

SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2001)

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After wonderful fall and winter seasons marked by outstanding vagrants, the spring migration can only be described as one of the dullest in recent memory. Along the Alabama coast and in the WP, the drought of the past two years continued. March was beset by colder than usual weather, undoubtedly causing a delay in migration, then high pressure settled off the Atlantic Coast and gave us east or southeast winds all season. There were essentially no fallouts this season. The east winds treated us to species that normally migrate to the east of the area, such as Cape May, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Blue warblers, but this hardly made up for the near absence of all thrushes except Wood, Baltimore Orioles, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Even the usually ubiquitous Indigo Bunting was an uncommon sight.

The first records of Crested Caracara and Ruff for the Western Panhandle were established, as well as the first well-documented record of Spotted Towhee for Alabama. The highest all-time count of Willets for the Western Panhandle came from Pensacola. A record late departure date for Winter Wren was set in Birmingham. Participants in the North American Migration Count on 12 May established many new high counts of several species for various regions of Alabama.

This report covers the period from March through May 2001 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article 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 Alabama Ornithological Society 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 and, except for the

Florida counties of *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = subject to review by appropriate records committee; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Ft. Walton Beach Sewerage Facility; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NAMC” = North American Migration Count; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, *Okaloosa*, and *Walton* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

RED-THROATED LOON – A record of a single, casual in the WP, came from Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, 25 March (Phil Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow). The first record, and rare in the Mountain Region, was established by a single at Guin, *Marion*, 3 April (Jud Johnston). Two were seen on the Brown’s Creek area of Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 9 April, a site where this species is rare but regular (Bob Reid).

COMMON LOON – Linda Reynolds *et al.* (NAMC) recorded eight on Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 12 May, a good number for such a late date.

HORNED GREBE – A record of one bird in alternate plumage at Riverton, *Colbert*, 23 April, established a late spring departure date for northwest Alabama (Paul Kittle, Fran Menapace, Shirley Wayland).

EARED GREBE – At the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, the second WP March record was established by Don Ware and Bob Duncan with their observation of a basic-plumaged bird on 21-23 March.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL – On 4 May a bird landed on the boat of Joe Mills off Pensacola, *Escambia*, and was taken to Wildlife Sanctuary, identified by Bob Duncan and Lucy Duncan, and successfully released. This species is casual in the WP, and five specimens have been secured since 1993 from fishermen bringing them to Wildlife Sanctuary.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – This species is rare inland, so the following records are noteworthy. Several were seen at Pickensville, *Pickens*, in early April (*vide* Bob McCollum) for an unusual record from the Inland Coastal Plain, and eight were seen at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale* 30 April (Shirley Wayland).

BROWN PELICAN – An estimated 10,000+ were nesting on Gaillard Island, *Mobile*, 9 May, a maximum number for Alabama (Roger Clay, Eric Soehren, Bill Summerour).

GREAT CORMORANT – One first-year bird, seen 22 April on the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile* (J. C. Hall *et al.*), was the 15th Alabama record (@

ABRC).

ANHINGA – This species is rare in north Alabama, so a single at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 27 May (Barry Fleming) was notable.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD – An early bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 April (A. Stewart, m.ob.).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species is very rare in winter in north Alabama, and the bird in Huntsville, *Madison*, 12 March may have been a wintering individual (M. Street). One bird was at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 7 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner) (uncommon spring migrant).

LEAST BITTERN – This species is rare and local in the Tennessee Valley and was noted at Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 28 April (Paul Kittle, Fran Menapace, Shirley Wayland). On 7 May, Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, and Jeff Garner tallied this species at the Red Bank site and at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*.

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Locally rare in spring in northwest Alabama, one was seen at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 7 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner).

CATTLE EGRET – This species is locally rare in *Marion*, but two were observed at Guin 15 April (Jud Johnston). A roost of 200 noted by airplane along the Coosa River, *St. Clair*, by J. Pittman 12 May set a new maximum for the Mountain Region.

BLACK VULTURE – Linda Reynolds *et al.* (NAMC) were busy counting vultures in the Guntersville area, *Marshall*, 12 May, and had a count of 158 for a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

TURKEY VULTURE – Linda Reynolds *et al.* (NAMC) counted 102 in the Guntersville area, *Marshall*, 12 May to set a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – This species is uncommon in north Alabama, and six were seen at Decatur, *Morgan*, 13 March; three were late at the same location 26 March (Steve McConnell). Rare in spring in the WP, one was at Big Sabine, *Escambia*, 14 March (Bob Duncan).

