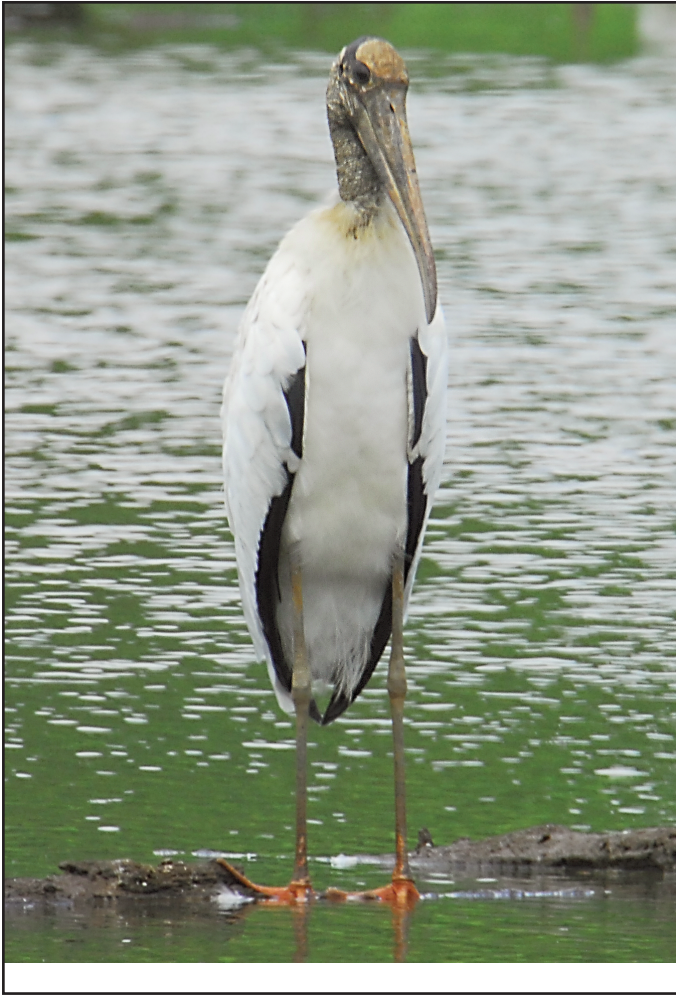


Volume 53
No. 2
December 2007



ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Published by the Alabama Ornithological Society to Record and Further the Study of
Birds in Alabama and Northwest Florida

Vol. 53

No. 2

2007

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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Wood Stork; Muscle Shoals, Colbert Co., 29 June 2007; photo by Jerry D. Green.

BIRD INVENTORY AT LITTLE RIVER CANYON NATIONAL PRESERVE, ALABAMA, 2003-2005

Barbara H. Stedman and Stephen J. Stedman

INTRODUCTION

Little River Canyon National Preserve (LRCNP), located on Lookout Mountain east of Fort Payne in Cherokee and DeKalb counties in northeastern Alabama, became a National Park Service unit in 1992. One of the longest mountaintop rivers in the eastern United States, the LRCNP also encompasses one of the most extensive gorge systems and possesses one of the cleanest rivers in that region. Little ornithological fieldwork has been conducted in the LRCNP, however, and therefore, the primary objectives of this research were to determine the relative status and seasonal abundance of the birds inhabiting the LRCNP and to collect evidence of breeding.

METHODS

Study area. — LRCNP (34°23'N, 85°37'W) protects about 5670 hectares (14,000 acres) of the Little River watershed. Elevation at LRCNP is highest at the northern end of the preserve near DeSoto State Park (425 m [1400 ft]); to the south the preserve's elevation along the river decreases considerably, falling to 180 m (600 ft) at Canyon Mouth Park at the extreme southern end of the preserve. Habitats within the LRCNP are dominated by fairly mature mixed forest, with smaller areas of wetlands (including a beaver pond, small swamp-like areas and bogs), sandstone glades and shrub-scrub. Mature forests are comprised of a variety of upland types, as well as riparian areas along the river. The evergreen component of upland forests suffered a Southern Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) outbreak from 2000 to 2003, resulting in a temporary increase in shrub-scrub habitat. Prior to the beetle outbreak, a rotational burn plan was employed for many years throughout the preserve.

Inventory methods.— Thirty-three point counts were conducted during late May and early June of 2003 and 2004. The protocol for these counts entailed standing at the center of a 100-meter diameter plot and counting all birds heard

and seen for 10 minutes; birds were recorded as occurring at one of four distance intervals (< 25 m; 25-50 m; 50-100 m; and >100 m) or as flyovers; birds were also recorded as occurring within one of three temporal intervals (0-3 min; 3-5 min; 5-10 min) (Hamel 1992, Hamel et al. 1996). Any birds flushed during approach to the plot center were included among the birds recorded at the point. Birds believed to have been already counted at one point were not counted if detected at an adjacent point.

During spring and fall, survey walks were also conducted 3-4 times per season. The walks typically lasted 1-2 hours, covered a distance of about 1.5 km, and species seen or heard were recorded. Because LRCNP varies greatly in elevation and habitat, survey walks were conducted in as many habitats and at as many elevations as possible.

In winter, raptor surveys (including owls) were conducted by automobile. Surveys lasted 2-4 hours during late morning and early afternoon. Because LRCNP has extensive roads that could not all be covered in one winter day, raptor counts were conducted over two days. Raptor surveys were supplemented by scanning from overlooks along survey routes. Night surveys were also conducted to detect the presence of owls, nightjars, and woodcocks during the appropriate season and environmental conditions (i.e., good weather and full moon). A tape recording of owl calls (federal permit obtained) was used to survey for owls.

Data were also collected by informal but systematic sampling of many habitats by foot, automobile, and canoe. Because grassland and shrub-scrub habitats are quite limited in LRCNP, most of the shrub-scrub sites were walked at all seasons and most of the grassland areas (i.e., wildlife plots) were walked each fall, winter, and spring. When conditions were promising for migrant shorebirds (i.e., after rain events), all accessible sites in the preserve that might provide habitat for them (e.g., the beaver pond, Canyon Mouth Park sandbars, and the riverbed just north of the State Route 35 bridge) were checked for these species. Portions of Little River north of State Route 35 were canoed at least three times to check for waterfowl and riparian birds; all accessible sites along the river were walked numerous times during all seasons.

During the breeding season, which includes most of the spring and summer, efforts were made to record breeding evidence for all species breeding in the preserve. The breeding designations were based on the following criteria. "Confirmed breeding" was noted for a species if an individual 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” was indicated for a species if a pair was found in suitable habitat, if courtship behaviors were observed or if agitation behaviors often associated with nest disturbance were noted. A “possible breeding” designation was given if a species was found in suitable habitat within safe dates determined by the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas project.

RESULTS

Total species.— Sixty visits were made to the LRCNP, during all seasons of the year (14 days during spring, 20 days during summer, 12 days during fall, and 14 days during winter). In the course of these visits, 145 species (Table 1) were observed.

Breeding species.— Sixty-nine species were registered during point counts conducted during 2003, while 72 species were detected during point counts conducted in 2004. In all, point count effort led to data for 79 species of birds (Table 2), all of which occur in LRCNP during the breeding season. Evidence for breeding was found for 90 species (Table 1) including 18 (20%) possible breeders, 28 (31%) probable breeders, and 44 (49%) confirmed breeders.

TABLE 1. Species, status, seasonal abundance, breeding designations of birds observed at Little River Canyon National Preserve, Cherokee and DeKalb counties, Alabama 2003-2005.

