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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Swainson's Warbler on nest, 19 May 2001, Baldwin Co., by B. Summerour

SUMMARY OF BREEDING DATA FOR THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*LIMNOTHLYPIS SWAINSONII*) IN ALABAMA, 1912–2004

Bill Summerour

INTRODUCTION

Although the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is known to occur in dense, swampy, stream and floodplain bottoms over most of Alabama and probably breeds wherever it is heard singing in spring and summer, few positive nesting records have been reported from the state. In this report, I summarize the current nesting records of Swainson's Warbler in Alabama and provide new information concerning its breeding biology in the state.

METHODS

Between 2000 and 2004 the author collected breeding data on Swainson's Warblers in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta in an area 1.6 km (1 mile) due east of the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers in north Baldwin County, about 48 km (30 miles) above Mobile (N31°08'24.4 W87°54'37.2).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study 30 nests were located, bringing the total number of nests found in Alabama to 33 (Table 1).

Inclusive dates from Baldwin County. — Males were heard singing between 31 March and 18 September. Nest building was first observed on 24 April (nest almost completed) and was last seen on 9 July. Nests with eggs were located between 30 April - 15 July, and nestlings were found between 2 June - 19 July. Fledged young were seen between 25 May - 2 August, and independent young were noted on 14 June. From these data, the breeding season extended from the third week in April to the first week in August.

Nests. — Eighteen of the 33 nests (55%) contained eggs or nestlings when found (16 with eggs, two with nestlings). Of these, two (11%) were parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Of 11 nests containing full sets of eggs, seven held three eggs and four contained four, for an average clutch size of 3.4 (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Summary of breeding data for the Swainson's Warbler in Alabama, 1912-2004.

| Nest No./Yr | Date Found | Nest | | | Location in | | County | Observer(s) |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | | Height | Density | Thicket | Thicket | Location | | |
| 1-1912 | 5-May | 2 eggs | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Lauderdale/Colbert | A.H. Howell | |
| 2-1912 | 8-May | empty, nest complete | moderat | edge of slough | edge of slough | Lauderdale/Colbert | A.H. Howell | |
| 1-1977 | 7 May | 4 eggs, 19 May | dense | interior | interior | Calhoun | B. Summerour | |
| 1-2000 | 12 June | 3 eggs, 18 June | moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 2-2000 | 14 June | 1 infertile egg, young fledged | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 3-2000 | 14 June | empty, reason unknown | 2.1 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 4-2000 | 20 June | empty, fledged | 0.9 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 5-2000 | 9 July | 2 fresh eggs | 2.3 moderate | edge | edge | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 1-2001 | 12 May | 1 fresh egg | 2.1 moderate | edge of road | edge of road | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 2-2001 | 16 May | 4 eggs | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 3-2001 | 19 May | 3 eggs | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 4-2001 | 23 May | 3 eggs | thin | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 5-2001 | 2 June | 3 nestlings | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 6-2001 | 24 June | 3 eggs | 1.7 moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 7-2001 | 24 June | 1 infertile egg, fledged | 4.1 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 8-2001 | 24 June | 2 eggs on 24 June; 4 on 30 June | 2.7 moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 9-2001 | 30 June | empty, fledged | 2.7 thin | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 10-2001 | 8 July | 2 infertile eggs | 1.8 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 11-2001 | 8 July | 2 nestlings | 2.0 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 12-2001 | 8 July | 3 eggs | 1.5 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 13-2001 | 2 August | empty, fledged | 2.1 thin | edge | edge | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 1-2002 | 26 April | building | 2.7 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 2-2002 | 30 April | 3 eggs | moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 3-2002 | 5 May | empty, predator | 1.5 moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 4-2002 | 25 May | empty, fledged | 1.2 moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 5-2002 | 25 May | 2 infertile eggs | moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 6-2002 | 25 May | 2 eggs, 1 cowbird egg | thin | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 7-2002 | 17 June | 2 eggs, 1 cowbird egg | 2.1 dense | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 8-2002 | 15 July | 3 eggs on 15th; 3 nestlings on 19th | 3.0 moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour, K. Gauldin | |
| 9-2002 | 15 July | empty, fledged | 1.7 moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 10-2002 | 28 July | empty, reason unknown | 1.4 moderate | edge of slough | edge of slough | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 1-2003 | 22 May | 4 eggs | 1.4 dense | edge of road | edge of road | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |
| 1-2004 | 24 April | building, nest almost completed | 2.4 moderate | interior | interior | Baldwin | B. Summerour, K. Gauldin | |
| | | | 0.9 dense | edge of Bear Ck. | edge of Bear Ck. | Baldwin | B. Summerour | |

Nest heights. — Height of nest from the ground ranged from 0.6 m (1'10") to 4.1 m (13'6"), for an average height of 1.8 m (6'1") statewide and 1.9 m (6'3") in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta (Table 1).

Habitat. — All 30 of the nests found by the author in the Delta, and the two found by A.H. Howell (1928) on an island in the Tennessee River near Florence, were placed in cane thickets (Figs. 1 and 2). Only the Calhoun County nest was not in cane (Summerour, 1979). Eighteen nests (55%) were in thickets of moderate density, 11 (33%) in dense cane, and 4 (12%) in thin cane. Eighteen were in the interior of thickets and 15 (45%) near the edge, often near sloughs (Table 1). One nest (8-2001) was built in a holly tree (*Ilex decidua*) within a cane thicket.

During the spring and summer of 2003 the entire Delta was under water. The only nest found that season was placed 1.5 m (5') above knee-deep water in the interior of a cane thicket of moderate density. There was no high ground within hundreds of meters.

During the 2004 season, few birds were heard singing in the study area and only one nest was found. The loss of cane from the previous season of prolonged flooding was no doubt a contributing factor in the decline of Swainson's Warblers in the area.



FIGURE 1. Swainson's Warbler nesting habitat in Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Baldwin Co., Alabama. Nest located in cane thicket (arrow). Photograph by B. Summerour on 13 May 2001.



FIGURE 2. Swainson's Warbler nest in cane thicket in Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Baldwin Co., Alabama. Photograph by B. Summerour on 30 April 2002.

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A REVIEW OF THE WADING BIRDS IN SOUTH ALABAMA SINCE 1952

Julian L. Dusi

During the summer of 1952, as I was just getting acquainted with Alabama, my Comparative Anatomy student, Tom Yancey, asked me if I was interested in seeing a Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) nesting colony. Naturally I was, so he took me to the Hog Wallow Ponds, just south of Tuskegee, in Macon County. There, to my amazement, was a group of Little Blue Herons nesting in alders in the shallow upper end of one pond. My research with wading birds began at that moment (Dusi 1958).

Banding with U.S.F.W.S. bands was started and continued at the Hog Wallow Ponds colony until 1958 when a group of fishermen shot a number of returning Little Blue Herons and the colony was deserted. Banding data made it possible to track a number of post breeding dispersing birds and winter residents from this colony (Dusi 1958).

On 17 April 1959, a Little Blue Heron colony located just south of Marvyn, Lee County, was visited. It was located on an old millpond on the farm of F.B. Smith-T. The colony was mostly Little Blue Herons with one Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nest present.

The first record for Alabama of a nesting colony of White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) was reported by James E. Keeler, 1956, at Southfield Lake, Baldwin County. He took banding parties there on 21 May and 14 June 1956 and they banded a total of 2,046 White Ibis, 15 Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 8 Little Blue Heron, 3 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) and 3 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) (Keeler 1956).

In 1959, Keeler took a group of banders to a new colony of Little Blue Herons, located just west of Faunsdale on Dr. Ennis farm. We banded 275 nestling Little Blue Herons and 2 Great Egrets (Keeler 1956). A number of similar colonies, mostly of Little Blue Herons, were found during the 1950's, at Tuskegee, Macon County and Montgomery, Montgomery County (Dusi and Dusi 1988), and in the 1960's, Little Blue Herons at Mountain Creek, Chilton County, and Florala, Covington County.

