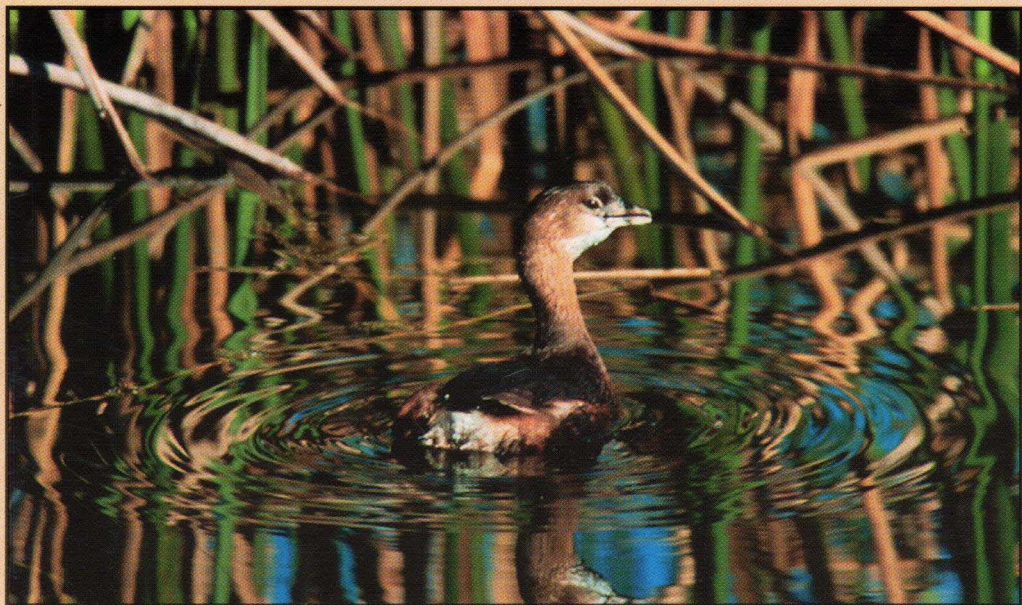


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Editor: Tom Haggerty, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632-0001

Assistant Editors: Paul Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL, and Jeff Garner, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, P.O. Box 366, Decatur, AL 35602

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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

Cover: Pied-billed Grebe; a species seen on the Monroe County SBC; photo by G. Harber

MONROE COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT - 2001

Lawrence F. Gardella

INTRODUCTION

Monroe County is located in southwestern Alabama. Although the county lies just north of two well-birded coastal counties (Baldwin and Mobile) and is only about a one-hour drive from the Montgomery metropolitan area, little is known about its birdlife. The objective of this study was to collect breeding season data on the birds of Monroe County.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Physiographically, Monroe County (Fig. 1) is in the Lower Coastal Plain of Alabama (Lacefield 2000). Four level IV ecoregions (Southern Pine Plains and Hills, Buhrstone/Lime Hills, Southern Hilly Gulf Coastal Plain, and Southeastern Flood Plains and Low Terraces) are located within its borders. The county is also considered part of the Inland Coastal Plain bird recording region (Jackson 2001). Predominant habitats within the county include mixed forests, pine plantations, croplands, pastures, and forested wetlands (Griffith et al. 2001). Elevations rise to about 443 ft (135 m).

To conduct the count, 18 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) blocks were surveyed thoroughly and an additional 28 were visited in June 2001. The BBA blocks were approximately 25 km² in area. This survey method was employed so that the results of the count could be used for the Alabama BBA project that officially began in 2002. Observers typically surveyed from pre-dawn or dawn until late morning (ca. 1100 hrs). A total of 118 hrs of daytime surveying was conducted for diurnal species and 6.4 hrs were spent surveying for nocturnal species. All individuals were identified and counted. In addition, any indication of breeding was noted.

The breeding designation codes used in this study are the same as those currently being used by the Alabama BBA project (Rick West pers. comm.). "Confirmed breeding" was designated if a species was observed carrying nest material or food, constructing a nest, performing a distraction display, or incubating. Further, the discovery of a nest with eggs or young, a used nest, or

dependent short-tailed young also confirmed breeding. “Probable breeding” for a species was indicated when at least seven singing males were noted on the same date in the same block, or by birds recorded on five Breeding Bird Survey route or miniroute stops within safe dates (i.e., when migrants are extremely unlikely to occur). This designation also was used for the detection of a pair in suitable habitat, for individuals showing territorial behavior at the same spot in at least weekly intervals, for individuals showing courtship behaviors or agitated behaviors that are associated with nest disturbance, and for species of wrens and woodpeckers that were nest building. “Possible breeding” was noted if a species was found in suitable habitat within the safe dates. An “observed” breeding status was used for species that were seen or male song heard in suitable habitat outside of safe dates. This designation was also used for independent juveniles, for species not in suitable habitat, and for soaring vultures and colonial species away from their colony.

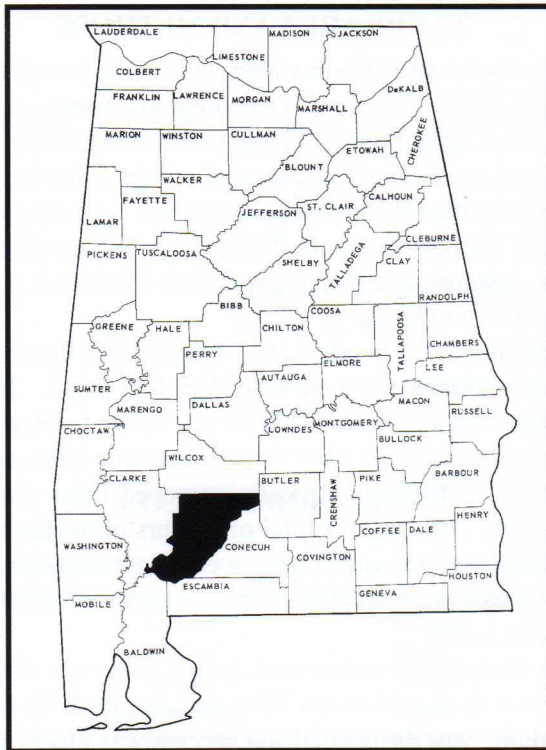


FIGURE 1. County map of Alabama showing location of Monroe County (darkened).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The count.— One hundred one species and 10,765 individuals were recorded during 125.2 hrs of surveying (Table 1) for a total of 86 individuals per party hour. The most frequently encountered species (i.e., > 300 individuals) found on the count were Cattle Egret, Mourning Dove, White-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Purple Martin, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting (Table 1). The most widely distributed species (i.e., discovered in >25 blocks) were White-eyed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting (Table 1). Fifty-three species were considered confirmed breeders, 13 were probable breeders, 26 were possible breeders, and 12 were noted as only observed species (Table 1). Three additional species (Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Chipping Sparrow) were not recorded during the official count time period (i.e., before 1100 hrs), but are included on the total count list of 104 species.

TABLE 1. Monroe County Summer Bird Count Totals, June 2001.

