

Alabama Birdlife

Volume 63, Number 2, December 2017



**Journal of the Alabama
Ornithological Society**

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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

Vol. 63

No. 2

2017

Editor: Tom Haggerty, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632-0001

Assistant Editors: Paul Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL, and Jeff Garner, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, 350 County Rd. 275, Florence, AL 35633.

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 17 May 1952

OFFICERS

President:

Harry Dean
530 Brenda Drive
Madison, AL 35758

Immediate Past President:

Anne G. Miller
980 Shades Crest Road
Hoover, AL 35226

Secretary:

Jean Folsom
609 Van Buren Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35226

Treasurer:

Joan Dickson
1059 Palmetto St.
Mobile, AL 36604

Newsletter Editor:

COL (R) Robert E. Reed,
88838 Tallassee
Highway, Tallassee, AL 36078

A.O.S. MEMBERSHIPS

Alabama Birdlife is a publication of the Alabama Ornithological Society.
Membership in the society includes a subscription to Alabama Birdlife.

Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$10.00
Family	\$40.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Life Individual	\$350.00
Life Family	\$500.00

Dues are payable on 1 January of each year and should be mailed to the treasurer.

COVER: Cinnamon Teal, March 2017, Limestone Co., AL; C. H. Grisham.

REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE - 2015

Steven W. McConnell

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created in 1987 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 active and experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews Alabama 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 95 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, 14 records with data from 27 observers were evaluated (Table 1). White-eared Hummingbird was the only new species added to the Alabama state list. With these actions, the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 447 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Twelve species on the recognized state bird list are classified as “hypothetical” where physical evidence such as a photo, video, or specimen are lacking or at least three observer testimonies of visual observations have not been provided.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 14 records with data from 27 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AL Status ³
13-10	Lark Bunting	12/29/2012	Mobile	V	A	7
14-01	Am. Tree Sparrow	2/2/2014	Lauderdale	V	Pending	---
14-18	White-tailed Kite	3/27/2013	Geneva	V	Pending	---
15-01	Bullock's Oriole	12/29/2014	Shelby	P	A	12
15-02	Inca Dove	2/12/2015	Baldwin	P	A	6
15-03	Inca Dove	10/12/2014	Baldwin	P	A	7
15-04	Plumbeous Vireo	10/14/2015	Colbert	V	Pending	---
15-05	Say's Phoebe	10/7/2015	Winston	V	A	7
15-06	Snow Bunting	11/15/2014	Morgan	V	NI	---
15-07	Short-tailed Hawk	4/13/2001	Mobile	V	NI	---

TABLE 1. continued

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AL Status ³
15-08	Western Grebe	9/27/2014	St.Clair	V	Pending	---
15-09	White-eared Hummingbird	11/8/2015	Mobile	B/P	A	1
15-10	Black-throated Gray Warbler	9/20/2015	Mobile	P	A	12
15-11	Brown-crested Flycatcher	10/9/2015	Baldwin	P	Pending	---

¹V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded.

²A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; Pending = review incomplete.

³Number of accepted Alabama records.

The records contained in this report were reviewed and voted upon by these Alabama Bird Records Committee members: Dwight Cooley, Ben Garmon, Dr. Jim Holmes, Jr., Andrew Haffenden, Dr. Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell, and John Trent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The committee would like to express its appreciation to the following list of observers who carefully collected and submitted evidence for one or more of the records considered. By doing so they have increased the important knowledge base contained in the A.O.S. state bird records archive. Any omission of a contributor from this list is completely unintentional.

Larry Barkey, Fred Bassett, Michelle Bishop, Peter Blank, Eugenia Carey, Dr. Bala Chennupati, Karen Chiasson, Jim Dawe, Jon Dunn, Ben Garmon, Andrew Haffenden, Amber Hart, Dr. Geoff Hill, Cheryl Horncastle, Howard Horne, Odis Johnson, Brian Johnston, Mary Maxwell, Don McKee, Ann McLaurin, Sue R. Moske, Janice Neitzel, Erin Parker, Patsy Russo, Damien Simbeck, and Michelle Steber.

Steven W. McConnell, 29 Village Drive NE, Hartselle, AL 35640.

SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2017)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 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.



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

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – This species continues to increase in numbers in the WP, as witnessed by the 101 reported from four locations in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* (m.ob.). It also continues to increase on the Gulf Coast of Alabama. The Dauphin Island Sanctuary, *Mobile* (not a usual site) hosted 11 on 21 April and 20 on 22 April (Rodney McCollum, Elise Stahlman, Chris Johnson *et al.*). Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports were received from four sites: Odis Johnson reported five on 3 May and 17 on 21 May at Hacoma, *Geneva* (return to a

regular site); Jim Holmes found four at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 15 May (ph.); Neil Gilbert photographed three at Bamberg, *Hale* (unusual site), 27 May; and in the Lake Point Resort SP area near Eufaula, *Barbour*, a single was found on 15 May (Jim Holmes), 24 were counted on 27 May (John Cole, Windle McKenzie) and 28 were there on 31 May (Geoff Hill).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK – Now only casual in Alabama, 10 were on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, early-mid May (Mac Walter; ph.) (third record since 2000; @ABRC).