Among other wading birds that formed nesting colonies was the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). Great Blue Herons formed many small colonies along creeks and swamps, and occasionally nested as single pairs. Several small colonies appeared on the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge and at the

edge of Auburn and Opelika in Lee County. Sometimes they nested along the edge of a Little Blue Heron colony. One outstanding example was a colony in a single dead tree of a small pond in a pasture along Interstate Highway 65 south of Hooper Academy in Montgomery County. This tree had from one to nine nests in it for a number of years, ending about 1995. The swamp at Hardaway, Macon County, had the largest colony (up to 35 nests) and was active for many years.

Another colony located on Cat Island, by the Dauphin Island Causeway, had Reddish Egrets (*Egretta rufescens*) and Tricolor Herons (*Egretta tricolor*), both of which were restricted to coastal heronries.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) were found in colonies, like Southfield Lake, Baldwin County (Keeler 1956), but they often nested singly along small bodies of water. Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) nested in the northern part of the state like Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Decatur.

On 26 April 1958, the first record of the Cattle Egret was made at Dauphin Island, by Lovett E. Williams and Dan W. Speake. A specimen was secured for the Auburn University Ornithology Collection by Speake (Summerour 1964). Cattle Egrets started appearing in Little Blue Heron colonies at Opp, Covington County, Montgomery, Montgomery County, and north to the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Limestone County. The first nest was found 17 March 1963 in a colony near Opp by Bill Summerour (Dusi and Dusi 1963). Later that same year, nesting Cattle Egrets were found in colonies near Montgomery and Pansey, Houston County.

During the period from the 1960's to the 1980's, Cattle Egrets moved into Little Blue Heron colonies. Colonies gradually increased in size, with the Cattle Egret becoming the more abundant heron species in the colonies. The typical pattern of colony development was the establishment of a colony by nesting Little Blue Herons in March. In April, Cattle Egrets would migrate into the colony and often lay their eggs in pirated Little Blue Heron nests. If the Little Blue Heron nests were in the egg stage, the Cattle Egrets would often simply add their eggs to the clutch and incubate the eggs of both species. If young Little Blue Herons were already hatched, the Cattle Egrets would drive the Little Blue nestlings out of the nests and onto the ground where they would perish (Dusi and Dusi 1969, McKittrick, 1976).

Cattle Egrets did not usually have separate nesting colonies but nested in the colonies of Little Blue Heron or White Ibis. The stimulus of the other herons nesting induced them to breed. Nesting success was dependent on rain-

fall. A drought period of a week or longer caused Cattle Egrets to desert their nests and young. When wet weather resumed they may nest again and be successful. Apparently the drought conditions negatively affected their food abundance and resulted in the desertion (Dusi and Dusi 1988).

As the population numbers of the Cattle Egret increased in the 1970's and 1980's, problems presented themselves. One problem occurred when the colonies conflicted with human interests. As seen in the Hog Wallow Ponds Little Blue Heron colony, fishermen who used the ponds thought that the herons were interfering with their sport and simply shot many of the birds and caused them to leave. At that time bird protection was lax and the shooting was not prosecuted. Cattle Egret colony desertion was more complex. If a colony was disturbed before full clutches were laid, the birds simply left the area. However, after eggs were hatched the birds had to be harassed for several nights and most of the nests destroyed before they would leave. In the case of one colony that was located adjacent to a number of homes in the city of Tuskegee (Dusi 1994), police shot over 1,000 adults and killed many nestlings, but the egrets would not leave the remaining nests and young. At another Tuskegee colony several years later, when the colony was being formed near some homes, police disturbed the birds for several nights and destroyed many nests and the birds left the area.

The high nest density in Cattle Egret colonies, especially those located in upland pines, caused another problem. The bird's excrement killed the trees if the egrets nested there for several years. As a result, landowners were often unwilling to accept the loss, so the birds were forced to leave before the trees were killed (Dusi 1977).

In only one known instance did Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets return to an abandoned colony site. After the Little Blue Herons were driven from the Hog Wallow Ponds site in 1958, the colony site was checked annually but no birds returned until 1992, when a colony of mostly Cattle Egrets appeared in the pine trees surrounding one of the ponds. The colony flourished until 1994, when most of the pine trees were killed by the egret's excrement (Dusi and Dusi 1992).

By the 1990's a number of large Cattle Egret colonies appeared in southern Alabama. Colonies at the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Tuskegee, Montgomery, Millbrook, Selma, Uniontown, Faunsdale, Andalusia, Mobile and Cat Island, were especially noteworthy, containing thousands of Cattle Egrets. Then in the 1990's colony sizes and the number of colonies declined, possibly caused by a number of droughts and hurricanes and a decrease in cat-

tle farming. The great increase in aquaculture of shrimp and catfish in western Alabama, has also affected waterbird abundance.

At the present time, although the writer is not able to spend a large number of hours in the field, or flying over southern Alabama, all of his sources of information indicate that there is a large colony on an island in the Chattahoochee River on the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge and possibly one near Andalusia. No other large colonies are known to be present and that droughts like that of 2007 will limit the production of large numbers of Cattle Egrets. The other wading bird species are not affected to that extent by the droughts.

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REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2006 - 2007

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, forty-four records from 33 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with three species being added to the Alabama state list: Cackling Goose, Costa’s Hummingbird, and Trumpeter Swan. In addition, Arctic Tern and Townsend’s Warbler were added to the hypothetical list based on compelling visual reports where no photos or other objective evidence was available.

In addition, White-tailed Tropicbird was removed from the state list following committee review of the two historical reports previously used to establish its occurrence. The unanimous committee opinion was that neither report established the species-level identity of the “tropicbird” observed.

As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 437 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Eighteen species are included in the hypothetical category.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 44 records from 33 observers.

| Record No. | Species | Date | County | How Noted ^a | Decision ^b | AL Status ^c |
|------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 05-17 | Cackling Goose | 1/7/05 | Limestone | P | A | 1 |
| 05-18 | Cackling Goose | 1/9/59 | Morgan | S | A | 2 |
| 05-19 | Cackling Goose | 1/12/70 | Jackson | B/S | NI | --- |
| 05-20 | Cackling Goose | 1/15/05 | Baldwin | V | NI | --- |
| 05-22 | Cackling Goose | 1/26/03 | Baldwin | V | NI | --- |
| 05-25 | Cackling Goose | 12/2/74 | Shelby | V | A | 3 |
| 05-26 | Cackling Goose | 3/4/89 | Perry | V | A | 4 |
| 05-38 | Red-necked Grebe | 12/12/04 | Marshall | V | A | >10 |
| 06-01 | Band-rumped Storm-Petrel | 8/30/05 | Lauderdale | V | A | 8 |
| 06-02 | Bullock’s Oriole | 4/15/05 | Jefferson | P | A | >10 |

