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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*); a species reported in the Summer Sightings (June - July 2005), Pp. 59-64. Photograph by Richard Ditch.

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**FIRST RECORD OF SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)
FOR ALABAMA****Lucy R. Duncan and Robert A. Duncan**

On 15 October 2003 at 0850 hours, the authors, Betsy Tetlow, and Cecil Brown had just driven past the ferry landing at Ft. Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama, when Lucy saw a dark buteo swoop over the road (Fig. 1; Duncan and Duncan 2004). We observed the bird for an hour or so as it flew back and forth along the end of the peninsula, at times high along with Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*), and at times descending and disappearing behind brush as if after prey. It exhibited a noticeable dihedral at all times, eliminating most of the common buteos that pass through the area. Peggy Baker and Ann Miller also saw the bird. The following day, 16 October, Bill Summerour with Dick and Linda Reynolds observed the same features noted the previous day.

We observed a bright yellow bill with dark tip and unfeathered yellow legs and feet. The hawk's head and face were black. The entire underside of the body, including undertail coverts, was black with the exception of sparse, white flecks across the center of the belly. Its upper wings were jet black with no white showing anywhere. The underwings were distinctly checkered dark and light, with outer primaries black-tipped, and the trailing edges of the secondaries darker than the primary edges. The rump was all black, lacking any white whatsoever. The upper tail was solid black, its underside narrowly barred a light silvery-gray. It lacked a bold sub-terminal band.

Our tentative conclusion that it was a Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) was erroneous. Questions left some lingering doubts, so Lucy Duncan's photographs were sent to hawk experts Brian K. Wheeler and William S. Clark, who agreed unequivocally and independently of one another that it was a "previously undescribed plumage" dark morph juvenile Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*). Their identification was based on wing shape, barring on the underside of the remiges, black outer primaries, and other features (pers. comm.). The bird closely matched the Short-tailed Hawk featured on plate 252 of Wheeler's *Raptors of Eastern North America* (Wheeler 2003).

The closest regular occurrence of the species is in peninsula Florida where it is a very uncommon resident (Wheeler 2003). It breeds as far north as Dixie and Putnam counties. In winter it retreats to the southern one third of the state (Wheeler 2003). There are specimen records from Wakulla County in the Big

Bend area of Florida, and a sight record as close as Holmes County, Florida by Thomas A. Imhof 4 June 1988 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Dark morphs comprise about 75% of the Florida population (Wheeler 2003). Widespread in the tropics, the Short-tailed Hawk occurs only as close as central Sinaloa and Tamaulipas in Mexico. Light morphs are more common in eastern Mexico and dark morphs slightly more so in western Mexico (Howell and Webb 1999). It also occurs on the Yucatan Peninsula. It is accidental in south and south-central Texas (Lasley 1991) and southeastern Arizona (Rosenburg and Witzeman 1998). There are no records for Louisiana (B. Mac Myers, pers. comm.). The origin of the Ft. Morgan bird is purely speculative, though it is highly probable of Florida provenance, especially as it was a dark morph. The weather on 15 October was clear with NNE winds 15 – 20 mph. The bird was present with Broad-winged Hawks that were moving west down the peninsula. The observation was submitted to the Alabama Bird Records Committee (04-92) and was accepted as the first record of this species for the state.



FIGURE 1. Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*), a new species for Alabama. Photographed by Lucy Duncan on 15 October 2003 in Baldwin County.

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**AUBURN/OPELIKA, ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
2005**

Julian L. Dusi

The Auburn/Opelika Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted since 1954 (Dusi 1991, 1995) and provide data that can help document changes in winter bird populations. Below are the results for the 2005 count, which occurred on 3 January 2006. Sixteen participants formed 10 parties. The parties drove a total of 294 miles (473 km) and made 44.1 hours of observations. In addition, 16.5 mi (26.5 km) and 37.8 hours of observation were conducted on foot. Weather was clear with a high of 60°F (33°C) and a light wind. A total of 92 species was recorded and 7,889 individuals were counted.