Fulvous Whistling-Duck, mid-May 2017, Mobile Co., AL; M. Walter.

ROSS'S GOOSE – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 11 March (Malcolm Swan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (14th record for the WP). Rare but increasing and occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain, four were north of Faunsdale, *Hale*, 5 March (Don Self, Judy Self) (ties maximum spring count for Alabama), and a single was at Fosters, *Tuscaloosa*, 24 March (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger; ph.). Rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley, one was near Oakland, *Limestone*, 8 March (Damien Simbeck). Casual in spring on the Gulf Coast, a single at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 26 May (Brian Johnston; ph.) marked the latest departure for south Alabama.

CANADA GOOSE – A new spring maximum for the Gulf Coast was set by counts of 108 birds on 13 May at Mobile, *Mobile* (Jordan Broadhead), and 108 at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 16 May (Larry Gardella).

WOOD DUCK – Ralph Mirarchi counted 103 at Opelika, *Lee*, 26 May to establish a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

CINNAMON TEAL – An adult male was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4-19 March (Sue Moske, m.ob.; ph.[see cover];@ABRC) (sixth record for Alabama, third for Tennessee Valley).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – A maximum spring count (282) for the Inland Coastal Plain was made north of Faunsdale, in *Hale*, 5 March (Don Self, Judy Self).

GADWALL – A maximum spring count (200+) for the Inland Coastal Plain was made along Ala. Hwy. 183 north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 4 March (Neil Gilbert, Eugene Huryn, Emily Brown).



Cinnamon Teal, March 2017, Limestone Co., AL; C.H. Grisham.

RING-NECKED DUCK – A new spring maximum

for the Mountain Region was set by counts of 12 birds on 1 March at Opelika, *Lee* (Rodney McCollum), and 12 at Inverness, *Shelby*, 21 March to 5 April (Ron Kittinger).

GREATER SCAUP – Larry Gardella reported nine from Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 4 March (spring maximum for the Gulf Coast). Two were at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 25 March (Geoff Hill) (casual in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain). A single was found on West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 31 March (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Frank Sandford) (casual in spring in the Mountain Region).

SURF SCOTER – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 6 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very late departure for the WP). Another single was at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 7 May (Ashley Peters) (rare in spring on the Gulf Coast).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Ben Garmon found four at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 8 April (occasional in spring on the Gulf Coast).

BLACK SCOTER – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24-31 May (Cathy DiSalvo, Phil DiSalvo, Michael Brower) (very late for the WP). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted 19 on 5 April and three on 16 May (Andrew Haffenden, Larry Gardella, Thomas Moorman *et al.*; ph.), and a single female was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 April (Brian Johnston; ph.).

BUFFLEHEAD – Larry Gardella photographed a female at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 30 April (late record for the Gulf Coast).

HOODED MERGANSER – Pelham Rowan counted eight at Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 11 March (spring maximum for the Mountain Region).

COMMON MERGANSER – One was at Okaloosa Veterans Park, *Okaloosa*, 26 March (Bruce Purdy *et al.*) (14th record for the WP and the first in March). Sue Moske spotted a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 22 March (rare in the Tennessee Valley and occasional in spring).

WILD TURKEY – Sue Moske made a count of 34 at Owens Crossroads, *Madison*, 22 March, to mark a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

PIED-BILLED GREBE – Larry Gardella tallied 29 on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 2 March to mark a spring maximum for the Gulf Coast.

WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON – One on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28-30 April, was the first for Alabama (David and Della Hicks, *vide* Kathy Hicks; ph.; @ABRC).

INCA DOVE – A single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9-13 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Michael Brower, Paul Sykes *et al.*) marked the third record for Florida (@FOSRC). One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 18 April (Eric Soehren, Scott Rush, Christine Sparks *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) was the 13th record for Alabama. Two birds marked a return to the first inland Alabama site in Faunsdale, *Marengo*, 12-23 May (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Frank Sandford *et al.*; ph.).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Tom Siegwald counted 29 at Mobile, *Mobile*, 12 April (spring



White-crowned Pigeon, 29 April 2017, Mobile Co., AL; C.D. Hicks.

maximum for the Gulf Coast). One was heard at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 27 April (Neil Gilbert) (rare but slowly increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – A single was at Molino, *Escambia*, 10 May (John Yuhasz) (rare in spring in the WP).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – Very rare in spring in the WP, one was found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 26 March – 12 April (Kate Herriger, Andrew Herriger, Daniel Stangeland, m.ob.).

CHUCK-WILL’S-WIDOW – Graham Floyd counted 20 along a three mile transect on Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 14 April (good number).