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Table 1. Continued

| Record No. | Species | Date | County | How Noted ^a | Decision ^b | AL Status ^c |
|------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 06-03 | Cackling Goose | 12/30/04 | Baldwin | P | NI | --- |
| 06-04 | Ferruginous Hawk | 3/23/86 | Perry | V | A | 3-H |
| 06-05 | Long-tailed Jaeger | 9/26/05 | Lawrence | V | A | 4-H |
| 06-06 | Northern Goshawk | 1/3/82 | Baldwin | V | NI | --- |
| 06-07 | Prairie Falcon | 4/24/05 | Baldwin | V | A | 5 |
| 06-08 | Sabine's Gull | 9/29/05 | Morgan | S/P | A | 5 |
| 06-10 | Sooty Shearwater | 4/1/05 | Baldwin | V | A | >10 |
| 06-10 | White-winged Crossbill | 4/7/05 | Lauderdale | P | A | 2 |
| 06-11 | Arctic Tern | 7/5/06 | Baldwin | V | A | 1-H |
| 06-12 | Cinnamon Teal | 1/20/97 | Baldwin | S/P | A | 5 |
| 06-13 | Costa's Hummingbird | 1/1/06 | Montgomery | B/P | A | 1 |
| 06-14 | Harris's Hawk | 1/8/06 | Mobile | P | NO | --- |
| 06-15 | Little Gull | 12/16/05 | Elmore | V | A | 9 |
| 06-16 | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sp. | 12/30/05 | Baldwin | P | NI | --- |
| 06-17 | Thayer's Gull | 1/06 | Colbert | P | NI | --- |
| 06-18 | Trumpeter Swan | 2/17/06 | Lee | P | A | 1 |
| 06-19 | Wattled Jacana | 8/18/64 | Montgomery | S/P | NO | --- |
| 06-20 | Western Meadowlark | 2/22/06 | Mobile | P | A | >10 |
| 06-21 | Yellow-billed Loon | 1/19/06 | Marshall | V | NI | --- |
| 07-1H | White-tailed Tropicbird | 10/20/58 | Mobile | V | Removed | --- |
| 07-1H | White-tailed Tropicbird | 8/20/69 | Mobile | V | Removed | --- |
| 07-01 | Black-bellied Whist.-Duck | 5/1/07 | Mobile | P | A | 4 |
| 07-02 | Black-bellied Whist.-Duck | 5/28/08 | Etowah | P | A | 5 |
| 07-03 | Brown-crested Flycatcher | 4/12/98 | Baldwin | B/P | A | 2 |
| 07-04 | Black Swift | 4/11/07 | Baldwin | V | Pending | --- |
| 07-05 | Brewer's Sparrow | 11/3/06 | Mobile | V | NI | --- |
| 07-06 | Cackling Goose | 12/16/06 | Limestone | V | NI | --- |
| 07-07 | Cackling Goose | 12/23/06 | Jefferson | V | NI | --- |
| 07-08 | Iceland Gull | 1/12/07 | Baldwin | P | A | 6 |
| 07-09 | Iceland Gull | 2/18/07 | Morgan | P | A | 7 |
| 07-10 | Magnfcnt. Hummingbird | 10/6/06 | St. Clair | V | NI | --- |
| 07-11 | Northern Wheatear | 2/3/07 | Baldwin | P/VD | A | 4 |
| 07-12 | Ruff | 4/11/07 | Colbert | V | A | 7 |
| 07-13 | Townsend's Warbler | 4/8/06 | Mobile | V | A | 1-H |
| 07-14 | Western Grebe | 12/6/06 | Henry | P | A | 5 |

^aV = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VD = video, A = audio recording, S = specimen, H = heard

^bA = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO – not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = review incomplete; Removed = Removed from state list

^cNumber of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile or Baldwin County

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2007)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 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*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b” = banded; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Uncommon but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 14 were noted 4 November (Steve McConnell) and 15 on 10 November (North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, though becoming regular at this site, four were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (Larry Gardella).

SNOW GOOSE – A single white morph individual was found at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 28 November (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow), where the species is locally rare.

ROSS’S GOOSE – Rare but increasing on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were seen at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 16-25 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*). Two adults and two immatures visited Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17+ November (Steve McConnell) (rare to uncommon in the Tennessee Valley, but regular and increasing at this site). At Round Island Creek, *Limestone*, one adult and one immature were noted 23 November (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (rare to uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).

CANADA GOOSE – On the 29 September fall count by the Birmingham Audubon Society in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 341 was a good number.

WOOD DUCK – Good numbers (146 on 24 August and 193 on 1 September) were

tallied at Marvyn, *Lee* (Barry Fleming). Two separate groups of 100+ were found on Lake Logan Martin, *St. Clair/Tallapoosa*, 15 October (Russell Hatfield, Patrick Dawson) (maximum number for Mountain Region).

MALLARD – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a tally of 115, a good number for early fall.

NORTHERN PINTAIL – Sixteen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 23 September (Greg Jackson) was a good number for so early in the season.

REDHEAD – An early bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman).

SURF SCOTER – One-four were seen 8 November – 4 December on Wilson Reservoir at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert* (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Casual in the WP, singles were noted on Perdido Bay, *Escambia*, 5-8 November (Sue Yates) and on the Gulf of Mexico off Destin, *Okaloosa*, 10 November (Charlie Saleeby).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – Rare in Alabama, four were spotted at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 25 November (Wayne Patterson).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE – A late nesting was documented 12 October at Loxley, *Baldwin*, with the observation of a female with 10 young (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman).

RED-THROATED LOON – One was observed near Foley, *Baldwin*, 18-22 November (Howard Horne, Chazz Hesselein, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald *et al.*; ph.) (rare).

COMMON LOON – Summering individuals are rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, and a single was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 August (Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald, Howard Horne). One at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 19 September, was early (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – On Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck tallied 500+ (good number) 20 November.

RED-NECKED GREBE – A single in Alabama waters at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 22 November (Eric Boehm, Michael Boehm) marked the 19th record for Alabama and the second for the Inland Coastal Plain.

MASKED BOOBY – A sub-adult was seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 October (Ben Garmon) (rare).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Numerous records of this increasingly observed species were received: a single, Ballard Lake near Montevallo, *Shelby*, 7 September (Mac Braid) and 8 September (Helen Kittinger, m.ob.) (locally rare); 100+, Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 17 September (Linda Baker, Winston Baker) (rare in Mountain Region but regular at this site in recent years); 25, Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone*, 29 September (Harry Dean, Ken Ward) (uncommon but increasing in this area); 325, Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 11 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (maximum count for Mountain Region); 65, Florence,

Lauderdale, 22 November (Tom Haggerty) (locally uncommon); 200, Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 23 November (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (uncommon but increasing in this area). Several counts were made at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*: 200, 4 November (Steve McConnell); 400, 17 November (North Alabama Birdwatcher's Society); 513, 24 November (Barry Fleming, Geoff Hill) (maximum count for Tennessee Valley).

BROWN PELICAN – A single was in Alabama waters at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 22 November (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm) (rare but increasing for inland Alabama but becoming regular at this site).

ANHINGA – Ben Garmon counted 12 at Chickasaw Lake, *Mobile*, 4 September, to mark a maximum count for the Gulf Coast. Fourteen at Marvyn, *Lee*, 9 September (Barry Fleming) was a good number. A single along I-65 north of Montgomery, *Autauga*, 13 November (Ben Garmon) was rare this late so far north.

AMERICAN BITTERN – An early single was at Chickasaw Lake, *Mobile*, 2 September (Ben Garmon).

GREAT EGRET – Fall counts on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, and in the Birmingham area, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, both 29 September, tallied good numbers of 177 and 77, respectively.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Thirty-two at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 27 November (Greg Jackson) marked a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – The fifth record for the WP was marked by a single at Beulah, *Escambia*, 12 August (Dianne Lee, Mary Newman). Two adults were at Justin Bay on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 13 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman; ph.). One adult was at mile marker seven on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 25 October (Howard Horne) (rare and late).

WOOD STORK – Very rare in the WP, two sightings were made at Pensacola, *Escambia*: eight birds 23 August (James Pfeiffer), and a single 24 November (Powers McLeod).