The following is list of the species seen and the number of individuals counted. Ross's Goose 1, Canada Goose 156, Wood Duck 49, Gadwall 6, Mallard 56, Ring-necked Duck 94, Lesser Scaup 44, Bufflehead 24, Common Goldeneye 1, Hooded Merganser 50, Ruddy Duck 30, Wild Turkey 12, Pied-billed Grebe 15, Horned Grebe 2, Great Blue Heron 29, Black Vulture 25, Turkey Vulture 219, Sharp-shinned Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 26, Red-shouldered Hawk 7, American Kestrel 4, Merlin 1, Virginia Rail 2, Killdeer 35, Wilson's Snipe 13, American Woodcock 3, Rock Pigeon 146, Eurasian Collared-Dove 33, Mourning Dove 246, Eastern Screech-Owl 4, Great Horned Owl 3, Barred Owl 4, Belted Kingfisher 20, Red-headed Woodpecker 8, Red-bellied Woodpecker 37, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13, Downy Woodpecker 17, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 13, Pileated Woodpecker 10, Eastern Phoebe 28, Loggerhead Shrike 10, Solitary Vireo 4, Blue Jay 118, American Crow 525, Fish Crow 27, Carolina Chickadee 85, Tufted Titmouse 69, Brown-headed Nuthatch 71, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren 93, House Wren 2, Winter Wren 1, Sedge Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 73, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 108, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Eastern Bluebird 165, Hermit Thrush 6, American Robin 834, Gray Catbird 3, Northern Mockingbird 79, Brown Thrasher 7, European Starling 10, American Pipit 12, Cedar Waxwing 307, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 226, Pine Warbler 115, Palm Warbler 3, Common Yellowthroat 3, Eastern Towhee 76, Chipping Sparrow 117, Field Sparrow 69, Vesper Sparrow 4, Savannah Sparrow 61, Song Sparrow 80, Swamp Sparrow 71, White-throated Sparrow 77, Dark-eyed Junco 18, Northern Cardinal 127, Red-winged Blackbird 815, Eastern

Meadowlark 186, Common Grackle 1295, Brown-headed Cowbird 18, Baltimore Oriole 1, House Finch 38, Pine Siskin 1, American Goldfinch 196, House Sparrow 42.

The count observers were C. A. Carr, Evelyn Cook, Rosemary Dusi, Julian Dusi (compiler), John Ernst, Virginia Ernst, Barry Fleming, John Hachtel, Geoff Hill, Gene Hunter, Haskel Patterson, Betty Patterson, Chet Roe, Jane Rushin, Mary Ann Sims, and Lorna West.

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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2005)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2005 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 *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b.” = banded; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NABS” = North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society; “NAMC” = North American Migration Count; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK – Casual in the WP, 17 were counted 17 March at Pensacola, *Escambia* (Ann Forster, Dan Forster). A single was noted 5 April- 6 May at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton *et al.*).

ROSS’S GOOSE – Rare but regular, and increasing, one was noted at Crow Creek, Stevenson, *Jackson*, 2 March (Damien Simbeck).

WOOD DUCK – During the NAMC on 14 May, Julian Dusi *et al.* tallied 165 in *Lee*, establishing a new maximum for the Mountain Region.

MOTTLED DUCK – One was photographed in downtown Pensacola, *Escambia*, 8 April (Cheryl Bunch, Maria Trimble, Mary Jones), to mark the first April record for the WP.

REDHEAD – A single near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) was late.

GREATER SCAUP – One at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 31 May (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, m.ob.), was the latest ever for the WP. A male near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) set a late departure record for inland Alabama.

LESSER SCAUP – During the NAMC on 14 May, Linda Reynolds *et al.* found 11 in

Marshall, a good number so late.

SCOTER SP. – Any scoter is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, so one unidentified individual seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 15 April (Geoff Hill) was notable.

RUFFED GROUSE – One was heard near the Walls of Jericho in Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 21 May (Steve McConnell), where this species is rare and local.

RED-THROATED LOON – Damien Simbeck found one at Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 10 March (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in the WP, two in basic plumage were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 6 April (Bob Duncan), while one in full alternate plumage was at the same site 6-7 May (Peggy Baker, Cheryl Bunch; ph.).

COMMON LOON – At separate sites on Smith Lake, *Cullman*, there were an estimated 40 on 5 April and 64+ on 6 April (Jeff Garner), good numbers for the Mountain Region.

EARED GREBE – Two birds lingered at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 2 March – 2 April (Bob Duncan, m.ob.), where they had been present since fall 2004 (rare in spring in the WP).

SOOTY SHEARWATER – One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 April (Mary Gustafson), marked the 13th record for Alabama.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER – One landed on the boat of Jeremy West, 30 miles south of Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4 April. It was taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida and identified by Dorothy Kaufmann *et al.*

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Uncommon but increasing for inland Alabama, three reports came from Wilson Reservoir, *Colbert/Lauderdale*: four, 28 February, nine, 1 March (Damien Simbeck), and 100+ (good number), 5 March (June White, John White).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species is rarely detected as an inland migrant and is probably uncommon, so three reports were noteworthy: one at Donovan Lake, Marion, *Perry*, 26 March (Pelham Rowan, m.ob.), one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 23 April (Phillip Johnson, Pieter van der Luit), and six (maximum count for Alabama) at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 27 April (Bailey McKay, Geoff Hill).

LEAST BITTERN – In the Tennessee Valley, this species is a rare and local breeder. Singles were found 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, and Big Nance Creek at County Road 271, *Lawrence*.

