the MR in winter.

Lapland Longspur can be hard to locate outside the central TV. The flock of at least 12 birds 21 November at the Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes* (LFG, CTS, PJ, RJ) provided both an early date for the ICP and the first record in decades; a lone bird was at this site 15 January (LFG). More than 75 Laplands were unusual for northwest Alabama 28 November+ west of Florence (TMH, PDK et al.). A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** stunned observers at Ft. Pickens 31 October-2 November (PB, m.ob., ph., p.a.), representing the first WP and third Florida occurrence; Alabama has no records of this western stray. Another big surprise, a **Snow Bunting** studied at close range at Selma, *Dallas*, 17 November (SER, p.a.) was a first for Alabama.

The WP's 13th **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at Gulf Breeze 17 September (LRD, RAD). A lingering Blue Grosbeak was at Ft. Morgan 14 November (WDR). Approximately 700 Indigo Buntings set an Alabama maximum 11 November in *Covington* (CTS, PS). Rare in winter, an adult male Painted Bunting brightened a feeder in Lillian, *Baldwin*, 3 January+ (JD). An early Dickcissel was spotted at Gulf Breeze, FL, 20 August (RAD). Unprecedentedly late for inland Alabama, and rare in fall in the ICP, a Bobolink was located in *Covington* 11 November (CTS, PS). A rare Yellow-headed Blackbird was videotaped at Dauphin I. 12 October (JKS). Far ahead of schedule, and setting a WP arrival record, was a Brewer's Blackbird 15 September at FWBSF (DMW). Not expected on the coast outside spring, a male Shiny Cowbird was spotted at Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (RAD, LWr) for a first WP December record. Establishing a fifth winter record for the state, an Orchard Oriole was discovered 27 December on the Perdido Bay CBC, *Baldwin* (RAD). Small numbers of Red Crossbills

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continued through the winter at the breeding site near Coleman L. in Talladega NF, *Cleburne* (BS).

Cited Observers (area compilers in boldface): Moez Ali, Laurie Bailey, Peggy Baker, Fred Bassett, Gary Belling, Ann & Mike Biggs-Williams, Paul Blevins (PBI), William J. Bremser, Tom A. Brindley, Dick Bruer, Ed Case, Rosalyn Causey, David Cimprich, Danny Clark (DCI), Mich Coker, Dean R. & Raelene Cutten, Michelle Davis, Harry Dean, Jim Dickerson, Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan (northwest Florida)**, R. Scot Duncan, Jeanette Eden, Sarah Fannin, Jeff Farrington, Larry Fenimore, Barry Fleming, Larry F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Tom M. Haggerty, Greg J. Harber, Ralph W. Havard, Gordon L. Hight, Geoff E. Hill, Mark S. Van Hoose, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson (Alabama)**, Pat Johnson, Ron Johnson, Jud Johnston, Betty & Charles Kahn, Beverly Kenney, Paul Kerlinger, Helen H. Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Alan Knothe, Jan A. Lloyd, Anabel Markle, Tom McCaskey, Steve W. McConnell, Ann L. Miller, Al D. Miller, Fred Moore, Sue R. Moske, Mary Newman, Phyllis J. Nofzinger, Charles Parkel, W. David Patton, James V. Peavy, Barry Peppers, Stacy J. Peterson, G. Ned Piper, Tommy A. Pratt, Shawn E. Reed, Robert R. Reid, Linda B. Reynolds, Richard A. Reynolds, W. Doug Robinson, William J. Rogers, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Jan K. Shaw, Alan Sheppard, Damien J. Simbeck, Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow, George Stebbing-Allen, Bill Summerour, Betsy Tetlow, Phil C. Tetlow, Lesley Wanamaker, Donald M. Ware, Shirley Wayland, Sarah Whitfield (SWh), Jeff R. Wilson, Larry Wright (LWr), Dick Zani.

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation, identification or other related topics. Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year. 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 a hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred). A manuscript may also be submitted over the Internet as a file attached to an e-mail addressed to: thaggert@unanov.una.edu.

Manuscripts should be typed and double spaced. A 8 1/2 x 11 inch page format should be used.

Digital images submitted over the Internet, black and white prints, color prints, and slides are acceptable.

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 full 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.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

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

Table titles should be in CAPS and placed above the tables.

Figure legends should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in past issues for the correct format.

Three or fewer 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.

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