Species	No. Individuals	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	Possible
Anhinga	6	2	Observed
Great Blue Heron	24	7	Observed
Great Egret	37	9	Observed
Snowy Egret	1	1	Observed
Little Blue Heron	34	11	Observed
Cattle Egret	316	17	Observed
Green Heron	9	7	Possible
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	1	Observed
White Ibis	7	2	Observed
Wood Stork	1	1	Observed
Black Vulture	114	12	Possible
Turkey Vulture	109	22	Possible
Wood Duck	23	4	Confirmed
Mallard	8	1	Possible
Osprey	1	1	Observed
Bald Eagle			Observed
Swallow-tailed Kite	12	4	Probable

TABLE 1. Continued

Species	No. Individuals	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Mississippi Kite	14	8	Possible
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	Possible
Cooper's Hawk			Possible
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	17	Probable
Broad-winged Hawk	8	4	Possible
Red-tailed Hawk	10	7	Possible
American Kestrel	1	1	Possible
Wild Turkey	9	7	Confirmed
Northern Bobwhite	161	23	Confirmed
Killdeer	18	3	Confirmed
Caspian Tern	5	1	Observed
Rock Dove	30	2	Confirmed
Eurasian Collared-Dove	20	6	Probable
Mourning Dove	346	25	Confirmed
Common Ground-Dove	7	4	Possible
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	124	21	Probable
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	2	Possible
Great Horned Owl	5	3	Possible
Barred Owl	18	7	Possible
Chuck-will's-widow	67	14	Confirmed
Chimney Swift	70	15	Confirmed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	30	12	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	12	7	Probable
Red-headed Woodpecker	40	18	Confirmed
Red-bellied Woodpecker	220	25	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	85	22	Confirmed
Hairy Woodpecker	10	9	Confirmed
Northern Flicker	18	10	Confirmed
Pileated Woodpecker	54	19	Probable
Eastern Wood-Pewee	61	19	Confirmed
Acadian Flycatcher	64	19	Confirmed
Eastern Phoebe	4	2	Confirmed
Great-crested Flycatcher	186	23	Confirmed
Eastern Kingbird	117	20	Confirmed

TABLE 1. Continued

Species	No. Individuals	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Loggerhead Shrike	15	7	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	359	26	Confirmed
Bell's Vireo	2	1	Probable
Yellow-throated Vireo	36	11	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	229	25	Confirmed
Blue Jay	293	25	Confirmed
American Crow	551	23	Confirmed
Fish Crow	54	13	Confirmed
Purple Martin	395	19	Confirmed
N. Rough-winged Swallow	34	9	Probable
Barn Swallow	185	17	Confirmed
Carolina Chickadee	204	24	Confirmed
Tufted Titmouse	277	25	Confirmed
Brown-headed Nuthatch	52	14	Confirmed
Carolina Wren	376	25	Confirmed
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	201	22	Confirmed
Eastern Bluebird	117	20	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	156	22	Confirmed
American Robin	1	1	Possible
Gray Catbird	10	6	Probable
Northern Mockingbird	313	21	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	62	16	Confirmed
European Starling	36	4	Confirmed
Northern Parula	157	23	Confirmed
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	4	Possible
Pine Warbler	261	22	Confirmed
Prairie Warbler	129	20	Confirmed
American Redstart	21	6	Possible
Prothonotary Warbler	47	8	Possible
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1	Possible
Swainson's Warbler	3	2	Possible
Louisiana Waterthrush	7	3	Confirmed
Kentucky Warbler	41	12	Confirmed
Common Yellowthroat	164	22	Probable

TABLE 1. Continued

Species	No. Individuals	No. Blocks	Breeding Status
Hooded Warbler	112	23	Confirmed
Yellow-breasted Chat	620	25	Confirmed
Summer Tanager	163	24	Confirmed
Eastern Towhee	377	26	Probable
Bachman's Sparrow	2	1	Possible
Chipping Sparrow			Possible
Field Sparrow	18	6	Possible
Northern Cardinal	884	27	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	146	24	Confirmed
Indigo Bunting	608	26	Confirmed
Painted Bunting	3	1	Possible
Red-winged Blackbird	48	8	Confirmed
Eastern Meadowlark	123	9	Confirmed
Orchard Oriole	146	22	Confirmed
Common Grackle	61	9	Confirmed
Brown-headed Cowbird	70	17	Probable
House Finch	14	5	Confirmed
House Sparrow	6	3	Confirmed

Species Accounts. — Several species were of special interest because of questions concerning their distribution. Below are brief accounts of those species and unexpected species.

Pied-billed Grebe — An individual was discovered by one observer. There are summer records of Pied-billed Grebes from most parts of Alabama, but few instances of confirmed breeding (Imhof 1976).

Anhinga — Six were found, one in the Franklin NW block and the others in the Chance quadrangle.

White Ibis — One was in Franklin NW and six were recorded in the Chance quadrangle.

Wood Stork — There are no confirmed records of Wood Stork breeding in either Alabama or Mississippi (Imhof 1976, Turcotte and Watts 1999). From the boat census in the Chance quadrangle, one was seen flying over suitable habitat. Wood Storks are common in south central and southwest Alabama in

July, but reports from early June always bring speculation about possible breeding in the state.

Osprey — A single Osprey was spotted from a boat in the Chance quadrangle. This species is a rare breeder inland (Imhof 1976).

Swallow-tailed Kite — Although this species is known to nest in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, its range in other areas is poorly known. Outside of the Delta, no Swallow-tailed Kite nesting records have been reported and there are only a few records during its breeding period (i.e., late March to the end of June) (Eric Soehren pers. comm.). We recorded seven from the boat in the Chance quadrangle and at least one in each of the following blocks: Flynn SW and CE (seen after 1100 hrs), Claiborne CE, Franklin NW, Chance CE, and Nadawah CE.

Bald Eagle — Even before Bald Eagles became endangered in the Lower 48 States, there were few inland summer records south of the Tennessee River (Imhof 1976). Nesting now occurs at several sites in Alabama, but the bird seen from a boat in the Chance quadrangle was not near an area where they had been seen before during the summer.

American Kestrel — Imhof (1976) noted kestrels as rare outside cities in summer. Individuals were found in breeding habitat in Natchez NW and Nadawah CE (seen after 1100 hrs).

Common Moorhen — Although none were found during the count period, one was found during exploration at the end of May.

Caspian Tern — This species is known to occur year round and to breed on the Alabama Gulf Coast (Imhof 1976). Records well inland generally are limited to spring and fall migration, primarily along the Alabama and Mobile rivers (Imhof 1976). An observation of a group of five Caspian Terns flying north at a height of approximately 20 meters was surprising. The birds were approximately 85 km (50 mi) from the coast. Since the species feeds both in open seas and in marshes (Cuthbert and Wires 1999), and individuals have been found on pelagic trips 85 km (50 mi) south of land, it is possible this group was on a feeding run. Also, in Mississippi there are inland sight records from March to June 20 (Turcotte and Watts 1999), which indicates that late migration or summer wandering may sometimes occur.

Common Ground-Dove — This species is uncommon and local on the Coastal Plain. We found them in Pine Apple CE, Chrysler CW, Chrysler CE, and Mexia CE.

Eastern Phoebe — This species is rapidly expanding its breeding range in the Southeast, but the most recently published range map does not include Monroe County (Weeks 1994). Breeding was confirmed in Burnt Corn quadrangle where three phoebes were found. Another was in Claiborne CE.

Bell's Vireo — A most remarkable find was a pair in apparently suitable habitat

(i.e., secondary growth with dense understory vegetation) in Claiborne CE. The established breeding range for this species is well to the west (Brown 1993). This species has not been recorded in Alabama between May and the end of August.

American Robin — Although this species breeds locally in towns south of Monroe County, most records are from the Black Belt north (Imhof 1976). One was seen in Claiborne CE.

Gray Catbird — Considered a rare breeder in the Lower Coastal Plain (Imhof 1976), this species proved surprisingly common in Monroe County with birds in Pine Apple CE (1), Natchez CE (3 - probable breeding), Flynn CE (1), Midway CE (2), Natchez NW (1), and Nadawah CE (2).

Worm-eating Warbler — This species is near the southernmost point of its breeding range in Monroe County (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Imhof 1976) and only one was discovered in Natchez CE.

Swainson's Warbler — An uncommon and local species in the Interior Coastal Plain, one was found in Uriah-E CE and two in Chance CE.