OSPREY – A late bird was at Graysville, *Jefferson*, 23 November (Jud Johnston, Sylvia Johnston).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Five at Mud Creek WMA, *Jackson*, 8 September (Daniel Jacobson), marked the first local record (rare, and maximum count, for Tennessee Valley).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – A late bird was seen along the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 19 November (Ben Garmon).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Rare in Alabama, a single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 October (Larry Gardella, Andrea Menyhert). Several sightings were made at a site south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*: one on 27 October (David Plumb), two on 2 November (David Plumb), three on 11 November (Michael Jordan *et al.*), five (maximum number for Alabama) on 14 November (David Plumb), and one on 15 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

- RED-TAILED (HARLAN'S) HAWK** – One was identified at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 24 November (Barry Fleming, Geoff Hill) (rare).
- BLACK RAIL** – The fourth fall record for the WP was marked by one flushed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 31 October (Merilu Rose, Sam Tagatz, Pam West).
- SORA** – The Birmingham Audubon Society, during its 29 September fall count in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, recorded eight, a good number.
- AMERICAN COOT** – On Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck tallied 5000+ (a locally good number) 20 November.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – Uncommon in fall in Alabama, reports (all singles) from four sites were received: Foley, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Morris Clark, Peggy Baker, m.ob.); Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 November (Steve McConnell); Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 8+ November (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; injured bird; ph.); and Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (Larry Gardella; injured bird).
- PIPING PLOVER** – A bird at Marvyn, *Lee*, 14 September (Barry Fleming) was color banded and originated from the Great Lakes population (occasional inland; sixth record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – Ken Wills found eight at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 18 August (occasional in the Mountain Region). Also occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, a maximum for this region was marked by the 17 observed at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 3 September. Six birds were still present at this site 15 September (Larry Gardella *et al.*).
- WILLET** – Rare for inland Alabama, records of singles were received from Marvyn, *Lee*, 31 August – 2 September (Barry Fleming *et al.*) and Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 1 September (Frank Farrell, Maureen Schaffer *et al.*).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – Rare in the WP, northern *Escambia* hosted four birds on 9 August and three on 29 August (Laura Catterton).
- RED KNOT** – Now uncommon, Pelican Island, *Mobile*, hosted three birds on 11 October and six on 13 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman *et al.*).
- SANDERLING** – Three were at Marvyn, *Lee*, 2 September (Geoff Hill), and three were at the same site 9 September (Barry Fleming; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). Greg Jackson found one at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 13 October (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – The second August record for the WP was marked by one on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 10 August (Bob Duncan). One was reported from Foley, *Baldwin*, 14 September (David Dortch; ph.) (uncommon on the Gulf Coast). Uncommon in fall in the Tennessee Valley, records of singles came from three locations: Stevenson, *Jackson*, 15 September (Daniel Jacobson, Janice Chadwell, John Henderson); Leighton, *Colbert*, 16 September (Steve McConnell); and Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 8 November (late) (Damien Simbeck). At Harpersville, *Shelby*, there were two birds on 15 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) and one bird on 16 September (Greg Harber). Another single was at

Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 15 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region). The two Harpersville birds plus the single Lake Purdy bird on 15 September marked a new fall maximum for the Mountain Region.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Two were late at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 17 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

DUNLIN – A molting adult on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 August (Ben Garmon) was the first in August for Alabama.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Rare in the WP, four were on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 1 September (Andy Bankert); a total of 20 birds was reported between 30 July and 1 September. At Harpersville, *Shelby*, 35 were counted on 15 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), a maximum for the Mountain Region.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – Two calling birds were identified at Marvyn, *Lee*, 24-26 August (Barry Fleming) (uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain).

DOWITCHER SP. – Larry Gardella found 12 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Uncommon on the Gulf Coast, two were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 August (Chazz Hesselein, Howard Horne). At Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, two were found 12 September and one on 14 September (Tommy Pratt *et al.*) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

LAUGHING GULL – This species is rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, and several reports were received: singles at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 31 August and 28 September (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner) and 11 November (Tom Haggerty); one at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 31 August (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one on 13 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), two on 27 October (Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell), and one on 10 November (Steve McConnell).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – One was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20-24 October (J.V.O. Weaver, Sharon Weaver, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Numerous records were received for this species that is considered rare in Alabama: Guntersville, *Marshall*, one on 8 October (Linda Reynolds), two on 3 November, one on 10 November, and two on 25 November (Steve McConnell *et al.*); Pelican Island, *Mobile*, one on 11 October, three on 12 October, and one on 13 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman *et al.*); and Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, one on 12 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman), and four beginning 16 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.).

CALIFORNIA GULL – An adult and a third-year bird were found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 October – 24 November (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.);



California Gull, 27 October 2007, Guntersville, AL; S. McConnell.

@ABRC) to mark the sixth record for Alabama.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, several records (all of singles) were received: Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 13 September (early record for Alabama) and 22 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); Guntersville, *Marshall*, 30+ September (adult; Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.) and 25 November (probable second-cycle; Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds); and Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 12 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – One adult on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 10 October (Harry Dean, Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*) and two (one adult, one first-year) on 12 October (Steve McConnell *et al.*) were rare. A single adult at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 5 November (Byard Miller) was rare.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – A first-year bird on Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 20 November (Damien Simbeck) marked the sixth record for the Tennessee Valley.

LEAST TERN – Jennifer Waddell reported that an estimated 500 birds fledged on Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, primarily due to inaccessibility by people, lack of predators, and new habitat created by Hurricane Ivan.

CASPIAN TERN – Rare in the Mountain Region, Scot Duncan reported two from Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 22 September.

BLACK TERN – Paul Lehman observed a late bird on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 October.

COMMON TERN – One was late at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 25 November (Wayne Patterson; ph.).

FORSTER'S TERN – Three counts were made at Guntersville, *Marshall*: 40 on 27 October (Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell), 45 on 10 November (Steve McConnell), and 94 (good number so late) on 21 November (Steve McConnell).

SANDWICH TERN – Two birds were late at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

BLACK SKIMMER – About 80 birds fledged on Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, primarily due to inaccessibility by people, lack of predators, and new habitat created by Hurricane Ivan (Bob Duncan).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE – Seventy-three (good number locally) were counted at Linden, *Marengo*, 19 August (Judy Self, Don Self).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Numbers continue to increase in the WP, where this species now breeds. Between 1-15 August, flocks of 15-25 were present in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (Bob Duncan).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – Greg Harber found three at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 24 November (rare in Mountain Region).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Rare in fall, singles were reported from Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 13 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.), and Dauphin Island,

Mobile, 13 October (Pat Johnson *et al.*).

GREAT HORNED OWL – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of seven, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

BURROWING OWL – A count at site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 23 November yielded seven birds (Andy Bankert, Lenny Fenimore, Alan Knothe) (regular at this site).

SHORT-EARED OWL – Casual in the WP in fall, one was on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, 19 November (Bob Duncan). Rare and erratic in Alabama, a single was noted at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 16 November (Tom Haggerty).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – The eighth record for Alabama came from the Walls of Jericho, *Jackson*, 21 November (Eric Soehren, John Trent) (b.; ph.; @ABRC).

CHAETURA SP. – A possible Vaux's Swift was reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Will Duncan, Caralyn Zhender).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – Rare in Alabama, a banded bird returned to Mobile, *Mobile*, 17 November (Fred Bassett, Sandra Kerr, Peter Kerr).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD – One at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 28 September (Fred Bassett; b.), was early for the WP. Even earlier was an adult male at Chelsea, *Shelby*, 4 August (*vide* Bob Sargent).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 112, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – At Clay, *Jefferson*, one was noted 3 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), to mark the earliest arrival date for Alabama. The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of five, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

HAIRY WOODPECKER – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of seven (ties maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).

PILEATED WOODPECKER – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 10, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 11



Northern Saw-whet Owl, 21 November 2007, Walls of Jericho; E. Soehren.