Common Name	Status ^b	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Canada Goose *** a	PR	U c	U	U	U
Wood Duck **	PR	U	U	U	U
Mallard	TR			U	
Blue-winged Teal	TR			VU	
Wild Turkey ***	PR	FC	FC	U	U
Northern Bobwhite **	PR	U	U	U	VU
Great Blue Heron ***	PR	U	U	U	U
Green Heron **	SR	U	U	U	
Black Vulture **	PR	U	U	U	FC
Turkey Vulture *	PR	FC	FC	FC	FC
Osprey	TR	VU		U	
Bald Eagle	TR	VU		VU	VU
Sharp-shinned Hawk ***	PR	VU	VU	U	U
Cooper's Hawk	TR			U	U

TABLE 1. Continued.

Common Name	Status ^b	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Red-shouldered Hawk ***	PR	U	U	U	U
Broad-winged Hawk ***	SR	U	U	FC	
Red-tailed Hawk ***	PR	U	U	U	U
Golden Eagle	UN	R			
American Kestrel *	UN	R	R	R	
Merlin	TR	R			R
Sandhill Crane	TR				VU
Killdeer	VR			VU	VU
Spotted Sandpiper	TR		R		
Wilson's Snipe	TR				VU
American Woodcock *	PR	VU	VU	VU	U
Rock Pigeon	PR		R	R	
Mourning Dove *	PR	C	C	C	C
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ***	SR	U	FC	R	
Black-billed Cuckoo	TR	R			
Eastern Screech-Owl ***	PR	U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl **	PR	U	U	U	U
Barred Owl **	PR	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl	UN				R
Common Nighthawk	TR	R		FC	
Chuck-will's-widow ***	SR	FC	FC		
Whip-poor-will ***	SR	FC	FC		
Chimney Swift *	SR	U	U	FC	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird **	SR	U	U	U	
Belted Kingfisher **	PR	U	U	U	U
Red-headed Woodpecker ***	PR	FC	FC	U	U
Red-bellied Woodpecker ***	PR	FC	FC	FC	FC
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	WR	U		U	U
Downy Woodpecker ***	PR	FC	FC	FC	FC
Hairy Woodpecker ***	PR	FC	FC	U	U
Northern Flicker ***	PR	FC	FC	FC	U
Pileated Woodpecker **	PR	FC	FC	FC	FC
Eastern Wood-Pewee **	SR	U	FC	U	
Acadian Flycatcher ***	SR	U	FC	U	
Least Flycatcher	TR	VU		R	
Eastern Phoebe ***	PR	FC	FC	FC	U
Great Crested Flycatcher ***	SR	FC	FC		
Eastern Kingbird *	SR	U	U		

TABLE 1. Continued

Common Name	Status ^b	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
White-eyed Vireo ***	SR	FC	FC	U	
Yellow-throated Vireo **	SR	U	U	U	
Blue-headed Vireo **	SR	C	C	U	
Philadelphia Vireo	TR			VU	
Red-eyed Vireo **	SR	A	A	U	
Blue Jay ***	PR	A	A	A	A
American Crow ***	PR	A	A	A	A
Common Raven d	UN		R		
Horned Lark	VR				R
Purple Martin	VR	U	U		
Tree Swallow *	UN		R		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow **	SR	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	UN		R		
Barn Swallow **	SR	U	U		
Carolina Chickadee ***	PR	A	A	A	A
Tufted Titmouse ***	PR	A	A	A	A
Red-breasted Nuthatch	WR	VU		R	VU
White-breasted Nuthatch ***	PR	C	C	U	U
Brown-headed Nuthatch *	PR		VU	VU	VU
Brown Creeper	WR	VU			U
Carolina Wren ***	PR	A	A	A	A
House Wren	TR	VU		VU	
Winter Wren	WR	VU		VU	U
Marsh Wren	TR			R	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	WR			VU	FC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	WR	U		U	FC
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ***	SR	C	C	U	
Eastern Bluebird ***	PR	U	U	U	U
Gray-cheeked Thrush	TR			VU	
Swainson's Thrush	TR	U		U	
Hermit Thrush	WR	VU		U	U
Wood Thrush **	SR	C	C	U	
American Robin **	PR	U	U	C	A
Gray Catbird *	SR	U	U	U	
Northern Mockingbird *	PR	VU	VU	VU	
Brown Thrasher ***	PR	U	U	U	U
European Starling *	PR	U	U	U	FC
American Pipit	WR			R	

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TABLE 1. Continued

Common Name	Status ^b	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Cedar Waxwing *	PR	U	U	U	FC
Tennessee Warbler	TR	U		FC	
Northern Parula **	SR	FC	U	U	
Yellow Warbler *	TR	U	R		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	TR	U	R	FC	
Magnolia Warbler	TR	U		FC	
Cape May Warbler	TR	U		R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	WR	FC		FC	FC
Black-thr. Green Warbler **	SR	C	FC	U	
Blackburnian Warbler	TR	U		U	
Yellow-throated Warbler ***	SR	C	C	FC	
Pine Warbler ***	PR	A	C	C	U
Prairie Warbler ***	SR	C	C	U	
Palm Warbler	TR	U		U	
Bay-breasted Warbler	TR	C		U	
Blackpoll Warbler	TR	C			
Cerulean Warbler *	SR	U	R		
Black-and-white Warbler **	SR	C	C	FC	
American Redstart	TR	U		U	
Worm-eating Warbler ***	SR	C	C	U	
Swainson's Warbler *	SR	VU	VU		
Ovenbird **	SR	C	C	FC	
Northern Waterthrush	TR	U		VU	
Louisiana Waterthrush ***	SR	U	U	VU	
Kentucky Warbler ***	SR	FC	FC		
Common Yellowthroat **	SR	A	A	U	
Hooded Warbler **	SR	U	C	U	
Wilson's Warbler	TR	U			
Canada Warbler	TR	U			
Yellow-breasted Chat ***	SR	A	A	U	
Summer Tanager **	SR	FC	FC	FC	
Scarlet Tanager **	SR	FC	FC	FC	
Eastern Towhee ***	PR	C	C	C	C
Bachman's Sparrow *	SR	R	R		
Chipping Sparrow ***	PR	FC	FC	C	U
Field Sparrow ***	PR	C	C	C	FC
Fox Sparrow	WR			R	VU
Song Sparrow **	PR	VU	VU	U	FC

TABLE 1. Continued

Common Name	Status ^b	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Swamp Sparrow	WR	U		R	U
White-throated Sparrow	WR	FC		FC	C
White-crowned Sparrow	WR	VU			R
Dark-eyed Junco	WR	U		FC	C
Northern Cardinal ***	PR	A	A	A	A
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	TR	U		U	
Blue Grosbeak **	SR	FC	FC	U	
Indigo Bunting ***	SR	A	A	U	
Red-winged Blackbird **	SR	VU	VU	VU	
Eastern Meadowlark	VR	VU	VU		R
Common Grackle ***	PR	U	U	U	C
Brown-headed Cowbird ***	PR	C	C	U	
Orchard Oriole *	SR	U	VU		
Baltimore Oriole	TR	R			
Purple Finch	WR			VU	VU
House Finch *	PR	VU	VU	VU	VU
Red Crossbill d	VR			R	
Pine Siskin	VR			VU	VU
American Goldfinch ***	PR	FC	FC	FC	FC

^a * = possible breeding. ** = probable breeding. *** = confirmed breeding.

^b PR = permanent resident; SR = summer resident; TR = transient; VR = visitor; WR = winter resident.

^c C = common; FC = fairly common; U = uncommon; VU = very common; R = rare

^d = Known only from historical records supplied by G. Jackson.

