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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Sooty Tern, 4 July 2009, Dauphin Island, AL; Steve McConnell.

**PROBABLE BREEDING OF CERULEAN WARBLER
(*DENDROICA CERULEA*) IN MONTE SANO STATE PARK,
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA**

J. Berton C. Harris and J. Milton Harris

INTRODUCTION

The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) is a canopy-dwelling wood warbler that breeds in mature hardwood forests in the eastern United States and Canada and winters along the eastern base of the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia (Hamel 2000). Cerulean Warbler is capable of colonizing second growth, and is expanding its range in parts of the northeastern United States (Hamel 2000), yet the species is sharply declining overall (Sauer et al. 2008). Cerulean Warbler is the fastest declining of the North American warblers and is currently listed as globally Vulnerable (Carpenter 2007; BirdLife International 2006, 2009), meaning it is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild, although it is still glaringly absent from the US endangered species list (USFWS 2007, 2009).

Cerulean Warbler was formerly a locally common breeder across northern Alabama, north of the Fall Line (Howell 1928, Imhof 1976), but the species has declined dramatically in Alabama over the last few decades. Currently there are only a handful of confirmed Alabama breeding localities near the Walls of Jericho and Larkin Fork in Jackson County and in Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence County (Carpenter et al. 2005, Carpenter 2007, Haggerty 2009). Monte Sano mountain is an eroded remnant of the Cumberland Plateau that was extensively logged in the 1920s.

Monte Sano State Park was established in 1938, and mature oak-hickory (*Quercus* spp., *Carya* spp.) plateau and cove forest now covers the majority of the park. Howell (1928) found Cerulean Warblers on Monte Sano during “the breeding season” but he did not find evidence of breeding. The first confirmed breeding record for Monte Sano was of a pair with young in the nest, found by James C. Robinson on 18 Jun 1960 (G. D. Jackson, pers. comm.). Incidentally this record was the first Cerulean Warbler nest for Alabama (G. D. Jackson, pers. comm.). The species has not been recorded as a breeder on the mountain with certainty since 1960.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

At 0700 hours on 26 June 2009 we, along with John Ehinger and Bill McAlister,

heard a singing Cerulean Warbler on the edge of the plateau near the state park tourist cabins (34° 44' 45''N, 86° 30' 33''W). The cabins are located along the plateau rim, and the surrounding forest has an open understory with several large remnant canopy trees. The slope immediately below the cabins was cleared about five years ago to maintain an open view of the valley below. The cleared area is rapidly undergoing succession and is now a thicket of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), among others. The clearing extends approximately 300 feet (90 m) below the cabins and is bordered by mature cove forest. We played a short bout of recorded song to attract the singing bird. The bird approached the speaker and flew into a tall (c. 60 ft, 18 m) chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*) on the plateau rim. We could not get a binocular view of the bird before it flew into the cleared area on the slope below. About 30 min later we heard two singing Cerulean Warblers and got close views of an adult male with a complete breast band. The birds were singing from a shrubby forest patch on the plateau rim in between two of the cabins.

We returned to the site at 0700 hours on 2 July to search for any evidence of breeding. We heard two males singing and focused on the male near where we made our observations on 26 June. It appeared to be the same bird, an adult male in breeding plumage with a complete breast band. JBCH walked down into the middle of the cleared area on the slope below the cabins, where it was possible to view the tall trees on the plateau rim as well as trees below and in the clearing. JBCH watched the male forage, preen, and sing frequently in the tall hickory (from 26 June) for approximately 45 minutes. Then the male flew into a 6 m (20 ft) tall black locust in the clearing and sang quietly. A female was noticed in the tree shortly after the male began to sing, and the two birds foraged in close proximity to one another. The locust was approximately five meters away from the observer and allowed very clear views, although the tree was moderately backlit. The female showed the following field marks: prominent pale wing bars, blurry streaks on side of breast, pale supercilium, gray-green upperparts, off-white underparts, and an undertail pattern similar to the male. The female foraged for approximately 15 minutes in the locust, left for five minutes, and then returned with another individual that may have been a juvenile. The male frequently sang from the area of the same hidden tree in the clearing while the other two individuals were observed. The second individual showed the following field marks: off-white underparts (obviously duller than the shining white of adult male), prominent pale superciliary and white wing bars, and no breast streaks. The possible juvenile was very dull overall and plainer than the adult female. The adult female and the possible juvenile foraged closely together, and the second bird once approached

the female and bobbed its tail several times, but did not do any obvious begging. They foraged together for approximately 10 minutes and flew off. When we left at 0900 hours the singing had decreased substantially but the male still occasionally sang from the clearing.

At 0700 hours on 10 July, JMH returned to the area and heard occasional singing from the same trees. It is likely that the song came from the same male.

DISCUSSION

Our observations suggest that breeding Cerulean Warblers have returned to Monte Sano State Park. It is unlikely that migrating birds would display the behavior we observed. We heard what was likely to be the same male singing from the same few trees over a span of 15 days in late June and early July. Imhof et al. (1976) gave the following reference dates for Cerulean Warblers in Alabama based on five reproductive events: nest building, April 28 to May 6; eggs, May 6; young in nest, May 27 to June 24; dependent young out of nest, July 9. Accordingly, the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas “safe dates” (the dates between which the last migrants of a species have passed through Alabama and the first fall migrants are yet to arrive) are 15 May to 10 July (Haggerty 2009). Lastly, at their study site in Jackson County, Yong Wang and colleagues (pers. comm.) observed a radio-tagged breeding male that remained in its territory until at least 2 July. Our observations fit within these bounds of the Alabama breeding season. Furthermore, our observations of a probable pair and perhaps a fledged juvenile provide more evidence of probable breeding.

It is encouraging that Cerulean Warblers appear to be re-colonizing former breeding sites in Alabama. The forests of Monte Sano State Park have re-grown to considerable stature since the clear-cuts of the 1920s and now may provide favorable habitat for the warblers. Similar colonization of second growth has been noted for the species in the northeastern U.S. (Oliarnyk 1996 in Hamel 2000), and the species’ ability to colonize regrowth may provide some mitigation to its steep decline. Little is known of the dynamics of second growth re-colonization by Cerulean Warblers and this question warrants further investigation.

Carpenter et al. (2005) and Carpenter (2007) found breeding Cerulean Warblers to be strongly associated with bottomland habitats near streams. In contrast, our observations come from the Cumberland Plateau rim. If breeding is confirmed from the area, it will be the only present day site from upland forest in Alabama, while the species is known to breed in upland habitats in Tennessee (Yong Wang, pers. comm.).