REDDISH EGRET – Eight were counted in *Mobile* during the NAMC 14 May (ties maximum count for Alabama).

GLOSSY IBIS – An adult in alternate plumage was found near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) (rare for inland Alabama).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Two birds with red eyes and complete white borders around eyes and face were observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 19 April – 11 May (Brian Monk, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Alan Knothe *et al.*) (sixth WP record). This

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- species is becoming more regular in Alabama, with a single establishing the 17th record at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 1 May (Geoff Hill *et al.*).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – The second spring record for Alabama was marked 10-12 April by one bird at Orange Beach, *Baldwin* (John Porter).
- BLACK VULTURE** – During the NAMC in *Lee*, 14 May, Julian Dusi *et al.* counted 114 (good number).
- OSPREY** – A new maximum spring count (21) for the Gulf Coast was set on the NAMC in *Baldwin*, 14 May (Venetia Friend *et al.*). Eight (a maximum for the Tennessee Valley) were found in *Marshall*, 14 May (NAMC, Linda Reynolds *et al.*).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – A pair (probably nesting) was seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, in late April (Bailey McKay, Windle McKenzie) and 1 May (John Cole). Nesting is undocumented in this area of the state.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Jeff Garner spotted one five miles northwest of Petersville, *Lauderdale*, 15 May (fifth record for northwest Alabama).
- BALD EAGLE** – An adult on a nest was reported from along Town Creek, *Lawrence*, 5 March (June White, John White) (third year of nesting at this site). Two were found on the NAMC in the Blakeley area, *Baldwin*, 14 May (Betsy Eager, Laurie Bailey) (locally rare).
- NORTHERN HARRIER** – A single was late for the Tennessee Valley in *Marshall*, 14 May (Linda Reynolds *et al.*).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** – On the NAMC, late singles were noted 14 May in the Wolf Bay area, *Baldwin* (Homer Singleton), and in the Bellingrath Road area, *Mobile* (Tuck Hayward).
- PRAIRIE FALCON** – One was seen at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 24 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Betsy Tetlow; @ABRC) to mark the fifth record for Alabama and the first away from *Marshall*.
- BLACK RAIL** – Tom Siegwald saw one at the Dauphin Island Airport marsh, *Mobile*, 14 May (rare but regular at this site in spring). This is the latest spring occurrence for the Gulf Coast (except for summer records) and indicates possible nesting at this site.
- KING RAIL** – Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, several were found at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), a site where the species has been regular.
- COMMON MOORHEN** – A Birmingham Audubon Society field trip turned up a single at Lake Land Farms, *Perry*, 26 March, and another bird was at Lee County Public Lake, *Lee*, 14 May (John Ernst, Virginia Ernst) (at both sites, rare this far north).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – Forty-two were counted at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 21 April (Gary Wayner), a good number away from Blakeley Island.
- WILLET** – The spring count conducted by the Birmingham Audubon Society in *Jefferson*, 30 April, produced three individuals (rare inland).

- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – Laura Catterton counted 75+ at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 2 April (maximum count for the Gulf Coast of Alabama). Larry Gardella also had a good number (24) at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 3 April.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – One was early at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 30 April (Ann Miller).
- BAIRD’S SANDPIPER** – The first March record for the WP was established by two birds seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 29 March (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown). A single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in spring).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck counted 131 (good number) 1 April.
- STILT SANDPIPER** – Early for inland Alabama, one was noted at Prattville, *Autauga*, 6 March (Tommy Pratt). At Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, Howard Horne found 81 on 20 March (good number so early).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Casual in spring in the WP, three birds at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 29 March (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) established the second March record for the area, and two birds were present at the same site 27 April (Cecil Brown, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). Rare in spring for inland Alabama, reports of singles came from the WTF, *Lowndes*, 3 April (Larry Gardella), and near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – “Many” were calling at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 20 March (Howard Horne) (early for large numbers).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK** – It is uncommon to document nesting for this species in Alabama, so an adult and two downy young were noteworthy at Alexander City, *Tallapoosa*, 26 March (Linda Baker).
- WILSON’S PHALAROPE** – Sue Moske located one near Decatur, *Limestone*, 4 May (rare inland).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – An adult was noted at the Pensacola Bay Bridge, *Santa Rosa*, 8 March (Bill Bremser), a third-winter bird was at Panama City, *Bay*, 14-19 April (Carolyn Matkovich; ph.), and an adult was at the Magnolia Springs Landfill, *Baldwin*, 4 March (Bob Duncan) (rare).
- CASPIAN TERN** – A single was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 6 April (Damien Simbeck) (early for the Tennessee Valley).
- LEAST TERN** – This species is rare in the Mountain Region, so one was noteworthy at Clay, *Jefferson*, 14 May (Bob Sargent).
- SOOTY TERN** – Rare but regular recently near Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, one was found 14 May (Terry Hartley, John Stowers).
- BLACK SKIMMER** – Occasional for inland Alabama, but unusual without an associated tropical storm, one was early for inland Alabama at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 29 May (James Flynn, Earl Horn).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – Many were noted in northwest Birmingham, *Jefferson*, in May, at a site where the species has been present and increasing since

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2001 (David Crider) (documents continued expansion throughout Alabama).