Bachman's Sparrow — Although this species is found in suitable habitat in the Lower Coastal Plain (Imhof 1976), only two were located on this count, both in Nadawah CE.

Chipping Sparrow — Although the summer distribution for this species includes northernmost Monroe County (Imhof 1976), only one was found on June 10 in Pine Apple SE.

Field Sparrow — This species breeds as far south as at least the Lower Coastal Plain (Imhof 1976). Records were primarily from the northern portion of the county: Burnt Corn CE (2 individuals), Excel CE (1), Repton NW (4), Midway CE (2), Franklin NW (4), and Nadawah CE (5).

Painted Bunting — The species appears to be expanding in the Inland Coastal Plain as evident by three singing males in the Apple CE block.

Species not found. — Black-and-white Warbler, Dickcissel, Baltimore Oriole, and American Goldfinch have been found in nearby areas during the summer, but were not found in our study.

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Lawrence F. Gardella, 3547 Audubon Road, Montgomery, AL 36111.

SUCCESSFUL NESTING OF THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*ACCIPITER STRIATUS*) IN A LONGLEAF PINE STAND IN SOUTHERN ALABAMA

Ghislain Rompré

Very few data exist on Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) nesting in the southeastern United States. According to Bildstein and Meyer (2000), the southernmost limit of the Sharp-shinned Hawk's breeding distribution is extreme northern Alabama and Georgia. However, a few recent records indicate the species may breed farther south (Kale and Maehr 1990, Bildstein and Meyer 2000). Shackelford *et al.* (1996) reported the species nesting in Texas and Louisiana. More recently, Stratford and Tucker (2002) reported a single nest found in southern Alabama, the southernmost record for this species in this State. The recent extension of breeding records in the Southeast might be a positive response to the restoration of Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) ecosystems (Stratford and Tucker 2002).

Here I report a Sharp-shinned Hawk nest in a Longleaf Pine stand in southern Alabama. This is the second record from south Alabama, and another important observation of the species breeding in the Longleaf Pine ecosystem. On 18 June 2002, while looking for passerine bird nests, I found a Sharp-shinned Hawk nest in a 10 ha Longleaf Pine patch on the property of the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, Covington County, Alabama (31°09'55"N, 86°43'2"W). This 10 ha Longleaf Pine stand is part of an experimental study on the consequences of fire and fire surrogate treatments in restoring Longleaf Pine ecosystem. The most recent prescribed fire occurred on 17 April 2002. Vegetation measurements showed that most of the trees were represented by young Longleaf Pine. For example, only 10% of the pines were between 9-15 in (23-38 cm) dbh, while the rest were below 9 in (23 cm) dbh. Some hardwood trees were present [e.g., Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*), Laurel Oak (*Q. laurifolia*), and Post Oak (*Q. stellata*)] and represented only 8% of the live trees. Up to 22% of the standing trees were dead and some were completely burned, including all tree or shrub species in the understory [e.g., Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)].

The nest was located 56 ft (17 m) from the ground in a Longleaf Pine that was 9.5 in (24 cm) dbh and 62 ft (19 m) in height. The nest was against the trunk on a horizontal limb and faced southeast. The diameter of the nest was

approximately 18-22 in (45-55 cm) and was composed primarily of sticks or twigs that made a broad, flat platform that is characteristic for the species (Shackelford *et al* 1996, Bildstein and Meyer 2000, Stratford and Tucker 2002).

On the day I discovered the nest (18 June), I did not see any young, but the female was flying over the canopy, frequently giving “kek, kek, kek” calls. The male also gave a plaintive call. The nest was monitored every three days and on 21 June, four small hatchlings that were covered with white down were discovered. Numerous visits were made to the nesting area prior to the discovering date, and no sights or sounds of a Sharp-shinned Hawk were detected. This indicates that the parents were very quiet during the incubation period, which is characteristic of this species (Bildstein and Meyer 2000 and references therein). On 27 June, the young showed evidence of molting (i.e., brown feathers on the back). During subsequent visits, only the female was observed flying around and giving alarm calls. On 2 July, the female chased a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), while young were responding with alarm calls. On 4 July, five young were perched beside the nest, occasionally preening (Fig. 1). On 6 July, all five young were perched within 16 to 33 ft (5 to 10 m) from the nest, jumping and flying between the limbs of trees around the nest. On 9 July, all five young were observed flying or perched within 66 to 98 ft (20 or 30 m) from the nest. On 12 July, only one young was seen in the vicinity of the nest and the others are assumed to have fledged successfully.



FIGURE 1. A young Sharp-shinned Hawk next to nest (left), Solon Dixon Forestry Education center, Covington County, 4 July 2002 (photo by author).

After 4 July, the remains of suspected food items were found directly below the nest. The remains included the bill, wing bones and feathers of Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*, n=6) and Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, n=4), a tail feather from a Great-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), and probably the wing bones of a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). An exoskeleton of a cicada was found in feces on the ground. Passerines, woodpeckers, and insects are usual components of the Sharp-shinned Hawk diet (Duncan 1980, Palmer 1988, Bildstein and Meyer 2000, Stratford and Tucker 2002).

This nest is the first record on the property of the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, but is in the same area where the species was seen on 17 May 2001 (W. D. Robinson, pers. comm.). Sharp-shinned Hawks are known to nest within the same area year after year (Bildstein and Meyer 2000), so possibly they have previously nested in the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center area. Interestingly, the nest reported in this study was located about 7 mi (11 km) from the one found in Conecuh National Forest on 20 July 2000 by Stratford and Tucker (2002).

Finally, this nesting record in a Longleaf Pine ecosystem reinforces the idea that Sharp-shinned Hawks may react positively to Longleaf Pine habitat restoration (see Stratford and Tucker 2002). The species prefers to nest in conifers (Brown and Amadon 1989, Bildstein and Meyer 2000) and our report indicates that prescribed fires that eliminate hardwoods and a dense understory of shrubs creates suitable nesting habitat for the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

2003 Nesting Season.— A Sharp-shinned Hawk pair nested again in the same Longleaf Pine forest on the property of the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center during the summer of 2003. The nest was located 650 ft (200 m) north of the nest described for the 2002 nesting season. However, on 21 June, cracked eggs with dead embryos were found on the ground below the nest. A severe rainstorm is suspected of causing the failure.

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Ghislain Rompré, Department of Biological Sciences, 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849

SHINY COWBIRDS IN NORTHERN ALABAMA

W. Douglas Robinson

The Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) is a brood parasite that has been expanding its range from South America into North America via the West Indies (Lowther and Post 1999). The first record in the continental United States came from Florida in 1985 (Smith and Sprunt 1987). Since then the species has been detected as far north as Maine and as far west as Oklahoma (Grzybowski and Fazio 1991). Most records, however, have been concentrated in Florida and along the Gulf Coast (Pranty 2000). Shiny Cowbirds have been detected regularly in Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama, but there are no records from elsewhere in Alabama.

On 20 May 2003 at approximately 1000 hrs I saw two Shiny Cowbirds along Cheaha Scenic Drive in Cleburne County. The exact location was 1000 m southwest of the intersection of U.S. Routes 281 and 431 (DeLorme page 33, D7). The birds were both males and were drinking and bathing in a roadside puddle. Both birds were about the size of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), but had blackish heads and slightly thinner and longer bills than do Brown-headed Cowbirds. The eyes were dark, not pale as would be the case for male Brewer's (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) or Rusty blackbirds (*E. carolinus*). The cowbirds were also too small to be Brewer's or Rusty blackbirds or the much larger and longer-tailed Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) was eliminated as a possible identification because the birds' eyes were dark, not reddish, the plumage was blackish with no hint of the bronzy brown usually seen on Bronzed Cowbird, and there was no ruff typically seen on most Bronzed Cowbird napes. The head profile was flatter than expected for the more round-headed Brown-headed Cowbird. Tails were medium length and squared; legs dark; the rest of the plumage was black, appearing the same color as the head plumage.