Count results indicated that the breeding bird density, especially for the warblers, was quite low in the riparian zone along the Little River both in the section north of State Route 35 and in the gorge section. Densities of Acadian Flycatchers and Wood Thrushes, however, were quite high along the river in these sections. Surprisingly, low breeding bird densities were also recorded in the old growth deciduous forest plot on the lower gorge side at Canyon Mouth Park.

DISCUSSION

Total Species.— The species encountered were very much in line with the species listed by Region in Imhof (1976), as well as with the species recorded in northern Alabama during the recent Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas project

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TABLE 2. Species and individuals counted at 33 Points (10 minutes each) at unlimited distance during May and June, 2003 and 2004, at Little River Canyon National Preserve, Cherokee and DeKalb counties, Alabama.

Common Name	Points counted ^a	Individuals ^b	Points counted	Individuals
Canada Goose	--	--	1	2
Wood Duck	1	2	2	2
Wild Turkey	4	4	5	5
Northern Bobwhite	2	3	5	7
Great Blue Heron	3	4	--	--
Green Heron	2	2	--	--
Black Vulture	1	2	1	1
Turkey Vulture	1	3	--	--
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	3	2	2
Broad-winged Hawk	2	2	4	4
Red-tailed Hawk	--	--	1	1
Mourning Dove	16	28	24	48
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	7	11	11
Barred Owl	--	--	2	2
Chuck-will's-widow	--	--	1	1
Whip-poor-will	1	1	--	--
Chimney Swift	1	3	3	6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	3	2	2
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	2	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	8	3	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	11	7	12
Downy Woodpecker	9	11	9	13
Hairy Woodpecker	6	8	4	7
Northern Flicker	7	9	6	8
Pileated Woodpecker	11	13	12	20
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	2	3	3
Acadian Flycatcher	3	5	8	14
Eastern Phoebe	3	3	3	4
Great Crested Flycatcher	6	8	9	15
White-eyed Vireo	8	14	9	12
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	3	5	5
Blue-headed Vireo	12	19	12	14
Red-eyed Vireo	28	75	30	85
Blue Jay	15	30	13	32
American Crow	18	49	19	59
Purple Martin	3	10	5	9
Tree Swallow	--	--	1	2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	4	2	4
Barn Swallow	2	6	--	--

TABLE 2. Continued

Common Name	Points counted ^a	Individuals ^b	Points counted	Individuals
Carolina Chickadee	18	38	21	42
Tufted Titmouse	20	42	22	45
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	15	9	17
Brown-headed Nuthatch	--	--	1	1
Carolina Wren	18	38	26	79
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9	15	11	22
Eastern Bluebird	2	3	3	6
Wood Thrush	8	12	17	24
American Robin	--	--	2	2
Gray Catbird	1	1	--	--
Brown Thrasher	4	7	5	7
Northern Parula	4	4	3	3
Yellow Warbler	--	--	1	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	2	2	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	13	17	12	14
Pine Warbler	23	42	20	47
Prairie Warbler	8	23	7	26
Cerulean Warbler	1	1	--	--
Black-and-white Warbler	11	12	12	17
Worm-eating Warbler	8	13	11	14
Swainson's Warbler	--	--	1	1
Ovenbird	19	27	18	38
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	5	5	5
Kentucky Warbler	6	9	11	15
Common Yellowthroat	3	5	4	6
Hooded Warbler	19	34	20	33
Yellow-breasted Chat	11	30	11	30
Summer Tanager	8	9	10	15
Scarlet Tanager	10	11	20	37
Eastern Towhee	11	20	17	52
Chipping Sparrow	2	4	2	6
Field Sparrow	6	17	6	16
Northern Cardinal	16	53	30	95
Blue Grosbeak	3	6	4	8
Indigo Bunting	20	66	28	89
Red-winged Blackbird	1	2	1	4
Common Grackle	1	1	5	12
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	15	5	11
House Finch	--	--	1	2
American Goldfinch	3	6	3	9

^a = total number of points for which species was counted.

^b = total number of individuals counted from all points.

(S. W. McConnell, pers. comm. and R. West, pers. comm.).

Weather influences.— An effort was made to visit LRCNR during periods when the weather was conducive for registering the maximum number of species, so the influence of weather on the results was generally positive. However, the late spring and summer of 2003 produced much stormy weather and high levels of rainfall. The Little River at the Falls was sometimes 3.5 m (15 ft) above “normal” levels during most of May and June 2003, and many small streams in the park were up to a meter higher than normal during the same period. Besides the wet conditions, temperatures were cooler than normal for much of the same months. Conditions during spring and summer 2004 were not much drier and were just as cool. Such weather could have caused delayed nesting or nesting failures. Without control data from breeding seasons with more normal weather, it is hard to know if the point count data collected during 2003 and 2004 are representative or not.

The fall seasons of 2003 and 2004 were each warmer and drier than the norm with few cold fronts, which would have caused migrants to be grounded and to linger. Thus, detection of fall migrants may have been hampered. These factors certainly influenced the data collected during these seasons, but to what extent is hard to say.

The winter seasons of 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 were milder than “normal.” Snow was almost absent each winter. No “winter finch” (i.e., Evening Grosbeak, etc.) irruptions took place either winter, probably reducing the species encountered in the park as a result.

Species richness.— The overall bird list generated by this study is only moderately long, with 145 species. However, the LRCNP is rich in breeding Neotropical migrants that find the extensive mixed forest of the preserve conducive to their needs. The assemblage of migratory passerines, especially warblers, however, fell below what was expected. Weather events during the migration seasons of the inventory likely adversely affected the results.

Breeding species.— The low density of birds, especially warblers, in the riparian zone may have been due to high rise in the river following rain events. Ground and understory nesters may be especially vulnerable to flood conditions. The low breeding bird density recorded in the old growth deciduous forest plot is difficult to explain. Perhaps the high disturbance levels from users of this area of the preserve can account for it. Overall, the preserve’s breeding avifauna is rich in species diversity but densities were lower than expected.

Unexpected results.— The presence of Sharp-shinned Hawks, as plentiful migrants and as possible breeders at two locations, was unexpected. A single

spring Golden Eagle was recorded near the gorge, which contains potential nest sites for this species. Because this raptor has nested in northwest Georgia and many juveniles have been hacked north of Chattanooga at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, a nest at LRCNP is a possibility, albeit quite unexpected. Merlins were sighted three times during migration seasons; this once-rare falcon is making a strong comeback, but these sightings suggest that LRCNP is a good place for individuals of this species to forage and to roost during migration.

Shorebirds were fewer than expected, but spring flooding in the rivers certainly played a role in reducing registrations of those species. Furthermore, LRCNP is not on a major migration flyway, reducing the chances of encountering these birds. Additionally, the few sites where shorebirds might be seen are quite small, typically less than 0.1 hectares (0.25 acres) in extent. American Woodcocks were present in low density, but were found in suitable forest openings throughout the preserve.

In riparian sites, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a declining breeder in some parts of North America, was fairly common, an unexpected and positive discovery. The high density of nightjars was most unexpected (e.g., 21 Chuck-will's-widows along a 20-km (12-mi) section of Canyon Rim Drive 3 June 2003). This nightjar is scattered throughout the park in habitat where pines predominate, and they increase in density where the pine habitat had been burned the previous year. Whip-poor-wills are less dense in the canyon area but were found in deciduous or mixed forests. Densities appear to be greatest (3-4 per km) in the northern end of the preserve near riparian sites.

