

## FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2000)

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This report covers the period from August through November 2000 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*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = subject to review by appropriate records committee; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Ft. Walton Beach Sewerage Facility; “m.ob.” = many observers; “MP 252 Platform” = offshore drilling platform, N 29° 21.651’, W 87° 53.057’, 60 miles south of Ft. Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “v.t.” = video-taped; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

**PACIFIC LOON** – Steve McConnell reported two from Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, on 25 November. This species is rare inland, but regular at this site.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** – Three at Guin, *Marion*, on 9 August represented early migrants (Jud Johnston). A juvenile in Decatur, *Limestone*, on 9 September probably represented a local nesting of this rare breeder in the Tennessee Valley (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten). The 400+ seen by Steve McConnell at Guntersville, *Marshall*, on 29 October represented a good number for this species.

**EARED GREBE** – Now rare but regular in the WP in fall, two were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 14 September (Bob Duncan). Between 17 October -

29 November, two-three birds were observed at the same site by Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Don Ware, m.ob.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** – From the MP 252 Platform, B. Mac Myers reported 19, two, and one on 13, 14, and 25 September, respectively, and one-68 on 14 dates between 11-25 October (@ ABRC). The high count of 68 was on 16 October. There are 15 prior Alabama records.

**GREATER SHEARWATER** – Rare in Alabama coastal waters, a single was reported from the MP 252 Platform on 20 October (B. Mac Myers; @ ABRC).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – Two birds on 14 September and a single on 16 October from the MP 252 Platform constituted the eighth and ninth Alabama records (B. Mac Myers; @ ABRC).

**MASKED BOOBY** – Not all records of pelagics came from the MP 252 Platform. Lucy Duncan and Bob Duncan reported an adult of this species from the beach on Santa Rosa Island, *Santa Rosa*, on 8 September, for a second September record in the WP. From the MP 252 Platform came reports of a near adult on 24 and 26 September, and a sub-adult on 11 October (B. Mac Myers). Masked Booby is rare but regular on the Alabama coast.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, so Larry Gardella's sighting of two on 19 November at Speigner, *Elmore*, was notable.

**BROWN PELICAN** – This species is only casual inland, and up to four were seen at the W. F. George Dam, *Henry*, between 1 July and 24 November (Jim Watson *et al.*).

**ANHINGA** – Gary Wayner had one at Fort Payne, *DeKalb*, on 3 September (occasional in north Alabama).

**PLEGADIS SP.** – One individual, a probable Glossy, was recorded at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 2 September (Milton Harris, Bert Harris).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Alabama records were a single from south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 9 August (Carolyn Snow, m. ob.; ph. Steve McConnell; @ ABRC), and a single along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, on 26 October (C. K. Dindo; @ ABRC).

**WOOD STORK** – Rare in the Mountain Region, nine were seen on Choccolocca Creek east of Ala. Hwy. 77, *Talladega*, on 18 August (Winston Baker, Linda Baker).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Casual in the WP, one-three were seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, from 17-29 November (Don Ware, Robert Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*). Locally rare, two were seen in *Elmore* on 28 November (Tommy Pratt, Shawn Reed).



- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – At Guin, *Marion*, Jud Johnston reported 75 on 10 September, a good concentration of this species for north Alabama.
- REDHEAD** – Setting a new maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain, Giff Beaton and Earl Horn had 164 at W. F. George Dam in *Henry*, on 24 November.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – A trip on 3 August through the western Black Belt (*Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, and Sumter*) netted Charles Kennedy and Tommy Pratt a good total of 35.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** – The same trip as described above produced a good total of 70.
- NORTHERN HARRIER** – An early fall record for the Tennessee Valley was established by the single at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, on 9 August (Paul Kittle). Another single passed by the MP 252 Platform on 24 October (B. Mac Myers).
- AMERICAN KESTREL** – The 100+ recorded at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 7 October was a good number (Bob Sargent *et al.*).
- PEREGRINE FALCON** – Greg Harber reported one from along the Alabama River in *Lowndes* on 26 August. This species is a rare migrant for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.
- YELLOW RAIL** – Gene Fleming accidentally flushed one from an unmowed patch of grass at his home in Molino, *Escambia*, on 7 September; casual in the WP.
- BLACK RAIL** – Bob Duncan and Ed Case flushed one from a marsh at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 27 October, for a 12<sup>th</sup> area record.
- KING RAIL** – Rare in the Mountain Region, two were seen on 30 September at Porter Lake, *Jefferson* (Sharon Hudgins, David George).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** – Also rare in the Mountain Region, one was seen on 30 September at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, (Sharon Hudgins, David George).
- SORA** – Continuing what must have been a good day for rails, Sharon Hudgins and David George had five on 30 September at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, a good number for the Mountain Region.
- LIMPKIN** – First reported by Gay Voss and Michael Voss, a very cooperative bird delighted many birders from near and far between 30 September and 23 November. This first record for Alabama (@ ABRC; ph. by m.ob.) came from Smith Lake Park, *Cullman*.
- SANDHILL CRANE** – Casual in the WP, six were observed from a helicopter at the mouth of the Yellow River, *Santa Rosa*, on 21 November (Ed Lowsma). Another autumn record came from Limestone Bay, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, on 30 November; the 47 birds reported by J. Wells represented a

good number for the Tennessee Valley.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** – A maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was set by the six seen at the WTF, *Lowndes*, on 10 September (Larry Gardella *et al.*).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – The 12 seen at Foley, *Baldwin*, on 9 September (Peggy Baker, m.ob.) set a new fall maximum for the Gulf Coast. Larry Gardella *et al.* saw four at the WTF, *Lowndes*, on 10 September.

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – Locally rare at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one was reported on 27 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – Rare inland in Alabama, a report of a single came from Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 25 November (Tom Haggerty, Moez Ali).

**WILLET** – At the WTF, *Lowndes*, Larry Gardella, Pat Johnson, Fred Bassett *et al.* observed one 4-10 September (rare inland).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** – A fall maximum for inland Alabama was set by the 17 seen at the WTF, *Lowndes*, by Tommy Pratt *et al.* on 4 August; Steve McConnell had 11 at the same site on 13 August. West of Florence in *Lauderdale*, Ned Piper, Moez Ali, and Paul Kittle saw a single 2-6 September (locally rare).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** – Sod farms attracted a few migrants of this species that is rare for inland Alabama. On 4 September, Carolyn Snow had one at the Sprague Sod Farm, *Montgomery*, and on 10 September, Larry Gardella had one at the WTF, *Lowndes*.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – The third local WP September record was established by sightings of a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 4 September (Phil Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow) and 8 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare in fall in Alabama, a report of four came from Foley, *Baldwin*, on 9 September (Phil Tetlow, m.ob.), and another report of seven came from the WTF, *Lowndes*, on 10 September (Larry Gardella *et al.*).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare in fall for our area, small numbers were reported from three sites. One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15-22 September (Don Ware, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). A report of two came from Seven Mile Island WMA, *Lauderdale*, on 19 September (Damien Simbeck). The single west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, on 11-12 November set a record late departure date for inland Alabama (Paul Kittle, Tom Haggerty).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Good numbers were recorded from several sites in Alabama. At Foley, *Baldwin*, there were six birds on 10 August (Bill Summerour), 150 on 3 September, and 172 on 9 September (Peggy Baker, m.o.b.) At the WTF, *Lowndes*, seven were found on 26 August (Bob Reid)



and 30 on 10 September (Larry Gardella *et al.*), the latter a maximum for inland Alabama. Ten seen west of Florence in *Lauderdale* on 2 September (Ned Piper, Moez Ali) were a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**RUFF** – A female seen at the WTF, *Lowndes*, on 6 August (Larry Gardella) established the fifth record for Alabama (@ ABRC).