I viewed the birds from a distance of about 30 m through the open window of my car. I used Bausch and Lomb Elite binoculars (8x42) to view the birds. The birds were silent.

This represents the first record of Shiny Cowbird in Alabama away from the Gulf Coast. Although there are no confirmed records of nest parasitism in Alabama, recent evidence from Georgia (Sykes and Post 2001) indicates the possibility of breeding in Alabama.

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W. Douglas Robinson, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 104 Nash Hall, Oak Creek, Laboratory of Biology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. E-mail: robinson@oregonstate.edu

FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2002)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan

This report covers the period from August through November 2002 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 Western Panhandle counties of Florida, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Bay, Gulf, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

EARED GREBE – Uncommon in Alabama, a single in alternate plumage was seen at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 10 October (Steve McConnell). Another single spent 16-29 November at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, m.ob.) (rare but regular in WP).

GREATER SHEARWATER – One was spotted 10 miles south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin* 7 August (James Pfeiffer) (27th Alabama record).

WILSON’S STORM-PETREL – Two were seen 17 August 61 miles south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin* (Dwight Cooley, Steve McConnell, m.ob.) for the 20th Alabama record (@ABRC).

LEACH’S STORM-PETREL – A bird found on the beach of Okaloosa Island, *Okaloosa* 30 July later died at a rehabilitation center, with the specimen (second area record) going to the Florida State Museum (Polly McNichols,

Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL – One was seen 17 August 61 miles south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin* (Dwight Cooley, Steve McConnell, m.ob.) for the seventh date of occurrence in Alabama (@ABRC).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD – Tropical Storm Hanna brought an adult bird to the beach near Destin, *Okaloosa* 14 September. It was rehabilitated and released near Tampa. This was the first record for the WP (*vide* Bob Duncan; @FOSRC). Another adult bird was reported from the Destin west jetty, *Okaloosa* 3 October (Don Ware, Alan Knothe; @FOSRC).

BROWN BOOBY – Casual in the WP, one juvenile was observed for about three hours as it cruised Pensacola Bay at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 26 September during Tropical Storm Isidore (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod, Roy Hall).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY – The first WP record was set by a dark phase adult found in a yard in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 28 September. It was taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida (Tom Wickes, Tom Hughes), identified by Dorothy Kaufmann and staff, and photographed by Lucy Duncan. It died 29 September, with the specimen going to the Florida State Museum. Another adult bird was found emaciated at Cape San Blas, *Gulf* (Tom Lewis) exact date unknown but occurrence related to Tropical Storm Isidore (late September). A newspaper article in *The Star*, Port St. Joe, provided some details. A third individual, a juvenile, was discovered frozen as a specimen at Emerald Coast Wildlife Sanctuary. It had originally been identified as a Brown Booby, but was identified as a Red-footed Booby by Lenny Fenimore (confirmed by Bob Duncan). The bird had originally been found in *Walton* 16 September (specimen to Pensacola Junior College).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – This species is locally rare in inland Alabama, so the following records were notable: three at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 7 November (C. Alford); 98 on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee* 11 November (Winston Baker, Linda Baker); five at Speigner, *Elmore* 17 November (Larry Gardella); and one at Lake Point SP, *Barbour* 27 November (Geoff Hill).

ANHINGA – Two at the fish hatchery at Marion, *Perry* 3 August (Paul Franklin) were uncommon this far north in the state. This species is rare in the Mountain Region, so one seen at Alexander City, *Tallapoosa* 14 October (Winston Baker, Linda Baker) was notable.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD – One was spotted west of Mobile, *Mobile* 4 October after Tropical Storm Lili (J. Siegwald). This species is unusual

away from the outer coast.

GREAT EGRET – On 8 August, 194 were counted at sinkhole ponds west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, a good number for the Tennessee Valley (Paul Kittle).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – An adult at Greenwood, *Jefferson* 1 October was the first record for the Mountain Region and the 14th for Alabama (Helen Kittinger, Gussie Arnett, Martha Dagg *et al.*; @ABRC).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – The fourth WP record was set by one seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 27 September (Peggy Baker, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). The 22nd-25th Alabama records were set as follows: 2-3, *Prairie Creek, Lowndes* 4 August-early September (Larry Gardella, Pat Johnson); one on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile* 17 August (J. Siegwald, Venetia Friend, Betsy Eager *et al.*); one on the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile* 25 August (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); and one at the airport, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 6-13 October (D. Ombalski, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, m.ob.; ph.).

WOOD STORK – This species is rare in the Mountain Region, so the seven seen at Harpersville, *Shelby* 31 August (Steve McConnell) were a good number. A single was seen at the same site 23 August (Dick Reynolds) and five were still present 1 September (Steve McConnell *et al.*). One soaring over Wilson Dam, *Colbert* 2 September (Tom Haggerty) was the second record for northwest Alabama. A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 31 October (Brian Monk) where it is very rare.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – This locally rare goose was noted at two sites in the WP: three at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 18-29 November (Brian Monk, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.) and one at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa* 8-19 November (Bill Bremser). Twenty were at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* 23 November (Pelham Rowan), where this species is uncommon but regular.

SNOW GOOSE – One was noted at Benton, *Montgomery* 9 November (Larry Gardella). This species is uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

ROSS'S GOOSE – A single was seen at Lake Point SP, *Barbour* 27 November and at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour* 14 December (Geoff Hill). The species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

MOTTLED DUCK – Three birds in *Okaloosa* 13 August (Don Ware) set the second August record for the WP.

GREATER SCAUP – One female was recorded at Fayette, *Fayette* 15 November (Jud Johnston) (rare in the Mountain Region).

SURF SCOTER – Three were below Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 5 November (Damien Simbeck) and five were at Guntersville, *Marshall* 12 November

(Helen Kittinger, Martha Dagg *et al.*) (rare inland).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Damien Simbeck recorded a single at Wilson Dam, *Colbert* 15 November (rare inland).

BLACK SCOTER – One was at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 7 November (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) (very rare inland).

BUFFLEHEAD – One at Florence, *Lauderdale* 1 November, was an early arrival (Damien Simbeck).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – A kettle of 42 birds was observed 7 August over a shopping center in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, as a thunderstorm approached from the north (Bob Duncan), setting a new high count for the WP. A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 2 October (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), while another at the same site on 8 October (Al Miller, Bob Duncan) set a new late departure date for the Gulf Coast.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Bob Sargent found one southwest of Springville, *St. Clair* 11 August (rare in the Mountain Region).

BALD EAGLE – An immature was spotted at Ft. Toulouse, *Elmore* 2 September (L. McElvaine) in an area of Alabama where the species is locally rare.

NORTHERN HARRIER – Good numbers of 17 and 26 were seen at a roost at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale* 8 and 25 October, respectively (Paul Kittle).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – A late individual was in *Lee* 1 November (Barry Fleming, Paul Milotis).

GOLDEN EAGLE – Two records of this species, rare throughout Alabama, were received: an adult at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* 13 November (Eric Soehren) and an immature at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* 29 November (Ralph Brinkhurst, Barry Fleming).

MERLIN – Two were spotted west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 2 November (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) (rare so late).

PEREGRINE FALCON – One at the Birmingham Airport, *Jefferson* 30 August (Pelham Rowan) and 31 August (Greg Harber) set an early record for the Mountain Region (unless from a hacking program).