September (Alan Sheppard) (rare fall migrant in the WP). Occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was seen at Andalusia, *Covington*, 19 August (Tom Savage). Rare elsewhere in Alabama, records of singles came from *Jackson*, 3 September (Daniel Jacobson), Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 September (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Mike Wilson), and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 15 September (Ken Archambault, Greg Harber).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – Rare but expected in fall in Alabama, several reports were received: two were at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 28+ August (Ken Archambault, m.ob.); one was seen at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 31 August (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); one was at Opelika, *Lee*, 12 September (Barry Fleming); and a single stopped at Powder Magazine, *Montgomery*, 14 September (Larry Gardella).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – The Birmingham Audubon Society, during its 29 September fall count in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, recorded four (ties maximum fall count for the Mountain Region).

ALDER FLYCATCHER – One was singing and calling at Powder Magazine, *Montgomery*, 27 September (Larry Gardella) (second record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – This species is a rare fall visitor in the WP. One was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 1-3 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.). Rare on the Gulf Coast of Alabama but becoming more regular, a single was on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 October (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald *et al.*; ph.).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – A late bird was found during the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 September (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – A rare transient in the WP, three were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17-19 October (Bob Duncan), and a single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 21 October (Lenny Fenimore). Occasional inland, one was recorded from near Foster's Mill in *Colbert*, 16 September (Steve McConnell) and 8 October (Jack Paul) and from near Foster's Mill in *Lawrence*, 16-17 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 21 October (J.V.O. Weaver, Sharon Weaver) (rare transient in the WP). Rare but increasing in Alabama, two were noted near Bridgeport, *Jackson*, 15 September (Daniel Jacobson, Janice Chadwell, John Henderson). A single was recorded from near Foster's Mill, *Colbert*, 16-17 September (Steve McConnell, Jack Paul, respectively). Rare in the Gulf Coast region away from the immediate coast, one was south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 11 November (Michael Jordan *et al.*), and another single was seen north of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 16-17 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, *et al.*; ph.). Still another single was east of Flomaton, *Escambia*, 29 November (Michael Jordan).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29

September, produced a total of 20, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. A singing bird was late at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 22 November (Larry Gardella).

BELL'S VIREO – A single was at Powder Magazine in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16 September (Larry Gardella) to mark the third record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – An early bird was at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 15 September (Greg Harber).

WARBLING VIREO – Rare in Alabama, three were noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

RED-EYED VIREO – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 11, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. One at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 25 November (Michael Jordan *et al.*) marked the latest departure date for Alabama.

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, a single was in *Jackson*, 15 September (Daniel Jacobson), and three were calling at Mallard/Fox Creek WMA, *Morgan*, 27 November (Greg Jackson).

PURPLE MARTIN – At Brown's Ferry, *Limestone*, 21 August, 170,000+ was a good number (Keith Hudson *et al.*; ph.).

TREE SWALLOW – The 10,000+ observed by Ben Garmon at Chickasaw Lake, *Mobile*, 2 November, ties the maximum count for Alabama.

CAVE SWALLOW – A rare transient in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 24 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

BARN SWALLOW – A late bird was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 22 November (Michael Jordan).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 202, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 25, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

CAROLINA WREN – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 103, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

SEDGE WREN – The Birmingham Audubon Society, during its 29 September fall count in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, recorded two, and another two were seen at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 14 October (Greg Jackson) (uncommon in the Mountain Region).

MARSH WREN – The Birmingham Audubon Society, during its 29 September fall count in *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, recorded one. Other records of singles came from Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 9 October (Jud Johnston), and Saginaw, *Shelby*, 14 October (Greg Jackson) (uncommon inland).

VEERY – Early birds were at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 28 August (Ken Archambault), and near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 31 August (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 11, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 36, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

AMERICAN ROBIN – A rare local breeder in the WP, 9-15 birds were noted on the University of West Florida campus, *Escambia*, 23-25 August (Alex Harper).

GRAY CATBIRD – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 49, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

AMERICAN PIPIT – One was early on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 October (Steve McConnell, Paul Lehman).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Rare in the WP, but found regularly at Site B-70, Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, one was spotted there on 21 October (Lenny Fenimore) and three were at the same site on 23 November (Andy Bankert, Lenny Fenimore, Alan Knothe). Also rare on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was noted along County Road 8E near Foley, *Baldwin*, 17 November (Greg Jackson).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – One at Andalusia, *Covington*, 4 November (Tom Savage) marked a late departure date for Alabama.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – Three were counted at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 22 September (Larry Gardella, m.ob.) to tie the maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – An early arrival was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch, Don McGee, Eugenia Carey).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – One was seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 15+ September (Greg Harber, Bob Reed, Pat Reed *et al.*) (rare for the Mountain Region). Uncommon in fall in the Tennessee Valley, a single was tallied on the fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 29 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

NORTHERN PARULA – A late nesting record was documented by the observation of a female feeding dependent young at the Wehle Nature Preserve, James, *Bullock*, 21 August (Eric Soehren). A late bird was at Shorter, *Macon*, 1 November (Eric Soehren).

YELLOW WARBLER – A maximum of 70 was a good number at Foley, *Baldwin*, 18 August (John Dillon, Michael Jordan *et al.*). A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Greg Jackson).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – An early fall arrival was seen at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*,

29 August (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A very late adult male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). A male was in Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 15 September, Barry Fleming (rare inland).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 10, a good number for so early in the season.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – Late singles were at Round Island Campground, *Limestone*, 16 October (Damien Simbeck), and at Opelika, *Lee*, 24 October (Barry Fleming).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – At Shorter, *Macon*, Eric Soehren found two on 29 October and a single on 2 November to mark a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – Very rare in fall in the WP, one was noted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 30 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – One was late at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 September (Harry Dean, Ken Ward).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – Occasional in fall in Alabama, a single occurred at Clay, *Jefferson*, 20 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent).

WILSON'S WARBLER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, three records (all singles) were received: Shorter, *Macon*, 15 September (Eric Soehren), and Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 30 September and 8 October (Larry Gardella). Two were seen at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 29 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds) (uncommon). A late record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by one at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 10 November (Tom Haggerty).

CANADA WARBLER – A late bird was south of Houston, *Winston*, 11 October (Larry Barkey).

SUMMER TANAGER – A late fall record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by one at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 October (Tom Haggerty).

SCARLET TANAGER – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of nine, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. A late record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by one at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 October (Tom Haggerty).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Very rare in November in the WP, one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 16 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). One was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.), where the species is rare but regular in fall.

FIELD SPARROW – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 24, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

LARK SPARROW – Locally casual in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 5 August, and another single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 24 October

(Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). One was spotted at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 14 September (Barry Fleming) (rare but increasing).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – Uncommon to rare along the Gulf Coast, an early bird was along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 14 October (Allan Tubbs, Priscilla Tubbs, Greg Harber, Anne Miller *et al.*) and 29 October (Larry Gardella).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Two were found at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 14 October (Greg Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region).

DARK-EYED JUNCO – One was early at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 September (Harry Dean, Ken Ward).

NORTHERN CARDINAL – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 232, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

BLUE GROSBEAK – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 25, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

INDIGO BUNTING – The fall count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 September, produced a total of 282, a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. Late birds were at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 28 October (Tom Haggerty), and at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Will Duncan, Caralyn Zhender).

BOBOLINK – Rare in fall in the Mountain Region, four were noted south of Houston, *Winston*, 28 September, with singles on 29 September and 2 October (Larry Barkey).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK – Occasional in Alabama, the third documented record for the last 30 years was marked by a calling bird along County Road 8E near Foley, *Baldwin*, 17 November (Greg Jackson *et al.*). Bill Bremser had a singing bird at the same site on 5 January (@ABRC).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Casual in the WP, a single was noted at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 1 September (Dawn John, Joe John, Peggy Baker, Andy Bankert), and another single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 25 October (Rufus Rose). Occasional inland, an adult male was at Geneva, *Geneva*, 4+ October (Dick Mowbray; ph.). Rare on the Gulf Coast, one was noted along County Road 8E near Foley, *Baldwin*, 17 November (Greg Jackson).