We found probable breeding Cerulean Warblers in a state park that is regularly visited by bird watchers near one of the Alabama's largest population centers. We speculate that there are probably other unknown breeding populations of the species in Alabama. The Breeding Bird Survey does a poor job of sampling Cerulean Warblers in Alabama (Carpenter et al. 2005; Carpenter 2007) because the survey's roadside survey methods incompletely sample habitats such as mature hardwood forests that tend to occur away from roads (Harris and Haskell 2007). We encourage Alabama bird watchers to get out and look for Cerulean Warblers, especially in areas away from roads. This species is one of our most spectacular and threatened breeders.

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**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
2008 - 2009**

Steve W. McConnell

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews reports of species that generally have fewer than ten accepted records or fewer than two accepted records during the previous ten years. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 80 species, are voted on by all committee members. If the first vote is indecisive, the committee members vote a second time. Vote totals with no more than one “not accepted” vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more “not accepted” votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions after two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual ABRC meeting.

During this period, 38 records from 24 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with two species being added to the Alabama state list: Black Swift and Inca Dove. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 439 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Sixteen species are classified as “hypothetical” where objective evidence such as a photo or specimen and multiple observer testimonies are lacking.

Table 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 38 records from 24 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
05-23R	Cackling Goose	3/18/78	Barbour	P	A	8
07-04	Black Swift	4/11/07	Baldwin	V	A	1
08-01	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	6/1/08	Mobile	P	A	6
08-02	Cackling Goose	1/8/08	Limestone	V	A	5
08-03	Cackling Goose	1/22/08	Morgan	P	A	6
08-04	Cackling Goose	11/20/04	Limestone	P	A	7
08-05	California Gull	10/27/07	Marshall	P	A	6
08-06	Iceland Gull	1/25/08	Baldwin	P	A	8
08-07	Inca Dove	4/19/08	Baldwin	P/A	A	1
08-08	Northern Saw-whet Owl	11/21/07	Jackson	P/B	A	8

Table 1. cont.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
08-09	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/8/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	9
08-10	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/9/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	10
08-11	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/27/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	11
08-12	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1/7/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	12
08-13	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/11/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	13
08-14	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/16/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	14
08-15	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/25/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	15
08-16	Northern Saw-whet Owl	3/12/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	16
08-17	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/29/07	Jackson	A	A	17
08-18	Thayer's Gull	1/3/08	Marshall	P	A	6
08-19	Western Grebe	12/8/07	Marshall	P	A	6
08-20	Western Meadowlark	11/17/07	Baldwin	V	A	10+
08-21	White-winged Crossbill	1/3/05	Madison	VD	A	3
08-22	Anna's Hummingbird	1/18/08	Baldwin	P/B	A	4
09-01	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	9/26/08	Mobile	P	A	7
09-02	Cackling Goose	2/4/06	Lauderdale	V	A	9
09-03	California Gull	10/25/08	Marshall	P	A	7
09-04	California Gull	1/18/05	Colbert	V	NI	---
09-05	Dusky Flycatcher	10/14/08	Baldwin	P/B	A	2
09-06	Glaucous-winged Gull	1/4/08	Baldwin	P	Pending	---
09-07	Iceland Gull	11/22/08	Marshall	P	A	9
09-08	Lesser Goldfinch	9/22/08	Madison	V	NI	---
09-09	Limpkin	9/3/07	Covington	P	A	3
09-10	Plumbeous Vireo	10/26/08	Baldwin	V	Pending	---
09-11	Sabine's Gull	9/18/08	Colbert/Lauderdale	P	A	6
09-12	Thayer's Gull	1/16/05	Colbert/Lawrence	V	Pending	---
09-13	Varied Thrush	11/16/08	Mobile	P	A	2
09-14	"Western" Flycatcher	10/13/05	Baldwin	P/B	Pending	---

^aV = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VD = video, A = audio recording

^bA = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO = not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = review incomplete

^cNumber of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2009)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2009 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. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “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 – Geri

Bucheit and Carol Goodyear observed five in *Walton*, 23 May, to mark the fifth record for the WP. The eighth, ninth, and 10th records for Alabama were marked, respectively, by five birds at the Dauphin Island Airport marsh, *Mobile*, 19 March (earliest for Alabama) (Ken Marion *et al.*) (three were there 29 March; Ruth White); four birds at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 28 April+ (Bill Summerour, m.ob.; ph.); and eight birds on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin/Mobile*, 21 May (Keith Gauldin *et al.*) and 26 May – 9 June (*vide* Chazz Hesselein) (ph.) (all three records @ABRC).



Black-bellied Whistling Duck, 21 May 2009, Baldwin County, AL; B. Summerour.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – A single found north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 18-24 April (Eric Soehren, Barry Fleming, m.ob.) was rare for the Gulf Coast.

SNOW GOOSE – This species is rare in the Mountain Region, so one at Clay, *Jefferson*, 17 April (Jan Bradley) was notable.

ROSS’S GOOSE – A single was seen west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5 March (Damien Simbeck, Raymond Moore, Holly LeGrand, Heath King) (rare but regular in the

Tennessee Valley and increasing).

CANADA GOOSE – The Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May, recorded 254, a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

WOOD DUCK – The Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, tallied 176, a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

LESSER SCAUP – Two late birds were at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 17 May (Steve McConnell).

SURF SCOTER – Six were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 15 March (Steve McConnell; ph.) (rare inland); a single was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Les Kelly) (rare but expected on the Gulf Coast); and an immature male was very late at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 May (Robert Leier).

BLACK SCOTER – Eleven were found on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Les Kelly) (rare); four males were on the Fort Morgan Peninsula three miles east of Point, *Baldwin*, 13-15 May (Shawn Hutchings) (rare and late); and a single male was noted on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20-26 May (Eric Liffmann *et al.*) (rare and late).

BUFFLEHEAD – Damien Simbeck reported 150 from Florence, *Lauderdale*, 24 March, to set a new spring maximum for Alabama.

COMMON GOLDENEYE – A late female was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 17 May (Steve McConnell).

COMMON MERGANSER – A single was seen on the Tennessee River east of Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 15 March (Steve McConnell) and 2 April (Jeff Wilson) (occasional in Alabama, few records this decade).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – A lone female was late at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 May (Jay Huner).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE – David George found a single while participating on the Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May, and only five were tallied on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone Morgan*, 2 May, both numbers indicative of marked decreases.

RED-THROATED LOON – One was noted on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22-29 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) (rare in spring and late).

PACIFIC LOON – Two birds were found on the Tennessee River east of Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 4 May (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell, Jeff Garner) (rare in spring, latest for inland Alabama).