BARN OWL – A pair with a nest containing four eggs on 20 March and two eggs and two young on 3 April was documented along County Road 4 in Gulf Shores, *Baldwin* (Bill Summerour; ph.). Nests of this species are uncommonly documented in Alabama, and this same site was used for nesting in 2004.

BURROWING OWL – One was noted on a 12 March survey of Site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa* (Lenny Fenimore).

WHIP-POOR-WILL – Rare documentation of nesting for this species came from the Walls of Jericho area of *Jackson*. Barry Grand found a female at a nest with two eggs 17 May, and Eric Soehren photographed the two young 9 June.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – One was at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 27-29 March (Bill Summerour) (20th record for Alabama; ph.).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD – The first May record for the WP was marked by one in *Okaloosa*, 14 May (Don Ware).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – A late bird was noted at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Greg Harber, Larry Gardella).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – The NAMC 14 May in *Marshall* produced 23, a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley (Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – A single was spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 27 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) (casual in spring in the WP).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – One was seen 30 April at the Alabama A&M Farms, *Madison* (a known nesting site) (Ken Ward, NABS). This species is still rare in Alabama, but is increasing as a breeder.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – One at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) was late. This vireo is an uncommon breeder in Alabama and nesting is rarely documented, so the following records are noteworthy: a pair carrying nest material in the Coleman Lake area, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 5 April (Eric Soehren, Bill Summerour, Keith Gauldin), and an adult and a fledgling at a new site in Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 13 May (Eric Soehren).

WARBLING VIREO – A rarely detected transient, one was heard singing on the early date of 31 March at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* (Bob Sargent *et al.*).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Rare as a spring transient, three records were received: one at Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 24 April (Ken Ward, NABS) (early for Tennessee Valley); one at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 8 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and two in *St. Clair*, 14 May (NAMC).

RED-EYED VIREO – Howard Horne observed one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 March (early), while one at Clay, *Jefferson*, 23 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) was early for the Mountain Region.

FISH CROW – Locally rare but increasing, four records were received from *Jefferson*: one, Homewood, first week of March (Ann Miller); two, Hoover, 22 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); one, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 5 April (Greg Harber); and two, *Jefferson* NAMC, 14 May. The fourth Tennessee

Valley record was set by two along the Elk River, *Lauderdale/Limestone*, 10 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) and 14 April (Damien Simbeck *et al.*). A pair building a nest at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert/Lawrence*, 6 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) marked the fifth Tennessee Valley record and first nesting in that region.

TREE SWALLOW – Two at Lee County Lake, *Lee*, 3 March (Lorna West) were early. Twenty was a good number so early 8 March, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* (Damien Simbeck).

CLIFF SWALLOW – Ten at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 8 March, were early for Alabama (Damien Simbeck). A pair at an active nest at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 1 May (Rick West) was at a new site and documents the continuing expansion of this species.

CAVE SWALLOW – Casual in the WP, a single was found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 25 April (Bob Duncan). One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was rare but the species is becoming regular.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – One was late at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Greg Harber, Larry Gardella).

HOUSE WREN – Records of three late Gulf Coast birds, all singles seen on 14 May, were received: Hurricane area, *Baldwin* (Keith Carter), Bellingrath area, *Mobile* (Tuck Hayward), and Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald). One at Elkmont, *Limestone*, 26 May (Damien Simbeck) may have been a late migrant or a rare breeder.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – A new maximum (42) for the Tennessee Valley was set on the NAMC in *Marshall*, 14 May (Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – Twenty-five were counted at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) to mark a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Five birds were detected on the Burrowing Owl survey at site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 5-12 March (Lenny Fenimore, Charles Parkel; ph.).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – A single was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 March (Lee McElvaine), while Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, hosted two on 1 May (Ken Ward, NABS) and one on 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in spring).

YELLOW WARBLER – An adult male detected on the White Hall Breeding Bird Survey, *Lowndes*, 28 May (Larry Gardella), was either late or evidence of very rare far southern nesting.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Damien Simbeck found a late bird at Elkmont, *Limestone*, 26 May.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A single on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was early. Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, hosted singles 1 May (Ken Ward, NABS) and 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare inland).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – An early bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27

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March (Lee McElvaine).

