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COVER: Say's Phoebe, 2 October 2016, Mobile Co.; A. Haffenden.

TALLEDAGA COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2014**Greg D. Jackson and Thomas M. Haggerty**

Since 2000, numerous Summer Bird Counts (SBCs) have been conducted throughout Alabama and the results of many of these counts have been published (Jackson 2000; Gardella 2003, 2004; Haggerty and Jackson 2005, 2012; Jackson and Haggerty 2007; Kittle 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015). Summer Bird Counts provide valuable information about the distribution and density of breeding birds in the state, especially for areas that receive little attention from field ornithologists. Summer Bird Counts are also excellent supplements to Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) efforts and annual U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Surveys. Further, the baseline data collected from SBCs can be used for temporal and geographical comparative studies, as well as supporting conservation efforts. The objective of this paper is to report on the findings of the Summer Bird Count that was conducted in Talladega County in June 2014.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Talladega County is in the east-central region of Alabama (Fig. 1). It encompasses 1909 km² (737 mi²) and has a population density of approximately 43.1/km² (111.7/mi²) (U.S. Census Bureau 2012). The elevation ranges from 91–579 m (300 – 1900 feet) and lies within two Level III ecoregions, the Ridge and Valley and the Piedmont. The Ridge and Valley ecoregion covers over two-thirds of the county and is further divided into four Level IV ecoregions, the Southern Limestone/Dolomite Valleys and Low Rolling Hills, the Southern Shale Valleys, Southern Sandstone Ridges, and the Southern Dissected Ridges and Knobs (Fig. 1). These ecoregions are composed of a mixture of low rolling rounded hills, higher ridges, undulating valleys, and a land cover that includes oak-hickory forests, oak-pine forests, pasture, and agricultural, urban and industrial lands. The Piedmont level IV ecoregion is composed of two level III ecoregions, the Talladega Upland and the Southern Inner Piedmont. The Talladega Upland extends along the eastern edge of the county, and its rolling hills and higher peaks are covered by the hardwood and pine forests of Talladega National Forest (Griffith et al. 2001). The Southern Inner Piedmont ecoregion can be found in a relatively small region in the east central corner of the county and along most of the southern border. Water cover of the county includes the Coosa River along the eastern border and its many tributaries throughout the county (Fig. 1). Traditionally, Talladega County is in the Mountain bird reporting geographic region (Imhof 1976).

The U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle maps, or “quads,” of the county were designated as sampling party-areas for the count. Twelve observers in nine parties surveyed eight quads of the county: Sleeping Giants (two parties), Wilsonville, Childersburg, Ironaton, Sylacauga East, Winterboro, Porter Gap, and Eastaboga (Fig. 1). Party surveys were conducted by automobile and on foot within assigned quads on a single morning (approximately 0500 - 1100 hours) in the period 6 – 22 June 2014. Parties surveyed a total of 365 miles by car and 9.35 miles by foot. A total of 48.50 party-hours was expended surveying for diurnal species and 1.5 hours for nocturnal species (owls and nightjars). All individuals seen and heard were counted, and relative abundance estimates were obtained by dividing the total number of individuals of a species by the total number of diurnal party-hours. Additionally, the Sylacauga West quad was surveyed, but the number of individuals of each species was not noted.

Observations of breeding activity were also recorded using the following designations and criteria. “Confirmed” breeding was concluded by an adult seen with nesting material, carrying food or a fecal sac, or building a nest (excluding woodpeckers and wrens), by either a nest with nestlings or an identifiable freshly-used nest, by an adult on a nest, or by newly-fledged young seen or heard begging. “Probable” breeding was designated by a count of at least seven widely-distributed singing males, by a pair observed in appropriate habitat, or by notation of courtship, agitation, or territorial behavior; some of these activities only qualified within “Safe Dates” for the species, as established by the BBA program (Haggerty 2009). “Possible” breeding was determined by detection of the species in suitable breeding habitat within Safe Dates. The “Observed” category was used if the species was found in unsuitable breeding habitat and/or outside Safe Dates, or for vultures not near a roost, independent juveniles, or for most heron species away

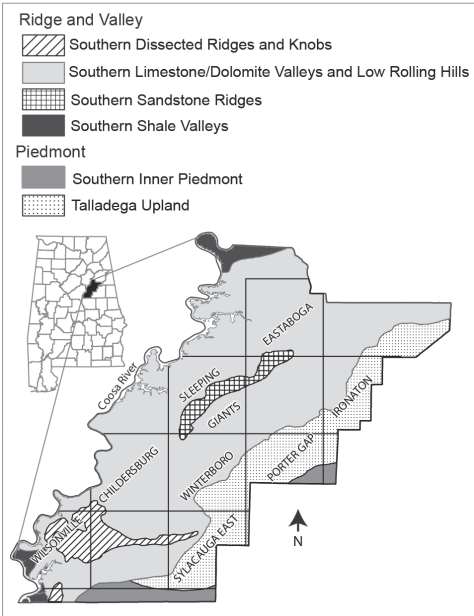


Figure 1. Talladega County ecoregions and eight quadrangles that were surveyed during Summer Bird Count, June 2014.

from a rookery (Jackson and Haggerty 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 103 species (100 diurnal) and 5309 individuals (5297 diurnal) were recorded during the total 48.5 hours of diurnal and 1.5 hours of nocturnal surveying. This effort yielded approximately 109.2 individuals per party hour (not including nocturnal species). Twenty-nine species (29%) were confirmed as breeders, 26 (24%) as probable breeders, 48 (44%) as possible breeders, and six (6%) were listed as “Observed” (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Talladega County, Alabama, Summer Bird Count, June 2012.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Canada Goose	25	0.52	3	Possible
Wood Duck	6	0.12	3	Probable
Mallard	13	0.27	1	Possible
Northern Bobwhite	15	0.31	6	Possible
Wild Turkey	5	0.10	2	Possible
Rock Pigeon	6	0.12	1	Possible
Eurasian Collared-Dove	47	0.97	2	Possible
Mourning Dove	287	5.92	8	Probable
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	26	0.54	7	Probable
Chuck-will's-widow	6	N/A	2	Possible
Eastern Whip-poor-will	5	N/A	2	Possible
Chimney Swift	63	1.30	6	Confirmed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	0.12	2	Probable
Killdeer	25	0.52	5	Confirmed
Great Blue Heron	16	0.33	7	Observed
Great Egret	8	0.16	4	Observed
Little Blue Heron	1	0.02	1	Observed
Cattle Egret	42	0.87	3	Observed
Green Heron	4	0.08	3	Possible
Black Vulture	15	0.31	3	Observed
Turkey Vulture	27	0.56	7	Observed
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0.02	1	Possible
Mississippi Kite	4	0.08	2	Probable
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	0.16	4	Possible
Broad-winged Hawk	5	0.10	3	Possible
Red-tailed Hawk	14	0.29	8	Confirmed
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	N/A	1	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	1	0.02	1	Possible
Red-headed Woodpecker	14	0.29	5	Probable