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 13th record for Alabama was marked by two seen along County Road 8 near Foley, *Baldwin*, 18 November (Howard Horne, Chazz Hesselein, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

PURPLE FINCH – Early birds were at Clay, *Jefferson*, 28 October (six+ birds) (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); a single at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 October (early arrival record for Tennessee Valley) (Tom Haggerty); and a single at Winfield, *Marion*, 29 October (Jud Johnston).

PINE SISKIN – Early birds were at Clay, *Jefferson*, 2 November (“several”) (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), and at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 November (three birds)

(Paul Kittle).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH – Phyllis Nofzinger recorded a late nesting with her observation of a female with dependent young at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 20-21 October.

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This introduced species breeds in the WP and is starting to appear along the Alabama Gulf Coast. A juvenile manikin, presumably Nutmeg, was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

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WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2007 – FEBRUARY 2008)

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

This report covers the period from December 2007 through February 2008 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*, *Holmes*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, *Walton*, and *Washington* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AOS” = Alabama Ornithological Society field trip; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NABS” = North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society; “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).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Uncommon but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, good numbers were seen there this season: 14 on 4 November and 33 on 2 December (Steve McConnell), 71 on 14 December (Greg Jackson), and 55 on 15 December (Wheeler CBC) (ph.). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, 14 was a good number on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser *et al.*). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain but regular at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, several records were received from this site: four on 24 November (Larry Gardella), 14 on 17 December in the Alabama portion of the Eufaula NWR CBC, and 37 (a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain) on 6 January (Rodney McCollum).

SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH) – A single was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 31 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (uncommon in the Mountain Region).

ROSS’S GOOSE – The ninth record for the WP was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 December (Don Ware). Rare but increasing in Alabama, numerous reports were received: one harvested by a hunter in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 1 December (*vide* Keith Gauldin); one at Ballard Lake,

Shelby, 4 December (Helen Kittinger, Kap Garmon, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*); three at Walker Pond west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 December (Damien Simbeck); two on 4 December (David Plumb) and three on 6 December (Bill Summerour) at a pond along County Road 55 near Foley, *Baldwin*; four on 17 November (Steve McConnell) and seven (good number) on 14 December (Greg Jackson) at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (regular at this site); one on 6 January at Lake Point Marina, Eufaula, *Barbour* (Rodney McCollum *et al.*); one at the mouth of Colbert Creek, *Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, AOS); one at Helena, *Shelby*, 15 February (Melissa Smith *et al.*; ph.); and one at Lakeview Estates in Bessemer, *Jefferson*, 17 February (LeeAnn McMahon) – 18 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (ph.).



Ross's Goose, 17 February 2008, Bessemer, AL; L. McMahon.

- CAKCLING GOOSE** – There are five accepted records of this species for Alabama. One was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8 January (Dwight Cooley; @ ABRC). Two additional records also came from Wheeler NWR, but in *Morgan*: eight at the observation building 22 January (Frank Fekel, Phillip Casteel) and seven along Flint Creek 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (@ ABRC).
- CANADA GOOSE** – The 86 recorded 5 January on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast.
- SWAN SP.** – A single Trumpeter/Tundra was on the Tennessee River, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December (Bill Rogers, Keith Hudson) (rare).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** – Very rare in the WP, one was recorded from *Holmes*, 27 December (Ron Smith).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – On the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December, 112 was a good number for winter.
- REDHEAD** – A single was at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 9 January (Don Self, Judy Self) where the species is locally rare.
- GREATER SCAUP** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, two-three were observed at Speigner, *Elmore*, 1 December (Eric Soehren, Rita Kempf, m.ob.). The Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, tallied 255 (good number) on 26 December. Twenty-two were at Russellville, *Franklin*, 24 January (Damien Simbeck) where the species is locally rare.
- SURF SCOTER** – A single at Tallassee, *Elmore*, 31 December (Robert Reed) marked the second record for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – Very rare in the WP, a single was at the FWBSF,

Okaloosa, 3 December (Don Ware). Rare in Alabama, two were at Brown's Creek, Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 23 February (Steve McConnell); a single was at Oneonta, *Blount*, 26 February (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown); and three were at Spring Creek, Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 29 February (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

BLACK SCOTER – Rare in Alabama, singles were noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 12 January (Dwight Cooley, Ken Ward, m.ob.), and at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, AOS).

COMMON GOLDENEYE – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, three were at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 9 January (Don Self, Judy Self).

HOODED MERGANSER – It was a good year for this species at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, where Dwight Cooley counted 1,282 on 4 December (a new maximum for Alabama), 935 on 18 December, and 400 on 23 December. The Wheeler NWR CBC tallied 1,004 on 15 December.

WILD TURKEY – Thirty was a good number observed at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December (Guntersville CBC) and 5 January (Ken Ward, NABS). In the Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson*, Steve McConnell counted 38 (with 37 in one flock) on 12 January (maximum count for the Tennessee Valley).

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was there 27 November (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*), and Steve McConnell saw two birds on 19 December and one on 23 February.

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was recorded beginning 1 December (Steve McConnell *et al.*), while two were there 10 February (Greg Jackson) and 23 February (Steve McConnell).

COMMON LOON – A good number (460) was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 February (Greg Jackson).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December, 724 was a good number.

HORNED GREBE – Uncommon in the Mountain Region, six were counted at East Lake, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Andrew Haffenden).

EARED GREBE – Rare in Alabama, a single was on the Tennessee River at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 22 February (Damien Simbeck).

WESTERN GREBE – The sixth Alabama record for this species was marked by a single that lingered at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 8 December – 8 March (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.; @ ABRC).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – This species is increasing and becoming regular inland in winter, as evidenced by the 175 (locally good number) counted on the Tennessee River (50 at Waterloo, 25 at Wilson Dam, 100 at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence*), 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*).

BROWN PELICAN – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 17 December (Geoff Hill).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – A maximum count for the Inland Coastal

Plain was established by the 2,661 tallied on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.

ANHINGA – Very rare in winter in the WP, eight were observed in *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Pat Baker, Bob Penhollow). Locally rare in winter in Alabama, two were noted at Langan Park, Spring Hill, *Mobile*, 7 February (John Winn, Beverly Winn).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely reported inland, a single was spotted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 8 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin).

GREAT BLUE HERON – Fifty were counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December, to establish a new winter maximum for the Mountain Region.

GREAT EGRET – A new winter maximum for the Tennessee Valley was marked by the 275 tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December. At Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 220 on 9 January was a good number for winter (Don Self, Judy Self).

CATTLE EGRET – Fifty was a good number for winter at Foley, *Baldwin*, 31 December (Michael Jordan)

GREEN HERON – Rare in winter inland, one was recorded at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 December (Greg Harber), and another single was counted (Mary Lou Miller *et al.*) on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Five (a maximum winter count for the Mountain Region) were tallied at East Lake, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Andrew Haffenden).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – One injured adult was found for the third year along Shades Creek during the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Sharon Hudgins, David George; ph.) (occasional in winter inland).

WHITE IBIS – Very rare in winter in the WP, a single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Jan Lloyd *et al.*). Twenty-five was a good winter number for inland Alabama at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 8 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin).

TURKEY VULTURE – The 400 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January, marked a record high for the Gulf Coast.

OSPREY – Twenty was a good number on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December. The Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, found two on 16 December (rare in winter in the Mountain Region). On the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January, 33 were recorded to set a new maximum for Alabama. Uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain in winter, three were found at Jackson Island, *Montgomery*, during the Montgomery CBC 5 January (Eric Soehren), while two were seen near the Farley Nuclear Plant, *Houston*, 9 January (Jessica Joyner). A single was spotted at Town Creek, *Lawrence*, 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Very early arrivals (both singles) were at Tiger Point,

Santa Rosa, 18 February (Bill Bremser), and Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 February (Dana Timmons).