ROSS'S GOOSE – Rare but increasing in Alabama, a late bird was noted at Sawyerville, *Hale*, 27 March (D. Self, J. Self).

GADWALL – Eleven seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 12 May was a good number for so late in the spring (Linda Reynolds *et al.*, NAMC).

CANVASBACK – This diver is uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain, so one seen at Safford, *Dallas*, 17 March was noteworthy (Barry Fleming).

BLACK SCOTER – One female-type bird was seen in the Brown's Creek area of Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 31 March (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds) (rare inland).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – Jud Johnston had two records of this species that is rare in the Mountain Region, a male 14 March and a female 2 April (ph.). Both records came from Guin, *Marion*. Five seen in the Brown's Creek area of Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 31 March - 9 April (Linda Reynolds, m.ob.) was a good number for this species that is rare but regular at this site.

HOODED MERGANSER – A female at Edsons, *Lowndes*, 29 April was late (Larry Gardella).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – Uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was seen at Safford, *Dallas*, 17 March (Barry Fleming).

OSPREY – This species rarely breeds in the Tennessee Valley, so the nest building by a pair, observed on Patton Island below Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale*, 17 April, was encouraging (Damien Simbeck).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – A flock of 13 observed migrating north on 23 March represented a good number at the Clearwater Tract, *Baldwin* (Scott Somershoe).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – This species is rare in the Tennessee Valley, so two seen at Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 7 May were noteworthy (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner).

BALD EAGLE – As a breeder in Alabama, this species is rare but increasing. A pair was seen feeding two young at Heiberger, *Perry*, on 11 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton), while another nesting pair and a first-year bird were observed at Safford, *Dallas*, 17 March (Barry Fleming). If not nesting, the adult seen at Shoal Creek, *St. Clair*, 12 May was late (Bob Reid *et al.*).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Late birds were seen 12 May at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin* (J. Lloyd, P. Blevins) and at Coden, *Mobile* (R. E. Hayward).

RED-TAILED HAWK – Uncommon morphs were found in north Alabama 17 March (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten, Bill Summerour). A dark morph was at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, while a Krider's was in the Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson*.

CRESTED CARACARA – The first record for the WP came from Destin, *Okaloosa*, 1 March (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). See article in *Alabama Birdlife* 47(1):15-17.

MERLIN – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was noted at Heiberger, *Perry*, 11 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton). Uncommon in north Alabama,

- a late bird was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 12 May (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten). An even later bird at Killen, *Lauderdale*, 25 May, set a late record for the Tennessee Valley (Damien Simbeck).
- BLACK RAIL** – Rarely detected, Bob Sargent had one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 April at the same site where one was found dead last year.
- KING RAIL** – This species is rare but regular at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, during spring migration. Tom Haggerty and Jeff Garner had two there 28 April while Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, and Jeff Garner had one 7 May.
- VIRGINIA RAIL** – One bird, probably wintering, was seen at WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 March (Barry Fleming), while another single was seen at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, 12 May (Sharon Hudgins) (rare in Mountain Region).
- SORA** – Uncommon in the Mountain Region, one was recorded at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, 12 May (Sharon Hudgins).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** – Only occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain in spring, two were found at WTF, *Lowndes*, 17 March (Barry Fleming *et al.*) and 18 March (Larry Gardella, Fred Bassett).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – Approximately 100 were seen at Lake Land Farms near Marion, *Perry*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.), a good number. Good numbers were also recorded at Harpersville, *Shelby*, with 99 on 18 March (Greg Harber *et al.*), a maximum for the Mountain Region, and 40 on 21 March (Bob Reid).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – Bob Duncan had one 7 May at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, where it is casual.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – One was early at WTF, *Lowndes*, 18 March (Larry Gardella).
- WILLET** – This species is rare inland, and the 38 seen at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 28 April set a new maximum for inland Alabama (Paul Kittle, m.ob.). The highest all-time count for the WP was established by the estimated 400 birds seen at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 23 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – The seven seen at WTF, *Lowndes*, 31 March represented a good number for spring migration (Pat Johnson).
- WHIMBREL** – The five seen in the Dauphin Island area, *Mobile*, 12 May was a good number (Roger Clay, T. Hartley, J. Hartley, NAMC).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER** – A new maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain was established by the 45 seen in *Montgomery* 12 May (Fred Bassett *et al.*, NAMC).

- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – The seven seen at Nesmith, *Winston*, 27 May was a good number for the Mountain Region (Barry Fleming).
- DUNLIN** – One seen 25 May west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, was late (Tom Haggerty).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – One was an early migrant at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 April (K. White, P. White).
- RUFF** – A first WP record came from the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 1 March when an adult female was observed by Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Don Ware, Ed Case, Alan Knothe, Jesse Knothe, Hud Huddleston, and Charles Parkel.
- PARASITIC JAEGER** – An adult was recorded 3 mi S of Pensacola Bay Pass, *Escambia*, by Ed Case and Lois Case 27 May.
- LAUGHING GULL** – This species has become rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley. One was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 18 March (K. White, P. White), and another was at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 7 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – At Bayou LaBatre, *Mobile*, one was recorded 22 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Phil Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow). This species is rare but increasing in Alabama.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Rare in Alabama, a third-year bird was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, m.ob.).
- CASPIAN TERN** – Three birds were early at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 8 April (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).
- LEAST TERN** – One seen west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 May established the first spring record for northwest Alabama (Tom Haggerty).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – This species continues to expand its range, and birds were reported from two new sites: two, south of Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 16 March (Paul Kittle, Jeff Garner), and one, Moulton, *Lawrence*, 19 April (Paul Kittle).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – The eighth inland record for Alabama was established at Auburn, *Lee*, by a single observed 14-17 May (S. Ducharme).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – This species is rarely seen inland, but one set an early Mountain Region record at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 18 April (Larry Gardella).
- BURROWING OWL** – Five pairs were reported to be nesting on the Eglin Air Force Base bombing range, *Okaloosa*, where they have been nesting for several years (*vide* Lenny Fenimore).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – Florida's second remained at the home of Beth Lucas in Pensacola, *Escambia*, until 4 April (*vide* Bob Duncan).

This individual was present during the preceding winter and was banded by Fred Bassett of the Hummer/Bird Study Group.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – A late bird was seen 12 May on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile* (C. Hinds, G. Hinds), and three on the same date in *St. Clair* set a late departure date for the Mountain Region (Bob Reid *et al.*).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – Rare in Alabama, one was observed at Broken Arrow Creek, *St. Clair*, 12 May (Bob Reid *et al.*).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – One was at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 3 May (Paul Kittle) (rare in spring). This species is occasional on the Gulf Coast in spring. One was seen in west Mobile, *Mobile*, 12 May (M. Wilson).

“TRAILL’S” FLYCATCHER – One immature was at Upper Delta WMA on 20 April (Scott Somershoe) (rare in spring on Gulf Coast).

LEAST FLYCATCHER – Rare in spring in northwest Alabama, one was seen at Rock Spring, *Lauderdale*, 7 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – An adult female, present on and off since November at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, was seen 1 March by Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, and David Weidner.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – A single observed 1-30 March (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Don Ware, David Weidner, Ed Case, m.ob.) was thought to be the same bird that was present through December and also seen 12 May (Don Ware). It was seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, along the same path where most of the 11 sightings from the past 15 years have been made. This species is now rare but regular in winter in the WP, but is considered very rare in the rest of Florida.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – An early arrival date was established for northwest Alabama by an individual seen at Red Bay, *Franklin*, 13 April (Damien Simbeck).

TROPICAL/COUCH’S KINGBIRD – A silent bird was studied at close range 8 May at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (Bob Duncan). This is the sixth WP record of Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird, all between May and July, with five of the six records occurring since 1992. See article in this issue.

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Casual in the WP in spring, one was sighted at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, 8 May (Bob Duncan).

GRAY KINGBIRD – This species is now rare on the Gulf Coast. Records of singles came from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 April (Steve Haas), and Fort

Morgan, *Baldwin*, 23-24 April (Bill Summerour, Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten), and 13 May (Bill Summerour).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – This species appears to be increasing as a breeder, and several of the following records were of birds that returned to known breeding sites: one, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 18 April (Tom Brindley); mile 29 on AL Highway 183, *Perry*, 23 April (Duane Berger); nesting pair, Priceville, *Morgan*, 30 April+ (C. Lamont); nesting pair, Madison, *Madison*, 12 May (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten); one carrying nest material at a new site, Nesmith, *Winston*, 27 May (Barry Fleming); one male, Suttle, *Perry*, 31 May (K. Daniel).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE – A maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain was set with a tally of 33 on 12 May by Larry Gardella, *et al.* (NAMC) in *Montgomery*.