TABLE 1. continued

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	1.38	8	Possible
Downy Woodpecker	22	0.45	7	Probable
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	3	0.06	1	Possible
Hairy Woodpecker	2	0.04	2	Possible
Northern Flicker	8	0.16	4	Confirmed
Pileated Woodpecker	9	0.19	4	Possible
American Kestrel	1	0.02	1	Possible
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10	0.21	5	Possible
Acadian Flycatcher	10	0.21	4	Possible
Eastern Phoebe	65	1.34	8	Confirmed
Great Crested Flycatcher	56	1.15	7	Probable
Eastern Kingbird	39	0.80	6	Confirmed
Loggerhead Shrike	4	0.08	2	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	84	1.73	8	Probable
Yellow-throated Vireo	19	0.39	6	Possible
Blue-headed Vireo	7	0.14	3	Possible
Red-eyed Vireo	106	2.19	8	Probable
Blue Jay	169	3.48	8	Possible
American Crow	396	8.16	8	Possible
Fish Crow	17	0.35	3	Possible
Purple Martin	63	1.30	6	Confirmed
Tree Swallow	1	0.02	1	Possible
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	99	2.04	6	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	179	3.69	5	Confirmed
Barn Swallow	209	4.31	8	Confirmed
Carolina Chickadee	100	2.06	7	Probable
Tufted Titmouse	184	3.79	8	Probable
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	0.62	5	Probable
Brown-headed Nuthatch	19	0.39	5	Possible
House Wren	1	0.02	1	Possible
Carolina Wren	161	3.32	8	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	69	1.42	8	Possible
Eastern Bluebird	161	3.32	8	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	30	0.62	7	Possible
American Robin	67	1.38	7	Confirmed
Gray Catbird	8	0.16	4	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	100	2.06	7	Confirmed
Northern Mockingbird	230	4.74	8	Probable
European Starling	127	2.62	6	Possible
House Sparrow	24	0.49	6	Possible
House Finch	19	0.39	4	Confirmed
American Goldfinch	26	0.54	6	Probable
Eastern Towhee	218	4.49	8	Confirmed
Chipping Sparrow	98	2.02	8	Confirmed

TABLE 1. continued

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Field Sparrow	28	0.58	7	Possible
Lark Sparrow	1	0.02	1	Confirmed
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	0.04	2	Possible
Yellow-breasted Chat	81	1.67	8	Probable
Eastern Meadowlark	45	0.93	6	Probable
Orchard Oriole	34	0.70	5	Probable
Red-winged Blackbird	73	1.51	7	Probable
Brown-headed Cowbird	52	1.07	7	Possible
Common Grackle	36	0.74	4	Possible
Ovenbird	12	0.25	2	Probable
Worm-eating Warbler	5	0.10	2	Possible
Louisiana Waterthrush	5	0.10	2	Possible
Black-and-white Warbler	9	0.19	4	Probable
Prothonotary Warbler	1	0.02	1	Probable
Swainson's Warbler	3	0.06	2	Possible
Kentucky Warbler	17	0.35	5	Possible
Common Yellowthroat	49	1.01	8	Possible
Hooded Warbler	49	1.01	7	Probable
Northern Parula	23	0.47	8	Possible
Yellow Warbler	1	0.02	1	Possible
Pine Warbler	84	1.73	7	Confirmed
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	0.14	4	Possible
Prairie Warbler	40	0.82	7	Confirmed
Black-throated Green Warbler	16	0.33	3	Possible
Summer Tanager	55	1.13	7	Confirmed
Scarlet Tanager	28	0.58	5	Probable
Northern Cardinal	243	5.01	8	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	63	1.30	8	Confirmed
Indigo Bunting	230	4.74	8	Probable
Dickcissel	4	0.08	3	Possible

Seven species were detected in relatively high numbers (> 4.0 individuals/party hour and in descending order): American Crow, Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Northern Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, and Barn Swallow. Twenty-two species were widespread and found in all eight sampled quads (Table 2), whereas 11 species had more limited distributions (i.e., found in only one quad) and low counts (one to four total individuals) (Table 3). Especially notable on the limited distribution list were Little Blue Heron, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Lark Sparrow, and Yellow Warbler. Although all these species were seen on the 2014 SBC, they were not reported from the same quads on the 2000-2006 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA;

Haggerty 2009). Also, although not quite as limited in distribution, Dickcissel and Mississippi Kite were reported for the Talledega SBC, but not for the atlas.

TABLE 2. Species of Talladega SBC that were found in all surveyed quads in the county.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	Breeding Status
Mourning Dove	287	5.92	Probable
Red-tailed Hawk	14	0.29	Confirmed
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	1.38	Possible
Eastern Phoebe	65	1.34	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	84	1.73	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	106	2.19	Probable
Blue Jay	169	3.48	Possible
American Crow	396	8.16	Possible
Barn Swallow	209	4.31	Confirmed
Tufted Titmouse	184	3.79	Probable
Carolina Wren	161	3.32	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	69	1.42	Possible
Eastern Bluebird	161	3.32	Confirmed
Northern Mockingbird	230	4.74	Probable
Eastern Towhee	218	4.49	Confirmed
Chipping Sparrow	98	2.02	Confirmed
Yellow-breasted Chat	81	1.67	Probable
Common Yellowthroat	49	1.01	Possible
Northern Parula	23	0.47	Possible
Northern Cardinal	243	5.01	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	63	1.30	Confirmed
Indigo Bunting	230	4.74	Probable

Alternatively, there were species that were found in similar quads during the 2000-2006 atlas work, but not during the SBC. These included some crepuscular and nocturnal species (i.e., Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Great Horned Owl, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron), as well as Cooper’s Hawk, Pied-billed Grebe, Bald Eagle, Blue-winged Warbler, American Redstart, and Song Sparrow. Although Cooper’s Hawk was not specifically reported for the SBC, three unidentified accipiter individuals were reported and were not included on the count list.

SBCs can help determine the distribution and status of species of conservation concern in the state (Shelton-Nix 2017). Three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, a “Priority I” species and protected as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, were found in the Sylacauga East quadrangle, a location not recorded for the BBA (Haggerty 2009). The SBC also discovered four Loggerhead Shrikes,

a species of “high conservation concern” (i.e., Priority II). One was found in the Ironaton quadrangle, and three, along with confirmed breeding evidence, in the Eastaboga quad.