CHIMNEY SWIFT – Fifteen at Auburn, *Lee*, 9 March (Jordan Broadhead) marked an early arrival date for inland Alabama. Damien Simbeck estimated 8,000+ at Athens, *Limestone*, 28 April (maximum number for Alabama).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – A male seen at Huntsville, *Madison*, 17 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) established an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

PURPLE GALLINULE – A very early breeding record for the WP was marked by the observation of two adults with four downy young at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 24 April (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow). Nesting at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, was documented by the observation of five birds (one carrying nest material) 14 May (Geoff Hill).

COMMON GALLINULE – A single was seen along Ala. Hwy. 183 north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 4 March (Neil Gilbert) (rare this far north on the Inland Coastal Plain). Kathy Hicks counted 24 at Lake Bateau Bay, *Baldwin*, 24 March (ph.; maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast). Rare in the Mountain Region, reports came from three sites: one at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, 29 April (David George, Sharon Hudgins); a single on Cuss Creek, *Chambers*, 13 May (Jim Holmes); and two at Opelika, *Lee*, 29 May (James Holmes, Rodney McCollum, Geoff Hill).

LIMPKIN – As many as four birds were at Gantt Lake, *Covington*, 5 May – 30 July (Thomas Savage, m.ob.; ph.; voice recording; @ABRC) to establish the sixth record for Alabama. A lone bird was south of Alexander City, *Tallapoosa*, 15 May



Inca Dove, 18 April 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; E. Soehren.



Limpkin, 17 May 2017, Covington Co., AL; E.C. Soehren.

(Mary Tucker; ph.; @ABRC) (seventh record for Alabama, third for the Mountain Region).

SANDHILL CRANE – A single lingered at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, until 20 May (Mariah West, Daniel West, m.ob.) (late record for inland Alabama).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, Floyd Sherrod found two on 3 May and Wayne Baumgartner found a single on 14 May west of Florence, *Lauderdale*. Dwight Cooley reported three from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 13 May. Also rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one bird was found at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 31 May (Geoff Hill; ph.).

AMERICAN AVOCET – Eighteen were in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 23 April (Ann Forster), and six were at Opal Beach, *Escambia*, 6 May (Michael Brower) (very rare in spring in the WP).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – John Trent spotted a single at Headland, *Henry*, 25 May (rare in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – An early arrival record for the Mountain Region was a single at Opelika, *Lee*, 13 March (Rodney McCollum; ph.).

WHIMBREL – Occasional inland, the single found near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 April (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) marked the first spring record for the Tennessee Valley.

MARBLED GODWIT – Ann Forster counted 12 in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 23 April (very rare in spring in the WP).

STILT SANDPIPER – Rare in spring in the Mountain Region, four were tallied on the Birmingham area spring count, *Shelby*, 29 April (John Imhof, Jeremy Bearden).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Rare but regular in spring in northwest Alabama, three reports were received: two were near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3-4 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner, Gerry Dinkins, Bob Butler); west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, three were found 5 May and two on 6 May (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); and two were near Leighton, *Colbert*, 30 May (Damien Simbeck).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Bruce Purdy found a single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 23 April (very rare in spring in the WP).

WILLET – At Holt Dam, *Tuscaloosa*, 18 were tallied on 27 April (Eric Haskell; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). This species, rare in the Mountain Region, was reported as a “count week” bird for the 29 April Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/ Shelby/St. Clair* (*vide* Anne Miller).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Bruce Purdy found a single at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 6 May (rare in the WP). A single was at Porter Lake, *Jefferson*, 29 April (David George, Sharon Hudgins) (occasional in spring in the Mountain Region). Rare in



Limpkin, 15 May 2017, Talliposa Co., AL; M.R. Tucker.



Black-necked Stilt, 31 May 2017, Barbour Co., AL; G. Hill.

spring in the Tennessee Valley, a female was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5-6 May (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.), and another female was found at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 14 May (Charles Boley). Still a third female was noted at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 6 May (Wes Jarnigan; ph.) (occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain).



Wilson's Phalarope, 5 May 2017, Lauderdale Co., AL; R.J. Kittinger.

BONAPARTE'S GULL – Geoff Hill tallied 180 at Lake Mitchell Dam, *Chilton/Coosa*, 5 March to mark a spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

LAUGHING GULL – Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, hosted two on 3 April (Doug Kibbe, Mackenzie Goldwait) and a single on 30 April (Wayne Baumgartner) (rare but regular at this site).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – A single was on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in spring).

GLAUCOUS GULL – One immature was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 March – 17 May (Ed DeVries, m.ob.; ph.) (rare on the Gulf Coast).