COMMON LOON – Twenty were seen on the Tennessee River east of Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) (good number this late).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – One was heard on Marthaler Pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 30 May (Steve McConnell) (uncommon breeder).

SHEARWATER SP. – Two shearwaters (probably Cory's) were seen off the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 13 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown) (rare).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Larry Barkey spotted 34 in flight south of Houston, *Winston*, 20 March (locally rare). At Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 125 was a good number on 4 April (Paul Kittle) (uncommon but increasing in the Tennessee Valley).

BROWN PELICAN – The fifth and sixth records for the Tennessee Valley were marked, respectively, by an immature at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 17 May (Steve McConnell), and an adult on the Tennessee River at Decatur, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 May (Harry Smith).

ANHINGA – Two sightings from *Perry* were received (uncommon this far north): a single at Heiberger, 4 March (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson), and two males southwest of Marion, 28 March (Thomas Wilson, Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society). Rare in the Mountain Region but now regular at this site, three reports were received from Saginaw, *Shelby*: two on 2 May (Harriett Wright, John Imhof); three on 6 May (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson *et al.*), and a pair on 31 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). This species is likely breeding at the latter site, and if so, this would be the only current breeding site in north Alabama.

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely detected inland, a single was at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

LEAST BITTERN – Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, one was heard 1 April (early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley) at the Intergraph Wetlands south of Lady Ann Lake, *Madison*, and two (one heard and one seen) were there 17 May (Dean Cutten). A single was found in *Limestone* during the Wheeler NWR spring count on 2 May (Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*).

GREAT BLUE HERON – The Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May, recorded 74, tying the spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

SNOWY EGRET – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, two records were received: a single west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 24 April (Damien Simbeck), and two birds at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2 May (Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*). Three birds at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 16 May was a good number (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley, two records came from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*: a single on 14 April (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten), and two on 2 May (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds, Harry Dean).

TRICOLORED HERON – A single was seen at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2-3 May (Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*; ph.) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley).

REDDISH EGRET – The white morph is rare in Alabama, so an adult white bird on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 April (Steve McConnell; ph.) was noteworthy.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A single was observed at Oneonta, *Blount*, 23-26 April (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown) where the species is locally rare. The Birmingham area spring



Reddish Egret, 25 April 2009, Dauphin Island, AL; Steve McConnell.

count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May, recorded five to set a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany, B.J. Allen *et al.*).

GLOSSY IBIS – A single was tallied at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 28-29 April (Dwight Cooley *et al.*; ph.) to mark the seventh record for the Tennessee Valley.

WOOD STORK – At Hacoma, *Geneva*, Odis Johnson reported 20 on 16 March (early).

OSPREY – One at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 9 March (Matt Morrow) marked an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley. Steve McConnell found early singles 15 March northwest of Moulton, *Lawrence*, and at a nest platform at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – In the WP, higher than usual numbers of this species were reported, with over 55 individuals being reported from late March through early April. On two occasions, Bob Duncan observed birds flying west through Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, evidently part of the population that moves up the Florida Peninsula.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – One was at Montevallo, *Shelby*, 23 April (Mac Braid), and another was three miles north of Winfield, *Marion*, 13 May (Jud Johnston) (rare in the Mountain Region but regular at these sites). Another single was noted west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) (rare in most of the Tennessee Valley; not at a regular site). Harriett Wright and Alice Christenson found a single at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 May (rare in Mountain Region).

NORTHERN HARRIER – Steve McConnell recorded a male near Leighton, *Colbert*, 17 May (a new late departure date for Alabama except for the occasional summer record).

RED-TAILED HAWK – The Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, tallied 23, a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

RED-TAILED HAWK (HARLAN'S) – Damien Simbeck observed one near Leighton, *Colbert*, 17 March (rare).

PEREGRINE FALCON – An adult tarried at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 30 May (Claire Krusko) to mark a late spring departure date for Alabama.

KING RAIL – Rare in the Tennessee Valley but regular at this site, single calling birds were heard and recorded at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 15 March, 12 April, and 4 May (Steve McConnell *et al.*).

COMMON MOORHEN – One was recorded during the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 2 May (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette, Raymond Moore) (occasional in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

AMERICAN COOT – Late birds were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 23 May (two birds; Chazz Hesselein), and at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 May (five birds; Katie Hanson).

SANDHILL CRANE – Sixty were at Blackwater State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 19 March (Peggy Baker, Les Kelly), and an estimated 100 (maximum ever reported in the WP) were at Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 22 March (Les Kelly).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – One was spotted at a sod farm in Pell City, *St. Clair*, 13 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (occasional in spring in the Mountain Region).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – This species is occasional in spring in the Tennessee Valley, with more records being reported in recent years. Up to six were noted at Swan Creek

WMA, *Limestone*, 2-3 May (Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*). The sinkhole ponds on Marthaler Lane near Leighton, *Colbert*, produced the second record of breeding stilts for inland Alabama. Dean and Raelene Cutten reported two birds 6 May, Steve McConnell reported six birds and a nest with two eggs 30 May, while Milton Harris found two nests 31 May. At the “Sinks” northeast of Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck found two birds 16 May.

AMERICAN AVOCET – Very rare in spring in the WP, six were reported from Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Santa Rosa*, 8 May (Bob Duncan). Two birds visited Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 7 May (Greg Jackson) (rare for inland Alabama, third spring record for the Mountain Region).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – A small transient roadside pool on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, harbored 28 birds 15 April (Greg Jackson), a large number for a single site.

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, one was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 3 May (Steve McConnell; ph.).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – Damien Simbeck reported a total of 490 (maximum for inland Alabama and maximum spring count for Alabama) 24 April: 486 near Leighton, *Colbert*, and four near Florence, *Lauderdale*.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – Good numbers for the Mountain Region were reported from Harpersville, *Shelby*: seven on 20 April (Greg Jackson), and eight on 23 April (Mac Braid, Andrew Haffenden).

WHIMBREL – High counts were made again this spring from the Grand Bay area (including Leroy’s Pond), *Mobile*: 258 on 18 April (Barry Fleming, Eric Soehren, Alabama Ornithological Society), and 372 (maximum count for Alabama) on 25 April (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller).

MARBLED GODWIT – Occasional for inland Alabama, a single was photographed at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2 May (Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*).

RUDDY TURNSTONE – A single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 3 May (Steve McConnell; ph.) (rare inland).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER – Eighty-eight was a good number for inland Alabama in the Leighton area, *Colbert*, 26 May (Damien Simbeck).