SANDHILL CRANE – Bev Goode saw one at Navarre, *Santa Rosa* 25 October; Lucy Duncan and Betsy Tetlow observed five at Pensacola, *Escambia* 5 November; and Chris Davis spotted five at Bayou Grande, *Escambia* 24 November (casual in fall in the WP).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – An uncommon fall migrant, up to four were recorded at Harpersville, *Shelby* 27 August – 1 September (Lorna West *et al.*)

KILLDEER – The total of 285 at the WTF, *Lowndes* 14 August (Bob Reid)

was a good number for the season.

BLACK-NECKED STILT – One was west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 2 August (Paul Kittle, Tom Haggerty *et al.*) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley- sixth record).

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, seven at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour* 21 August (Milt Hubbard) tied the fall high count for inland Alabama; five were at the same site 22 August (Milt Hubbard, Lorna West); and one was at the WTF, *Lowndes* 24 August (Bill Campbell, David Trently).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Two at Florence, *Lauderdale* 1 November (Damien Simbeck) were late.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – This shorebird is uncommon in the Tennessee Valley, so two west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 13 August (Tom Haggerty) were notable.

WHIMBREL – The one seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour* 22 August (Lorna West, Milt Hubbard) was the fourth record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW – This species is rarely seen away from the Mobile Causeway, so one on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 2 November (David Dortch *et al.*; ph.) was noteworthy.

MARbled GODWIT – Two were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 15-25 August (Bob Duncan) (rare in WP). The third record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was established by one seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour* 22 August (Lorna West, Milt Hubbard).

RUDDY TURNSTONE – Rare for inland Alabama, one was at Harpersville, *Shelby* 4 August (Greg Harber) and 11 August (Steve McConnell; ph.).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Rarely seen in fall, a single was at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile* 11 August (Paul Milotis) and six were found at Guntersville, *Marshall* 4 September (Dick Reynolds).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – One at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 22 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.) was very late (casual in WP). West of Florence, *Lauderdale*, Paul Kittle saw one 9 August and Tom Haggerty found two 13 August (rare). Bob Reid had one at the WTF, *Lowndes* 14 August (rare). A single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 28 September (David Dortch, Howard Horne, m.ob.) (rare but expected).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – A new maximum count (400+) for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was made at the WTF, *Lowndes* (Larry Gardella) 3 August.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – One at the WTF, *Lowndes* 3 August set a new early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama (Larry

Gardella). Three were noted west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 9-14 September (Tom Haggerty) (uncommon in northwest Alabama).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – One at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 13 November (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, m.ob.) set a late record (by one month) for the Gulf Coast.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – One was found at Seagrove Beach, *Walton* 20 September and taken to the Emerald Coast Wildlife Sanctuary where it expired (specimen to Pensacola Junior College) (Bob Duncan, Lenny Fenimore). This was the first record for *Walton* and only the third for the WP.

PARASITIC JAEGER – Mickey Howard found an ill bird at South Sauty Creek, *Jackson* 6 September. It died three days later (specimen to Wheeler NWR) (*vide* Linda Reynolds; ph.). This was the first confirmed inland Parasitic Jaeger for Alabama and only the fifth inland jaeger.

JAEGER SP. – Rare so early, a probable Pomarine was noted 10 miles south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin* 12 August (James Pfeiffer).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – The species is rare in October in the WP. One adult was seen at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 27 October (Bob Duncan). One adult and two first-year birds were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert* 15 November (Damien Simbeck) where the species is rare but expected.

LITTLE GULL – One was seen on several dates at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* to establish the seventh Alabama record: 27 October (Ben Garmon *et al.*), 28 October (Ann Miller, Al Miller), and 2 November (Bill Summerour) (@ABRC).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – A winter adult was found at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 4 November (Bob Duncan, Jere French) and a first winter individual was at Pensacola, *Escambia* 6-8 November (Lucy Duncan, Don Ware, Alan Knothe *et al.*) to establish the fourth and fifth WP records.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – An adult that was recorded on Pelican Island, *Mobile* 8 September (Howard Horne, Tim Rice) was an early fall arrival by nearly one month. An immature was photographed at the same site on 10 October (Steve McConnell *et al.*).

COMMON TERN – The 200 seen at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* 27 October (Ben Garmon) was a good number this late.

FORSTER'S TERN – A new maximum count for inland Alabama was made below Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 27 September when 140 were tallied (Damien Simbeck).

LEAST TERN – Rare for both the northwest region and the Inland Coastal

Plain of Alabama, these records were notable: two immatures west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 15 August (Tom Haggerty, Paul Kittle); one adult at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 16-19 August (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow); and one adult below Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 19 September (Damien Simbeck) (late record for Tennessee Valley).

BRIDLED TERN – Uncommon offshore in Alabama, three were recorded 15, 29, and 60 miles south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin* 17 August (Steve McConnell, m.ob.). Two birds were at Pensacola, *Escambia* 15 September (Ann Forster, Dan Forster), while Tropical Storm Isidore brought 15-20 birds to Pensacola Bay and other area waters, *Santa Rosa* 26 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.) (six previous WP records).

SOOTY TERN – Rare onshore, a single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 14 September after Tropical Storm Hanna (Tasha McLain, Michael Jordan). Tropical Storm Isidore brought birds to both the WP and north Alabama. This tern was reported in numbers at three separate locations in the Pensacola, *Escambia* area on 26 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Peggy Baker, Jane Crittenden), a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 27 September (Lucy Duncan), and one was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia* 4 October (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Chris Cameron) (casual in WP). Five (one adult, four juveniles) seen on the Tennessee River below Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence* 27 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) were the first recorded for the Tennessee Valley and the third recorded for inland Alabama.

BLACK TERN – The 126 counted on the Tennessee River at Brown's Ferry, *Lawrence/Limestone* 15 August (Jeff Garner) and the 50 found at Guin, *Marion* 15 August (Jud Johnston) were good numbers for the Tennessee Valley and Mountain regions, respectively, while the six noted below Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 27 September (Damien Simbeck) were late.

BROWN NODDY – After Tropical Storm Isidore, an exhausted bird was found on a dock at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* (Wendy Jess; ph.; @ABRC) to establish the fifth record for Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – One at a feeder in Guin, *Marion* 21 August (Don Wooldridge, Jud Johnston; ph.) was only the second for the Mountain Region (11th for inland Alabama).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Jan Osborne recorded one in south *Baldwin* 17 November (ties late record for Alabama).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – Rare in the WP, singles were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 14 October – 9 November (Lenny Fenimore, m. ob.); Okaloosa Island, *Okaloosa* 15 October (Brian Monk); and Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 26

November (Bob Duncan).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW – Two were seen at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 15 September (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) to set a late departure record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

WHIP-POOR-WILL – One was heard on the late date of 22 September in Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* (Tom Haggerty).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – One was banded by Fred Bassett at East Brewton, *Escambia* 6 November (ph.; @ABRC) to mark the 12th Alabama record.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - One was banded at Anniston, *Calhoun* 27 November (Bob Sargent, T. Morgan; ph.; @ABRC) to set the 15th Alabama record.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD – An immature female was banded at Florence, *Lauderdale* 29 August (Bob Daly) (rare in northwest Alabama).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in fall at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, a single was seen 14 September (Tasha McLain, Michael Jordan) after Tropical Storm Hanna. A rare fall migrant, one was noted 23 September at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER –The following reports of this rare but sometimes regular *Empidonax* were received: one at St. Florian, *Lauderdale* 25 August (Damien Simbeck); one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 20 September (Damien Simbeck, Phyllis Nofzinger *et al.*); one calling at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 26 September (Larry Gardella); one at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale* 28 September (Tom Haggerty); and one calling at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 10 October (Steve McConnell) and three at the same site 13 October (Ben Garmon).