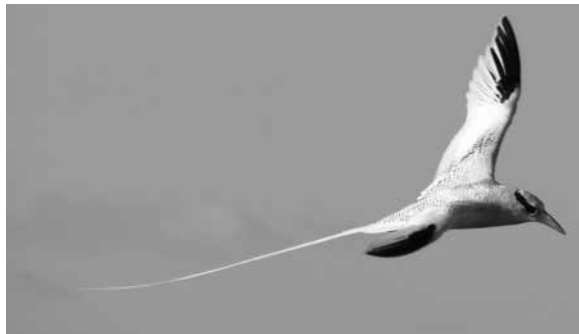
LEAST TERN – A single was at Lake Ballard, Montevallo, *Shelby*, 27 April (Mariah West, Daniel West, Ron Kittinger; ph.) (occasional in spring in the Mountain Region).

CASPIAN TERN – Ron Kittinger found a single at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 3 April (rare in spring in the Mountain Region). The 31 counted at Demopolis Lock and Dam, *Marengo/Sumter*, 25 April (Eric Haskell) established a new spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

BLACK TERN – Two were at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 19 April (Amber Hart) (rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley). One was at Cropwell, *St. Clair*, 15 May (Ron Kittinger) (occasional in spring in the Mountain Region).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD

– One was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 18 March – 31 May (Carol Wheeler, Ken Lewis, Lucy Duncan, Larry Goodman, m.ob.) (third record for the WP; @ FOSRC).



Red-billed Tropicbird, 7 April 2017, Santa Rosa, FL; L. Duncan.

PACIFIC LOON – Singles were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 23 March – 28 May (Perry Doggrell, Daniel Stangeland, John Yuhasz, m.ob.), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15 May (Bob Duncan) (rare but fairly regular in the WP; ph.; @FOSRC).

COMMON LOON – At Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 were tallied 5 April (Larry Gardella,

Andrew Haffenden) (spring maximum for the Gulf Coast).

MASKED BOOBY – Rare in Alabama, Andrew Haffenden reported a single at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 March, and another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 April (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Michael Bernard).

BROWN BOOBY – Three reports came from the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*: four at Bon Secour NWR, 8 April (Ben Garmon); one-five at Fort Morgan, 16-18 April (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*); and one at Bon Secour NWR, 25 April (Ben Garmon) (occasional in spring on the Gulf Coast).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Greg Jackson reported 1,350 from Gadsden, *Etowah*, 22 March–20+ April, with at least three occupied nests on 20 April (maximum spring number for the Mountain Region).

ANHINGA – Sue Moske found two males at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 16 April (rare but becoming regular in this area). Tom Haggerty reported a male from Florence, *Lauderdale*, 7 May (third record for northwest Alabama).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Damien Simbeck reported 2,000 from Elk River Mills, *Limestone*, 2 March (spring maximum for Alabama).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Ron Kittinger found one at Ebenezer Swamp, Montevallo, *Shelby*, 6 March (early spring arrival record for the Mountain Region if not an occasional wintering bird).

GREAT EGRET – Neil Gilbert reported 300 from Uniontown, *Hale*, 17 March (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A very early bird was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 5 March (Daniel Stangeland).

GLOSSY IBIS – A single was at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 27 March – 7 April (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman) (very rare in the WP). At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 were present 2-3 April (Glenda Merrill, Sheila Stevens) (maximum number for inland Alabama), and a single was there on 13 May (John Trent; ph.) (rare inland).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Two were near Leighton, *Colbert*, 27-28 April (Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.) (eighth inland record for Alabama, third for the Tennessee Valley).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – A single was in *Escambia*, 9 April (Dan Brand, Kate Brand)



Roseate Spoonbill, 31 May 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Hare.

(13th record for the WP). Rare but now regular on the Gulf Coast, three sightings, all of singles, were received: Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 30 April (Larry Gardella); Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 27 May (Jimmy Stephenson); and Belforest, *Baldwin*, 30-31 May (Craig Litteken *et al.*; ph.).

TURKEY VULTURE – Neil Gilbert reported 100 from the Uniontown area, *Hale/Perry*, 17 March (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

OSPREY – The Wheeler NWR spring count, held on 29 April in *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, reported 15 (maximum count for inland Alabama). Geoff Hill reported 14, many nesting, from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 31 May (Inland Coastal Plain maximum).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – The 59 reported from *Escambia, Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa* 6-11 March (m.ob.) was a good number for the WP. Robert Wiedenmann counted 40 north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 25 April (spring maximum for Alabama). A single was at Lake Harding, *Lee*, 29 April (Cindy Mirarchi) (rare in the Mountain Region, sixth spring record for the region). At the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, *Escambia*, Alabama, one was seen 10 May and 20 (spring maximum for inland Alabama) on 11 May (Jordan Broadhead, Max Williams).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Two at Auburn, *Lee*, 15 March (Laura Mirarchi) marked an early arrival date for inland Alabama. Rare and local but increasing in the Mountain Region, the 29 April Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, included two birds at different sites (John Imhof, Judy Crittenden *et al.*), and four were at Fayette, *Fayette*, 20 May (Sue Moske, Ken Hare, Greg Harber, Van Gravlee).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – A single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 8 May (Michael Brower) was a very late migrant.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – A single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17 May (Michael Brower, Cathy Brower) was very late for the WP.