WESTERN SANDPIPER – Damien Simbeck tallied 38 in the Leighton/Florence area, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 26 May (new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

LEAST SANDPIPER – At Pell City, *St. Clair*, 70 on 6 May was a good number for the Mountain Region (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Early birds were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 April (airport) (a single; Ron Morris) and 22 April (west end) (six; Christine Kelly). In the vicinity of Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck counted 91 on 26 May, and Steve McConnell counted 159 on 30 May, the latter a maximum count for inland Alabama.

BAIRD’S SANDPIPER – Rare in the WP, one was noted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 5 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Four records were received from the Gulf Coast of Alabama, where the species is rare in spring: one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 March and 1 April (early) (Michael Jordan); another single at the golf course on Dauphin

Island, *Mobile*, 31 March - 5 April (early) (Howard Horne, Jacob Walker, Don McKee *et al.*); two at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 9 May (Larry Gardella), and three at this same site 22-23 May (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan *et al.*). The maximum count for Alabama was 12 until Damien Simbeck shattered this record with a count of 132 in a single flock west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 16 May. Damien Simbeck found a single near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 May (rare but regular in the western Tennessee Valley).

DUNLIN – Two late birds were noted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 26 May (Damien Simbeck).

STILT SANDPIPER – Damien Simbeck observed two near Leighton, *Colbert*, 17 April, and a single was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 2 May (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske) (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – A single was noted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 8 April (Damien Simbeck) (rare so early in the Tennessee Valley). Rare in spring in the Mountain Region, five were recorded 10 May and one on 13 May at a sod farm near Pell City, *St. Clair* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – Good numbers for inland Alabama came from the Leighton area, *Colbert*, 17 March (11 birds, good number so early; Damien Simbeck), and Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2-3 May (12 birds; Milton Harris, Matt Morrow *et al.*).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Counts at several sites in the Leighton area, *Colbert*, 24 March, resulted in a total of 208 birds, a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley (Damien Simbeck).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Rare in spring, especially inland, a single female was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 5 May (Steve McConnell).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – The 18th record for Alabama, and the first for the Mountain Region, was marked by a first-cycle bird at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 28-30 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.). Another first-cycle individual was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 May (Eric Liffmann; ph.), a late record by over one month and the 19th for Alabama



Black-legged Kittiwake, 28 March 2009, Logan Martin Dam, AL; Greg Jackson.

BONAPARTE'S GULL – At Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 225 were counted 28 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and 350 (a spring maximum for the Mountain Region) were counted there 30 March (Steve McConnell *et al.*). A new maximum count (4,500+) for inland Alabama was made at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 5 April (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds).

LAUGHING GULL – At Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, two on 28 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) marked an early arrival record for the Mountain Region, where the species is occasional. Occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was noted at Coosada, *Elmore*, 18 April (Michael Jordan). Rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley, three records were received: two at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 24 May (Steve McConnell); two at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 26 May (Damien

Simbeck); and one at the Alabama A&M Farms (unusual site), *Madison*, 29 May (Ken Ward *et al.*).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Rare in spring in Alabama, two Tennessee Valley records were received: one at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 24 March (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten), and one on the Tennessee River near Waterloo, *Colbert*, 2 April (Jeff Wilson).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Steve McConnell found one on the Tennessee River near Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 15 March, and two at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 March (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

GLAUCOUS GULL – A first-cycle bird was seen on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 11 May (David Dortch), and at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 May (Bailey McKay) (rare in Alabama and late).



Glaucous Gull, 11 May 2009, Pelican Island, AL; David Dortch.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Jacob Walker observed a first-cycle individual on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 31 March (rare in Alabama).

KELP-TYPE GULL – Wayne Patterson photographed an unusual adult gull in Mobile Harbor, *Mobile*, 14 March, that may represent the first Kelp Gull (or Kelp Gull X Herring Gull hybrid) record for Alabama (@ABRC).

LEAST TERN – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 May (Neill Cowles).

CASPIAN TERN – Four birds were early at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 April (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds). Steve McConnell tallied 79 (good number) at Wilson Dam (51), *Lauderdale/Colbert*, and at the mouth of Town Creek (28), *Colbert*, 12 April. Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was spotted at Claiborne Lock and Dam, *Monroe*, 4 May (Terry Campbell).

BLACK TERN – One was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 31 May (Milton Harris) (rare in spring for inland Alabama).

ROYAL TERN – Rare away from the immediate coast, three were noted north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 25 April (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Rare for inland Alabama, a single was reported from east of Leroy, *Washington*, 27 March (Matthew Rouse), and two were noted at Coosada, *Elmore*, 18 April (Michael Jordan).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO – A total of five early birds was banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 27 March – 1 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*). The 63 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. Eric Liffmann counted 100+ at the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 23 May, a good number so late.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – An early arrival was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 April (Jacob Walker). John Ehinger heard one in Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 24 April (rare inland).

BARRED OWL – The 14 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May,

established a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

LONG-EARED OWL – Scot Duncan heard one at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 18 March (17th record for Alabama, second for the Tennessee Valley).

SHORT-EARED OWL – Rare on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was found on the east end of Grand Batture Island, *Mobile*, 3 March (Jacob Walker).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – Three at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 6 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) marked an early arrival date for Alabama, while four at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Michael Jordan) marked an early arrival date for the Gulf Coast. A single at Coosada, *Elmore*, 18 April (Michael Jordan) was also early. Twenty-two on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW – One in the Lock 17 area along the Warrior River, *Tuscaloosa*, 5 April (Jean Folsom) was early.

BLACK SWIFT – One seen near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 April (Damien Simbeck), marked the second record for Alabama and the first inland (@ABRC).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT – On 9 April, Clive Beattie found one on the balcony of a condominium at Navarre Beach, *Santa Rosa*. It was taken to Wildlife Rescue of Northwest Florida, where it was identified, photographed, and measured, and then released 26 May at Perdido Key, *Escambia*.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD – One female was late at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 18 March (Fred Bassett; b.) (rare but regular).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – Twenty-four were found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28-29 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.), with the 13 banded on 28 March marking a spring maximum for Alabama. A late departure date for the Tennessee Valley was set by one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 2 May (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds, Harry Dean).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – The 47 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – A single was singing and calling west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) (rare but regular).

“TRAILL'S” FLYCATCHER – Occasional in spring on the Gulf Coast, one was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.), to mark an early arrival date in Alabama for the complex or species.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – Two records of singles were received from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin* (occasional in spring on the Gulf Coast): 4 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.) (a new early arrival date for Alabama), and 24 April (Michael Jordan). Larry Gardella found a calling bird at Powder Magazine in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 18 May (rare in spring).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – A male that wintered at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, was last reported on 11 March (Kelly Jones).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – The 72 on the Wheeler NWR area count,

Limestone/Morgan, 2 May, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Rare in spring in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 30 April – 7 May (Bob Duncan, Patrick James).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Rare in spring in the WP, one was spotted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17 April (Bob Duncan), and another was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 7 May (Patrick James). Singles at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 March (Fred Bassett, Mary Wilson; b.), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 31 March+ (Howard Horne *et al.*) were rare this early.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER – An immature at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 21 May (Bailey McKay, Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) was the fourth and latest record for Alabama.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, 21 May 2009, Blakeley Island, AL; David Dortch.