TABLE 3. Species of Talladega SBC that were found in just one surveyed quadrangle and had fewer than five individuals.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	Breeding Status	Quadrangle
Little Blue Heron	1	0.02	Observed	Sleeping Giants
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0.02	Possible	Sleeping Giants
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	N/A	Possible	Porter's Gap
Belted Kingfisher	1	0.02	Possible	Wilsonville
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	3	0.06	Possible	Sylacauga East
American Kestrel	1	0.02	Possible	Sylacauga East
Tree Swallow	1	0.02	Possible	Sleeping Giants
House Wren	1	0.02	Possible	Wilsonville
Lark Sparrow	1	0.02	Confirmed	Ironaton
Prothonotary Warbler	1	0.02	Probable	Ironaton
Yellow Warbler	1	0.02	Possible	Sleeping Giants

In conclusion, this was the first published SBC that occurred extensively in the Ridge and Valley ecoregion. The 103 total species identified on the count ranked third when compared with the other 10 published counts that have been done in other ecoregions of the state and had two species above the median (Jackson 2000; Gardella 2003, 2004; Haggerty and Jackson 2005, 2012; Jackson and Haggerty 2007; Kittle 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015). When total relative abundance numbers were compared with the published counts, the Talladega SBC ranked 8th, and well below the median (109 vs. 122 individuals/hour). A comparison of the Talladega SBC with the Alabama BBA data for the same quads showed a similar number of species found (103 vs. 105) and a combined total of 115 species.

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2016)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 2016 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.



Regions of Alabama and Florida
Panhandle for Bird Distribution Data

Abbreviations and italics: County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NP” = Nature Preserve; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain. Odis Johnson reported seven birds on 4 August and three on 5 August at Hacoda, *Geneva*. This duck continues to expand as a nesting species and is now becoming locally common on the Gulf Coast. Three reports were received: a pair and three young east of Elberta, *Baldwin* (new site) 27 September (Karen Chiasson); five family groups with large young southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 5 October and 10-15 November

(Karen Chiasson *et al.*; ph.); and 91 adults and juveniles at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 5 October (Eric Soehren; ph.).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Two were seen southwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 15-21 November (Ralph Mirarchi *et al.*; ph.) (locally rare).

CANADA GOOSE – A recent fall maximum for the Gulf Coast was marked by the 190 counted north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 16 October (Ken Hare, Neil Gilbert, Erik Johnson).

WOOD DUCK – Michael Jordan reported good numbers from the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*: 35 on 20 November and 50 (fall maximum for the Gulf Coast) on 28 November.

NORTHERN SHOVELER – A single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 22 August (Daniel Stangeland) was very early for the WP.

GADWALL – An estimate of 800 on Weiss Lake at Cedar Bluff, *Cherokee*, 17 November (Steve Pagans; ph.) established a maximum count for the Mountain Region.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – A count of 20 on Weiss Lake at Cedar Bluff, *Cherokee*, 17 November (Steve Pagans) established a fall maximum for the Mountain Region.

RING-NECKED DUCK – Two northwest of Cedarville, *Hale*, 19 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) were rare summering birds. Jane Allen counted 588 from a photo taken at Stevenson, *Jackson*, 2 November to establish a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

GREATER SCAUP – Larry Gardella noted a single on Lake Cameron at Mt. Meigs, *Montgomery*, 21 November (rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SURF SCOTER – One was seen on Lake Cameron at Mt. Meigs, *Montgomery*, 30 October – 6 November (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) to mark the second fall and sixth overall record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLACK SCOTER – High numbers for the WP were reported from three sites: 103 at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 8 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); 120 on Santa Rosa Island, *Okaloosa*, 8 November (Kevin Christman); and 80 at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare inland, four were at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 November (Greg Jackson; ph.) (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, three records were received: a single on Mobile Bay, *Mobile*, 14 November (Rodney Cassidy); 20 on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 15 November (Craig Litteken); and 12 at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 22 November (Geoff Hill) and 13 there on 26 November (Justin Hiltner).

BUFFLEHEAD – Eleven on the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, 12 November (Andrew Haffenden) marked a fall maximum for the Gulf Coast.

COMMON MERGANSER – Sue Moske found three at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 23 November (rare).

RUDDY DUCK – A count of 464 north of Faunsdale, *Hale*, 26 November (Don Self, Judy Self) marked a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

PIED-BILLED GREBE – Five recently fledged young seen in downtown Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 October (B. DeArman) marked the latest ever WP breeding record.

EARED GREBE – A single was seen on West Point Lake at West Overlook Park, *Chambers*, 23 October (Patty McLean, Michael Linz) (occasional in the Mountain Region).

ROCK PIGEON – Jim Holmes counted 249 south of Phenix City, *Russell*, 25 September (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

INCA DOVE – One was observed from the first week in August to 31 August at Springhill, *Mobile* (Jimmy Stephenson *et al.*; ph. on 22 August; @ABRC) (11th separate record for Alabama, though a regular local breeder in *Baldwin*). South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, three were seen 27 October (Bill Summerour; ph.) and 21 November (Geoff Hill) (continuation at only regular site in Alabama).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were at Jackson SP, *Covington*, 26 October (Cody Massery) (new site).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Rare inland and only occasional in recent decades on the Inland Coastal Plain, singles were noted at Powder Magazine Park in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 2 October (Larry Gardella), and at Perry Lake, *Perry*, 22 October (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, reports of singles came from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 October (Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – One-two were seen 24-29 November in Birmingham, *Jefferson* (Greg Harber) (late, although has occasionally wintered in this area).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – Forty-seven were counted on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 20 September (Janice Neitzel) (fall maximum for the Gulf Coast).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – A single was banded by Fred Bassett at the home of Kay Keigley in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 31 October (rare in the WP).

LIMPKIN – A single at Cottonwood, *Houston*, 1 November (Wayne Barger, Chris Taylor; @ABRC) marked the fifth record for Alabama.

SANDHILL CRANE – Shelby McNemar reported one from Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13 November (uncommon fall migrant in the WP). Seven were in flight at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 12 November (Geoff Hill) (locally rare), and two were north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 12 November (Patsy Russo) (locally rare).