BALD EAGLE – A new maximum for the Gulf Coast was marked by the seven found during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

COOPER'S HAWK – On the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December, 23 were tallied (a new maximum for the Mountain Region and a maximum winter number for Alabama). A new winter maximum for the Gulf Coast was marked by the 13 found during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

RED-TAILED HAWK (WESTERN) – A melanistic adult of this rare subspecies/morph was observed along Ala. Highway 101 north of Town Creek, *Lawrence*, 15 February (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

GOLDEN EAGLE – One was seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 19 December (Helen Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger) (rare).

PEREGRINE FALCON – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, one was reported from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 January (Eric Soehren, AOS).

VIRGINIA RAIL – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Geoff Hill *et al.* found two during the Auburn CBC, *Lee*, 15 December.

SORA – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Geoff Hill *et al.* found one at Opelika, *Lee*, during the Auburn CBC, 15 December.

AMERICAN COOT – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, reported 31,015 on 15 December (a good number and a local maximum).

SANDHILL CRANE – Very rare in winter in the Florida Panhandle, two were at DeFuniak Springs, *Walton*, 6-8 December (Heidi Moore). Fourteen were found at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 14 December (Dick Reynolds) (locally rare). Good numbers continued to be tallied at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*: 16 on 4 November (Steve McConnell), 175 on 17 November (NABS), 217 on 29 November (Larry Gardella), and 1,537 on 15 December (Wheeler NWR CBC). Eleven were seen at Coffee Slough west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 14 January (Charles Moore *et al.*) (locally rare).

WHOOPIING CRANE – Two birds at Garth Slough on Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 15+ December (*vide* Dwight Cooley *et al.*; ph.) returned from last winter and marked a continued occurrence of birds from the captive breeding program.

KILLDEER – A maximum for Alabama was established by the 3,480 counted during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Five found on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 29 December, was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast. Rare in winter for inland Alabama, a single was observed on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, the 238 counted 15 December marked a new winter maximum for inland Alabama.

MARbled GODWIT – Two were found during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 22 December (rare in winter)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Occasional into December in Alabama, a single was noted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2 December (Steve McConnell).

DUNLIN – A single was recorded on the Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 16 December (occasional in the Mountain Region in winter).

STILT SANDPIPER – This species is occasional/erratic in winter in Alabama. At Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 25 were found 30 December (Chazz Hesselein) and seven+ were found 6 January (Joan White-Spunner, John Dixon; ph.).

DOWITCHER SP. – The 100+ tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December marked a maximum winter count for inland Alabama. Eleven were counted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January (good number for winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Damien Simbeck found 206 at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 22 February (a locally good number, especially at a single site).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Very rare in December in the WP, a first year individual (present since November) was seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 6-8 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan *et al.*).

THAYER'S GULL – A first-year individual was found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 3 January (Bert Harris, Dick Reynolds), 13 January (Greg Jackson; ph.), and 24 January (Scott Gravette) (seventh Alabama record; @ ABRC).

ICELAND GULL – The fifth record for the WP was marked by a first winter bird at the Perdido Landfill, *Escambia*, 18 February (Laura Catterton; ph.; @ FOSRC). The eighth record for Alabama was marked by a single immature at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 25 January (Bill Summerour, Ann Miller; ph.; @ ABRC).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – The 11th record for the WP was marked by an adult at the landfill in Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 8-17 February (Bob Duncan). In Alabama, records were received from three sites where the species is rare but regular and increasing: one on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 December (Ben Garmon); one at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 29 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.); and five at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 4+ January (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson, m.ob.) (good number).

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – An adult individual in basic plumage, and probably of this species, was found at Magnolia Springs, 5 January (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson; ph.; @ ABRC). This record is currently under expert review and identification has not been fully established, but if confirmed as Glaucous-winged Gull, it would mark the first record for Alabama and the southeastern U.S.



Thayer's Gull, 13 January 2008, Guntersville, AL; G. Jackson.

GLAUCOUS GULL – The 12th record for the WP was marked by a third year individual at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 10 February (Kelly Jones, Sarah Jones *et al.*; ph.). One was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 16 January – 15 February (Scot Duncan, m.ob.) (rare).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Very rare in the WP, a first winter individual was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but increasing on the Gulf Coast, an immature was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 February, and an adult and two immatures (maximum for Alabama) were there 17 February (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Howard Horne).

FORSTER'S TERN – Good winter counts for inland Alabama came from the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December (74); 43 at Second Creek at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and 48 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 23 February (Steve McConnell).

SANDWICH TERN – Very rare locally in winter, one was seen at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 15 December (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

JAEGER SP. – One was noted on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 29 December (rare).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – Rare in the WP, one was found at Allentown, *Santa Rosa*, 1-17 December (Nathan Dixon). Also rare in Alabama, one-two were noted south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 December – 11 March (David Plumb, m.ob.). A hatching year individual was banded 14 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent) (ph.).



Groove-billed Ani, 14 December 2008, near Magnolia Springs, AL; E. Soehren.

BARRED OWL – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 13 were counted 15 December to mark a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

LONG-EARED OWL – The seventh record for Florida was marked by an emaciated bird that was found at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 30 November (Dustin Rodgers). The bird was taken to the Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary on 1 December, identified by Dorothy Kaufmann, and released in central *Santa Rosa* on 1 January (ph. Lucy Duncan; @ FOSRC).

SHORT-EARED OWL – Rare and erratic in Alabama, three records were received: a single on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December; another single on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Ken Ward, R. Ward *et al.*); and two along Ala. Highway 19 southwest of Forest Home, *Butler*, 1 January (Christopher Howard).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – Bob and Martha Sargent banded and photographed an amazing total of eight birds at Clay, *Jefferson*, on various dates between 8 December and 25 February to mark the ninth-11th and 13th-17th

Alabama records (@ ABRC). The Sargent's string of state records was interrupted by Steve McConnell's aural experience with a single along Ala. Highway 146 in the Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson*, 29-30 December (12th Alabama record; @ ABRC).

NIGHTHAWK SP. – The first winter nighthawk record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by an individual at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 17 December (Bill Rogers).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – One was at Blountstown, *Calhoun* (Fla.), 2 January (Ray Dennis, m.ob.; b. Fred Bassett) and lingered through end of period.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – This species is rare but regular in winter in Alabama. Fred Bassett photographed and banded or recaptured seven singles as follows: Mobile, *Mobile*, 19 December (L.J. Britain, Velma Britain), recapture of a bird banded at another site in Mobile in March 2007; Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 20 December (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Betsy Eager); Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Nick Southall, Donna Southall); Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 4 January (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), recapture of a bird banded in Victoria, Texas, 12 May 2007; Hamlin's Landing, *Baldwin*, 9 January (Sandy DeCord, Rick DeCord); and Montrose, *Baldwin*, 10 February (Nancy Moore, Ack Moore).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD – A single, present at the home of Dara and Lloyd Dobson, *Walton*, for about two months, was banded 29 December (Fred Bassett; m.ob.) and was last seen 3 January (second record for Florida). One was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 18 January – 2 February (Fred Bassett, Mary Gibson, b., ph.) (fourth record for Alabama; @ ABRC).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – The eighth record for the WP was marked by one seen at the home of Burt Warwick, Pensacola, *Escambia*, 9 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) and banded 31 January (Fred Bassett) (lingered until 28+ February). Rare but regular in Alabama, four birds were banded and photographed this season: Vestavia, *Jefferson*, 17+ December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Sharon Kirby); Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 4-10 January (Fred Bassett, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) (recapture of bird banded 28 February 2007 at St. Rose, Louisiana); Mobile, *Mobile*, 4 January (Fred Bassett, Laurie Bailey, Charlie Bailey) (recapture of a bird banded in 2005 in Mandeville, Louisiana); and Greystone, *Shelby*, 11 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrove).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – One banded (Fred Bassett) at the home of Maryann Friedman, Baker, *Okaloosa*, 8 December marked the fourth record for the WP.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, two singles were banded and photographed by Fred Bassett at two sites in Mobile, *Mobile*, 6 December (Mona Blackmon) and 19 December (Ainsley McNeely).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Rare in February in the WP, one was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4-6 February (Powers McLeod). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of

Alabama, records of singles were received from three localities: Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December; Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.); and Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 January (John Stowers, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Very rare in winter in the WP, singles were at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 December (Lucy Duncan) and recorded on the Choctawhatchee CBC, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Charley Saleeby). Rare in winter along the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were found on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 22 December, and along County Road 10 at Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 30 December (David Plumb) and 5 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

BELL'S VIREO – The first winter record for northern Florida was marked by one at Valparaiso, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Morris Clark).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, records of three singles were received: Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December (Damien Simbeck), Mallard WMA, *Lawrence*, 9 February (Ken Ward, NABS), and Coleman Lake area of Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 25 February (Birmingham Audubon Society field trip).