CERULEAN WARBLER – This species is a rare and local breeder in north Alabama, and the following records, all from new sites, indicate possible nesting: two males, Dry Hollow area of Upper Flannagin Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 12 May (Eric Soehren); one singing in the southeast block of the Hytop quad, *Jackson*, 19 May (Milton Harris, Bert Harris); and three, including one pair, at Hurricane Creek in the Walls of Jericho area, *Jackson*, 21 May (Steve McConnell).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Lorna West found an early arriving male at Opelika, *Lee*, 18 March.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – “Hundreds” were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – Eighty-two was a good total at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2-17 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, Donna Berger, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.).

SWAINSON’S WARBLER – The annual banding effort at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2-17 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Duane Berger, Donna Berger, Fred Bassett *et al.*) produced a good total of 48.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – An early spring arrival was at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 17 March (John Ehinger).

WILSON’S WARBLER – This species is rare in spring in inland Alabama, so one found at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 April (Betsy Eager *et al.*) was notable.

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in the WP, an adult male was found at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 February – 1 March (Phylliss Swope; ph.), while a first winter bird was in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, from March – 20 April (Roberta Bonwit, Vince Murphy).

SCARLET TANAGER – A maximum count (12) for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was made 22 April at Montgomery, *Montgomery* (Larry Gardella).

LARK SPARROW – Rare and local but increasing as a breeder in the Tennessee Valley and Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, one was at a new site at Moontown, *Madison*, 15 April (Neill Cowles), and another was at a new site on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 24 April (Ken Ward, NABS).

LINCOLN’S SPARROW – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 2-9 March (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) (rare in WP). Rare in spring for inland Alabama, one was noted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 15 April (Geoff Hill).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – Jeff Garner found a singing and late bird at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 26-27 May.

HARRIS’S SPARROW – One at a feeder in Killen, *Lauderdale*, 2-4 March (Shirley Wayland, Jim Wayland) marked the 14th record for Alabama.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – Two in *Walton*, 14 May (Lee McDaniel) were very late for the WP.

DARK-EYED JUNCO – One in Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 14 May (Bob McKenney) was the latest departure ever for the WP by 12 days.

- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** – Very rare in the WP, a female was spotted at a feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Laura Catterton, Peggy Baker).
- PAINTED BUNTING** – One female-type photographed at a feeder in Prattville, *Autauga*, during the first week of March (Julia Rushton), was probably a wintering bird (one previous winter record for inland Alabama). This species is occasional in the Mountain Region and rare but increasing for inland Alabama, so a second-year male photographed at Auburn, *Lee*, 28 April (Shelley Ducharme) was noteworthy.
- DICKCISSEL** – Seven birds found in *Okaloosa* and *Walton*, 14 May (Don Ware, Mary Theberge) were the latest ever for the WP by five days. Three present and singing for several weeks in May at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour* (Lorna West) were probably nesting.
- SHINY COWBIRD** – Casual in spring in the WP, a male was at a feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 April (Bob Duncan), while another male was in *Okaloosa* 14 May (Don Ware).
- BRONZED COWBIRD** – Two were at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 April (Phillip Johnson, Pauline Johnson, Pieter van der Luit) to mark the 12th record for Alabama.
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – Rare in winter in Alabama, a male was at a feeder in southern *Montgomery*, 6-7 March (Carol Alford, Randy Alford).
- BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – An adult male was in Pinson, *Jefferson*, 15 April (David Ross, Carolyn Ross; ph.; @ABRC) (18th record for Alabama).
- PURPLE FINCH** – One was late departing Tallassee, *Elmore*, 11 April (Bob Reed, Pat Reed).
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** – Only the second occurrence for Alabama, an adult male visited a feeder along the Elk River near Rogersville, *Lauderdale*, 7-21+ April (Robin Kelso, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).
- PINE SISKIN** – Late for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, a single was at a feeder in Gallion, *Marengo*, 31 May (Don Self, Judy Self).

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2005)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 2005 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species; these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. All submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, must be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. For guidance, observers are encouraged to consult the Alabama Ornithological Society checklist. Reports should note conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Abbreviations and italics: County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “BBA” = Breeding Bird Atlas; “CE” = central east; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m. ob.” = many observers; “ph.” = photographed; “NF” = National Forest; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – The third WP record was marked by 11 seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15 June (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown *et al.*).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – Twenty-four inches of rain in April produced a large temporary wetland at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*. Two broods of this species were noted 27 June to the end of the period (Bob Duncan).

The following three records of diving ducks at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, were marked by apparently sick birds:

GREATER SCAUP – One 15 June – 5 July (Bob Duncan) (first June record for the WP).

LESSER SCAUP – One 15-27 June (Bob Duncan, Don Ware) (casual in summer in the WP).

BUFFLEHEAD – One 15 June – 5 July (Bob Duncan) (second June record for the WP).