AMERICAN AVOCET – Occasional in the Mountain Region, three reports were received: four were on the Highland Avenue Golf Course in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 August (Joe Watts *et al.*); four were at the J. D. Martin Wildlife Park in Gadsden, *Etowah*, 19 September – 4 October (Madushan Wanniarachi *et al.*; ph.); and a single was along Weiss Lake at Cedar Bluff, *Cherokee*, 17 November (Steve Pagans; videotaped). Rare in the Tennessee Valley, four were found at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 19 November (Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 13-27 September (Bruce Purdy, Graham Floyd, Daniel Stangeland) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, two were spotted on the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 October (Don McKee), and a juvenile was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*,

7 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER – A count of 14 in the Gainesville area, *Sumter*, 19 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) established a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – Two were spotted on the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 27-28 August (Charles Grisham *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

RUFF – A juvenile at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 10 September (Eric Haskell; ph.; @ABRC) was the ninth record for Alabama, the fourth record for the Gulf Coast, and the first fall record for the Gulf Coast.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 11 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Pam Brown) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in fall, especially in northwest Alabama, records from three sites were received: four west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 1 and 15 September (Damien Simbeck); one east of Tanner, *Limestone*, 12 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger); and one-two northwest of Huntsville, *Madison*, 10-16 September (Charles Boley). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, records were received from two sites: one on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 14-24 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger *et al.*) and one there 15 October (Wayne Patterson, Brian Johnston); and two at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 11 September (Eric Haskell) and a single there 6 October (Andrew Haffenden, Larry Gardella, m.ob.). Geoff Hill found a single south of Hatchetubbee, *Russell*, 17 September (rare in fall on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – One was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 15-16 October (Graham Floyd, Malcolm Swan) (second October record for the WP). Occasional in fall on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were seen at Gainesville, *Sumter*, 18 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER – Thirty were seen at Gainesville, *Sumter*, 12 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

WILSON'S SNIBE – A count of 87 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Madison*, 19 November (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) established a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

RED PHALAROPE – A single was on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 14 October (Chuck Estes *et al.*; ph.) (23rd record for Alabama).

JAEGER SP. – An unidentified adult, probably a Parasitic, was at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 3 September (Geoff Hill *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale*, 16 August (Damien Simbeck), and four were at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 26 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger).



Red Phalarope, 14 October 2016, Mobile Co., AL; K. Chiasson.

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Rare but regular in fall in the Tennessee Valley, four were on Wheeler Reservoir, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 6 November (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, one was at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 22 November (Marybeth Lima, Lynn Hathaway), and another single was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 23 November (regular at this site) (Karen Chiasson; ph.).

RING-BILLED GULL – At Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, Damien Simbeck reported 32 on 20 July, 168 on 16 August, and 250 on 26 September (large numbers for so early in the season).

HERRING GULL – Philippe Bouvier found eight at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 November (fall maximum for the Mountain Region).

ICELAND GULL (THAYER'S) – A juvenile was on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Erik Johnson; ph.) (27th Alabama record of Iceland Gull, 10th Alabama record of Thayer's Gull).



Iceland Gull (Thayer's) (right) and Herring Gull (left), 15 October 2016, Mobile Co., AL; E. Johnson.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Now locally regular in small numbers in the Tennessee Valley, several sightings came from the Wheeler Dam area, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*: two on 16 August (early) (Damien Simbeck), six (good number) on 26 September (Damien Simbeck), two on 22 October (Greg Jackson) and a single on 6 November (Damien Simbeck). Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, hosted two on 23 September and three on 27 October (Damien Simbeck).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – A single adult was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 November (Andrew Haffenden) (rare but regular in this area).

CHANDELEUR (HERRING X KELP) GULL – An adult was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 7 October (Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne; ph.) (rare and erratic on the Gulf Coast).

CASPIAN TERN – Two were at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 21 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) (rare in the Mountain Region). Six (good number) were noted in the Gainesville area, *Sumter*, 28 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) (locally rare).

PACIFIC LOON – A single was reported from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 25+ November (Greg Jackson *et al.*) (rare but regular in this area). One was reported from Jordan Lake, *Elmore*, 25 November – 1 January (Rodney McCollum *et al.*) (second record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

WOOD STORK – Rare in the Mountain Region, reports came from four sites: two at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 15 August (Joyce Balch, Brandon Connare *et al.*); three on 21 September and one on 22 September at Lanett, *Chambers* (Rodney McCollum); six on the Birmingham area fall count, *Shelby*, 24 September (John Imhof, Jeremy Bearden); and 63+ (maximum for north Alabama) at Opelika, *Lee*, 25 September (Rodney McCollum; ph.). Damien Simbeck spotted two juveniles west of Florence,

Lauderdale, 19 August (ph.; rare in the Tennessee Valley). At the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, Michael Jordan found two on 11 September and one on 30 September (rare on the Gulf Coast).

MASKED BOOBY – An immature was on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 8 October (Howard Horne) (rare).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Rare but increasing in summer and early fall in the Mountain Region, four reports from this region were received: 13 on 1 August and 6 on 17 August at Inverness, *Shelby* (Ron Kittinger); a single at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 1 August (Ron Kittinger); seven at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 September (Rick Remy; ph.); and 1,000 on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 17 November (Steve Pagans) (fall maximum for the Mountain Region).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Ann Stewart reported “hundreds” (good number) on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 13 October (regular at this site; rare but increasing in the Mountain Region). Michael Guffey found 21 on Lake Wedowee, *Randolph*, 30 November (locally rare).

GREAT BLUE HERON (WHITE MORPH) – A single lingered on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 August – 21+ October (Andrew Haffenden, m.ob.; ph.) (16th Alabama record).

SNOWY EGRET – A count of 58 at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 27 August (Don Self, Judy Self) marked a maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain.

TRICOLORED HERON – One was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 3 September (Geoff Hill) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WHITE IBIS – Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, three were seen at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 7 August (Mariah West, Daniel West), and a single occurred to 24 September at Gadsden, *Etowah* (Joe Watts *et al.*).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 11 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Pam Brown) (very rare in the WP).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – Rare but increasingly regular in Alabama, four immatures were noted at Gainesville, *Sumter*, 28 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger; ph.).

BLACK VULTURE – A count of 105 at Newbern, *Hale*, 6 September (Anne G. Miller, Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society) established a fall maximum for central and south Alabama.

TURKEY VULTURE – Michael Jordan counted 124 at a roost on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 14 November (maximum fall count for the Gulf Coast).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were at Calera,



Great Blue Heron (white morph), 26 August 2016, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

Shelby, 10 August (Ron Kittinger; ph.), and south of Talladega, *Talladega*, 27 August (Brayden Paulk, Ben Paulk).