BELL'S VIREO – The first record for the Inland Coastal Plain, and the eighth for inland Alabama, was of a singing bird at Rome, *Covington*, on 12 May (W. Douglas Robinson).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – One was late at the Upper Delta WMA, *Baldwin*, on 27 April (Scott Somershoe), and one at Georgiana, *Butler*, on 8 May (W. Douglas Robinson) set a new late date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

HORNED LARK – This species continued at WTF, *Lowndes*, until 18 March (Larry Gardella, Fred Bassett), a site where it successfully nested in 1999.

TREE SWALLOW – A very rare breeder in Alabama that may be increasing. Nesting was confirmed at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 15 April+ (Paul Kittle); at Riverside, *St. Clair*, 12 May (Bob Reid *et al.*); at Henson Springs, *Lamar*, 20 May+ (Jud Johnston); and at the 3M plant in west Decatur, *Morgan*, 27 May (Barry Fleming). One was late at Guntersville, *Marshall*, on 12 May (Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

CLIFF SWALLOW – Tom Brindley *et al.* (NAMC) counted 350 in *Limestone* 12 May, a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. The southernmost inland nesting in Alabama was documented at the AL 84 bridge over the Conecuh River, *Covington*, by W. Douglas Robinson 18-19 May (eight pairs and young observed).

CAVE SWALLOW – One seen 22 April on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Bob Reid) was the 15th Alabama record (@ ABRC).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE – Larry Gardella *et al.* (NAMC) counted 114 in *Montgomery* 12 May, a new spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

TUFTED TITMOUSE – Another new spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain was set by Larry Gardella, *et al.* (NAMC) in *Montgomery* on 12 May,

with a count of 151.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, so one seen in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 6 April was noteworthy (Larry Gardella).

HOUSE WREN – A late bird was at Hurricane, *Baldwin*, 12 May (K. Carter).

WINTER WREN – A late departure date for Alabama was established 30 May at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, when Bob Reid observed a singing individual.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – A single, late for the Gulf Coast, was seen at Upper Delta WMA, *Baldwin*, 30 April (Scott Somershoe).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – Larry Gardella *et al.* (NAMC) counted 489 in *Montgomery* 12 May, a new maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – An early bird was at Guin, *Marion*, 6 April (Jud Johnston).

TENNESSEE WARBLER – At Perry Lake near Marion, *Perry*, a single 7 April was early (Greg Harber *et al.*).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – A single, late for the Gulf Coast, was seen at Upper Delta WMA, *Baldwin*, 14 April (Scott Somershoe).

NORTHERN PARULA – Larry Gardella *et al.* (NAMC) counted 113 in *Montgomery* on 12 May, a new maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Two individuals were seen at different locations in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 9 May and 10 May (Larry Gardella) (rare on Inland Coastal Plain in spring). A single at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 27 May was late (Barry Fleming).

CAPE MAY WARBLER – This species is a rare migrant on the Inland Coastal Plain, so one seen in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 April was noteworthy (Larry Gardella).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – Several participants on the NAMC 12 May found late singles: Guntersville area, *Marshall* (Linda Reynolds *et al.*); Trussville, *Jefferson* (Greg Harber); Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten); west *Jefferson* (Sharon Hudgins).

PALM WARBLER – The 10-12 seen in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 5 April was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain in spring (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). Bob Reid had a single late bird at Coal City, *St. Clair*, 12 May.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – Early migrants appeared at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 April (Bob Sargent *et al.*), and at Guin, *Marion*, 14 April (Jud Johnston).

AMERICAN REDSTART – An immature male was early at Upper Delta WMA, *Baldwin*, 2 April (Scott Somershoe).