WHITE-EYED VIREO – A new maximum for Alabama was marked by the 252 that were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – Good numbers were reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 March (16 b.; Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*), and Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May (21 on Wheeler NWR spring count).

WARBLING VIREO – Rare but regular in the western Tennessee Valley, a single was reported from Lauderdale WMA north of Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner), and 1-2 were singing at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 18 May (Damien Simbeck, David Chaffin).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in spring, records of singles came from two sites: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 3 May (Steve McConnell), and Madison, *Madison*, 17 May (Steve McConnell, Andrew Haffenden). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, late birds were found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*: a single at the Goat Trees, 20 May (Eric Liffmann), and two elsewhere on the island, 24 May (Chazz Hesselein), the latter a late departure record for the Gulf Coast.

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, records were received from three sites: two at Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, *Lawrence/Morgan*, 13 March (Steve McConnell); one at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 15 March (Steve McConnell); and a single at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 24 April (Matt Morrow).

HORNED LARK – Forty were tallied on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, to establish a new spring maximum for Alabama.

PURPLE MARTIN – The 136 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

TREE SWALLOW – Damien Simbeck reported 2,050 from the Leighton area, *Colbert*, 7 April, to mark a new maximum count for inland Alabama. This species is still rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama. A pair was nest building at Oneonta, *Blount*, 25 April (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown). Larry Gardella documented breeding at White

Hall, *Montgomery*, with his observations of a pair visiting a nest hole 3 May and feeding young 25 May. A male was at Limestone Swamp, Saginaw, *Shelby*, 31 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (new site if nesting). The 46 recorded on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, was a good spring number so late.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – An early bird was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 15 March (Steve McConnell).

BANK SWALLOW – Records of late birds came from three sites: three+ at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 22 May (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson); one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 May (late record for Gulf Coast) (Chazz Hesselein); and a single at White Hall, *Montgomery*, 25 May (Larry Gardella).

CLIFF SWALLOW – On the 2 May Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 290 was a good number. A maximum spring count (980) for Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May.

CAVE SWALLOW – A rare but regular spring migrant on the Gulf Coast, one was found at the Dauphin Island Airport, *Mobile*, 31 March – 3 April (Howard Horne *et al.*).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Ricky Ault reported two from Demopolis, *Marengo*, 23 March – 28 April (rare at the southern edge of its range). Jay Huner found one at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 28 May (sixth and latest record for the Gulf Coast).

HOUSE WREN – A pair and a nest with young were reported from Anniston, *Calhoun*, 24 May (Debbie McKenzie), where it is a rare breeder.

SEDGE WREN – Three (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley) were reported from Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 12 April (Steve McConnell).

MARSH WREN – Rare but regular in both the Mountain Region and the Tennessee Valley, one was noted on the Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May (David George, Maureen Shaffer, Louise Tommie), and two were noted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May (Ken Ward, Dwight Cooley *et al.*).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – Three late birds were noted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May (Steve McConnell, Linda Reynolds *et al.*).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

VEERY – An early arrival was at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 22 April (Ken Archambault). Late birds were noted at Madison, *Madison*, 16-17 May (Steve McConnell, Andrew Haffenden), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 May (Jacob Walker).

AMERICAN ROBIN – This species is a very local breeder in the WP, so reports of it from two locations in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 28 May (Lucy Duncan, Johnny Green) were notable.

AMERICAN PIPIT – One on the Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 2 May (Helen Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Helen Kittinger) was late.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Eleven birds were reported from Site B-70, Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 21 March (Lenny Fenimore) (found regularly at this location).

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER – One was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 April (Peggy Baker *et al.*) (rare).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – The second March record for the WP was marked by an adult at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15 March (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, one was reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 April (Jacob Walker). Rare in the Mountain Region, two reports of singles came from Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 23 April: Ruffner Mountain (Greg Jackson), and Botanical Gardens (Ken Archambault). Rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, three records were received: from the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone*, three on 2 May (Dwight Cooley, Stan Hamilton *et al.*) and two on 3 May (Steve McConnell); one from Lauderdale WMA north of Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and one from Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 7 May (Matt Morrow).

NORTHERN PARULA – Five was a good number so early 8 March at Montgomery, *Montgomery* (Larry Gardella). An early arrival 10 March at Clay, *Jefferson* (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) tied the early record for the Mountain Region.

YELLOW WARBLER – The 11 on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 May (Jacob Walker) was a good number so late.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – Early singles were at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 12 April (John Trent), and at Ruffner Mountain, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 18 April (Greg Jackson). Late birds included two at Madison, *Madison*, 16-17 May (Steve McConnell, Andrew Haffenden), and a single on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 31 May (late record for the Gulf Coast) (Carl Way, Brittany Way)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Nine on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. Three records of late birds were received: two at Powder Magazine, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 14 May (Larry Gardella); two on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 May (Eric Liffmann *et al.*); and one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 30 May (Steve McConnell).

CAPE MAY WARBLER – A late record for the Inland Coastal Plain was established by one at Powder Magazine, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 14 May (Larry Gardella), and the latest record for Alabama was marked by one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 May (Eugenia Carey).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Rare inland, three records were received: a female on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 21 April (Sue Moske); one at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 21 April (John Ehinger); and a singing male at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 3 May (Steve McConnell).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON’S) – A male, marking the 12th record for Alabama, was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11-18 April (Howard Horne, m.ob.; ph.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – One singing at Tyler, *Dallas*, 16 March (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell) established the earliest arrival record for inland

Alabama. A single on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 May (Jacob Walker) marked a new late departure date for the Gulf Coast.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – Late birds were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 24 May (Michael Jordan), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (one on 23 May, Eugenia Carey; two on 24 May, Chazz Hesselein; and three on 25 May, Jacob Walker).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – One was early at Clay, *Jefferson*, 15 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), and one at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 23 March (Matt Morrow) marked a new early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – Two were early at Powder Magazine, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 April (Larry Gardella).

AMERICAN REDSTART – Two birds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 May (Eric Liffmann *et al.*) were late.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – The 106 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a maximum count for inland Alabama.

WORM-EATING WARBLER – At Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 72 were banded 28 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*) to mark a spring maximum for Alabama.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – One was singing on the Muscle Shoals Reservation of the Tennessee Valley Authority, *Colbert*, 30 May (Steve McConnell) (rare in the Tennessee Valley but regular in this area).