**RED PHALAROPE** – One at Guntersville, *Marshall*, on 29 October furnished the 21<sup>st</sup> record for the state (Steve McConnell; @ ABRC).

**POMARINE JAEGER** – All records of this rare-but-expected species came from the MP 252 Platform (B. Mac Myers) as follows: one sub-adult on 3 September, one sub-adult on 15 October, two juveniles on 16 October, and one adult or near-adult on 20 October.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – Two reports of this rare species were received: one seen from the Ft. Morgan/Dauphin Island Ferry, *Mobile*, 26 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and one juvenile from the MP 252 Platform on 16 October (B. Mac Myers).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – Rare but expected on the Gulf Coast, one first year bird was on the East End of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, on 12 October (Steve McConnell, m.ob.). Two others were at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, on 4 November (Steve McConnell). One record of a first-winter bird came from the WP at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 22 November (Don Ware) and 29 November (Bob Duncan, Will Duncan, Alan Knothe, Jesse Knothe).

**SABINE'S GULL** – The fourth record for Alabama, and the first since 1984, came from the East End of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, where Bob Reid had a juvenile on 28 October (@ ABRC).

**CASPIAN TERN** – The six at Prairie Creek, *Lowndes*, on 23 September (Larry Gardella) set a maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**FORSTER'S TERN** – One was at Prairie Creek, *Lowndes*, on 10 September (Larry Gardella).

**BRIDLED TERN** – Uncommon on the Gulf, two records came from the MP 252 Platform, one immature on 27 August and three on 13 September (B. Mac Myers; @ ABRC).

**SOOTY TERN** – Rare but expected on the Gulf, B. Mac Myers reported two adults from the MP 252 Platform on 13 September.

**BLACK SKIMMER** – The 930 counted by Steve McConnell on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, on 12 October represented a good number.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – This species' ability to expand its range is well-known, so perhaps the single observed at the MP 252 Platform on 12 October (B. Mac Myers) was not too unexpected.

- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – This western species is uncommon-rare in our area, but apparently increasing. Bob Duncan had a flock of 35, one of the largest local concentrations ever, at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, on 21 October. Charles Kahn and Bob Duncan had a single at Gulf Breeze 22-29 November. At Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, Bill Summerour recorded 12 on 30 October. Steve McConnell had three at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, on 4 November.
- GREATER ROADRUNNER** – Lucy and Bob Duncan submitted details of their conversation with Max Griggs and J. D. Barber of Barrineau Park, *Escambia*, who saw a Greater Roadrunner at Mr. Griggs' residence on 18 August. While the Duncans are convinced that these gentlemen did indeed see a roadrunner, its origin is questionable. See article in this issue.
- BURROWING OWL** – One was seen at Foley, *Baldwin*, on 5 August for the 17<sup>th</sup> Alabama record (Duane Miller; @ ABRC).
- SHORT-EARED OWL** – Regular at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, Steve Seibert reported one on 15 November. An injured bird was found at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, and was brought to Wildlife Rescue on 17 November. Ed Case identified it on 22 November as a bird of the Caribbean race. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> area record.
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – At Cantonment, *Escambia*, a bird returned on 12 September to the Bev Kenney feeder for the sixth year (*vide* Fred Bassett)!
- CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – An immature male at Pinson, *Jefferson*, produced the first of a remarkable number of records for this species in Alabama and the WP during the fall and winter seasons. This bird was banded on 19 November for the ninth state record (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Sue Adams, m.ob.; @ ABRC; ph.). The 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama record was established on 21 November at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, by a first year bird that was banded (Fred Bassett, Donna Stanton; @ ABRC; ph.).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – The fifth Alabama record came from Mobile, *Mobile*, on 29 November, where an adult female was banded (Fred Bassett, Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Donna Bullard; @ ABRC; ph.). A first year female arrived at a feeder at the Beth Lucas residence in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, around 19 November and was banded on 30 November by Fred Bassett for a possible second state record (@ FOSRC; ph.). The bird remained until 17 February and was observed by over 100 people.
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** – An adult male at Chapman, *Butler*, on 2 August, was early (Fred Bassett, Charles Kennedy, Betty Black).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – The 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama record was established by



the banding of an immature male at Midland City, *Dale*, on 16 November (Fred Bassett, Gus Scheve; @ ABRC; ph.)