HAIRY WOODPECKER – Rare in the WP, one was at the Escambia County Utility Authority, *Escambia*, 19 April (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – Rare in spring in Alabama, three reports, all of singles, were received: Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Ken Archambault, Pelham Rowan); Madison, *Madison*, 14 May (Sue Moske); and Huntsville, *Madison*, 20 May (Charles Boley).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – A single in Huntsville, *Madison*, 19 April (Charles Boley) established an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – Rare in Alabama, singles were found at Opelika, *Lee*, 8 May (Ralph Mirarchi), and at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 13 May (Charles Boley).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Very rare in the WP, Tom Perkins observed one at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 13 March.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Very rare in spring in the WP, one was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 11-14 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (13th WP record of the complex).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Bruce Purdy reported a single from the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*,

6 May (very rare in spring in the WP).

EASTERN KINGBIRD – An early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by one at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 29 March (Doug Kibbe, Mackenzie Goldthwait).

GRAY KINGBIRD – A single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 March (Karl Gustafson, Eric Gustafson; ph.) marked an early arrival date for Alabama.

HORNED LARK – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 18 March (John Trent), and up to three were northeast of Headland, *Henry*, 22-31 May (John Trent; ph.). Michael Jordan found one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 18 March (rare on the Gulf Coast).



Gray Kingbird, 21 March 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; E. Gustafson.

CLIFF SWALLOW – A very early arrival

was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 15 March (Shelby McNemar). Ron Kittinger counted 61 at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 20 March (early arrival record for the Mountain Region). Neil Gilbert reported 300 at Roebuck Landing (Ala. Hwy. 14) on the Black Warrior River, *Hale*, 28 May (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

CAVE SWALLOW – A single was at the Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 24 April (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, reports came from four sites: one on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 March (Andrew Haffenden; ph.); one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 April (Larry Gardella); one+ at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12-14 and 20 April (Allen Burrows, Heath Jordan, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.); and one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 20-21 April (Eric Soehren, Neil Gilbert, Duston Duffie *et al.*; ph.).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – A very late lingerer was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

WINTER WREN – Michael Jordan counted five on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 5 March (spring maximum for Alabama).

MARSH WREN – Rare in spring in the Mountain Region, a lone bird was found at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Ken Archambault).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – At Blakeley Historic SP, *Baldwin*, Larry Gardella found eight on 1 March and eight again on 19 March (spring maximum for the Gulf Coast).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – The second March record for the WP was established by a single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 16-17 March (William Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

HERMIT THRUSH – Six were counted on Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 29 March (Doug Kibbe, Mackenzie Goldthwait) (spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

- EUROPEAN STARLING** – Phyllis Nofzinger estimated 2,000 west of Killen, *Lauderdale*, 4 March (spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley).
- PURPLE FINCH** – The 54 reported from Huntsville, *Madison*, 10 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) marked a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- BACHMAN’S SPARROW** – Kevin Calhoun counted eight on the Splinter Hill Bog Preserve, Perdido, *Baldwin*, 13 April (spring maximum for the Gulf Coast).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Rare in spring and rare inland in Alabama, two were found at the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 29 April (Charles Boley) (second spring record for inland Alabama, fifth record for the Tennessee Valley).
- LARK SPARROW** – A single was at Fayette, *Fayette*, 20 May (Sue Moske, Ken Hare, Greg Harber *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region, first local record).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW** – A single was at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 23 May (Neil Gilbert) (late record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- LINCOLN’S SPARROW** – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, two were found 8 March and a single was there 17 March (Charles Boley *et al.*) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO** – One was at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 13 May (Charles Boley) and 20 May (Skyler Abell) (late departure date for Alabama, unless an occasional summering individual).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 April (Bob Duncan) (very rare in spring in the WP). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, a male was at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 12 April (Christine Sparks).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE** – Cindy Mirarchi found one southeast of Auburn, *Lee*, 19 March (early arrival record for inland Alabama).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – Renea Simpson reported 10 at Ashford, *Houston*, 21 March (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain; continuation of wintering birds).
- SHINY COWBIRD** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 April – 1 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare spring visitor in the WP). Rare and erratic on the Gulf Coast, a male was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6-13 May (Michael Jordan *et al.*).
- BRONZED COWBIRD** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 25 April (William Duncan, Bob Duncan) (fourth spring record for the WP).
- BREWER’S BLACKBIRD** – One was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 23 April (Graham Floyd, Malcolm Swan *et al.*). A single in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 6 May (Les Kelly) was the latest ever in the WP by 31 days.
- COMMON GRACKLE** – Jordan Broadhead reported 800 from southwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 5 March (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** – Calling males were reported from north of Hartford, *Geneva*, a single on 3 March and two on 18 March (Randy White, John Trent; ph.) (third record for inland Alabama; same site as 2015).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – A male was sighted at Huntsville, *Madison*, 5 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) (early arrival in Alabama by three+ weeks).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – Sue Moske found a singing bird at Wheeler NWR,

Morgan, 27 March (early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).

- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – At Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, Sue Moske found one on 16 April (early arrival for the Tennessee Valley), and two were found at different sites on 29 April (Steve McConnell, Dwight Cooley *et al.*) (rare in the Tennessee Valley but regular in this area).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – At Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, Scot Duncan found six on 1 April (spring maximum for Alabama), and Greg Jackson counted four on 11 April.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3 March – 20 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (continuing overwintering bird). Rare but regular in spring in the Mountain Region, singles were reported on 25 April, 5 May, and 15 May at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson* (Ken Wills, Rick Remy).
- MOURNING WARBLER** – Singles were in Huntsville, *Madison*, 8 May (Charles Boley), and *Madison*, *Madison*, 14 May (Sue Moske) (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** – Charles Boley found a male in Huntsville, *Madison*, 1 April (early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – Charles Boley reported two males from Huntsville, *Madison*, 1 April (early arrival record for inland Alabama, ties early arrival record for Alabama).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – Charles Boley found a male in Huntsville, *Madison*, 26 March (early arrival date for inland Alabama).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – Charles Boley reported a male in Huntsville, *Madison*, 19 March (early arrival record for Alabama).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Rare in the Mountain Region, reports came from five sites: singles were at Red Mountain Park, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 29 April and 3 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); three maximum, four+ total were at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 30 April – 7 May (Ken Wills, Scot Duncan, Rick Remy, Greg Jackson *et al.*); a single was at Meadowbrook, *Shelby*, 30 April (Ron Kittinger); one was found in Bankhead National Forest, *Lawrence*, 7 May (Dwight Cooley, Sue Moske, Ken Ward, m.ob.); Amber Hart found one at Mountain Longleaf NWR, *Calhoun*, 10 May. Hunter Walters saw one at Yates Lake, *Elmore*, 3 May (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Charles Boley found two in Huntsville, *Madison*, 26 March (early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).
- WILSON WARBLER** – Neil Gilbert found one at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 11 May (fifth spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – Neil Gilbert counted 14 at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 27 April (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE GROSBEAK** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 2-8 March (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (very early arrival for the WP).
- INDIGO BUNTING** – A male at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 27 March (Sue Moske) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

PAINTED BUNTING – Sue Moske found a first-year male at Paint Rock Preserve, *Jackson*, 14 April (third record for the Tennessee Valley). Amber Hart reported a female from Buck’s Pocket SP, *DeKalb*, 14 April (occasional in spring in the Mountain Region). This species is a rare and local breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain, and Neil Gilbert reported 10 birds from 10 sites in the Greensboro-Uniontown area, *Hale/Perry*, 17-29 May.

Paul D. Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (Email: pdkittle@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson** [Alabama compiler], 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (Email: g_d_jackson@bellsouth.net). **Robert A. Duncan** [NW Florida compiler], 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (Email: town_point@bellsouth.net).

SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2017)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 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*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “BBS” = Breeding Bird Survey; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “m. ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – A total of 119 was reported from four locations in *Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa*, a testament to the increase of this species in the



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 9 June 2017, Barbour Co., AL; R.J. Kittinger.

WP. In the Lakepoint Resort SP area near Eufaula, *Barbour*, this species was noted between 5 June and 18 July (continuation from spring) (John Trent, m. ob.; ph.), with the 37 counted on 9 June marking a maximum for inland Alabama. Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, eight were found at a new site, Choctaw NWR, *Choctaw*, 20 June (Lizzie and John Diener; ph.)

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Larry Gardella reported a male from Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 3 June (third summer record for the Gulf Coast).

AMERICAN WIGEON – Neil Gilbert found a male east of Newbern, *Perry*, 16 June (second summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – The first summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a male and female at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 2-9 July (James White *et al.*; ph.).

REDHEAD – An injured/sick bird continued from the spring at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 6 June (Neil Gilbert) (second summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

SURF SCOTER – A male in basic plumage was found on the beach at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 2 June (Brittany Peterson) and taken to rehabilitation (fourth summer record for Alabama).

BLACK SCOTER – An adult male was at Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, 2-16 June (Michael Brower, Cathy Brower) (first June record for the WP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – Michael Jordan reported a single from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 June (rare in summer on the Gulf Coast). Another single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 18-19 June (Matt Morrow *et al.*) (occasional in summer in the Tennessee Valley).

RUDDY DUCK – A maximum of 13 was reported from north of Faunsdale, in *Hale*, 8+ June (Judy Self, Don Self *et al.*). Ruddy Ducks are occasional in summer in Alabama, but have become regular in this area in recent years.