ALDER FLYCATCHER – A singing *Empidonax* at Loxley, *Baldwin* 24 August was reported as this species (Claire Krusko; @ABRC) to set the 11th Alabama record. One was calling at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 28 September (Steve McConnell; @ABRC) to set the 12th Alabama record.

“TRAILL’S FLYCATCHER” – Reports of two possible Alders were received: one calling at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 5 October (Larry Gardella; @ABRC) (rare on Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama), and one singing at Guntersville, *Marshall* 2 November (Dean Cutten), the latest *Empidonax* for inland Alabama and the latest “Traill’s” for Alabama.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – A count of 12 on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 28 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) set a new maximum for Alabama.

- “WESTERN FLYCATCHER”** – The first record for the complex in Alabama was marked by a single seen at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 25-27 September (Jon Dunn, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Casual in the WP, two different adult males were found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*: one 22 October – 16 November (Lucy Duncan, Chris Cameron) and one 23 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob). An immature female was at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* 19 October (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Betsy Tetlow, Sue Yates) where it is rare.
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – One was observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 4 October - 29 November (Lenny Fenimore, m.ob.). This species has been rare but regular at this site since 1991.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** – One at Foley, *Baldwin* 16 November (Howard Horne, Bill Summerour *et al.*) was unusual away from the outer coast. Seven were seen at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* 24 November (Carolyn Henning, Jan Osborne, Eva Barnett), a good number, especially so late in the season.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but increasing inland, there were three reports, all of single adults: AL 183 in southwest *Perry* 3 August (Paul Franklin *et al.*); Autaugaville, *Autauga* 18 August (Tommy Pratt); and Priceville, *Morgan* 17-20 September (Steve McConnell).
- BELL’S VIREO** – One was seen along the Coosa River, *Shelby* 28 September (Harriett Wright, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Shirley Farrell) (very rare for inland Alabama).
- WARBLING VIREO** – Rare in Alabama, one was noted at Madison, *Madison* 5 September (Dean Cutten) and another was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 27 September (Howard Horne, Bill Summerour, Laurie Bailey).
- HORNED LARK** – The WTF, *Lowndes* is the only known breeding site for this species on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, and four were there 3 August (Larry Gardella).
- TREE SWALLOW** – Larry Gardella reported 200 from Speigner, *Elmore* 28 September, a good number for inland Alabama.
- BANK SWALLOW** – Ben Garmon reported 300 at Battleship Park on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile* 3 September, a good number for one site.
- CAVE SWALLOW** – The sixth and seventh WP records were set by single adults observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 9 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Brian Monk, Morris Clark, m.ob.) and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 15 November (Bob Duncan).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – One was noted at Montgomery,

Montgomery 25 September while two were seen at the same site 14 November (Larry Gardella) (rare for Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

HOUSE WREN – A late migrant was at Fayette, *Fayette* 24 November (Jud Johnston).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – An estimated 50 were at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 2 November (David Dortch *et al.*) (a good number at this site).

VARIED THRUSH – A window-killed individual was found at Panama City, *Bay* 16 November (Richard Ingram) to set the third or fourth Florida record.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – Good numbers of this species were seen at several sites: three in *Macon* 20 September (Barry Fleming) (maximum number for Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama); five in *Lee* 21 September (Paul Milotis); and three at Opelika, *Lee* 5 October (Lorna West).

NORTHERN PARULA – One was late at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 9 October (Damien Simbeck, Shirley Wayland).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – An adult male set a late fall departure record for the Tennessee Valley at Florence, *Lauderdale* 1 November (Damien Simbeck).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – One seen at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* as early as 5 August (continuing through 13 August) set an early arrival record for the Gulf Coast (John Porter *et al.*). A single was late at Guin, *Marion* 30 October (Jud Johnston).

CAPE MAY WARBLER – Rarely seen during fall migration, singles were found at Opelika, *Lee* 10 October and 18 October (Lorna West).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Damien Simbeck reported a female from Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 17 September (rare in northwest Alabama).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – One was late at Madison, *Madison* 3 November (Dean Cutten).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – Reports of late singles came from Opelika, *Lee* 29 October (Lorna West) and Guin, *Marion* 30 October (Jud Johnston).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – One seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 28 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) was late.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – Tom Haggerty reported a rare and late (for the Tennessee Valley) single from Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 15 August. Singles were at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 25 and 27 September (Jon Dunn and Howard Horne *et al.*, respectively) (uncommon in fall, not often detected).

- HOODED WARBLER** – Two found at Rocky Ridge, *Jefferson* 29 October (Harriett Wright) were late.
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – One seen at Madison, *Madison* 10 October (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) set a new late departure date for the Tennessee Valley.
- CANADA WARBLER** – This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, so the following records were noteworthy: a single along the Alabama River, *Autauga* 28 August (Eric Soehren); three in the Tsninia Unit of Tuskegee NF, *Macon* 11 September (Barry Fleming); and one at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 28 September (Larry Gardella).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – A late bird was in *Lee* 1 November (Barry Fleming).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – A single was spotted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 28 September (Howard Horne, m.ob.) where the species is rare but expected at this season.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW** – Ned Piper found one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 24 November (rare in Tennessee Valley).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Singles were found in *Jefferson* at two sites: Argo 28 September (Greg Harber) and Birmingham Botanical Gardens 27 October (Pelham Rowan; ph.) (rare in Mountain Region).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – Two at the WTF, *Lowndes* 17 November (Bill Campbell), where the species is rare but regular, set a new early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** – A female was at a site that has hosted the species for eight winters, in west Mobile, *Mobile* beginning the first week in November and continuing through the period (Virginia Culberson).
- PAINTED BUNTING** – A juvenile at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 19 August (Bob Duncan) set the third record for the WP.
- DICKCISSEL** – A late and locally rare individual was found at Atmore, *Escambia*, Alabama 12 November (Jon Yoder).
- HOODED ORIOLE** – An adult male coming to a hummingbird feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 22-26 October (Betty Ann Smith, William Smith) established the first record for Florida (@FOSRC; ph.).

Paul D. Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (Email: pdkittle@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson** [Alabama compiler], 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (Email: greg-debi.jackson@prodigy.net). **Robert A. Duncan** [NW Florida compiler], 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (Email: TownPoint@att.net).

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2002 – FEBRUARY 2003)**Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan**

This report covers the period from December 2001 through February 2002 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.

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RED-THROATED LOON – Casual in the WP, singles were found on Choctawhatchee Bay, *Okaloosa* 16 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); Destin, *Okaloosa* 18 January (Alan Knothe, Dexter Richardson); and Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 19 January (Tim Bagworth).

PACIFIC LOON – Now rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, three singles were noted in the WP: Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 14 December (Lucy Duncan) and 19 January (Tim Bagworth); and Pensacola Bay, *Escambia* 1 February (Ann Forster, Dan Forster). On the Alabama coast, one was seen at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin* 4 January (Bob Reid) and 19 January (Larry Gardella), a site where the species is rare but expected. Also rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was noted 11 January (Steve McConnell).

EARED GREBE – Rare in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 7-22 December (present since November) (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare for inland Alabama, although increasing, the 100 counted along Ala. Hwy. 5 at mile 43, *Dallas* 25 January (Ben Garmon) was an excellent number. Other inland records were: a single at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* 2 December – 4 February (NWR staff *et al.*); 11 on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale* 14 December (Damien Simbeck, Frances Markine, Gary Markine); and four at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert* 28 February (Damien Simbeck).

BROWN PELICAN – An immature at Lay Lake, *Shelby/Coosa* 15 December (Rick Remy, Bruce Cusic) set the first record for the Mountain Region. A total of 1,004 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January was a good number for winter.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – The 296 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Colbert/Lauderdale* 14 December was a good number locally.

GREAT BLUE HERON – On the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December, 306 was a good number.