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – On 18 September, one was seen on the TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, where it is rare but regular (Damien Simbeck, Phyllis Nofzinger). Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, is another site where this species is rare but regular in fall. Bill Summerour had one there on 26 September. On 5 October, Carolyn Snow had another single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, where it is rare.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – On 2 September, one was seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, where it is rare but regular (Steve McConnell, Ben Garmon). The TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, is another site where this species is rare but regular in fall. Damien Simbeck had one there on 12 September. On 5 October, Larry Gardella had a calling single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, where it is rare.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** – Ben Garmon had two calling singles for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Alabama records (@ ABRC). The first record was on 24 August along the Little Cahaba River, *Shelby*, while the second record was from the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, on 24 September.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – A calling bird was noted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 12 September for the 12<sup>th</sup> Alabama record (Larry Gardella; @ ABRC).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** – The four seen at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 27 September, was a good number (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**SAY'S PHOEBE** – Only the third Alabama record, one was observed at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 15 October by Mary Anderson and Tom Brindley (@ ABRC).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Rare on the Alabama coast in fall, an immature male occurred on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, on 14-16 October (Kenny Nichols, m.ob.; ph.; v.t.). Casual in the WP, three individuals (an adult male, an immature male, and a female) were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, between 10 October-29 November (Bob Duncan, m.ob.).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but regular in the WP, two individuals were observed this fall. The first was noted by Lenny Fenimore at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 11 September. This juvenal-plumaged bird was carefully studied at close range between 27 October - 25 November (Ed Case, Bob Duncan, Phil Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow). The second individual was an adult seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, on 29 October (Bob Duncan). Also rare along the Alabama coast, one was banded at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*,

on 18 October (J. Farrington, C. Varian, D. Seaman *et al.*; ph.). Also at Ft. Morgan, Bill Summerour and Dean Cutten had a single on 20 and 28 October.

**BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER** – The first or second record of this species Alabama caused much excitement during the fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society. One was photographed and videotaped at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, on 13 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Jeff Wilson, m.ob.; v.t.; ph.; @ ABRC).

**CASSIN'S KINGBIRD** – One seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 17 October established the second record for the area and the third for Florida (Lenny Fenimore, Don Ware, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; @ FOSRC).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Rare in the WP, one was recorded at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, on 26 November (Bill Bremser).

**GRAY KINGBIRD** – The individual seen 18 October at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, set a new record fall departure date (by three days) (Merilu Rose, Rufus Rose).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Rare anywhere in our area, an immature was noted on 2 September at Cherokee, *Colbert* (Ned Piper, Moez Ali).

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** – Numbers of these exotics continue to appear at feeders in east Pensacola, *Santa Rosa*, first appearing about two years ago (*vide* Bob Duncan).

**BELL'S VIREO** – The seventh and eighth area records for the WP came from Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, on 15 September (Bob Duncan), and Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, on 16 September (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – A single at Florence, *Lauderdale*, on 1 November was late for the area (Tom Haggerty).

**WARBLING VIREO** – This is a rarely recorded migrant in our area, so four Alabama records were unusual. The first was from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, on 2 September (Steve McConnell). Greg Jackson and Debra Jackson had two records, one at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, on 17 September, and another at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 27 September. The latest record came from Prairie Creek, *Lowndes*, on 12 October (Larry Gardella).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – One was found at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, on 17 September, early in the Mountain Region (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Another early record of three birds came from the Tennessee Valley at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 18 September (Damien Simbeck, Phyllis Nofzinger). Late for the Tennessee Valley were three at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 22 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).