RED-THROATED LOON – One in basic plumage was found on Ann Jordan Lake west of Alexander City, *Tallapoosa*, 3 June (Tommy Pratt, Charles Kennedy) (second summer record for Alabama and first in summer for inland Alabama).

COMMON LOON – Rare but regular in summer on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, 1-2 were in the Grand Bay area, *Mobile*, 21 May and 1 June (Mark Van Hoose), and one was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 June (John Porter).

- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – This species is an uncommon and erratic breeder in Alabama. A pair, probably nesting, was in Alabaster, *Shelby*, 10 June (Jessica Germany, Ben Garmon), and a single was in northern Mobile Bay, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 8 July (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – Casual in the WP, one was seen on Pensacola Bay, *Santa Rosa*, 6 July in association with Tropical Storm Cindy (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).
- MASKED BOOBY** – An immature was found on the beach at Panama City, *Bay*, 2 June (Nancy Evou), taken to a wildlife rescue center for rehabilitation, and released (casual in northwest Florida).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Rare but increasing in summer for Alabama, three reports were received: 10, Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 June (Hill Henry); 12, Demopolis, *Marengo*, 19 June (Don Self, Judy Self); and six, west Mobile, *Mobile*, 5-7 July (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*).
- ANHINGA** – Two were found at Alabaster, *Shelby*, 10 June (Jessica Germany, Ben Garmon) (rare in Mountain Region).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – Occasional inland after storms, one was spotted 6 July west of Mobile, *Mobile*, after Tropical Storm Cindy (Howard Horne). Two were at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 July after Hurricane Dennis (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm) (fourth well-inland record for Alabama).
- LEAST BITTERN** – Helen Kittinger *et al.* found one at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 21 June (rare breeder in Mountain Region).
- GREAT BLUE HERON X GREAT WHITE HERON** – A bird with an all white neck except for a thin gray line down the throat, otherwise like Great Blue Heron and presumably a hybrid, was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28-30 June (Bob Duncan).
- WHITE IBIS** – Uncommon in the Mountain Region, three reports were received: eight immatures (good number) near Harpersville, *Shelby*, 26 June (Greg Harber); one immature along the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River near Cleveland, *Blount*, 3 July (locally rare) (Dan Frederick, Raymond Odom; ph.); and one immature at Allgood, *Blount*, 7 July (Karen White, Phillip White; ph.). Rare in the Tennessee Valley, three reports were received: nine immatures (good number) at Raccoon Creek WMA, *Jackson*, 13 July (after Hurricane Dennis) (Damien Simbeck); one immature near Leighton, *Colbert*, 15 July (after Hurricane Dennis) (Damien Simbeck); and eight and nine immatures west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 22 and 23 July, respectively (Damien Simbeck, Paul Kittle, respectively).
- GLOSSY IBIS** – Along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 28+ Glossy Ibises were identified, along with six *Plegadis* sp., 15 July (Howard Horne, Terry Hartley, Tom Siegwald *et al.*) (maximum count for Glossy Ibis in Alabama); a mixture of 45 White-faced Ibis, Glossy Ibis, and *Plegadis* sp. (maximum count for *Plegadis* spp. in Alabama) was recorded at the same site 16 July (Ben Garmon; ph.).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Three-four (18th record and maximum for Alabama) were

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along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 15-17 July (Howard Horne, Terry Hartley, Tom Siegwald *et al.*; ph.).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – The fifth record for the WP was marked by two seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 21 June (Bob Duncan).

WOOD STORK – One engaged in courtship behavior, and probably nesting, was observed in the Brooklyn SE BBA block, *Coffee*, 25 June (Don Ware, Carol Ware). Tommy Pratt had 500+ (good number) in *Dallas/Perry*, 19 July.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Along Co. Rd. 21 near Autaugaville, *Autauga*, Bill Lipscomb counted 30+ on 28 July, while Greg Harber *et al.* counted 42 at the same site and an additional two along Co. Rd. 11 near Hunter, *Montgomery*, 30 July. The latter total of 44 established the second highest daily maximum for Alabama.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Two (one adult, one unknown) in the Alabaster NW BBA block (Brantleyville), *Shelby*, 23 June (Greg Jackson) were rare for the Mountain Region (except for the extreme southeast portion).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – A single seen at Bayley's Corner, *Mobile*, 28 May – 4 June (Mark Van Hoose) may have been nesting and represents the first June record for the Gulf Coast of Alabama.

AMERICAN COOT – Pairs observed at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 10 June (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), and at Speigner, *Elmore*, 31 July (Larry Gardella) were probably nesting (rare and erratic breeder in Alabama).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – A single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15 June (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown *et al.*) marked the second June record for the WP.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – Bob Duncan had 4-14 birds at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 21-27 June (rare in June in the WP).