AMERICAN FLAMINGO – Two birds associated with Tropical Storm Cindy were first reported at Johnson Beach, *Escambia*, 21-22 June (Phillip Harter, Daniel Stangeland, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*), then moved east to downtown Pensacola, *Escambia*. The two then flew back west, establishing the first record of this species for Alabama at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 22 June (Lisa Laraway-Atchley, Kate Myers *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC). They were seen flying east from there and were next found at Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, and were last reported at Deer Lake SP, *Walton*, 2 July (fourth record for the WP).



American Flamingo, 22 June 2017, Baldwin Co., AL: J. Neitzel.

INCA DOVE – A single in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 3-4 June (Jim Brady *et al.*; ph.; @FOSRC) established the third record for the WP and possibly the fourth for Florida. Larry Gardella reported one from Tanner Williams, *Mobile*, 4 June (14th record for

Alabama separate from breeding residents south of Magnolia Springs).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, records of singles came from three sites: Ashford, *Houston*, 19-25 June (Renea Simpson); east of Repton, *Conecuh* (new site), 6 July (Peggy Baker, Larry Goodman, Les Kelley); and Luverne, *Crenshaw* (new site), 16 July (John Trent; ph.).

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI – The first record for the WP was marked by a single at Veterans Park, *Okaloosa*, 8 July (Flemming Sondergaard; ph.).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – Eric Soehren counted 40 on both 15 and 31 July at the Wehle Nature Center southeast of Midway, *Bullock* (summer maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

COMMON GALLINULE – A maximum of three birds was reported from Opelika, *Lee*, 3 June – 16 July (Jordan Broadhead *et al.*; ph.) (rare in the Mountain Region; fifth summer record for the region). At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 16 adults and 16+ downy young were counted 9 June (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford) (summer maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain). At Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, one adult and one downy young were seen 9-16 July (Chuck Hill *et al.*; ph.) (rare and local breeder in the Tennessee Valley; becoming regular at this site).

LIMPKIN – At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, two were seen 9 June and one 11-17 June (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) (eighth record for Alabama). Kevin Dodd found a single at Prattville, *Autauga*, 19 June (ph.; @ABRC) to mark the ninth record for Alabama.

AMERICAN AVOCET – Five birds were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 July (John Trent, Eric Soehren, Geoff Hill *et al.*; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain and fourth summer record for that region).

SNOWY PLOVER – Dylan Winkler counted 28 on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 June (summer maximum for Alabama).

WHIMBREL – Lucy Duncan found a single at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 9 June (rare in June in the WP). Pelican Peninsula/Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted two on 17 June (Marybeth Lima, Elizabeth Hathaway, Lynn Hathaway) and seven on 26 June (Dylan Winkler) (rare in summer on the Gulf Coast).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – A calling single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9-11 June (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford *et al.*; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain and first summer record for that region).

BROWN NODDY – After Tropical Storm Cindy had passed, Andrew Haffenden observed two adults from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 23 June (ph.; @ABRC) (eighth record for Alabama).

SOOTY TERN – Several records associated with Tropical Storm Cindy were received. Three reports came from *Escambia*: one at Johnson Beach, 22 June (Shelby McNemar); another taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, 22 June (D. Kaufmann); and a single at Gulf Islands National Seashore,



Brown Noddy, 23 June 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

23 July (Michael Brower *et al.*) (rare in the WP). One adult was observed from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 23 June (Andrew Haffenden, Karen Chiasson, Thomas Moorman; ph.) (rare in Alabama).

BRIDLED TERN – After Tropical Storm Cindy had passed, a juvenile that soon expired was found at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 23 June (*vide* Andrew Haffenden; ph.) (rare but regular offshore; rare at shore but regular after tropical storms).



FORSTER'S TERN – Larry Gardella counted 65 at Daphne, *Baldwin*, 28 July (summer maximum for the Gulf Coast). Sooty Tern, 23 June 2017, Baldwin Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD – A bird present since 18 March continued 1-19 June at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m. ob.). This individual marked the third record for the WP and was seen by an estimated 400+ birders (photos to FOSRC).

PACIFIC LOON – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4-21 June (Michael Jordan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m. ob.) (very rare in summer in the WP).

SOOTY SHEARWATER – A single was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 8 June (Collette Micalle, Andrew Haffenden, Patsy Russo, Carlton Collier *et al.*) (14th record for the WP).

WOOD STORK – Rare in the WP, records came from three sites: a single at Blackwater River State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 16-29 June (Liz Langston, Matt Smith); two at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 21-22 June (Daniel Stangeland, Michael Brower); and one at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 17 June (Murray Craggin). Five reports came from the Mountain Region where the species is rare: one in the Gilmore quad, *Jefferson*, 18 June (David George); one-two at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 22 June – 4 July (Mariah West, Daniel West *et al.*); a juvenile west of Snead, *Blount*, 23 June (after passage of Tropical Storm Cindy) (Jason Jackson; ph.); a single north of Montevallo, *Shelby*, 3-5 July (Marj Young *et al.*); and one at Helena, *Shelby*, 10-12 July (Mariah West, Daniel West). Larry Gardella reported one at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 31 July (rare on the Gulf Coast).