**BROWN CREEPER** – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, on 19 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

**SEDGE WREN** – Bill Summerour found a dead individual at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 26 September for an early record.

**MARSH WREN** – Tom Haggerty observed two individuals of this locally rare migrant, one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 26 September, and the other at Florence, *Lauderdale*, on 8 October.

**GRAY CATBIRD** – The banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5-21 October produced a good total of 1,558 (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – An adult male on 13 August at Madison, *Madison*, was early for the Tennessee Valley (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten). Two-four were seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, on 16 September, where this species is uncommon (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** – Several reports of late migrants were received. Greg Harber had one on 4 November in Birmingham, *Jefferson*; Lorna West had three on 5 November at Opelika, *Lee*; Keith McMullen had two in *Okaloosa*, Florida, on 21 November; and Tom Haggerty had one on 28 November at Florence, *Lauderdale*, for a new late date for the Tennessee Valley.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Early for the Tennessee Valley, one was at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 12 September (Damien Simbeck).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** – A rare fall migrant in most of Alabama, Larry Gardella had one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 14 September, and another at Prairie Creek, *Lowndes*, on 23 September. The banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5-21 October produced a good total of nine (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*). Three at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 22 October, were late and a good number (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

**YELLOW WARBLER** – During about a one-hour period on the morning of 13 August at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, Bob Duncan and Lucy Duncan counted 91 birds that were flying west. This phenomenon occurs every August and September. During these months there is a heavy concentration at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, and dozens can be seen on any given day each year.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – Three late birds were reported, one at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 28 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten), one at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, on 4 November (Greg Harber), and another at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 5 November (Steve McConnell).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Uncommon in fall migration, a

female was recorded from the MP 252 Platform, *Baldwin*, on 25 September (B. Mac Myers).

**YELLOW-RUMPED (AUDUBON'S) WARBLER** – The second area record for the WP came from the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 18 October (Bob Duncan).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – One was late at Auburn, *Lee*, on 3 November (S. Ducharme).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – One was late at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 22 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – Latest for the Tennessee Valley (except for one winter record), two were at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, on 22 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** – One recorded from the MP 252 Platform on 27 September provided the ninth fall record for the Gulf Coast (B. Mac Myers).

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – One at Madison, *Madison*, on 2 September furnished a late record for the Tennessee Valley (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

**MOURNING WARBLER** – A rare fall migrant, two were noted this season. One was reported from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, on 29 August (Greg Harber), and a late immature was at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 26 September (Tom Haggerty).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** – Larry Gardella's sighting of one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 6 September was early and provided the sixth record for the Inland Coastal Plain. Three early birds were in the Tennessee Valley, one at Decatur, *Morgan*, on 10 September (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten), and two at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 11 September (Damien Simbeck). Two were seen 24–25 September at Opelika, *Lee* (Lorna West). A count of eight on 27 September set a new maximum for Alabama; six were seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, and two at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). The banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5–21 October produced a good total of 37 (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*). Keith McMullen reported one from *Okaloosa* on 21 November.

**CANADA WARBLER** – Not often seen in fall migration in the Inland Coastal Plain, one was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, on 24 September (Larry Gardella).

**CHIPPING SPARROW** – One juvenile was at the MP 252 Platform on 15 September (B. Mac Myers).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Numerous fall records were followed by several winter records of this species that is uncommon along the Gulf Coast.