GREAT EGRET – The 108 counted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January was a good number for winter.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – The FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, hosted a single 13 December (Don Ware) and eight birds 7 January (Alan Knothe). Thirteen were found in *Walton* 2-8 January (Vince Lucas *et al.*) (rare in the WP). A single was seen on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 28 December (Ben Garmon), where the species is rare in winter. On the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January, 15 were counted (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow, Mark Van Hoose), a good number for the Gulf Coast in winter. West of Florence in *Lauderdale*, three were found 4 February and 20 were counted 13 February (Damien Simbeck) (locally rare). At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, this goose is uncommon but expected, and 24 were counted 15 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.).

ROSS'S GOOSE – Four adults and one immature were seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* 14 December (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.) where the species is rare but expected. In *Montgomery* three at Snowdown 30 December – 11 January (Larry Gardella, Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) was a good number, while Bill Campbell *et al.* found a single elsewhere in the county 31 December – 11 January (rare in this area). A single was seen in the Bon Secour area, *Baldwin* 25 December – 5 April+ where the species is rare (David Plumb *et al.*).

- CANADA GOOSE** – Richardson’s Goose is a rarely occurring subspecies in Alabama, so four found west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 1 December (Damien Simbeck) were noteworthy.
- TRUMPETER SWAN** – Four birds observed at Niceville, *Okaloosa* from 5 December through the end of the period set a first state record (Diane Siwicki, Jim Vest, Don Ware, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.; ph.). These birds, though not banded, were very tame and would respond positively to food offerings (@FOSRC).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – Unless wintering, individuals spotted at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* 15 February (two birds) and 21 February (four birds) (Steve McConnell) set an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley. A single male at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert* 28 February (Damien Simbeck) was also early.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** – Damien Simbeck counted 155 west of Florence, *Lauderdale* 13 February, a good number locally.
- CANVASBACK** – On the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December, the total of 273 was a good number.
- GREATER SCAUP** – One was found at Fayette, *Fayette* 10 January (Jud Johnston) where the species is locally rare.
- BLACK SCOTER** – Five found during the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin* 28 December were rare but expected.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK** – An adult female noted at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 10 January (Bob Duncan, John Ball *et al.*) was rare and at an odd location. Rare but expected at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, two were found 25 January (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).
- HOODED MERGANSER** – A new maximum winter count for the Mountain Region was set by the 110 Jud Johnston tallied at Walker County Lake, *Walker* 19 January.
- COMMON MERGANSER** – Only occasional on the Gulf Coast, a male on Bon Secour Bay, *Baldwin* 25 January (D. Plumb) was notable.
- RUDDY DUCK** – A maximum for Alabama was set by the 1,820 counted by Greg Jackson on Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall* 25 January.
- OSPREY** – A maximum for Alabama was set by the 24 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January.
- BALD EAGLE** – Four was a good number for the Gulf Coast in *Baldwin* 4 January (Gulf Shores CBC).
- COOPER’S HAWK** – A maximum winter count for Alabama was set by the 13 in *Baldwin* 4 January (Gulf Shores CBC).

- MERLIN** – Singles were found at Lake Land Farms, Marion, *Perry* 4 December (Harriett Wright, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.) and 20 January (Stan Hamilton *et al.*) (rare but expected in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama). Another single was recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan* 14 December (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).
- PEREGRINE FALCON** – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, single birds were observed on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery* 4 January and at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* 11 January (Harry Dean, m.ob.).
- BLACK RAIL** – Very rare in the WP, one was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 18 January (Alan Knothe, Dexter Richardson).
- SANDHILL CRANE** – Casual in the WP, a single was at the Gulf Breeze Zoo, *Santa Rosa* 15 November – 1 December (Mike Quinn). A large flock spent the winter at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (m.ob.) and the 304 counted 1 February (Steve McConnell) was a new maximum for Alabama. Locally rare elsewhere in Alabama, two were at Heiberger, *Perry* 4 December (Harriett Wright) and six were at Opelika, *Lee* 4 December (Paul Milotis).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Rare in winter in north Alabama, two were recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone* 14 December and seen again 31 January (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten); two were also on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 14 December.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – One studied well at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 11 December (Bob Landry, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.) set the first December record for Florida and apparently for the entire U.S.
- MARBLED GODWIT** – This species is rare in winter, so three found on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 7 December (Ben Garmon) and one at the same site 19 January (Larry Gardella) were notable.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – A single at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 22 February (Howard Horne *et al.*) established the third February record for Alabama.
- LAUGHING GULL** – An adult was found at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 25 January (Steve McConnell), a site where the species is rare but regular.
- THAYER'S/ICELAND GULL** – One first-year bird was found at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin* during the Gulf Shores CBC 4 January (Brian Monk, Don Ware, Peggy Baker), the fifth Alabama record for the complex and, if Thayer's, the third Alabama record (@ABRC). A second-year bird at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 27 February – 9 March (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) likewise set the sixth Alabama record for the complex and, if Thayer's, the fourth Alabama record (@ABRC).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Rare but regular at the Tennessee River

dams, an adult was at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 25 January (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.), and a second-year individual was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence* 28 December (Steve McConnell) and 28 January (Damien Simbeck).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – One immature found at Lake Point SP, *Barbour* 8 February (Geoff Hill) established the first record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Excellent numbers were found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*: nine on 7 December (Ben Garmon) and 40 on 9 February (Mike Wilson *et al.*).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – Rare in the WP, Bob Duncan found two birds at the Bayou Marcus Sewerage Plant, *Escambia* 3 December and reported one from Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 18 December, present since 26 November.

GREAT HORNED OWL – Fifteen tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December set a new maximum for inland Alabama.

SHORT-EARED OWL – This species is rare and erratic in Alabama. Near Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, two were noted 18 December (Steve McConnell *et al.*) and one 8 February (Jud Johnston).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK – One was reported for the Perdido Bay CBC, *Escambia* 21 December (Scot Duncan) (seventh WP record).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – One at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* 30 November (Roi Shannon) set a late departure date for the Tennessee Valley.

WHIP-POOR-WILL – Rare in winter in the WP, Bob Duncan saw one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 5 January.

CHAETURA SP. – Four probable Vaux's Swifts were spotted at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 18 January (Ben Garmon *et al.*; @ABRC); first winter *Chaetura* for Alabama and, if Vaux's, first record for Alabama.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – The second record of this species for Alabama was established by an adult female in Ozark, *Dale* 1-27 January (Fred Bassett, Gifford Garner, Ann Garner *et al.*) (b.; ph.; @ABRC).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – The 16th/17th and 18th records for Alabama were established by the following birds (all singles): female, Spanish Fort, *Baldwin* 11 December (Fred Bassett, Jeanette Eden); immature male, *Mobile*, *Mobile* 11 December (Fred Bassett, Genny Benton); immature male, Lillian, *Baldwin* 19 January (Fred Bassett, Bob Sargent, Jim Dickerson) (all b.; ph.; @ABRC).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – An adult female at Morris, *Jefferson* 2 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Andy Anderson) set the eighth

Alabama record (b.; ph.; @ABRC).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – Accidental in Florida, the third WP record of this species came from Pensacola, *Escambia* 20 December when an immature female was banded (Fred Bassett, Marge Godwin). The 17th record for Alabama was marked by an adult female at Lillian, *Baldwin* 3 January (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson; b.; ph.; @ABRC), while a female at Fairhope, *Baldwin* 27 January (Fred Bassett, David Dortch; b.; ph.; @ABRC) marked the 18th record for Alabama.