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, two records were received for 11 July after Hurricane Dennis: a single at Miller's Ferry, *Wilcox* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and four at a sod farm near the W.F. George Dam, *Henry* (Lorna West).

WHIMBREL – A single in the Isle aux Herbes NE BBA block, *Mobile*, 1 June (Mark Van Hoose) set a late departure date for Alabama.

MARbled GODWIT – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 5 July (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) (casual in July in the WP).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Eleven were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15 June (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown *et al.*) (casual in June in the WP).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 15 June (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown *et al.*) (second June record for the WP).

STILT SANDPIPER – Early by six days for the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 5 July (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

DOWITCHER SP. – Lorna West found six at a sod farm near the W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 July after Hurricane Dennis (uncommon for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama and early).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – A female and a juvenile at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 21 June – 5 July (Bob Duncan, Don Ware) marked the second June record for the WP.

- LAUGHING GULL** – This species is rare for inland Alabama, so the following records, mostly after Hurricane Dennis in July, were notable: one first-year bird at Jackson, *Clarke*, 22 June (Helen Kittinger, Ty Keith); four-five at Miller's Ferry, *Wilcox*, 11 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, Larry Gardella; ph.); 10 at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 July (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm); one adult west of Opelika, *Lee*, 11 July (Paul Milotis); and one adult at Bear Creek, *Colbert*, 11 July (Stephen Dinsmore).
- CASPIAN TERN** – One was in the Miller's Ferry area, *Wilcox*, 11 July after Hurricane Dennis (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (rare for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).
- ROYAL TERN** – There are 10 previous inland Alabama records, and the following records are the earliest for inland Alabama: two-three at Miller's Ferry, *Wilcox* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and one at W.F. George Dam, *Henry* (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm), both records from 11 July after Hurricane Dennis.
- SANDWICH TERN** – One was found at Big Creek Lake, *Mobile*, 6 July after Tropical Storm Cindy (Howard Horne) (rare away from outer coast).
- SOOTY TERN** – Forty-five (maximum ever for the WP) were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 6 July associated with Tropical Storm Cindy (Laura Catterton, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). The following five records from inland Alabama came after Hurricane Dennis: one adult at Miller's Ferry, *Wilcox*, 11 July (Greg Jackson) (six previous Inland Coastal Plain records); 17 (maximum for inland Alabama) at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 July (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Lorna West) (six previous Inland Coastal Plain records); one found dying at Opelika, *Lee*, 11 July (Paul Milotis; ph.) (fourth record for the Mountain Region); five at Bear Creek, *Colbert*, 12 July (Damien Simbeck, Stephen Dinsmore) (second Tennessee Valley record); and three-five adults at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 13 July (Damien Simbeck) (third Tennessee Valley record).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – Twenty were counted at Brantleyville, *Shelby*, 2 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (new site, documents continued expansion).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL** – A Southern Piedmont Summer Bird Count in *Coosa/Tallapoosa*, 4-20 June (Larry Gardella, Greg Jackson *et al.*) produced a total of 27, a large number at the southern edge of the range.
- GRAY KINGBIRD** – A pair and one fledgling at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 18 July (Bailey McKay) marked the first recorded nesting in Alabama since 1997.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – This species is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, and records from three new sites were received: one, possibly nesting, was in Madison, *Madison*, 2 June (Neill Cowles, Beth Wood); a pair was just north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 4 July (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); and a pair and two fledglings were noted at Red Bay, *Franklin*, 17-19 July (Jud Johnston, Sylvia Johnston *et al.*). A pair, probably nesting, was at a previous nesting site near Scott Station, *Perry*, 19 July (Tommy Pratt).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – A pair, probably nesting, was found at the southern mar-

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gin of the breeding range in Alabama in the Bucks Gap NW BBA block, Talladega NF, *Clay*, 25 June (Greg Harber).

TREE SWALLOW – Increasing as a breeder in Alabama but still rare, 30+ (with many newly fledged young) were found nesting at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 10 June (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent). One juvenile at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 7 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), was either an early migrant or evidence of local breeding.

CLIFF SWALLOW – A new maximum count for Alabama (1600+) was set 7 July after Tropical Storm Cindy, with 1550+ at the sod farms at Harpersville, *Shelby*, and another 50 at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

HOUSE WREN – This species is a rare breeder in Alabama, and the BBA produced several records: one, probably nesting, in the Anniston NW block, *Calhoun*, 7 June (Laura Meeds); a pair, probably nesting, 23 June, and a single, possibly nesting, 24 June, at two different sites in the Roanoke NW block (Rick West); and a pair with young in the Anniston NE block, 28 June (Laura Meeds).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – One singing in the Duncanville CE BBA block, *Tuscaloosa*, 16 June (Jeff Garner) marked the first June record for Alabama.