WHITE-TAILED KITE – A single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) provided the sixth record for the WP (and yard bird #291 for the Duncans).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – This species is rare and local but increasing in the Mountain Region, with four sightings coming from new sites: at Calera, *Shelby*, two were seen on 4 August and six on 17 August (Ron Kittinger); west of Warrior, *Jefferson*, a single was noted 10 August and two were seen 19 August (David George); one was found at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 26 August (Scot Duncan); and one was at the Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10 September (Scot Duncan). Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, Steve McConnell reported one from Hartselle, *Morgan*, 2 September.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – An immature dark morph was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 22 October (Lisa Comer; ph.) (third Alabama record of this morph).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Singles were at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 11 October (Cecil Brown), and at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 29 October (Malcolm Swan) (very rare in fall in the WP).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 August (Bob Duncan) (rare but regular at this location in August). Singles were seen at the Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 20 August (Scot Duncan) and 30 August (Rick Remy, Paul Franklin, Doris Gertler *et al.*; ph.) (rare). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, one was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28 September (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.).



Broad-winged Hawk (immature dark morph), 22 October, 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; L. Comer.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – Multiple sightings by m.ob. came from all regions 25 August – 25 September (rare but regular in fall in small numbers).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – A singing bird was at Meadowbrook, *Shelby*, 5 October (Ron Kittinger) (rare but probably regular; rarely identified to species).

SAY'S PHOEBE – John Yuhasz found a single at Molino, *Escambia*, 9 October (sixth record for the WP). One was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1-2 October (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) (eighth record for Alabama).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in fall in the WP, one was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). At Theodore, *Mobile*, two were



Say's Phoebe, 2 October 2016, Mobile Co.; P. Russo.

recorded from mid-October to 29 October (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo *et al.*; ph.) (rare).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in fall in the WP, singles were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 October (Michael Brower, Cathy Brower), and at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 26-28 November (Bill Stanley *et al.*).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD – A single was on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 14 October (Janice Neitzel; ph.; @ABRC) (sixth Alabama record for the complex).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD – The first Alabama record of this species was established by a single seen at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, on 25 October (David Plumb, Bill Summerour) and again on 27 October (Bill Summerour; ph.; @ABRC).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in fall in the WP, sightings were made at four locations: one at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway); a single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 5 October (Chris Wiley); one in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 October (Bob Duncan); and four at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 22 October (Julie Schiro).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – Thomas Savage counted 28 northeast of Libertyville, *Covington*, 17 September (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain). Rick Remy found a single at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 11 November (late departure record for north Alabama).

BELL'S VIREO – A single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 October (Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne) (rare).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – One seen east of Mt. Meigs, *Montgomery*, 31 October (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) marked a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Larry Gardella counted four in Powder Magazine Park, *Montgomery*, *Montgomery*, 19 October (fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

WARBLING VIREO – Rare but nearly regular in fall in the Mountain Region, a single was at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10 September (Scot Duncan). One was at Ft. Toulouse, *Elmore*, 24 September (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, a single was at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 29 September (Charles Boley).



Vermilion Flycatcher, 29 October 2016, Mobile Co., AL; R. Kittinger.



Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, 14 October 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; J. Neitzel.

- HORNED LARK** – Singles were found at Midland City, *Dale*, and Dothan, *Houston*, 5 November (Geoff Hill) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – Two at Opelika, *Lee*, 22 October (Jim Holmes) marked a late fall departure date for the Mountain Region.
- CLIFF SWALLOW** – A tally of 201 at Sulligent Lake, *Lamar*, 5 August (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) provided a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- CAVE SWALLOW** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1 November (Lucy Duncan) (very rare fall migrant in the WP).
- BARN SWALLOW** – Paul Kittle counted 250 near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 1 September (maximum fall number for north Alabama).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – A single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 October (Dana Timmons) was the vanguard of a good influx for fall in the WP.
- HERMIT THRUSH** – Rodney Cassidy tallied 13 south of Camden, *Wilcox*, 19 November (fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- WOOD THRUSH** – A very late bird was at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 21 November (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman).
- CEDAR WAXWING** – Herbert Lewis reported a count of 365 from Huntsville, *Madison*, 7 November (fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley).
- PIN-TAILED WHYDAH** – A single was in east Pensacola, *Escambia*, 1 October (J. Lloyd).
- SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** – This exotic is widespread throughout the WP, as evidenced by the following reports: 23 in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 12 August (Daniel Stangeland); 10 at Ascend Chemicals, *Escambia*, 24 August (Chris Davis); two at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 25 September (Chris Wiley); 15 at Beulah, *Escambia*, 28 September (Erin Renfroe); 12 at Hickory Shores, *Santa Rosa*, 30 September (Paul Bennett); seven at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 8 October (Jerry Callaway); and 20 in north Pensacola, *Escambia*, 5 November (Perry Doggrell).
- AMERICAN PIPIT** – Howard Horne counted 35 southeast of Theodore, *Mobile*, 20 November (fall maximum for the Gulf Coast).
- LARK SPARROW** – A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP). Rare in the Mountain Region, a single was at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 2 August (Leif Milliron; ph.). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, a single on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 August (Jon King *et al.*; ph.) marked an early arrival record for the region.
- LECONTE'S SPARROW** – Damien Simbeck spotted a single west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 21 November (rare in the Tennessee Valley).
- SONG SPARROW** – Michael McCloy tallied 130 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 October (fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, two were found at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 5 November (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger).
- SWAMP SPARROW** – Michael McCloy tallied 160 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 October (fall maximum for inland Alabama).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, Greg Jackson (ph.) reported an immature male from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 October. An adult male was noted at Killen, *Lauderdale*, 12-13 October (Raymond Moore *et al.*; ph.) (sixth record for the Tennessee Valley; occasional inland).

ORCHARD ORIOLE – Rodney McCollum counted 12 at Opelika, *Lee*, 19 August (fall maximum for the Mountain Region). A female-type on the TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 September (William White) marked a late record for inland Alabama.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Twenty-four (fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley) were reported from Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 6-7 September (Robert Goss). Up to nine birds came to water and feeders at the home of Renea Simpson in Ashford, *Houston*, 12-30 November (fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

SHINY COWBIRD – Two males were at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 10 October (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman) (38th record for the WP).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – Twenty-nine were at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 20 November (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway), and five were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 November (Bob Duncan). At Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 150 were counted 28 November (Anne G. Miller, Jean Folsom, Susan Barrow) (maximum fall number for the Mountain Region).

COMMON GRACKLE – Michael Jordan reported 1,200 in flight at the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 20 November (fall maximum for the Gulf Coast).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – John Yuhasz found a very early single at Molino, *Escambia*, 13 August.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – A single at Sheffield, *Colbert*, 8 November (William White *et al.*; ph.) marked a late departure date for Alabama.

TENNESSEE WARBLER – Larry Gardella tallied 14 east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 17 October (fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, three records were received: one-two at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 8, 10, 22 September and 4 October (Rick Remy, Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Sara Fuentes, Stan Hamilton); one at Auburn, *Lee*, 28 September (Ralph Mirarchi); and one at Red Mountain Park, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 17 October (Greg Jackson). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Thomas Savage found two south of Andalusia, *Covington*, 1 October, and Neil Gilbert reported one from Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 11 October.