AMERICAN CROW – On the 22 December Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 1,329 was a good number.

FISH CROW – Absent or in small numbers along the WP coast since the West Nile virus outbreak, a count of 88 at the *Santa Rosa* landfill, Milton, 8 February (Bob Duncan) was encouraging. Seventy-seven were counted on the 15 December Pensacola CBC, down from over 4,000 on the 1994 CBC. Locally rare in winter but increasing in the Mountain Region, three were counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December (Sharon Hudgins, David George). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, calling singles were noted on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Andrew Haffenden), and at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 29 December (Greg Jackson). On the 5 January Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 296 was a good number.

PURPLE MARTIN – Early arrivals were at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 January (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald), and at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 18 February (Paul Kittle).

CLIFF SWALLOW – The earliest arrival date for Alabama was established by one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 29 February (Damien Simbeck).

CAVE SWALLOW – The second winter record for the WP was set by two birds at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 December (Bob Duncan, William Duncan).

BARN SWALLOW – A very late bird was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 December (Don Ware).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE – A maximum count for the Gulf Coast was marked by the 106 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell).

- MARSH WREN** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, one was tallied for the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, ~15 December (CBC count week).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – The first WP record for February was marked by one at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 2 February (Alan Knothe).
- AMERICAN PIPIT** – On the 16 December Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 256 were counted to establish a new maximum for the Mountain Region.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, a single was seen at Hoover, *Jefferson*, 20 January (Helen Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger, Jo Kittinger).
- NORTHERN PARULA** – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 February (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, singles were seen at Avalon Beach, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (James Pfeiffer), and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 12 February (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).
- PALM WARBLER** – This species is uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, so singles at the same site near Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell) and 2 February (NABS) were notable.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, two were found during the Gulf Shores CBC, 5 January (Don Ware, Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser *et al.*).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – The sixth winter record for Alabama was marked by one at Chickasaw Lake, *Mobile*, 11 December (Ben Garmon).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – Alex Harper found one on the University of West Florida campus, *Escambia*, 7 December to mark the fifth December record for the WP.
- SUMMER TANAGER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, records of four singles were received: one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 December (Bob Duncan); one on the Pensacola CBC, *Escambia*, 15 December (James Pfeiffer, Ann Zicardi); and a male at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 26 December – 18 February, with a female at the same site 22 February (Morris Clark). Rare in winter in Alabama, John Dillon found one at a feeder in Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 23 December (ph.).
- WESTERN TANAGER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, single males were found at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 7 December (Betsy Tetlow), and at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 6-13 January (Carol Goodyear, Robin Stiles *et al.*).
- LARK SPARROW** – Linda Reynolds found one during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December, to mark the third winter record for the Tennessee Valley. Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 3-19 January (Michael Willison, m.ob.; ph.), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 February (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Howard Horne, Ben Garmon). One at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin), marked the first winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW – This species is uncommon and local in Alabama in winter, but good numbers were found at Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 13 December (five, with one b. and ph.), and 1 February (four, with two b.) (Eric Soehren, John Trent).

FOX SPARROW – Uncommon in the WP, four were found in *Washington* 26 December (Ron Smith).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in Alabama, one was found on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.



Henslow's Sparrow, Grand Bay, 1 February 2008; E. Soehren.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – At Oneonta,

Blount, 12 were counted on 7 December and 14 on 22 January, good numbers for the Mountain Region (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – At Whiteside, *Limestone*, Steve McConnell counted 242 on 15 December and 300+ on 18 December (good numbers).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK – Roger Johnson photographed an immature male at a feeder in Opelika, *Lee*, that lingered to 2 December (occasional this late for inland Alabama).

PHEUCTICUS SP. – One (probably a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak) was at a feeder east of Springville, *St. Clair*, 1 January (Andrew Bates) (both Rose-breasted and Black-headed grosbeaks casual inland in winter).

INDIGO BUNTING – Very rare in winter in the WP, one was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 18-20 December (Bob Duncan).

DICKCISSEL – One was seen at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 27 February – 13 March (Bill Summerour; ph.) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).



Dickcissel, 27 February 2008, Silverhill, AL; B. Summerour.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Gene Fleming found a male at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 31 December (rare).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – Brian Ahern estimated 250 in *Okaloosa*, 19 January (good number). At a roost near Brushy Lake in Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, Steve McConnell counted 980 on 1 February, a good number for recent years.

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 11th record for the WP was marked by a male at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 8 February (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE – Very rare in winter in the WP, one was recorded (James Pfeiffer) on the Pensacola CBC, *Escambia*, 15 December.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Casual in winter in the WP, a single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 February (Dana Timmons, Sue Timmons; ph.). Rare in winter in

Alabama, one was at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 28 February – 21+ March (Bill Summerour; ph.).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This exotic continues its presence in the Pensacola, *Escambia*, area. A flock of 12-15 has persisted at a feeder in east Pensacola for nine years (Betsy Tetlow). Reports are being received from Lilian in neighboring *Baldwin*, Ala., and as far east as Milton, *Santa Rosa*. A request for sightings from Bob Duncan resulted in reports from over 20 feeding stations.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Seasonal Variation in Acoustic Signals of Pileated Woodpeckers. Sarah B. Tremain, Kyle A. Swiston, and Daniel J. Mennill. 2008. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120: 499-504.

When woodpeckers use their beaks to beat rapidly on wood or other surfaces (e.g., a gutter or side of a house) the sound from this “drumming” typically carries over a long distance. Although scientists have long suspected that woodpecker drumming and the other long-distance calls that woodpeckers emit serve some of the same functions as the songs of other birds (e.g., territorial announcement and maintenance, attracting a mate, pair bond maintenance, and individual location), little data have been collected to validate that suspicion. In this paper the authors use a sophisticated system of recording devices to collect “long-range acoustic signals” (drumming and distinct loud vocalizations) of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) over a four-month period that includes time during the nonbreeding season and breeding season. If woodpecker drumming and other long distance vocalizations are indeed used for activities seen primarily during the breeding season, then the authors predicted that there should be an increase in the frequency of drumming and other loud acoustic signals at the start of the breeding season.

The research was conducted in a mature bottomland forest along the Choctawhatchee River in the Florida Panhandle. Using seven recording stations and 14 days (two days in January, five days in February, four days in March, and three days in April) of recording data, 98 hours of recordings were sampled. From those recordings, the number of loud drums and three distinct vocalizations (“cackle” call, the “wuk” series call, and the “wok” call) were counted.

Analysis of the sample recordings found significant seasonal variation in all of the long distance acoustic signals. Frequencies remained low in January and February, increased and peaked in March with the onset of breeding, and then returned to winter numbers in April. The decrease of the signaling in late March and April may be attributed to the start of the incubation period when vocalizations could attract predators. The authors conclude that their research supports the hypothesis that drumming and calling in woodpeckers do function like the songs of perching birds.— 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.

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