On 27 September, Greg Jackson and Debra Jackson had one at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, and two at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*. The banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5-21 October produced a total of four (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*). Other sightings at Ft. Morgan included one on 7 October (Venetia Friend *et al.*), and a maximum of six on 17 October (Bill Summerour). Two were on the East End of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, on 13 October (Steve McConnell, m.ob.). One was at Meaher SP, *Baldwin*, on 16 October (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten, Bill Summerour); at the MP 252 Platform, there were two on 20 October and one on 22 October (B. Mac Myers; ph.). The WP of Florida also experienced an "invasion," as witnessed by the following records: at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, one on 23 September (Don Ware, Bob McKenney), one on 5 October (Bob Duncan, Ed Case), one on 12 October (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, Ed Case, Alan Sheppard), one on 18 October (Bob Duncan), and two on 25 November (Bob Duncan, Will Duncan). At Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, there was one on 7-9 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.) and one on 31 October (Lucy Duncan, Kay Marsh).

**BREWER'S SPARROW** – At Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, Bob Duncan and Lucy Duncan had one on 22 October for a possible first Florida record (@ FOSRC).

**LARK SPARROW** – Casual in August in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 10 August (Bob Duncan), and Merilu Rose and Lucy Duncan had one at the same site on 18 October. Uncommon on the Alabama coast, three was a good number at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 16 September and again on 17 October (Bill Summerour, m.ob.). Singles were seen at Ft. Morgan on 7 October (Venetia Friend) and 20 October (Bill Summerour). One at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, on 11 October was locally late (Dwight Cooley).

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** – Rarely detected during fall migration, one was at the MP 252 Platform on 20 October (B. Mac Myers).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** – Uncommon in Alabama at any season, or at least very difficult to find, the banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5-21 October produced two (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*), while a single was found at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, on 11 November (Charles Kennedy, m.ob.).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** – Rarely detected during fall migration, an early bird was at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, on 7 October (Paul Kittle *et al.*). Locally uncommon-rare, one was at Speigner, *Elmore*, on 28 November (Tommy Pratt, Shawn Reed).

- NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** – At the WTF, *Lowndes*, one was seen on 22 October (Pat Johnson) and two on 5 November (Larry Gardella *et al.*) to establish the seventh inland Alabama record and the second for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 9 October (Don Ware). One was early on 3 October at Madison, *Madison* (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten). The banding program at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, from 5-21 October produced a good total of seven (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, *et al.*). Two singles were reported from the MP 252 Platform, one on 19-21 October and one on 23 October (B. Mac Myers).
- SWAMP SPARROW** – The first September record for the WP, one was at Valparaiso, *Okaloosa*, on 16 September (Pat Baker).
- HARRIS'S SPARROW** – An adult was east of Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, on 26 November through the end of the period to establish the second Tennessee Valley and 12<sup>th</sup> Alabama record (Ned Piper, Moez Ali *et al.*; ph.; @ ABRC).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – Considered rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, 40 at the WTF, *Lowndes*, on 25 November was a good number (Fred Bassett, Pat Baker, m.ob.)
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** – This species is occasional in Alabama. One at Ft. Rucker, *Dale*, on 23 September established the fourth record for the Inland Coastal Plain (Kelly Gregory, Mark Gregory). The second November record for the WP was established by a first year male at a feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20-25 November (Charles Kahn, Betty Kahn, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan; v.t. by Brooks Atherton).
- BLUE GROSBEAK** – Two were late at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, on 5 November (Steve McConnell).
- PAINTED BUNTING** – Casual in November in the WP, a female-type bird was seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, on 30 November (Bob Duncan).
- DICKCISSEL** – A single on 31 August at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, was late (Paul Kittle).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Rare and early for Alabama, a hatching-year male was at the MP 252 Platform on 26 August (B. Mac Myers).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – The first September record for the WP came from the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, on 16 September (Don Ware).
- GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** – A potential first for Alabama came from the MP 252 Platform on 24 September - 25 October, where a female-type was photographed (B. Mac Myers, M. Nelson; @ ABRC).



**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – There are no documented records for Florida, so a first-year male that was videotaped may provide the first state record. It visited a feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, from 22-30 November (Charles Kahn, Betty Kahn, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Johnny Peaden, Brooks Atherton, m.ob.; v.t.; ph.; @ FOSRC). This bird was joined by another first-year male on 26 November.

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