MOURNING WARBLER – Reports of singles came from Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 27 September (Rick Remy), and Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 29 September (Dwight Cooley) (rare).

CAPE MAY WARBLER – Rare in fall, a single was found at Opelika, *Lee*, 14 October (Rodney McCollum).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – Lucy Duncan found a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3 November (first November record for the WP).

NORTHERN PARULA – A very late single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 November

(Michael Brower, Cathy Brower).

YELLOW WARBLER – A very late bird was at Henderson Beach, *Okaloosa*, 15 November (Kathy Morales, Eric Julson).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Singles were identified at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 30 August (Rick Remy) and 15 October (Scot Duncan) (rare in the Mountain Region).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – One at Gallion, *Marengo*, 20 September (Don Self, Judy Self) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

CANADA WARBLER – A single at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 1 October (Neil Gilbert) marked a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

WILSON'S WARBLER – A very late bird was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27 November (Andrew Holzinger). Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, two-three birds were sighted at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 18, 24, 25 September (Scot Duncan *et al.*).

SCARLET TANAGER – Robert Goss counted 12 in Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 6 September (fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

WESTERN TANAGER – Very rare in fall in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 November (Lucy Duncan) (over 40 fall records).

DICKCISSEL – Two were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 August and 21 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare in the WP). Jim Holmes reported one from R. L. Harris Reservoir, *Randolph*, 23 October (rare in late fall in the Mountain Region).

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WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017)

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

This report covers the period from December 2016 through February 2017 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; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – Southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, Karen Chiasson (ph.) counted 22 on 1 December and 20 on 25 February, and Suzanne Fellows noted 30 (winter maximum for Alabama) on 26 December (continuation from fall; rare but recently regular in winter on the Gulf Coast).

ROSS’S GOOSE – Very rare in the WP, three reports were received: a single in northern *Escambia*, 19 December (Mitchell Petosky); four at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 17-19 February (Malcolm Swan); and three in northern *Escambia*, 27 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but locally regular in the Tennessee Valley, five reports were received: a single at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 2 December (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger) (not a usual site); 15 at Bainbridge Pond east of Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 5 December (Damien Simbeck) (becoming regular at this site); a single on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December (not a usual area); 77 at Limestone Bay, Wheeler NWR, 24 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (maximum for Alabama); and five at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 8 February (Damien Simbeck) (not a usual

site). Rare in the Mountain Region, two were at Pasqua, *Shelby*, 20 December (Leif Milliron), and a single was east of Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10-25 January (Ken Wills *et al.*; ph.). Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports from six sites were received: three were in the Kennedy Unit of Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 December (Eric Soehren, Geoff Hill) (becoming locally regular in *Barbour*); a single was west of Riverview, *Escambia*, 4 January (Jim Holmes; ph.) (not a regular site); three sightings came from Marvyn, *Lee*: a single on 14 December (Ralph Mirarchi), two on 8 January (Ralph Mirarchi, Jim Holmes), and three on 9 January (Ralph Mirarchi, Jordan Broadhead) (not a regular site); one was east of Mt. Meigs, *Montgomery*, 26 December – 1 February (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) (not a regular site); one bird was south of Gainesville, *Sumter*, 5 February (Robert Dobbs) (not a regular site); and at Lakepoint SP, *Barbour*, a probable Ross's Goose X Snow Goose hybrid was present on 24 February and this bird and a Ross's Goose were there on 25 February (Meegan Dale *et al.*; ph.) (becoming locally regular in *Barbour*). Rare but increasing on the Gulf Coast, singles were at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 11 January (Larry Goodman), and at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 20 January (Larry Gardella).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 24 December (Joe Stuckey), and at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 December (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (very rare in the WP). Andrew Holzinger found nine at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 13 February (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

CAACKLING GOOSE – A single was at Jacob's Swamp southwest of Prattville, *Autauga*, 31 December (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum; ph.) (third record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – A count of 170 south of Blountsville, *Blount*, 29 January (Anne Miller, Marshall Iliff; ph.) established a maximum for the Mountain Region.

EURASIAN WIGEON – A male was at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 11 December – 16 January (Jeff Johnston, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (10th non-recurring record for Alabama).



Eurasian Wigeon, 23 December 2016, Morgan Co., AL; J.T. O'Barr.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – Fifty-one were counted at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 4 February (Pelham Rowan, Matthew Hunter, Meegan Dale *et al.*) to establish a maximum for the Mountain Region.

CANVASBACK – The Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, tallied 2,186 on 26 December to establish the highest count for inland Alabama.

SURF SCOTER – Four were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4-14 February (David Muth, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and 35 were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 February (Daniel Stangeland) (rare in the WP). Rare inland, four records came from northwest Alabama: three were at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale*, 18 January (Damien Simbeck); two were on the Tennessee River at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 24 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); two were on the Tennessee River near Waite Cemetery, *Lauderdale*, 1 February (Damien Simbeck); and three were reported from Wright, *Lauderdale*, 6 February (Sue Moske).

BLACK SCOTER – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, good numbers were reported

from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 22 on 1 December (Karen Chiasson) and 28 on 21 February (Larry Gardella). Rodney Cassidy found four along the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, 25 February. Rare inland, sightings came from five locations in north Alabama: two in the Swan Creek WMA area, *Limestone*, during the Wheeler NWR CBC, 17 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham); a single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, during the Waterloo CBC, 17 December (Damien Simbeck); one at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 30 December (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger); two on the Tennessee River at Waite Cemetery, 1 February (Damien Simbeck); and a single at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 4-6 February (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford *et al.*).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – Rare in the WP, five were at Veteran's Memorial Park, *Okaloosa*, 7-8 February (Charles Crawford, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

BUFFLEHEAD – Jim Holmes reported good numbers from Roanoke, *Randolph*: 133 (maximum for the Mountain Region) on 6 January and 128 on 7 January.

HORNED GREBE – Fifty-two at Alpine, *Talladega*, 14 January (Geoff Hill) marked a maximum for the Mountain Region.

EARED GREBE – Rare in Alabama, a single was on the Tennessee River at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 8-9 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – Occasional in the Tennessee Valley, one was reported from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17 December – 7 January (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – A single was at Woodmont, *Jefferson*, 13-26 February (James Sims; ph.) (occasional in the Mountain Region, all records since 2000).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK – One was at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (Alan Knothe, Dottie Robbins, Barbara Almario) (15th record for the WP).