OVENBIRD – Two early birds were at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 12 April (John Trent).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – One at Clay, *Jefferson*, 10 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) was early.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – An early bird was on Green Mountain at Huntsville, *Madison*, 30 April (Sue Moske) (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

MOURNING WARBLER – A single was heard at Madison, *Madison*, 16 May (Steve McConnell, Dean Cutten) (rare but expected at this site in late spring).

HOODED WARBLER – The banding operation (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*) at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, netted 126 on 28 March (good number). Ten on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley.

WILSON'S WARBLER – Casual in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was noted at Shorter, *Macon*, 4 April (Eric Soehren). Rare on the Gulf Coast in spring, another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 May (Michael Jordan).

CHIPPING SPARROW – Thirty-one on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, established a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley.

LARK SPARROW – Increasing as a breeder, 10 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May was a good number locally. A pair was probably nesting at a new site, Rabbit Road in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 31 May (Larry Gardella).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW – Rare in spring, a single was spotted on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18 April (Larry Gardella).

SONG SPARROW – A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 April (Greg Jackson).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner). Another single was seen at Madison, *Madison*, 29 May (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) (latest record for Alabama).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – Ten+ north of Atmore, *Escambia*, 11 March (Chazz Hesselein) marked a maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Twelve counted at Oneonta, *Blount*, 11 March (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown) marked a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

SCARLET TANAGER – A single on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 May (Eric Liffmann *et al.*) marked a late record for the Gulf Coast.

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in spring in the WP, a male was at a feeder in Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 9-10 March (Blake Hardison, Kelly Jones).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A male on Monte Sano Mountain, Huntsville, *Madison*, 14 April, tied the early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley (Jerry Green). A female at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 22 May (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan) was late.

BLUE GROSBEAK – Sixty-three on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, was a good number.

INDIGO BUNTING – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, tallied 937 (good number).

PAINTED BUNTING – A pair returned to Rabbit Road in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 3 May (Larry Gardella) (rare breeder inland).

DICKCISSEL – An early female was in Homewood, *Jefferson* (unusual site), 17 April (Ken Archambault).

BOBOLINK – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 2 May, tallied 1,272, a maximum count for the Tennessee Valley.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE – Kelly Jones found a pair at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 14 March, an unusual location for a species that is very rare in the WP.

SHINY COWBIRD – A male was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 12-13 May (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) (very rare in the WP). Another male was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 20 April (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) (rare).

ORCHARD ORIOLE – Two immature males were early south of Atmore, *Escambia*, 5 April (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Casual in spring in the WP, a male that wintered at the feeder of Betsy Tetlow in Pensacola, *Escambia*, was last seen by her on 14 March.

PINE SISKIN – The estimates of 500+ at Clay, *Jefferson*, 1 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), and a maximum of 500 in March at Loxley, *Baldwin* (Claire Krusko), tie for the maximum spring count for Alabama. One at Tallassee, *Elmore*, 31 May (Robert Reed, Pat Reed) was late.

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2009)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 2009 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. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “BAS” = Birmingham Audubon Society; “BBS” = Breeding Bird Survey; “CR” = County Road; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NS” = National Seashore; “ph.” = photographed; “SBC” = Summer Bird Count; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – Very rare in summer in the WP, one was at the Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields, *Okaloosa*, 28 July (Don Ware). Near Leighton, *Colbert*, observations were made as follows: Damien Simbeck saw two on 26 May, six males on 2 June, and a pair on 15 June, while Steve McConnell saw four on 30 May (rare/erratic breeder in Alabama).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck *et al.* saw two males and one female 26 May and three males 2 June (late record migrants for the Tennessee Valley, though the species has nested in the Valley).

CANVASBACK – A male lingered at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 June (Katie Hanson) (late record for the Tennessee Valley, with one prior summer record of an injured bird).

RING-NECKED DUCK – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, a single was noted 4 May – 26 July+ (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell *et al.*) (rare in summer).

SURF SCOTER – On Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, a male and a female were present 6 June (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) to mark the second June record for Alabama.

HOODED MERGANSER – A single was at the fish hatchery in Marion, *Perry*, 28 July (James Douglas, Tommy Pratt, m.ob.) (rare breeder).

COMMON LOON – Rare but regular in summer, three records (all of singles) were received: McDuffie Island, *Mobile*, 6 June (Stuart Fisher); Marion Junction quad,

Dallas SBC, 18 June (Frank Farrell); and one with an injured foot at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 May (Chazz Hesselein), 27 May (Sharon Foster), and 29 June (Mary Porter) (ph.).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – This species is a rare breeder in Alabama, so singles at the Mobile Botanical Gardens, *Mobile*, 27 June (Chazz Hesselein), and west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 July (Larry Barkey) were noteworthy.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER – Casual in the WP, one was seen in *Walton* 30 July (David Simpson).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL – Expected offshore in summer, one was found 73 nautical miles SSW of Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 20 June (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL – Expected offshore in summer, five were counted between 67.6 and 73.0 nautical miles SSW of Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, on a 20 June pelagic trip (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (ninth record for Alabama).



Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, 20 June 2009, Baldwin County, Kathy Hicks.

STORM-PETREL SP. – Two unidentified birds were noted 64.5 and 67.6 nautical miles SSW of Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 20 June pelagic trip (Steve McConnell, m.ob.) (expected offshore in summer).

NORTHERN GANNET – Rare but regular in summer, several sightings came from the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*: one on 7 June and two on 14 June (Michael Jordan), and five on 5 July (Kathy Hicks).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Erratic in summer on the Gulf Coast, 62 were reported from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 12 July (Chazz Hesselein).

ANHINGA – One was seen at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 20 July (Maureen Shaffer, John Swan, Anne Miller) (rare in Mountain Region; continuation at this site and possibly breeding).

LEAST BITTERN – Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, one was at the Intergraph wetland, *Madison*, *Madison*, 7 July (Dean Cutten).

GREAT EGRET – Damien Simbeck counted 119 on 14 July near Leighton, *Colbert*, and Dwight Cooley topped this with 150 on 28 July at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (good numbers for the Tennessee Valley in summer).

SNOWY EGRET – A single was found at the Pell City sod farm, *St. Clair*, 10 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare but regular in summer in the Mountain Region). Also rare but regular in summer in the Tennessee Valley, Steve McConnell *et al.* found two on 12 July and five (good number for recent years) on 26 July in the Leighton/Muscle Shoals area, *Colbert*; Dwight Cooley noted one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 28 July.