BROWN BOOBY – Two adults were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 7 June (Lucy Duncan) (23rd record for the WP).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY – One was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 7-11 June (Kelly Fair, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, Shelby McNemar, Michael Brower *et al.*) (second record for the WP). This bird was taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida where it expired (specimen to Florida Museum of Natural History). Three singles associated with the passage of Tropical Storm Cindy marked the third, fourth, and fifth records for the WP: a white-headed, white-tailed brown morph adult at Johnson Beach, *Escambia*, 23 June (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); a white-tailed brown morph

at Johnson Beach, *Escambia*, 24 June (John Ball, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod; and an adult at Ross Marler Park, *Okaloosa*, 8 July (Cheryl Smith *et al.*) (taken to Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Neil Gilbert tallied 30 at Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 9 July (summer maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain). Damien Simbeck estimated 500 at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 21-26 July (summer maximum for inland Alabama).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – A maximum of 30 was reported from Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 18 June – 10 July (Joyce Balch) (rare in summer in the Mountain Region).

BROWN PELICAN – One adult was seen at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 3 June (Bob Kornegay; ph.) (rare inland; regular at this site). Another adult was at Smith Lake Park, *Cullman*, 8 July (Eric Cormier *et al.*) (fifth record for the Mountain Region and second summer record for that region).

GREAT EGRET – Damien Simbeck reported 250 at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 22 June (summer maximum for north Alabama).

SNOWY EGRET – John Trent counted 55 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 15 July (summer maximum for inland Alabama).

TRICOLORED HERON – Rare for inland Alabama, a single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 17 June – 13 July (Geoff Hill *et al.*), and another single was west of Sumterville, *Sumter*, 1 July (Neil Gilbert).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Larry Gardella observed an adult on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 22 June (rare on the Gulf Coast).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – Rare but increasing in Alabama, numerous records were received. A single was at Lake Land Farms near Marion, *Perry*, 11 June (Ken Marion, Mary McCrory, *vide* Rick Remy). Five were southeast of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16-21 June (Ken Hare *et al.*; ph.). At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, a single was present 16 June (Sue Moske) and five were there 16 July (Katherine Knighton). One-two were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 17 June and 31 July (Larry Gardella). Neil Gilbert found one southwest of Newbern, *Hale*, 2 July. An immature was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 30+ July (Tom Haggerty *et al.*).



Roseate Spoonbill, 21 June 2017, Barbour Co., AL; A. Diamond.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – A single was at Bankston, *Fayette*, 5 July (Ashley Peters) (rare in the Mountain Region).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Rare and local but increasing in the Mountain Region, reports came from four sites: an adult male was at Cardiff, *Jefferson* (new site), 15 June (Greg Jackson); 12 (good number) were at a regular site for groups in late summer in

Chambers, 2 July (Lorna West *et al.*); an adult male was at Riverchase, *Shelby* (new site), 17 July (Greg Jackson); this species was observed at Lincoln, *Talladega*, from early-mid July (Alan Scott, Fay Scott), and two adults and one juvenile were there 18 July (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton; ph.) (present for several years per Alan Scott). Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, a single was at the Alabama A&M Farms at Hazel Green, *Madison* (new site), 22 July (Charles Boley).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 17 June (Murray Craggin) (very rare in summer in the WP).

FISH CROW – Damien Simbeck found seven at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale*, 26 July (summer maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Sixteen (summer maximum for the Mountain Region) were counted at Estillfork, *Jackson*, 30 June (Rick Kittinger, Ron Kittinger, Frank Sandford).

AMERICAN ROBIN – A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 4 June (Bob Duncan) (very rare in summer in coastal woods).

SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA – Fifteen were in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 13 July (Jerry Callaway) (continued presence in the WP).

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH – Singles were in east Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 June (Gary Money), and in west Pensacola 22 June (Bob Duncan). This exotic escapee continues to be reported in small numbers.

DARK-EYED JUNCO – One was in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 9 June (Marcy McGahan) (first June record for the WP).

NORTHERN PARULA – Larry Gardella counted 23 singing males at Blakeley SP, *Baldwin*, 9 June (summer maximum for the Gulf Coast).

DICKCISSEL – Charles Boley tallied 37 at the Alabama A&M Farms at Hazel Green, *Madison*, 2 July (summer maximum for north Alabama).

Paul D. Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (Email: pdkittle@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson** [Alabama compiler], 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (Email: g_d_jackson@bellsouth.net). **Robert A. Duncan** [NW Florida compiler], 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (Email: town_point@bellsouth.net).

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.

Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Volume 63

No. 2

2017

CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE - 2015

Steve M. McConnell.....29

SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2017)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....31

SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE 2017– JULY 2017)

Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan.....43

Tom Haggerty, Editor
Alabama Birdlife
Department of Biology
University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama 35632-0001