One of the most unexpected results was the detection of a calling Northern Saw-whet Owl in late December 2003, the 7th Alabama record and first since 1987 (G. D. Jackson, pers. comm.). This owl responded with a "toot" advertising call for about five minutes to a recording of a similar call in the higher elevations of the northeastern section of the preserve. The recording was played at approximately 20 other sites that night and at over 100 total sites during January, February, and March during the two-years of the inventory, but only the one response was heard.

Woodpeckers, especially Red-headed Woodpecker, were present in good numbers in the preserve, perhaps in the short term in response to beetle damage and perhaps in the long term in response to the preserve's burn policies. Brown-headed Nuthatches were present in far lower numbers than expected, being found only at a few sites near the river and at the beaver pond. The "high" elevation of the preserve may account for the low density. Wood

Thrush numbers in the park were good, though this species is declining in many areas of North America. It was unexpected to find them using sandstone glade habitat in the park.

Migrant warblers numbers were lower than expected. These species may use the park more in some years than they did during the inventory years, and weather may have been a factor in their low numbers, as well as loss of large pines on the ridgetops. Swainson's Warbler was found only twice during the breeding season, a singing adult once at Canyon Mouth Park and an adult with young once near the Little River north of Rt. 35. Additionally, before the breeding season, one was heard in the DeSoto State Park area. The habitat they prefer appears to be present along the East and West forks of the Little River, but access to this area is difficult. Somewhat unexpected was a Yellow Warbler in June, but the habitat where it was observed (beaver pond near cow pasture) was typical for the species. Only one Cerulean Warbler was located during breeding season, a singing bird in the northeastern part of the preserve during 2003; all efforts to locate Ceruleans during 2004 failed. Habitat for the species appears to be present. The wet, cool weather each breeding season possibly affected the presence of this species in the park in a negative manner. Additional searches for breeding Cerulean Warblers need to be conducted in the preserve. Quite unexpected, a Bachman's Sparrow was found during 2003, but it could not be located during 2004. It was probably present in 2003 because the specific habitat it requires (large, recent clearcuts) was present. Unless the specific habitat this species requires is maintained, it is unlikely to persist.

Birds not found.— The lack of Osprey sightings during migration and during the breeding season was unexpected. Pairs of this raptor may nest in the preserve in the future, though the sound of gunfire during spring turkey season may affect their willingness to stay and nest. No nesting Bald Eagles were detected during the inventory, but the presence of an immature Bald Eagle on several dates during winter and spring at Everhart Point suggests that one day they may do so. This raptor nests close to LRCNP at Weiss Lake. Although some habitat for Long-eared Owl is present in the preserve, no evidence of this species was obtained despite the fact recordings of its call were played at more than 25 sites during winter evenings. Searches for roost sites were also conducted but no owls were found. There are historical records for the Common Raven and the Red Crossbill in the preserve (G. Jackson, pers. comm.), but these species were not found in our survey.

Habitat for declining species.— The preserve's forests seem quite suitable

as wintering habitat for Northern Saw-whet Owl. However, the preserve lies far south of the species' usual winter range, so it will occur only periodically in winter during irruption years. Some sites seem to provide suitable mature forest habitat for Cerulean Warbler, so its general absence at all but one of these sites during two breeding seasons is puzzling. Most of the park's forests are not conducive to persistence of Bachman's Sparrow, which favor open habitats such as clearcuts. However, it is not recommended that additional areas of the park be altered to provide for its habitat.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was conducted under contract with the National Park Service (NPS). Mary Shew, Resource Manager at LRCNP, devoted many extra hours to overcoming initial problems with the original plot information, going into the field with BHS, helping with transportation problems when roads were almost impassable, and making herself available at home and in the office numerous times. Her interest, knowledge, and willingness to partner with us played a large role in making this bird inventory a success. John Bundy, Superintendent at LRCNP, also took a direct interest in the park birdlife, much to our benefit. The help he provided in making the park accessible to BHS at all hours of the day and night during the entire inventory period was invaluable to the success of the inventory. Terry Boyer, Resource Management Office, was an excellent canoeing partner, as well as source of bird location information. His interest made the days spent with him enjoyable as well as informative. Jimmy Dunn and the entire staff of the Rangers Office at LRCNP provided helpful information and were instrumental in making BHS feel secure when she was in the backcountry of the park. Ronnie Meadows (now deceased, but formerly with the Maintenance Office at LRCNP) shared his interest in and knowledge of LRCNP with BHS and helped especially with the shuttle for the canoe trip. His personal dream was to canoe the river, but he became ill before he could realize it; however, his efforts to help BHS with her canoe trip ensured that the river was inventoried by canoe for birds. Ken Thomas, former Resource Manager at DeSoto State Park, provided much information about the part of LRCNP that was formerly part of DeSoto State Park, especially since this part of LRCNP is somewhat rugged and inaccessible. His arrangement for lodging in the park was also very helpful, as were his comments about the birds of the park and his enthusiasm when learning that a bird inventory was taking place. We are greatly indebted to the staff of the Center for the Management,

Utilization, and Protection of Water Resources at Tennessee Technological University for high quality management of the fiscal paperwork associated with this bird inventory. Director Dennis George, Sandra Pigg, Yvette Clark, Amy Knox and especially Glenda Sharks and Mary Williford, contributed much to our success. Historical records of several species' occurrence in LRCNP were provided to us courtesy of Greg D. Jackson, for which information we are grateful. Finally, we are especially grateful to Teresa Leibfreid, Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator for the Cumberland Piedmont Network of the NPS, for her dedication and support throughout the duration of this bird inventory. The inventory was supported by an omnibus grant (TTU contract # H5000030200) from the National Park Service.

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A COMPARISON OF AUBURN/OPELIKA AND CALLAWAY GARDENS CBC'S, 2006

Julian L. Dusi

The Auburn/Opelika Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) and the Callaway Gardens CBC's have been conducted by the author for a number of years (Dusi 1991). Both counts occur in localities that have mostly flat, or slightly undulating terrain, numerous pasture areas, many ponds or lakes and some forested land. Callaway Gardens is over 100 feet higher than Auburn and is approximately 20 miles north and 30 miles east of Auburn. The two count sites are separated by the Chattahoochee River.

The 2006 CBC's were done 10 days apart and are representative of the counts through the years. The Auburn/Opelika Count (A/OC) was made on 20 December 2006. Sixteen participants in 12 parties drove a total of 354.9 miles (571 km) and made observations for 61.5 party hours. Walking was negligible. The Callaway Gardens Count (CGC) was made on 30 December 2006. Twenty-nine observers drove a total of 309.5 miles (498 km) making observations for 29.75 party hours and walked 14.24 party miles (41 km) making observations for 24 party hours.