REDDISH EGRET – Rare in summer in the WP, three white morph and four dark morph birds were at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, 8 June – 27 July (Bob Duncan).

CATTLE EGRET – Tom Haggerty located 15 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 15 June (locally rare in June).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Twenty-five, a maximum for the Mountain Region, were at Neely Henry Dam, *St. Clair/Calhoun*, 10 June (Maureen Shaffer).

WHITE IBIS – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, records from two sites were received:

Muscle Shoals/Leighton area, *Colbert*, five on 22 July (Damien Simbeck) and three 28-29 July (Damien Simbeck, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*), and Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, a single on 28 July (Dwight Cooley).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – One was on Santa Rosa Island, *Okaloosa*, 17 June (Dustin Varble) to mark the seventh record for the WP.

WOOD STORK – The second June record for the WP was marked by a single in northern *Walton*, 28 June (Bob Reid). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, Dwight Cooley reported a juvenile from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 28 July.

OSPREY – A survey of Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, 22-28 June (Jerry Green *et al.*; ph.) found four active nests and a total of 24 birds, a maximum inland and summer count for Alabama.



Osprey, 22 June 2009, Lake Guntersville, AL; Jerry Green.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Thirty was a good number in *Okaloosa*, 9 July (Michael Stephen). Charles Kennedy *et al.* counted 15 at Forest Home, *Butler*, 2 June (a good number for June, especially in this area). Along CR 21 southeast of Autaugaville, *Autauga*, good numbers were found 20 July (50+; John Law, Rod Douglas) and 28 July (48; Tommy Pratt, m.ob.). The previous maximum for Alabama was 60+, and aerial surveys along the Alabama-Tombigbee river area by Eric Soehren *et al.* exceeded this number by a large margin: 75 on 19 July, 256 on 22 July, and 196 on 25 July.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – An estimated 135 at Forest Home, *Butler*, 2 June (Charles Kennedy *et al.*) established a new maximum for Alabama. Two were seen along AL 17 north of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 June (Jud Johnston) (rare in northwest Alabama).

AMERICAN KESTREL – This falcon is an uncommon and local breeder in Alabama, and reports of singles from five sites were received: south of Houston, *Winston*, 4 June (Larry Barkey); Harvest, *Madison*, 8 June (Kim Upper, Pamela Upper); Steele quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 20 June (David George, Sharon Hudgins); Pell City sod farm, *St. Clair*, 10 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and Huntsville, *Madison*, 22 July (Edward Woodruff).

AMERICAN COOT – Rare in summer in Alabama, five were observed on Lady Ann Lake, *Madison*, 25 June (Dean Cutten), and a single was seen north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 25 July (Greg Harber, BAS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – This species is rare in summer, and it can be difficult to say if birds seen in this season are summering or early fall migrants; nevertheless, three+ were seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

SNOWY PLOVER – It was another banner year for this species, which nested throughout Santa Rosa Island, *Santa Rosa/Okaloosa*. Breeding success can be attributed to a combination of factors including creation of suitable nesting habitat by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, efforts by Gulf Islands NS personnel to limit human disturbance, and lack of recent storms. As of July, 100 nests were counted in the Fort Pickens section alone, in addition to birds already fledged (*vide* Mark Nicholas, Vicky Withington).

- WILSON'S PLOVER** – Due to favorable breeding conditions described above under Snowy Plover, it was also a very good year for this species, which nested only sporadically and in very small numbers in previous years. On 25 June, Bob Duncan and Lucy Duncan counted 19 birds in the Opal Beach, *Escambia*, and Navarre Beach, *Santa Rosa*, areas, the maximum counted in recent years.
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER** – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, two late migrants were seen 31 May (Milton Harris) and 2 June (Damien Simbeck). One seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) marked the earliest July record for Alabama (but unknown if summering or early migrant). A single west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 12 July (Tom Haggerty) marked an early record for inland Alabama.
- WILLET** – Two birds seen west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5 July (Tom Haggerty) were early (and rare for inland Alabama).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – A sighting of one south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 18 June (David Plumb) provided the fifth June record for Alabama (also seen 6 July).
- MARBLED GODWIT** – Casual in July in the WP, a single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 2 July (Patrick James).
- RUDDY TURNSTONE** – One seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) was either a rare summering bird or an early migrant.
- SANDERLING** – An estimated 50 on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) was a good number for this date (uncommon in summer).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER** – Two found on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) marked the earliest July record for Alabama (but unknown if summering or early migrant).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – A late record for the Mountain Region was provided by a single at the Pell City sod farm, *St. Clair*, 15 June (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – One was spotted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 9 June (Milton Harris, Bert Harris) (late record for inland Alabama).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Two+ were found on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 July (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald) (unknown if summering or early migrant). Uncommon in the Tennessee Valley, three were early near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 12 July (Steve McConnell), and four were at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 28 July (Dwight Cooley).
- LAUGHING GULL** – A juvenile was at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 22 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and marked the second July record for the Mountain Region. This species is rare inland, especially without storm activity.
- HERRING GULL** – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, one was seen 30 May (Steve McConnell) and 2 June (Damien Simbeck) (rare in June for inland Alabama).
- HERRING GULL X KELP GULL** – Two adults of this probable hybrid, not definitely known from Alabama, were seen on Gaillard Island, *Mobile*, 17-26 June (Roger Clay

et al.; ph.).

- SOOTY TERN** – Evidence for the second year of definite nesting in Alabama came from the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*: three nests with eggs on 11 June (Roger Clay) and two birds on 4 July (Steve McConnell; see cover photograph).
- LEAST TERN** – It was another great year for breeding birds at Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, where 243 chicks were counted 8 June (*fide* Mark Nicholas, Vicky Withington). As of 8 July, many chicks and juveniles were still present.
- GULL-BILLED TERN** – One to three pairs nested in the Least Tern colony at Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, 15 June – 8 July (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (new nesting location for this species).
- ARCTIC TERN** – The second record for the WP was established by one seen at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, 27 July (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan; ph.).
- BLACK SKIMMER** – This species finally abandoned its traditional nesting site on the busy Navarre Beach Causeway and joined the Least Terns inside the protected area of Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*. Two colonies, one in the Opal Beach area and the other in the Fort Pickens section, both appear to be enjoying success, with numerous young present as of 8 July (Bob Duncan).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Increasing as a breeder, a single was at a new site in west Mobile, *Mobile*, 5 July (Chazz Hesselein).
- LOVEBIRD SP.** – Two of these exotics were at the feeder of Jesse Knothe, Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 6 July (*fide* Bob Duncan).
- BARN OWL** – Rarely detected in summer or breeding, records were received from five sites: one along AL 157 two miles northwest of AL 36, *Lawrence*, 7 June (Steve McConnell); four at Scant City, *Marshall*, 9 June (Matt Morrow); one at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 13 June (Chazz Hesselein); one found dead at Enterprise, *Coffee*, 2 July (Damien Simbeck); and another single found dead at Kilpatrick, *DeKalb*, 9 July (Scott Gravette *et al.*).
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** – Nests of this species are rarely discovered, but Bill Summerour found one in Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, that contained one egg on 1 June and two eggs on 2 June (ph.).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT** – For the sixth consecutive year, this species nested in the Duncan's chimney in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*. Nest building began in early June, robust young were heard as of 8 July, and the young fledged by late July.
- HAIRY WOODPECKER** – Very rare in the WP, one was noted on the Tarkiln Bayou Trail, *Escambia*, 6 June (Eva Barnett, Michael Jordan, Cheryl Bunch).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – Two singing birds that were probably nesting were recorded at Hartselle, *Morgan*, 6-27 June (Scott Gravette) (only one confirmed nesting in Alabama).
- GRAY KINGBIRD** – Nesting was reported from five different areas in the WP (*fide* Bob Duncan).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – This species is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, and was reported from six sites: one at the airport in Meridianville, *Madison*,