- WORM-EATING WARBLER** – A singing individual was at the Solon Dixon Forestry Center, *Covington*, 12 May – 20 June, an indication of possible nesting that is unexpected so far south (W. Douglas Robinson).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – At the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, one was early 6 April (Bob Reid), while another individual at the Upper Delta WMA, *Baldwin*, was late 17 May (Scott Somershoe).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** – One seen at Opelika, *Lee*, 13 March was locally early (Barry Fleming).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – Always a rare migrant in Alabama, one male was found in Madison, *Madison*, 14 May (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).
- MOURNING WARBLER** – Rare but regular during spring migration in the Tennessee Valley, a singing male was recorded in Madison, *Madison*, 16 May (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – Uncommonly seen in spring migration, one very early male was seen at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 11 April (Damien Simbeck).
- SUMMER TANAGER** – The single male found 3 April in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, was early (Larry Gardella).
- EASTERN TOWHEE** – Larry Gardella *et al.* (NAMC) had a new maximum spring count of this species for the Inland Coastal Plain 12 May when 95 were recorded in *Montgomery*.
- SPOTTED TOWHEE** – A female seen on two dates, 19 April (Larry Gardella) and 23 April (Greg Jackson), at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, was the first individual of this species well documented from Alabama (@ ABRC).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – One was found on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 April (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten). This species is occasional in spring in Alabama and possibly increasing.
- LARK SPARROW** – Uncommon to rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, notable records of this species came from Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 23 March – 21 April (J. Lloyd, m.ob.; ph. Greg Jackson), and the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 March (K. White, P. White). Two adults were seen at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 28 April, but were not relocated subsequently (Ann Miller); this sparrow is rarely found in the Mountain Region.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** – Nineteen singing birds were recorded at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, with an additional 10 individuals heard in the vicinity 3 May (Paul Kittle), to set a new high count for northwest Alabama.
- SONG SPARROW** – Bob Reid *et al.* (NAMC) counted six on 12 May at Riverside, *St. Clair*, at a site where this species has nested for several years.

- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** – Several were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 18 March (Geoff Hill), and one was late at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 April (Howard Horne).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – Six seen at WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 March were rare for the Inland Coastal Plain and established a late record for the same region (Barry Fleming).
- NORTHERN CARDINAL** – Larry Gardella *et al.* (NAMC) had a new maximum count of this species for the Inland Coastal Plain 12 May when 494 were recorded in *Montgomery*.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – Early for northwest Alabama, singles were seen 15 April at Florence, *Lauderdale* (Paul Kittle), and at Winfield, *Marion* (Jud Johnston). Late birds lingered until 17 May at Grayson Valley, *Jefferson* (S. Farrell), and at Winfield, *Marion* (Jud Johnston).
- INDIGO BUNTING** – The NAMC on 12 May produced a good number of 191 in *Morgan* (Dwight Cooley), and a new maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain of 228 in *Montgomery* (Larry Gardella *et al.*)
- PAINTED BUNTING** – Two singing males and one female indicated probable nesting in western *Montgomery*, 12-30 May (Shawn Reed); this species is a casual breeder in inland Alabama. Records of singles came from Auburn, *Lee*, on 26 April (S. Ducharme), and from Guin, *Marion*, 15 May (Jud Johnston), the latter establishing the first record of this species for northwest Alabama.
- DICKCISSEL** – The estimated 50 at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 April (Bob Sargent *et al.*) was a good number for this early date.
- BOBOLINK** – Two at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 April (Bob Sargent *et al.*) tied the early spring arrival date for Alabama, while an estimated 150 at the same site 15 April was a good number so early. One at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 12 April (Bob Duncan, Ed Case) set the earliest local record (by one day). A female was locally late at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 May (Howard Horne).
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK** – Larry Gardella, *et al.* (NAMC) had a new maximum spring count of this species for the Inland Coastal Plain on 12 May when 203 were recorded in *Montgomery*.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – The eighth and ninth records for inland Alabama and the third and fourth records for the Inland Coastal Plain, were established, respectively, by an adult male seen at Lakepoint SP, *Barbour*, 18 March (Geoff Hill) and a male photographed at *Montgomery*, *Montgomery*, on 24 April (D. Sellers).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – Two birds seen on 12 May in *Walton* established

the first local May record (Lee McDaniel, Jaque McDaniel).

SHINY COWBIRD – One male, the 19th record for Alabama, was seen at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 April (L. Bailey, B. Eager, Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) (@ ABRC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – A male was early at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 April (Larry Gardella).

RED CROSSBILL – A maximum of nine (three adults, three juveniles, and three nestlings) was observed in the Coleman Lake area of Talladega National Forest, *Cleburne*, 16 March - 19 April (Bill Summerour).

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