VEERY – One was found in the Winterboro CE BBA block, *Talladega*, 26 June (Bob Reid, Ty Keith, L. Wright) (casual in summer in Alabama).

CEDAR WAXWING – A pair and a nest were found in the Daviston CE BBA block, *Tallapoosa*, 19 June (Malcolm Hodges; ph.), to confirm the southernmost nesting for this rare breeder in Alabama.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – Two were found in the Hackneyville CE BBA block, *Tallapoosa*, 7 June (Barry Fleming) (rare breeder this far south).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – This species is an occasional breeder in Alabama. Two singing males were found in appropriate habitat in Skyline WMA east of Alabama Highway 79, *Jackson*, 9 June (Eric Soehren), although they were not found two weeks later.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – A fledgling confirmed nesting in the Buck's Gap NW BBA block, Talladega NF, *Clay*, 25 June (Greg Harber) (rare breeder this far south).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – One was singing in the Nymph CE BBA block, *Conecuh*, 25 June (Don Ware, Carol Ware) (rare breeder this far south).

OVENBIRD – A Southern Piedmont Summer Bird Count in *Coosa/Tallapoosa*, 4-19 June (Greg Harber, Malcolm Hodges) produced a total of five, a good number this far south.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – One, both seen and heard, was in the Hurricane CE BBA block, *Baldwin*, 6 and 13 June and 15 July (Claire Krusko) and was probably nesting (rare so far south as a breeder). Another single was in the Tanner Williams CE BBA block, *Mobile*, 5 July (Rick West) (very far south if breeding).

SCARLET TANAGER – A Southern Piedmont Summer Bird Count in *Coosa/Tallapoosa*, 4-19 June (Greg Jackson *et al.*) produced a total of 28, a high

number this far south and unexpectedly prominent.

LARK SPARROW – Several reports of this species, a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, were received from new sites: one south of Eutaw, *Greene*, 2 June (Jud Johnston); one east of Tallassee, *Tallapoosa*, 17 June (Bob Reed) (very rare breeder in the Mountain Region); one in the Deatsville CE BBA block, *Elmore*, 19 June (Larry Gardella); and one in the Mud Creek CE BBA block, *Jackson*, 1 July (Steve McConnell) (far east of other sites).

PAINTED BUNTING – This species is rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama. One was found at a new site in the Ansley CE BBA block, *Pike*, 18 June (Don Ware, Carol Ware).

PINE SISKIN – Two were at Tuskegee, *Macon*, 3 June (Tyler Hicks) (latest departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, ties latest departure date for Alabama).

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Below is a brief summary of a recent publication from the scientific literature. This summary is intended to bring the findings of ornithological research to a larger audience.

Dynamic Paternity Allocation as a Function of Male Plumage Color in Barn Swallows. R. J. Safran, C. R. Neuman, K. J. McGraw, and I. J. Lovette. 2005. *Science* 309:2210-2212.

Studies indicate that socially monogamous species are often not genetically monogamous (i.e., females produce offspring with males that are not their social mate). This “cheating” or extrapair mating behavior is thought to have evolved because there is variation in male quality (e.g., some males are healthier than others) in a population and it allows females to produce offspring that may be of higher quality. If this is true, do females that have multiple breeding attempts in a breeding season continue to assess their mate’s quality, and does this dynamic quality assessment then determine the degree of cheating (i.e., affect the social mates paternity of the offspring of a nest) that occurs during each breeding attempt? Further, does plumage coloration serve as a continuous signal of a mate’s quality and therefore play a role in the dynamic assessment process?

This is the first study to address these questions and the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) was used as the study subject because extrapair fertilizations are common in this socially monogamous species. Also, previous studies of this species have demonstrated that the rusty, ventral plumage coloration of the males affects mate choice and reproductive success. The study involved thirty pairs that were followed during their first nesting attempt and then pairs were randomly placed into three groups. In the experimental group, the ventral plumage of 13 males was enhanced by making it a darker reddish-brown with a color marker. In the two control groups, no enhancements were made on the males’ plumage. The first clutches of all the pairs were removed to stimulate replacement clutches and the DNA of the embryos in the clutches was examined to determine the paternity of the social (attending) male for initial and replacement clutches. In the first clutches and before the enhancements had been made, no differences in the paternity were found among the three groups. However, in the replacement clutches, and after the enhancements had been made, the clutches from the plumage enhanced males had greater paternity (i.e., the social males sired more young), when compared to their first clutches (before their plumage had been enhanced), and when compared with the unenhanced males of the two control groups. The authors conclude from their research that females use the ventral coloration of males as a signal of quality throughout the breeding season and that signals of quality of the male can influence how females allocate paternity. — TMH

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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