In the following list the A/OC number is given first, followed by the CGC number: Canada Goose 125-115, Wood Duck 149-67, Green-winged Teal 19-0, Mallard 24-23, Ring-necked Duck 447-7, Lesser Scaup 23-0, Common Goldeneye 2-0, Bufflehead 44-63, Hooded Merganser 254-5, Ruddy Duck 48-0, Wild Turkey 42-11, Northern Bobwhite 0-6, Pied-billed Grebe 30-12, Horned Grebe 1-0, Double-crested Cormorant 1-4, Great Blue Heron 39-13, Great Egret 3-1, Black Vulture 33-69, Turkey Vulture 88-136, Northern Harrier 3-2, Bald Eagle 1-1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 3-2, Cooper's Hawk 6-0, Red-shouldered Hawk 9-10, Red-tailed Hawk 23-19, American Kestrel 4-3, Virginia Rail 2-0, Killdeer 102-24, Least Sandpiper 2-0, Wilson's Snipe 22-1, American Woodcock 1-1, Ring-billed Gull 10-0, Rock Pigeon 206-43, Mourning Dove 381-276, Eurasian Collared-Dove 2-31, Great Horned Owl 1-1, Barred Owl 2-1, Eastern Screech-Owl 5-4, Belted Kingfisher 20-14, Red-headed Woodpecker 2-0, Red-bellied Woodpecker 67-90, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11-44, Downy Woodpecker 25-51, Hairy Woodpecker 3-4, Northern Flicker 25-78, Pileated Woodpecker 14-36, Eastern Phoebe 48-27, Loggerhead Shrike 4-1, White-eyed Vireo 1-0, Solitary Vireo 5-5, Blue Jay

145-221, American Crow 485-365, Fish Crow 6-0, Carolina Chickadee 83-143, Tufted Titmouse 122-106, White-breasted Nuthatch 2-30, Brown-headed Nuthatch 44-83, Brown Creeper 2-3, Carolina Wren 77-81, House Wren 2-0, Winter Wren 4-1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 48-25, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 89-112, Eastern Bluebird 158-167, Hermit Thrush 6-10, American Robin 91-642, Northern Mockingbird 49-67, Brown Thrasher 16-29, European Starling 890-912, American Pipit 15-0, Cedar Waxwing 166-604, Orange-crowned Warbler 3-2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 143-409, Yellow-throated Warbler 1-0, Pine Warbler 18-106, Palm Warbler 1-7, Common Yellowthroat 6-2, Eastern Towhee 93-146, Chipping Sparrow 339-355, Field Sparrow 47-40, Vesper Sparrow 1-0, Savannah Sparrow 41-11, Grasshopper Sparrow 8-0, Fox Sparrow 0-8, Song Sparrow 159-223, Swamp Sparrow 93-16, White-throated Sparrow 137-203, Dark-eyed Junco 43-275, Northern Cardinal 137-398, Red-winged Blackbird 1031-1127, Eastern Meadowlark 52-171, Rusty Blackbird 141-0, Common Grackle 66-12, Brown-headed Cowbird 220-12, House Finch 134-53, American Goldfinch 158-228, House Sparrow 46-8. Total species 96-79.

A difference of 17 species was present in these two counts. Starting with waterbirds, A/OC had Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck, that were not found in the CGC count. This may reflect less management of the waterfowl on the larger A/OC ponds because none of the A/OC ponds had golf course problems. Only the large fisheries ponds at A/OC were managed. The Bobwhite presence at CGC reflects their hunting program and restocking. No big difference in raptors was seen. The presence of Virginia Rail and Least Sandpiper in the A/OC count is the result of better habitat. Other unanswered appearances in the A/OC count, such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Vesper Sparrow, House Wren, could have happened by chance or participants more familiar with their habitats. With greater human population increase in the A/OC area, future counts may be quite different.

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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2007)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2007 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; “b.” = banded; FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “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).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – Two were seen at Aloe Bay on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 May (Ben Garmon, m.ob.; ph; @ABRC) to mark the fourth Alabama record. The fifth record for the state came from Southside, *Etowah*, where Esther Guenther observed one adult from 28 May (approximately) – 2 June (ph; @ABRC).



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 1 May 2007, Dauphin Island, AL; D. Dortch.

SNOW GOOSE – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count on 28 April recorded a single (rare in spring for the Mountain Region).

CANADA GOOSE – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count on 28 April tallied 167, a good number.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – A single lingered at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 29 April (Lorna West) to mark a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

GREATER SCAUP – One male was late on Wheeler Reservoir along the causeway north of Decatur, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

SCOTER SP. – Six north of Isle aux Herbes, *Mobile*, 17 May (Roger Clay) were very late (but see summer report for additional scoters in May/June).

HOODED MERGANSER – The Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*)

spring count on 28 April recorded a single (rare so late for the Mountain Region). This species is a rare to uncommon and erratic breeder in Alabama, so reports of broods from two sites were notable: two broods of large young with females at the observation building, Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 19 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and one brood of downy young with a female at the fish hatchery, Marion, *Perry*, 25 May (Ty Keith, Helen Kittinger).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – A female at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 May (John Porter) was late.

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8 March (Jere French).

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in the WP, one was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 12 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Also rare in Alabama, one was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 March (Larry Gardella).

HORNED GREBE – One was late on the Tennessee River near the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

BROWN BOOBY – A sub-adult found on the *Walton/Okaloosa* line 20 May (Don Ware) provided the third spring record for the WP.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Steve McConnell counted 25 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 March (locally rare).

ANHINGA – Two were at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 25 March (Paul Franklin) (locally uncommon), while three were seen at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 29 April (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) and one there 20 May (Fred Carney) (rare in the Mountain Region).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely detected inland, one was spotted 24 and 26 March along County Road 24 two miles north of the Alabama River, *Autauga* (Tommy Pratt *et al.*), while another single was found on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

GREAT BLUE HERON – A good number (64) was recorded on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Rare in the WP, one lingered at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 18 April – 22 May (Don Ware).

PLEGADIS SP. – Eight were seen in flight at the I-65 bridge over the Mobile Delta, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 20 April (Greg Jackson) (rare this far inland).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – An immature was at the Gulf Shores sewage lagoons, *Baldwin*, 30 April (Mike Feduke; ph.) to mark the third spring record for Alabama.

WOOD STORK – Rare in spring, an immature was near Conecuh NF, *Covington*, 22 May (Mark Bailey; ph.).

TURKEY VULTURE – A maximum number (60) for spring in the Mountain Region was tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Twenty-five at a roost in *Walton*, 12 May (John Walton) was a good number. One was considered locally rare near Society Hill,

Macon, 10 May (Barry Fleming).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were noted at two sites where the species has been regular in recent years: Winfield, *Marion*, 31 March (Jud Johnston), and Montevallo, *Shelby*, 30 April (Mac Braid). One seen at Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) was rare for the Tennessee Valley. Another single near Cullman, *Cullman*, 15 May (Greg Jackson) was rare for the Mountain Region, especially this far north.

BALD EAGLE – Now a rare but regular transient and breeder in the WP, nesting was observed at the mouth of the East River, *Santa Rosa*, 3 April (Bill Bremser), a pair fledged one young in the Milton area, *Santa Rosa*, and another pair fledged two young in west Pensacola, *Escambia*.

NORTHERN HARRIER – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, tallied five, a good number so late in the season.

RED-TAILED HAWK – A new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley was established when 21 were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April.

AMERICAN KESTREL – A new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley was established when 10 were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April.

MERLIN – An individual of the Prairie race was seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20-21 March (Bob Duncan).

YELLOW RAIL – Casual in the WP, one was at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 1 March (David Simpson). One at the airport marsh, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, was seen 16 April (Jack Throp) and 21 April (Drew Cowherd, Barry Fleming) and marked the 18th Alabama record (third in spring).

KING RAIL – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was calling at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), where the species is regular.

VIRGINIA RAIL – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

SORA – A maximum number (12) for spring in the Mountain Region was tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April.

LIMPKIN – The second record for the WP was marked by one on the Choctawhatchee River, *Walton*, 17 May (Justyn Stahl; ph.).

SANDHILL CRANE – Very late and locally rare, one bird was observed flying and calling at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

WILSON'S PLOVER – This species is a rare and local breeder in the WP and is seldom reported. Four nesting pairs were at Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Santa Rosa*, this season.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – Rare in the WP, two reports were received: two, Pensacola, *Escambia*, 15 March – 8 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster), and

three, Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 14 May (Bob Duncan). The first inland record for Alabama was marked by a single along the Tennessee River in Sheffield, *Colbert*, 24 May (Steve Hacker, Ray Miller; ph.).