CHIMNEY SWIFT – Three at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 22 February (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) established an all-time early arrival date by 17 days. Eight at the University of West Florida, *Escambia*, 27 February (Andrew Holzinger) were also very early.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – Rare in Alabama, an immature male was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 7-16 January (Velma Allen, b. Fred Bassett), and an adult male was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 18 January – 18 February (Ellen Crotty *et al.*; b. Fred Bassett).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – Rare in Alabama, singles were at McCalla, *Jefferson*, 6 November – 28 December 2016 (not included in fall 2016 *Alabama Birdlife* sightings article) (Sharon Hudgins; b. by Mary Wilson 11 December); at Satsuma, *Mobile*, 20 December (Jimmy Stephenson; b. Fred Bassett); and at Mobile, *Mobile*, 10 February (Beth Bachman; b. Fred Bassett).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – A single was at the residence of Kay Keigley in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 21 December– 24 January (Dana Timmons; b. Fred Bassett).



White-winged Dove, 25 February 2017, Jefferson Co., AL; J. Sims.

- KING RAIL** – Two were seen at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 December (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (consistently found at this site).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** – One was heard at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 8-25 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, but regular at this site).
- COMMON GALLINULE** – Two were found at Jacob's Swamp southwest of Prattville, *Autauga*, during the Montgomery CBC on 31 December (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum) (rare in winter this far north).
- AMERICAN COOT** – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, tallied 80,752 on 17 December (winter maximum for Alabama).
- SANDHILL CRANE** – One was found during the Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, 17 December (occasional on the western Inland Coastal Plain). Rare in the western Tennessee Valley, 60 was a good number for the area of Town Creek Marsh and Point, *Colbert*, 24 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – Rare inland, singles were at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 19-26 February (Pam Dean, Harry Dean *et al.*; ph.), and at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 22-25 February (Sue Moske *et al.*).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – A single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 26-27 February (Shelby McLemar, Malcolm Swan *et al.*) marked a new early arrival date for the WP.
- KILLDEER** – A one-two day old chick was found dead east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 3 December (Eric Soehren, Ethan Soehren) (extremely late nesting).
- STILT SANDPIPER** – Larry Gardella reported three from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, a frequent wintering site, 21 January (ph.; rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).
- SANDERLING** – Sue Moske found one at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 7 December (third winter record for inland Alabama).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – A single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 18 February (Malcolm Swan), and 38 in northern *Escambia* 27 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) were very early for the WP.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER** – The third record of this species for Alabama was marked by a single found during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 17 December (Michele Steber, Jennie Stowers, Gretchen Boyd; @ABRC).
- DOWITCHER SP.** – Three were sighted during the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 31 December (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain in winter).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Rare but regular in winter in inland Alabama, four reports were received: a single on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December; two at Brewton, *Escambia*, 4 January (Jim Holmes); two at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 4 January – 3 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); and one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 19 January (Greg Jackson; ph.).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL** – An excellent count of 5,158 was made during the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December.
- LITTLE GULL** – One adult was reported from Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 8-11 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (12th Alabama record; @ABRC).
- LAUGHING GULL** – Rare inland, singles were sighted at Wilson Dam (regular at this site), *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 8 December (Damien Simbeck), and Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 30 December (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – An immature was at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 8-15 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare but regular in winter in the WP, one-two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 20 January – 14 February (Larry Goodman, Andrew Holzinger, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, a single was found at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (not a regular site), 17 December (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske), and one was at Guntersville, *Marshall* (regular site), 19 December (Neil Gilbert). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, one was found on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile* (not a regular site), 3 January (Howard Horne), and one-two were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (regular site), 26 December – 23 January (Karen Chiasson *et al.*; ph.).

GLAUCOUS GULL – A rare single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 February (Andrew Haffenden, Jennie Stowers).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Andrew Haffenden found one on Pelican Peninsula, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 February (rare but regular at this site).

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, sightings from three sites were received: Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, a single 24 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) and two 8-9 February (Damien Simbeck, Sue Moske); one at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 February (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford); and a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 February (Damien Simbeck).



Great Black-backed Gull, 5 February 2017, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, singles were on the Tennessee River at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 6 February (Sue Moske), and at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 8-9 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

SHEARWATER SP. – Larry Gardella reported three from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 21 February (rare).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD – Will Butler found 10 at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4 December (very rare in winter in the WP). Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 December (Michelle Steber, Jennie Stowers); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 December (Inga Schmidt; ph.); and Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Dwight Cooley *et al.*)

ANHINGA – Casual in winter in the WP, singles were noted at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Cecil Brown, Powers McLeod), and at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 11 January – 4 February (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). Liz Masoner spotted a single on the Waxahatchee Creek Embayment of Lay Lake, *Shelby*, 2 February (not a known site; rare in the Mountain Region and first winter record for the region).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Uncommon and local but increasing in the Mountain Region, reports from three sites were received: five north of Montevallo, *Shelby*, 6 December (Leif Milliron); 20 at Riverside, *St. Clair*, 15 January (Bob Zaremba); and two at Ohatchee, *Calhoun*, 11 February (Geoff Hill).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely detected in winter in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 December (Ashley Peters), and at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 20 January (Charles Boley).

GREAT EGRET – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 340 on 17 December (winter maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

CATTLE EGRET – Jane Allen spotted one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 12 December (occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – At a nesting island in East Lake, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, eight were found during the Birmingham CBC, 23 December, and 13 (winter maximum for the Mountain Region) were found 27 February (Ansel Payne).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A single was found at Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare in winter).

WHITE IBIS – Rodney Cassidy tallied 110 south of Camden, *Wilcox*, 13 December to mark a winter maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

TURKEY VULTURE – A maximum count for the WP was established by the observation of 450 migrating south ahead of a cold front in northern *Escambia*, 27 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

BALD EAGLE – The 28 tallied on the Choctawhatchee CBC, *Okaloosa*, 19 December marked a maximum for the WP.

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Singles were at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 25 February (Malcolm Swan), and in northern *Escambia*, 27 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) to mark the fifth and sixth records for the winter season, respectively, for the WP.

GOLDEN EAGLE – Larry Gardella reported an immature from Meaher SP, *Baldwin*, 9 February (occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 December (Howard Horne, Ralph Havard) (rare on the Gulf Coast). Charles Boley found a single at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 25 February (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

SAY'S PHOEBE – A single was north of the R. F. Henry Lock on the Alabama River, *Autauga*, 31 December – 7 January (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum; ph.) (ninth record for Alabama, fourth inland; @ABRC).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – A single occurred at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 11 December – 4 February (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (over 30 records for the WP).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – One was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19-27 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Malcolm Swan, m.ob.) (over 40 records for the WP). A single was spotted at Summerdale, *Baldwin*, 8 January (Lisa Comer; ph.) (occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD – One was at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 15 January (Alan Scott; ph.) (seventh Alabama and first inland record for the species complex; @ABRC).



Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, 15 January 2017, Etowah Co., AL; A. Scott.

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Two were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 4-7 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare but regular in the WP). Randy White reported a single from west of High Bluff, *Geneva*, 26-30 December (rare inland; third inland winter record).

FISH CROW – At Auburn, *Lee*, 83 (winter maximum for the Mountain Region) were counted 1 December and 35 were there 11 February (Ralph Mirarchi).

HORNED LARK – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, three were found west of Autaugaville, *Autauga*, 31 December (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum). Ten were counted southwest of Foley, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Dana Hamilton, Stan Hamilton) (fourth record for the Gulf Coast).

PURPLE MARTIN – A very early arrival was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 January (Bob Duncan).

TREE SWALLOW – The 27 reported from west of Tanner, *Limestone*, 22 February (Jeff Garner), and the 175 found at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 25 February (Charles Boley) were large numbers for the Tennessee Valley so early in the season.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – A single at Lakepoint Resort SP, *Barbour*, 21 February (John Trent) marked the earliest arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Four at Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, *Lawrence*, 25 February (Sue Moske) marked the earliest arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

CLIFF SWALLOW – One at Muddy Creek, *Mobile*, 25 February (Rodney Cassidy) marked the earliest arrival date for the Gulf Coast.

BARN SWALLOW – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 7 December (Bruce Purdy) (rare in winter in the WP). Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast, a single at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 21 February (Joel Dunnette) may have been an early arrival vs. a wintering bird.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Five at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Larry Goodman, Liz Langston) were indicative of an invasion year in the WP.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – A single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 December (Geoff Hill, Eric Soehren; ph.) (rare this far south).

SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA – This species is widespread in the WP: 70 in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 6 December (Daniel Stangeland); eight in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 30 December (Jan Lloyd) and 20 there 8 January (Cindy Coster); 20 at Big Lagoon SP, *Escambia*, 9 January (Carol Tebay); 11 in Gonzalez, *Escambia*, 19 January (Perry Doggrell); and 15 in east Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 February (Thomas Shultz).

PURPLE FINCH – Six were in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 6 January – 16 February (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, John Yuhasz).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – On Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, three were found 5 December and a single was there 5 January (Andrew Haffenden; ph.) (rare on the Gulf



Lapland Longspur, 5 December 2016, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

Coast).

LARK SPARROW – A single was in northern *Santa Rosa*, 11 January (Tom True) (very rare in winter in the WP). One was in the Swan Creek WMA area, *Limestone*, 17 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham) (occasional inland in winter).

LECONTE'S SPARROW – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, singles were observed at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 9 December (Sue Moske), and at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 24 December – 4 January (Charles Boley *et al.*).

FOX SPARROW – Rare in the WP, three reports (all singles) were received: Blackwater State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 11 December (Daniel Stangeland); OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown); and Cantonment, *Escambia*, 7 January – 16 February (John Yuhasz).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, Rick Remy found a single at one site on 17 December, and Rick Kittinger and Ron Kittinger *et al.* saw two on 6 January and a single on 8 January at a different site. Rare in the Mountain Region, especially in winter, one was at Inverness, *Shelby*, 22 February (Rick Kittinger).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT – Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast, one was at Spanish Fort, *Baldwin*, 8 January (Eric Haskell *et al.*; ph.).

ORCHARD ORIOLE – Lisa Comer found one at Summerdale, *Baldwin*, 9 January (ph.; seventh winter record in Alabama).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE – Occasional in Alabama, an adult male returned to Montevallo, *Shelby*, 27+ December (Mary Maxwell; ph.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, numerous reports were received. One was at Hoover, *Jefferson*, 25 December (Kavan Eldredge; ph.). Two were found during the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 31 December, and Larry Gardella sighted one in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 January. Several wintered at Ashford, *Houston*, a regular site, with 12 observed on 9 and 25 February (Renea Simpson) (ties winter maximum for Alabama). Two wintered at Foley, *Baldwin* (Michael Jordan, Eva Barnett *et al.*). Three birds were counted during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Jan Osborn, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton *et al.*). John Trent found a single at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 2 January.



Orchard Oriole, 9 January 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; L. Comer.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – Ninety (good number) were at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 December (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE – At Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, Daniel Stangeland counted 11 on 24 December and 37 on 14 January. This is the only location in extreme northwest Florida where this species is found.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH – The single found at the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 24 February (Marlee Morris; ph.) marked the seventh winter period record for Alabama, though the bird probably marked a record early spring arrival.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Occasional in winter for inland Alabama, two were at Eufaula and the Kennedy Unit of Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 December (Geoff Hill, Eric Soehren). Brian Walker reported one from Auburn, *Lee*, 3 January.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – One was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 16 January – 24 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in winter in the WP).

NORTHERN PARULA – Andrew Holzinger sighted a single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22 January (first January record for the WP).

YELLOW WARBLER – One was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8-21 December (Michael Brower, Cathy Brower) (very rare in winter in the WP).

PRAIRIE WARBLER – Andrew Holzinger sighted a single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 January (very rare in winter in the WP).

SUMMER TANAGER – One was noted in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 December (Joyce Cobb), and three were at different sites in western Pensacola, *Escambia*: 3 January – 24 February (Jan Lloyd), 8 January (Cindy Coster), and 19 February (Carol Hevshohn) (very rare in winter in the WP). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 23 December – 28 February (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald), and a bird wintered on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin* (Janice Neitzel).

WESTERN TANAGER – Singles were in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3-5 January (Bob Duncan), and in Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 18 January (Kelly Jones) (very rare in the WP).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – Very rare in winter in the WP, singles were in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 2 December (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway), and in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 10 December (Dana Timmons). An immature male was at a feeder in Irondale, *Jefferson*, 10-20 December (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton; ph.) (occasional in winter in inland Alabama; sixth winter record for the Mountain Region).

BLUE GROSBEAK – Singles were in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 December (Robert Ludlow), and at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 19 February (Perry Doggrell) (very rare in winter in the WP).

INDIGO BUNTING – One was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3-8 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in winter in the WP).

PAINTED BUNTING – Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast, singles were reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 December (Kathy Hicks; ph.), and at Daphne, *Baldwin*, 1-2 January and 28 January – 12 February (Craig Littekin *et al.*). An adult male was at Ashford, *Geneva*, 29 January – 2 February (Renea Simpson, Bob Kornegay; ph.) (fifth winter record for inland Alabama).



Painted Bunting, 29 December 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Hicks.

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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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CONTENTS

TALLEDAGA COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2014

Greg D. Jackson and Thomas M. Haggerty1

FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2016)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....9

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....20

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