12 June (Milton Harris); a male from a new site, six miles north of Safford, *Dallas*, 12 June (Barry Fleming) and 21 June (Larry Gardella) (probably nesting); one at the intersection of AL 25 and CR 9 (new site), *Hale*, 3 July (Greg Harber, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); a pair with two young at Sledge, *Hale*, 3 July (Greg Harber, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); a pair north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 3 July (Greg Harber, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) and presumably the same pair with four young at the same site 25 July (Greg Harber, BAS); and one at the Alabama A&M farm, *Madison*, 22 July (Edward Woodruff).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – One was found in the Hyatt Gap quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 14 June (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany) (first possible breeding record for the county, very rare summer resident near Birmingham). Seventeen, including 12 immatures, were counted on a 30-stop route at Cheaha SP, *Cleburne*, 16 July (Derek Muschalek).

FISH CROW – The *St. Clair* SBC produced two records: two in the Laniers quad, 13 June (Andrew Haffenden), and one in the Steele quad, 20 June (David George, Sharon Hudgins) (locally rare but increasing). Larry Barkey reported one from south of Houston, *Winston*, 21 June – 7 July (rare this far north but increasing). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 3 July (Matt Morrow), one was in the Town Creek Marsh area, *Colbert*, 12 July (Steve McConnell), and one was at Decatur, *Morgan*, 23 July (Steve McConnell).

TREE SWALLOW – This species is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama, and reports from six sites were received: one at White Oak on the Vina BBS, *Franklin*, 7 June (Steve McConnell) (new site if breeding); two at Canoe Creek on the Odenville BBS, *St. Clair*, 7 June (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (new site); three-four pairs nesting in Purple Martin houses, Poplar Creek, *Limestone*, 9 June (Milton Harris, Bert Harris) (new site); four in the Pell City quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 14 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); five in the Hyatt Gap quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 14 June (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany); and a pair and two young in the Wattsville quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 20 June (Greg Jackson) (new site).

CLIFF SWALLOW – One at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, 8 July (Bob Duncan) was the earliest ever (by 11 days) fall migrant for the WP.

BARN SWALLOW – Five nests were noted at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, 17-25 June (Bob Duncan) (new nesting location).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE – The first confirmed record for Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, was marked by one seen by Eugenia Carey *et al.* (ph.) 19-26 July.

HOUSE WREN – A pair and a dependent fledgling were seen in the Hyatt Gap quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 13 June (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany), and one was singing at Clay, *Jefferson*, 10-15 July (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (rare breeder in Alabama).

AMERICAN ROBIN – Johnny Green reported nesting at a traditional site in north Pensacola, *Escambia*. One present in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 June was unusual for the location (Bob Duncan). Reports



Carolina Chickadee, 19 July 2009, Dauphin Island, AL; Eugenia Carey.

were also received of birds in Niceville and Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 7-17 June (Pat Baker) (very local breeder on WP).

CEDAR WAXWING – Breeding was documented at Steele, *St. Clair*, with the observation of nest building 23 July and three young in this nest 20 August (Jody Gilliland, Bill Gilliland) (rare but expanding breeder).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – The first June record for *Madison* was marked by a singing bird at Monte Sano SP 26 June (Milton Harris, Bert Harris). Forty-six, including 29 immatures, was a good summer number on a 30-stop route at Cheaha SP, *Cleburne*, 16 July (Derek Muschalek).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – A singing male tarried at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 June (Michael Jordan *et al.*) (late record for south Alabama).

CERULEAN WARBLER – Two singing males and a female were along Larkin Fork, *Jackson*, 6 June (Dean Cutten, Raelene Cutten) (rare breeder, continuation at this site). Two singing males, an adult female, and a probable juvenile were reported from Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 26 June – 10 July (Milton Harris, Bert Harris *et al.*) (first probable local nesting since 1960).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – The first June record for the WP was provided by a female at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 6 June (Bob Duncan). Twenty-four were tallied on a 30-stop route at Cheaha SP, *Cleburne*, 16 July (Derek Muschalek) (maximum summer count for inland Alabama).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – A singing bird was detected in the Elm Bluff quad, *Dallas* SBC, 6 June (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was heard singing along Little Bear Creek (CR 23, just west of AL 247) on the Vina BBS, *Franklin*, 7 June (Steve McConnell).

LARK SPARROW – One at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 10 July (Bob Duncan) was the earliest ever (by 15 days) fall migrant for the WP.

SONG SPARROW – Singles were noted at Leeds, *Jefferson*, 10 June (Harriett Wright, Ann Miller), and at Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 23 July (Harriett Wright, Mary Lou Miller) (locally rare breeder).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A second-year male was at a feeder in Dothan, *Houston*, 27 May – 1 June (Sharon Montefusco; ph.) (ties late record for Alabama).

PAINTED BUNTING – This species is a rare but increasing breeder. An adult male was singing along CR 135 near CR 21, southeast of Autaugaville, *Autauga*, 7 June (John Trent).

DICKCISSEL – David George found one in the Steele quad, *St. Clair* SBC, 14 June (locally rare).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This introduced species continues to be reported from the usual areas in Pensacola, *Escambia*. Adults and juveniles were reported from the Milton area, *Santa Rosa*, 15 June (Heidi Moore) (new site).

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH – Bob Duncan has four WP records of this escapee, the latest being a pair in east Pensacola, *Escambia*, 13 June (Patrick James), and a female in southwest

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Pensacola, 3 July (Ann Forster).

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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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