American Oystercatcher, 24 May 2007, Sheffield AL; S. Hacker.

AMERICAN AVOCET – Fifty-five, a good number locally, were seen from the Dauphin Island-Fort Morgan ferry, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 30 April (Paul Lehman).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – One or two were sighted at Limestone Bay, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), to set an early Tennessee Valley arrival date for probable migrants. A good number (eight+) for the Inland Coastal Plain was reported from Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella).

WILLET – A maximum spring count for Alabama was set when 153 were counted on Dauphin Island (five) and adjacent Pelican Island (148), *Mobile*, 23 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Rare for inland Alabama, seven were at Eufaula (Lakepoint Resort SP), *Barbour*, 29 April (Lorna West), and 33 (good number) were at Waterloo (25) and Wilson Dam (8), *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

UPLAND SANDPIPER – A late bird was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 7 May (David Dortch).

WHIMBREL – Good numbers were reported from Grand Bay, *Mobile* (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, m.ob.; ph.): 25 on 18 April, 100+ on 21 April (maximum count for Alabama), and reported on 23 April. The 16th inland Alabama record (and the second inland spring record) was marked by a single at Speigner, *Elmore*, 9-11 May (Tommy Pratt *et al.*; ph.). Forty-one was a good number at Barton Island, *Mobile*, 17 May (Roger Clay).

MARbled GODWIT – The 17th and 18th records for inland Alabama were marked, respectively, by five at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 11 April (Damien Simbeck), and a single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

RED KNOT – For a species that is becoming scarce in Alabama, six was a notable number from the west end of Dauphin Island (four) and Fort Morgan (two), *Mobile/Baldwin*, 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, singles were on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 April (Eric Soehren *et al.*) and on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 23 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain, singles were noted at Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella) and 12 May (Larry Gardella, Shawn Reed).

STILT SANDPIPER – Two were seen at Speigner, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella) (rare in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain).

RUFF – A female at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 11 April (Damien Simbeck; @ABRC) marked the seventh record for Alabama and the second for the Tennessee Valley.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – An uncommon to rare breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain, an adult and three fledged young south of Gallion, *Marengo*, 17 April (Don Self, Judy Self) provided a rare confirmed breeding record. One near Riverton, *Colbert*, 28 April (Paul Kittle *et al.*) was displaying unusually late.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Rare in spring, a female was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 11 May (John Eyre, Joan Eyre; ph.).

LAUGHING GULL – Rare but regular in the western Tennessee Valley, 10 were at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, and two or three at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).



Wilson's Phalarope, 11 May 2007, Mobile, AL; J Eyre.

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Rare but regular at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, a single was seen 29 April (Steve McConnell).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Generally rare but increasing and occasional in spring, singles were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 22 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) and 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

GLAUCOUS GULL – Casual in the WP, singles were noted at Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 30 March (Heidi Moore; ph.) and at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 7 April (Steve Barlow).

CASPIAN TERN – Good numbers were reported from Wilson Reservoir at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*: 72+ on 12 April (Steve McConnell) and 133 on 16 April (Damien Simbeck), the latter a maximum for inland Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Rare inland but increasing, sightings of singles came from two sites at Valley, *Chambers*, 17 April (Rodney McCollum, Jeannie McCollum) and 29 May (Rodney McCollum).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO – The 150 reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was a good number.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Three was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). One was heard at St. Florian, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck) (rare inland).

BARRED OWL – Eleven on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW – Early birds were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 and 9 March (Michael Jordan *et al.*) and at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 April (Stan Hamilton).

WHIP-POOR-WILL – Rare documentation of nesting for this species came from Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 16 May – 11 June, where Bill Summerour and Eric Soehren found a pair that raised two young.

BLACK SWIFT – The first record for Alabama was established by one or two seen 11-12 April, Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* (Lucy Duncan, Laura Catterton, m.ob.) and 11 April, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Peggy Baker *et al.*) (@ABRC).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – Early birds included two at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), and one at Hartselle,

Cullman, 30 March (Steve McConnell). The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD – Occasional on the outer coast, one male seen at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 April (Betty Lemley *et al.*) marked one of the few non-banding records for the state.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – The 16 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – The 132 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

HAIRY WOODPECKER – A pair feeding young in a nest along the Choctawhatchee River, *Walton*, 29 March (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) marked a rare breeding record for the WP.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

EASTERN PHOEBE – The 13 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. The 88 tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April marked a spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – The 45 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Singles were spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 27 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) and 12 May (Don Ware), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13-18 May (Bob Duncan) (rare spring transient in the WP). The fifth inland spring record for Alabama was marked by one at the Tuscaloosa Airport, *Tuscaloosa*, 5 March (Kevin Boles, Jerry Hoffman).

GRAY KINGBIRD – This flycatcher is still rare in Alabama, but increasing slowly. One was early at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 April (Duane Berger, Bob Sargent *et al.*; b.; ph.). Nesting by a pair was observed at Lake Shelby, Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 4 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), while Bailey McKay observed two pairs at the same site 7 May.



Gray Kingbird, 7 April 2007, Fort Morgan, AL; B. Sargent.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Casual in spring in the WP, one was spotted at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 May (Powers McLeod). A rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, reports were received from four locations: a pair along Ala. Hwy. 183 north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 29 April (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); one at the airport, Meridianville, *Madison*, 1 May (Arloe Mayne); one at Key Cave

NWR, *Lauderdale*, 11 May (Jason Vehrs; ph.); and one north of Priceville, *Morgan*, 20 May (Paul Franklin, Eva Franklin).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – Early arrivals were at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton), and at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 31 March (John Ehinger). The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – One carrying nest material was found along Piney Creek, *Limestone*, 30 March (Jeff Garner, Tom Haggerty) (early). The 23 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Three on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, were late departing.

WARBLING VIREO – Rarely detected in Alabama, three records (all of singles) were received: Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 20 April (Barry Fleming); Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 April (Lorna West, Larry Gardella *et al.*); and Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, 28 April (Paul Kittle *et al.*).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Reports from four sites were received for this species that is rare in spring in Alabama: one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 April (Laura Catterton); one at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 April (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne *et al.*); three on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley; and one at Madison, *Madison*, 14 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).

RED-EYED VIREO – Two birds were early arrivals on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

AMERICAN CROW – The 185 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

FISH CROW – Occasional but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, one was calling at Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 27 April (Steve McConnell).

TREE SWALLOW – Rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama, records were received from two sites: two+ north of Priceville, *Morgan*, and two+ at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, both records 20 May (Paul Franklin, Eva Franklin).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – An early bird was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West). The 286 tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 28 April marked a spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

CLIFF SWALLOW – The 611 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CAVE SWALLOW – Casual in the WP, two individuals were found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 12 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). Rare but increasing in Alabama, 100+ were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7-11 April (Howard Horne, Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.) to establish a new maximum for the state by a wide mar-

gin. A single was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 April (Lorna West).

BARN SWALLOW – Early arrivals were singles southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 2 March (Larry Gardella) and at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West).



Cave Swallow, 7 April 2007, Fort Morgan, AL; T. Siegwald.

TUFTED TITMOUSE - The 238 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH – Locally rare in the western Tennessee Valley, one was noted at Brush Creek Park, Wright, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

BROWN CREEPER – A very late bird, possibly marking the all time late date for Florida, was along the Choctawhatchee River, *Holmes*, 20 April (Justyn Stahl).