EASTERN PHOEBE – A new maximum for Alabama was established by the 175 tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Casual in the WP, an adult male was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 14 December – 13 February (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.). Rare in winter in Alabama, an adult female was listed on the Perdido Bay CBC, Lillian, *Baldwin* 21 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Reports of two-seven birds came from four locations in the WP 1-27 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow, Don Ware, m.ob.) (casual in winter in the WP). One bird lingered in downtown Pensacola, *Escambia* to 14 February. Rare in winter in Alabama, the following Gulf Coast records were received: one at Alabama Port, *Mobile* 11 December (David Dortch, Phillip Casteel); one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 11 December (David Dortch *et al.*); two at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 11-12 December (Eric Soehren *et al.*); 12 (maximum winter count for Alabama) on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*; six on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin* 28 December; one on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser); and four at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 20 January (Bill Summerour).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Rare in winter in Alabama, the following reports from the Gulf Coast were received: one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* 11-12 December (Eric Soehren); a single on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile* 21 December; four (maximum winter count for Alabama) south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (Bill Summerour, Steve Threlkeld); and one (a juvenile) at Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 10 January (Bob Duncan, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod, John Ball *et al.*).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – Larry Gardella found one at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 23 February (rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

BELL'S VIREO – While participating in the Gulf Shores CBC, Ann Miller

found a single north of Gulf Shores, *Baldwin* 4 January, thereby establishing the first winter record for Alabama.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – David Dortch located one at Fairhope, *Baldwin* 12 December to set the sixth winter record for Alabama.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan* 14 December. A maximum winter count for inland Alabama was established when 13 were tallied on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery* 4 January.

TREE SWALLOW – Two birds were noted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone* 3 February (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) (early record for north Alabama).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – A single was spotted at Lillian, *Baldwin* 21 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in winter on the Gulf Coast).

BANK SWALLOW – Steve McConnell found a single southeast of Foley, *Baldwin* 4 January. While there is one prior early December record for Alabama, the above bird established the first mid-winter record for the state.

CAVE SWALLOW – Casual in the WP, one was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 13 December (Don Ware, Lydia Daugherty). The 17th, 18th, and 19th records for Alabama (and the first, second, and third winter records) were set, respectively, by the following birds, all singles and all @ABRC: southeast of Foley, *Baldwin* 3-5 January (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.); Justin's Bay on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile* 19 January (Larry Gardella); and Blakeley Island, *Mobile* 20 January (Bill Summerour).

TUFTED TITMOUSE – New maximum counts were set for the Gulf Coast and Tennessee Valley, respectively: 66 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January and 267 on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – A new high count for the Tennessee Valley was set by the 73 recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December.

SEDGE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan* 14 December.

MARSH WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan* 14 December.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – A new maximum count (728) for Alabama was made on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – A new high count for the Tennessee Valley was set by the 120 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 14 December.

- AMERICAN PIPIT** – A new high count for the Gulf Coast of Alabama was set by the 1,072 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – This species is rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, so the following records were noteworthy: a single was found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan* 14 December, and three was a good number for the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Two individuals at separate locations in Destin, *Okaloosa* 16 December set the first December records for the WP (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Brian Monk).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** – A new maximum count (12,502) for Alabama was made on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January.
- PINE WARBLER** – A new high count for inland Alabama was set by the 171 recorded on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December.
- PALM WARBLER** – This species apparently lingered in north Alabama in good numbers. Nineteen were tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 14 December (maximum for Tennessee Valley in winter), while 12 was a good number on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December.
- OVENBIRD** – The second January record for the WP was set by a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 19 January (Tim Bagworth).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – One found freshly dead in Birmingham, *Jefferson* 3 December (Jessica Germany, Greg Harber) set the third winter record for inland Alabama and the sixth winter record for the state.
- HOODED WARBLER** – The second winter record for the WP was established by an adult female discovered in *Walton* 10 January (Don Ware, George Russell).
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – Casual in winter in the WP, one was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 18 January (Brian Monk).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – Only occasional in winter in Alabama, two were tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin* 4 January: one at Bon Secour (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) and one north of Gulf Shores (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser). Casual in winter in the WP, a single was in *Walton* 20 January (Don Ware, George Russell).
- SUMMER TANAGER** – An adult male was present at Week's Bay, *Baldwin* 17 November – 11 March (Runae Boyette; ph.) (second winter at this site; rare in winter in Alabama). An adult female was present at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia* 5 December – 21 February (Betsy Tetlow) (casual in winter in the WP).
- SCARLET TANAGER** – One observed 30 November – 1 December (Mary

Theberge) and again 13 December (John Giovanni) in *Walton* set the first record for November and December in the WP.

WESTERN TANAGER – Bob Duncan found an adult female at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 20 December (casual in winter in the WP).

CHIPPING SPARROW – The 421 tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall* 26 December set a new maximum for north Alabama.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Rare in winter, a single was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* 26 February (Dick Reynolds).

LARK SPARROW – One was noted on the Ft. Morgan CBC, *Baldwin* 28 December (rare in winter in Alabama).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – Barry Fleming had a single in northern *Lee* 11 December (locally rare), and Steve McConnell *et al.* saw two near Allsboro, *Colbert* 25 January (rare in Tennessee Valley).

FOX SPARROW – The estimated 100 at Clay, *Jefferson* 13 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) was an excellent number, especially at one site.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Casual in the WP, one was seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 11-22 December (Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).

HARRIS'S SPARROW – An adult at a feeder near Rhodesville, *Lauderdale* 8 February (*fide* Larry Derrick; ph.; @ABRC) set the third record for the Tennessee Valley and the 16th for Alabama.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 48 were tallied on the Gulf Shores CBC 4 January (Bill Summerour, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton *et al.*) (a new maximum for the Gulf Coast where the species is rare).

NORTHERN CARDINAL – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 14 December, the total of 462 was a good number.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, hosted a female 1-6 December (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan) (casual in December in the WP). An adult male was at Pensacola, *Escambia* 25 February (Jack Powell) (first WP February record). In Guin, *Marion*, a male spent the winter (8 December – 27 February) at a feeder at the home of Don Wooldridge (second winter record for inland Alabama).

BLUE GROSBEAK – One female-type noted at Foley, *Baldwin* 4 January (Howard Horne, Smoot Major) established the fourth winter record for Alabama and the first mid-winter record.

INDIGO BUNTING – A single was noted at Silver Hill, *Baldwin* 27 December (Bill Summerour) (rare in winter in Alabama).

PAINTED BUNTING – Rare in winter in Alabama, the following reports were

received: one female-type on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile* 21 December; an adult male at a feeder from late December – March in Toney, *Madison* (Sarah Hendrix) (second record for Tennessee Valley and first winter record for north Alabama); and an adult male at a feeder in Lillian, *Baldwin* 7 January (Jim Dickerson, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in winter on Gulf Coast).

COMMON GRACKLE – The 37,901 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 14 December was a good number locally.

BRONZED COWBIRD – Accidental in the WP, one was discovered in *Okaloosa* 16 December (Phil Berry, Lydia Daugherty).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – One female-type was noted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery* 4 January (Bob Reed, Pat Reed) (rare in winter in Alabama).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE – Casual in the WP, a first-year male was reported from Pensacola, *Escambia* 24-27 February (Jack Powell).

RED CROSSBILL – Continued presence of this species in the Coleman Lake area of Talladega National Forest, *Cleburne*, was documented 17 February when six were seen (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This species is being reported with increasing frequency in recent years in east Pensacola, *Escambia*, and 12 were noted 16-21 February (Betsy Tetlow).

Paul D. Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (Email: pdkittle@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson** [Alabama compiler], 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (Email: greg-debi.jackson@prodigy.net). **Robert A. Duncan** [NW Florida compiler], 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (Email: TownPoint@att.net).

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: tmhaggerty@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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Tom Haggerty, Editor
Alabama Birdlife
Department of Biology
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