CAROLINA WREN – The 174 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

MARSH WREN – Rare in spring for inland Alabama, reports of singles came from three sites: Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) spring count 28 April; Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, and Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – Lorna West found three+ at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain). The 138 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – The 67 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

SWAINSON’S THRUSH – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

WOOD THRUSH – One was early at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – The 156 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

AMERICAN PIPIT – Two found east of Shirley Bridge, *Tuscaloosa*, 1 May (Helen Kittinger, Maureen Shaffer, m.ob.) were late.

CEDAR WAXWING – The 276 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. A pair was at a nest near Rhodesville, *Lauderdale*, 24 May (Larry Derrick, *fide* Keith Hudson) (rare breeder).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – The 12 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER – A single was discovered on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*,

26 April (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne *et al.*) (rare).

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER – The ninth record for Alabama was marked by a male found at the Dauphin Island Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 22 April (Shirley Farrell, Dick Bruer, Bob Duncan, m.ob.).

TENNESSEE WARBLER – The 61 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – Rare in spring in Alabama, an early bird was found at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 17 April (John Ehinger). The four on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, was a good number.

NORTHERN PARULA – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). One at Clay, *Jefferson*, 10 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) marked an early arrival date for the Mountain Region.

YELLOW WARBLER – The 43 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CAPE MAY WARBLER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Larry Gardella located a male at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 25 April.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Rare inland but regular at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, one occurred there 28 April, while another single was found at Coleman Lake, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 5 May (both Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – “Hundreds” were feeding on the ground at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – Two were early at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 27 March (John Ehinger).

PINE WARBLER – The 47 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CERULEAN WARBLER – A female was early at Opelika, *Lee*, 31 March (Lorna West). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Larry Gardella found a singing male at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 April. As a breeder, this species is rare and localized and nests are seldom found, so the observation of a pair feeding large young in a nest along Flannagin Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 25 May (Eric Soehren, John Trent) was noteworthy.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Two found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 March (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), were probably non-wintering migrants and thus marked an early arrival record for Alabama. Three at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 March (Neill Cowles, Beth Wood) were early.

WORM-EATING WARBLER – One was an early arrival at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 31 March (John Ehinger).

SWAINSON’S WARBLER – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was singing near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff

Garner).

KENTUCKY WARBLER – An early arrival record for inland Alabama was set by a single at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 March (Rick Remy).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – One was found in Madison, *Madison*, 19 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) at a site where the species is rare but regular.

MOURNING WARBLER – This rare migrant was recorded on three dates at a site in Madison, *Madison*, where the species is rare but regular: one, 13 May (Ken Ward, Harry Dean *et al.*); one, 14 May (Bailey McKay *et al.*); and three (maximum for Alabama), 18 May (Harry Dean).

HOODED WARBLER – An early male was at Tannehill SP, *Jefferson*, 30 March (Helen Kittinger, Ronald Kittinger).

SUMMER TANAGER – The 99 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in the WP, Mickey Quigley found a winter male at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 23 February (ph.).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW – Rare and localized in the Tennessee Valley, two were notable on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 28 April (Dwight Cooley).

CHIPPING SPARROW – The 27 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

VESPER SPARROW – Two were late at Irvington, *Limestone*, 15 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

LARK SPARROW – Rare but increasing as a breeder, the seven on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, was a good number. One was near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), while two were found at separate sites north of Deatsville, *Elmore*, 6 May (Larry Gardella).

SEASIDE SPARROW – Rarely reported in the WP, one was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 1 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

SONG SPARROW – A very late bird was in *Walton* 12 May (John Walton).

DARK-EYED JUNCO – A late departure date for the Gulf Coast was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Laura Catterton).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – One was late at a feeder in Cairo, *Limestone*, 31 May (Jennifer Moses).

BLUE GROSBEAK – The 150+ counted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 22 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) set a maximum for the Gulf Coast and a spring maximum for Alabama. The 65 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

INDIGO BUNTING – The 1,076 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for Alabama.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK – A bird was singing in Molino, *Escambia*, 6 May (Alan Gantzhorn); two birds were documented about 15 miles north of there this

winter.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Casual in spring in the WP, a first-year male was in *Calhoun*, 6 March (Travis McClendon), and a female was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 14 April (Les Kelly).

SHINY COWBIRD – Occasional in Alabama, one was found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 April (Lucy Duncan).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – The 54 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

PURPLE FINCH – Eight at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 12 May (Pat Baker, Bob Penhollow, Terry Baker), marked the latest departure date for the WP.

RED CROSSBILL – Two+ were at Oakmulgee west of Coleman Lake, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 5 March (Lorna West) (continuation at this site).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH – The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 28 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2007)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 2007 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. “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE – This escaped exotic is now breeding in the WP, as evidence by 12 birds seen in *Okaloosa*, 22 June (Don Ware, Sharon Weaver).

SURF SCOTER – In the Isle aux Herbes area, *Mobile*, Roger Clay found one on 17 May (ph.), and three on 13 July, the latter birds providing a late record and the first for summer in Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – At Isle aux Herbes, *Mobile*, Roger Clay found one on 17 May and 13 July to mark the third summer record for Alabama.

BLACK SCOTER – One was noted south of Cat Island, *Mobile*, 17 May, and what was probably the same female was seen 13 July at the north end of Isle aux Herbes (Roger Clay) to mark the third summer record for Alabama.

HOODED MERGANSER – This duck is a rare and erratic breeder in Alabama, so one found at White Hall, *Lowndes*, 16 June (Larry Gardella) was notable.

PACIFIC LOON – The first July record for the WP was marked by one that was captured in *Walton*, 5 July (Patrick Gault; ph.), taken to the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, and released 8 July. There have been several late spring and early summer records in recent years.

COMMON LOON – Rare but a regular lingerer in summer in the WP and on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, six birds were in the Gulf of Mexico south of Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 6 July (Bob Duncan); a single was on Bayou Heron, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 May and 12 June (John Porter, Mary Porter); and a lone bird

was on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, all month to 30 June (Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald; ph.).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – This species is an uncommon breeder in Alabama, so two found at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 7 July (Steve McConnell) were noteworthy.

HORNED GREBE – A rare summering bird was on Bayou Heron, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 June and 7 July (John Porter, Mary Porter).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare inland in summer in Alabama, 24 were seen at Sledge, *Hale*, 15 July (Greg Harber).

LEAST BITTERN – Ben Garmon counted eight at the Chickasaw Ponds, *Mobile*, 10 June, a good number for a single site in summer.

REDDISH EGRET – Rare in the WP in summer, two dark morphs and one white morph were on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 21 June (Bob Duncan).

WHITE IBIS – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, an immature was spotted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 7 July (Steve McConnell).

WOOD STORK – Reports came from several sites, with the June records being uncommon this early in the season: 16 along the Alabama River west of White Hall, *Lowndes*, 1 June (Winston Baker, Linda Baker); six along the Alabama River, *Monroe/Clark*, 6 June (Eric Soehren, John Trent); one at White Hall, *Lowndes*, 16 June (Larry Gardella); 14 (maximum) at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 22+ June (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley); and 975+ (second highest daily count for Alabama) in multiple groups, *Hale/Perry*, 15 July (Greg Harber).



Wood Stork, 29 June 2007, Muscle Shoals, AL; J.D. Green.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – The 56 counted by Don Ware in *Okaloosa* 21 June was a good number. Rare in the Mountain Region, records came from two sites where the species has been regular in recent years: a single at Winfield, *Marion*, 20 June (Jud Johnston), and six (adults and young) at Montevallo, *Shelby*, 10 July (Mac Braid).

AMERICAN COOT – A rare to uncommon summer lingerer in Alabama, one was on Lafitte Bay, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 31 July (Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald, Allen Tubbs, Priscilla Tubbs).

SNOWY PLOVER – Public inaccessibility to Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, in combination with extensive suitable nesting habitat created by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, allowed this species to nest in record numbers. Further, drought conditions and lack of storms contributed to a high degree of fledgling success. At least 45 nests were counted by Jennifer Waddell on the Fort Pickens section alone. Bob Duncan found impressive numbers on other portions of the island.

WILSON'S PLOVER – Jennifer Waddell counted four nests with fledged young on Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – Rare in the WP, two were along the downtown waterfront, Pensacola, *Escambia*, 3 June (James Pfeiffer).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – One along the Alabama River, *Monroe/Clark*, 6 June (Eric Soehren, John Trent) was probably a late migrant.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – A single at Foley, *Baldwin*, 12 July (David Dortch) marked an early arrival record for the Gulf Coast.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW – The first July record for the WP was furnished by what was probably the same bird seen on Santa Rosa Island, Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 11 July (Joe Kern), and on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 12 July (Jennifer Waddell).

MARbled GODWIT – A single was on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 24 July (Bob Duncan) (casual in summer in the WP).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Four birds were on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 30 July (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), to mark what is possibly the all time early date of arrival for Florida. Six at Foley, *Baldwin*, 19 July (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) marked an early arrival record for the Gulf Coast of Alabama.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – Rare in summer in the WP, one was noted at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 10 July (Don Ware).

LEAST TERN – The circumstances described under the Snowy Plover account also contributed to nesting success for this species on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*. Jennifer Waddell counted about 200 chicks during the summer, with excellent fledgling success and some young still present in July.

GULL-BILLED TERN – Two at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 6 July (Walt Chambers; ph.) marked the sixth record for inland Alabama.

BARN OWL – One found freshly killed on Ala. Hwy 24 near Russellville, *Franklin*, 7 July (Craig Brown) provided an uncommon summer record.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – This species is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama. One record of a short-tailed (possible juvenile) individual came from just east of Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 14 June (Steve Seibert). Four+ at the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 21 July (Neill Cowles, Beth Wood) were at a site that has supported nesting in the past.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – A single at Montgomery, Montgomery, 9 July (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow) marked an early fall arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain and was probably an early disperser from breeders just to the north.

TREE SWALLOW – Increasing as a breeder in Alabama but still rare, a single adult at White Hall, *Lowndes*, 16 June, and a pair and one immature at the same site 23 June (Larry Gardella) indicated probable nesting (farthest south in Alabama). One was at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 23 June (Paul Kittle, Donna Kittle), and three were along Ala. Hwy. 171 near the Tuscaloosa County line, *Fayette*, 20 July (Jud Johnston).

CLIFF SWALLOW – Thirty+ at the Robert Henry Dam, Alabama River,

Lowndes/Autauga, 16 June (Larry Gardella) were at a new site and document the continued expansion of this species in Alabama.

AMERICAN ROBIN – A rare local breeder in the WP, reports from north Pensacola, *Escambia*, included one on 1 July (Glenda Bowman), and parents feeding young 8 July (Laura Catterton).

GRAY CATBIRD – Rare in summer on the Gulf Coast, one was seen north of Georgetown, *Mobile*, 8 and 15 June (Claire Krusko).

CEDAR WAXWING – Rare but increasing as a breeder, one was south of Oneonta, *Blount*, 17 June (Greg Harber), and two were found at Linden, *Marengo*, 29-30 July (Judy Self, Don Self) (far southern record).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – One immature observed at Shorter, *Macon*, 24 July (Eric Soehren) marked an early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain and the second earliest for Alabama.

LARK SPARROW – One found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 July (Bob Duncan) set the earliest fall arrival date for Florida. A rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, Larry Gardella saw three birds at sites east of Ala. Hwy. 143, *Elmore*, 3 June where the species had been previously noted.

SONG SPARROW – The southernmost nesting in Alabama was documented at Opelika, *Lee*, with observations ranging from nest building to feeding young between 11 June and 8+ August (Geoff Hill, Lorna West; ph.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – The first June record for the WP and the latest departure date for Florida were marked by a male at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13 June (Bob Duncan).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH – An immature reported from Freeport, *Walton*, 10 and 17 July (Dave Streeter) marked a very rare summer record for Florida.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Bewick's Wren's in Kentucky and Tennessee: distribution, breeding success, habitat use, and interactions with House Wrens. Michael E. Hodge and Gary Ritchison. 2007. *The Kentucky Warbler* 83:91-102.

One of the unsolved ornithological mysteries of the 20th century was the precipitous decline of the eastern populations of Bewick's Wren. During the 19th and early to mid-20th centuries, the species was common east of the Mississippi River, but today it is rare and on the verge of extirpation. This study documents the current status of Bewick's Wren in Kentucky and Tennessee, presents new habitat information, and offers an analysis of the hypotheses that have been proposed to explain the species' decline from the eastern portion of its range.

Twelve sites from Tennessee and 11 from Kentucky, where the species had been reported between 1990-2002, were visited during the breeding seasons of 2001 and 2002. In addition, 285 locations with apparently suitable habitat were surveyed during that same time period. Recordings of songs were used to confirm the presence or absence at a site. Data concerning pairing status, nesting, and territories were collected at occupied sites. Vegetation data were also collected at occupied and unoccupied sites to help characterize the vegetation structure of habitats used by Bewick's Wrens.

Two hundred and ninety locations in 47 counties in Tennessee and Kentucky were surveyed. Only 14 - 18 (depending upon whether four individuals returned or not) individuals at three sites in three counties in Kentucky and eight sites in three counties in Tennessee were located. Four individuals were located in Kentucky: one male in Warren Co., one male in Taylor Co., and a pair in Scott County. In Tennessee, four pairs and seven males were in Rutherford Co., one male was in Sumner Co., and one male was in Wilson County. Only one breeding pair was found in 2001 (Rutherford Co., TN) and five pairs were found in 2002 (Rutherford Co., TN - 3 pairs; Sumner Co., TN - 1 pair; Scott Co., KY - 1 pair). Territories were located in open farmland that had little to no understory, few shrubs, and scattered trees. Occupied sites also often included old buildings, farm implements, and abandoned vehicles. First nests of the season were started in early April and second nests were initiated in late May and early June. All nests were constructed in manmade structures (e.g., motorcycle helmet, barbecue grill, abandoned house trailer). A total of 43 nestlings fledged from seven nests at four sites.

The study confirms the continuing decline of Bewick's Wren in Kentucky and Tennessee. Hypotheses discussed to explain the decline included: 1) changes in forestry practices 2) urbanization 3) competition with House Wrens, House Sparrows and European Starlings, 4) severe winters, 5) pesticide use, and 6) conspecific attraction behavior (i.e., attraction to areas where there are other Bewick's Wrens). The authors suggest that initially the decline may have begun because of the loss and fragmentation of available habitat (i.e., large disturbed areas) due to changes in forestry practices (less deforestation) and farming practices (less subsistence farming). As landscape changes continued (i.e., larger forest patches and fewer, smaller disturbed areas), species like the Bewick's Wren, that may be an area-sensitive species (i.e., require large areas suitable for attracting numerous Bewick's Wrens), had less and less suitable habitat for breeding and dispersing. Additional factors that sped up the decline may have been competition with House Wrens, severe winters, and a limited ability to disperse.— 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: tmhagerty@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.

Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Volume 53

No. 2

2007

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