

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

SPECIES	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SEEN						NO. OF IND. PER 10 PARTY HOURS					
	85	86	87	88	89	X	85	86	87	88	89	X
House Finch	2	1	50	28	1	16.4	0.4	0.1	6.2	4.2	0.1	2.2
Pine Siskin	23	4	16	12	77	26.4	4.2	0.6	2.0	1.8	9.7	3.7
Am Goldfinch	88	167	421	281	212	233.8	16.2	23.4	51.8	42.6	26.8	32.2
House Sparrow	69	28	53	40	91	56.2	12.7	3.9	6.5	6.1	11.5	8.1
No. of Species	105	101	95	103	104	101.6						
No. of Individ.	10946	14569	15754	14195	17839							
No. of Party Hrs.	54.25	71.25	81.2	66	79.09							
No. of Owling Hrs.	3.25	7.25	8.4	7.25	4.5							
No. of Participants	15	23	25	20	25							
No. of Parties	6	7	9	8	8							

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1989-90 FALL AND WINTER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

The fall and winter of 1989-90 might be described as a mixed bag of treats for birders. Regular migrants were seen in normal numbers this autumn, but there were only a few real rarities. The winter, especially late December and early January, was quite exciting, with an unusual number of rare species and an abundance of birds. Many Christmas Bird Counts, particularly on the coast, set new highs for number of species, with the Gulf Shores count reaching a new Alabama and area maximum of 170 species!

August was quite dry, in contrast to the wet early summer. Precipitation in the other autumn months was normal for the season. Temperatures during the fall were also fairly normal, though there were cool periods in mid-August and late September, a cold spell in mid-October, and a rather warm period in mid-November. Rainfall in December was lower than expected, but January and February were quite wet. The big weather news was the severe cold in the early winter. This undoubtedly had much to do with the fantastic birding in the following weeks. December began cool, then three cold fronts descended in rapid succession in the middle of the month. This caused a sustained period of frigid weather; Birmingham saw four consecutive days when the temperature never rose above freezing. Muscle Shoals had a low of -5 deg. F on 23 Dec. Even in Mobile, the mercury plummeted to 9 deg. F on that date, and the high on the preceding day was only 22 deg. F. When we finally thawed, we were then treated to a winter that was unusually warm.

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The following reports cover the period August 1989 through February 1990 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (east to the Apalachicola River). The appearance of an observation in this column does not indicate verification or acceptance of a record for a very rare species, as these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. Concerning the acceptance of sightings, it is essential that all submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, 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, but should always describe the diagnostic characters observed, as well as the conditions of observation. I have become the custodian of records in Alabama, and I would like to maintain a set of records for the state that will not be subject to questioning in the future. Fifty years from now, someone looking over our observations will likely not know the people involved in the sightings, and without written details these records will be almost meaningless. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

County names are in italics. "WP" refers to the western Panhandle of Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties). Records not specifying Florida or "WP" are in Alabama. "*ABRC" and "*FBRC" indicate sightings that will need evaluation by the bird records committees of Alabama and Florida, respectively. "CBC" = Christmas Bird Count, "mob" = many observers, "NS" = National Seashore, "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge, "WMA" = Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS - GREBES: **Red-throated Loons** are rare but regular on the coast in winter, and one bird was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (DMB). The sixth Alabama record of **Pacific Loon** was a bird studied closely near Gulf Shores 1 Jan (DMB) (*ABRC). Migrating **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen in good numbers in the Tennessee Valley this fall, with 425 noted 28 Sep and 5 Oct at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone* (GDJ). This species breeds only rarely in the WP, so the pair with five downy young at Pensacola 6 Feb was unusual (CLK,mob). Eared Grebes returned to Blakely Island, *Mobile*, beginning with one bird 9 Sep (PB,GF), and peaking with eight seen 23 Sep (AOS). Three Eared Grebes were noted at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 25 Oct and 4 Nov (DMW,CW,mob).

SHEARWATERS - CORMORANTS: For the fourth consecutive year, shearwaters were recorded from shore on the Gulf Shores CBC. This season's count (30 Dec) yielded two **Sooty Shearwaters** for a sixth state record (GDJ,HHK,GA); a Sooty was also spotted the following morning, next in a few minutes by the fourth state record of an

Audubon's Shearwater (RAD,LSD,PT,BT) (all * ABRC)! A dying N. Gannet was discovered on the beach at Ft. Morgan 28 Aug (JTF); another of this species was seen south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, by an AOS pelagic trip 16 Sep. Gannets are now known to be present year-round in the Gulf, though numbers are certainly much lower in the summer and early fall than in winter. Double-crested Cormorants were numerous inland this winter; the 175 seen 13 Jan in *Montgomery* set a new maximum for the Coastal Plain (EMW).

HERONS - STORKS: A Least Bittern was late 24 Nov at Gulf Islands NS, *Escambia*, Fla. (RAD,JP). "Great White" Herons are rare in our area, so the two birds this fall in the Panhandle were interesting. One was in *Bay* 4 Sep (RAD,RSD,PT), and the second was in *Okaloosa* 20 Sep (AS *fide* DMW). The Great Egret seen in *Lauderdale* at Wilson Dam 13 Jan (PDK,DEK) was rare for the season, and 43 seen in *Montgomery* 14 Jan (LG) were interesting for that area in winter. *Plegadis ibis* (unidentified) seemed unusually widespread in our region this year. Up to four birds were noted 11 Aug to 23 Sep at Blakely Island (DMB,CAB,JH,PB,GF,MN,AOS), and one was spotted at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 15 Sep (DMW,CW). Much more unusual were the inland records of one bird 16-17 Sep in *Colbert* (TMH,GNP,BR), and 11 birds 17 Feb in *Montgomery* (RRS,MBS). The latter observation was only the second winter record for the Coastal Plain. An exciting find, part of a widespread pattern in the Southeast last summer, was an immature **Roseate Spoonbill** 12 Aug at Blakely Island (DMB,CAB) (accepted ABRC). This was the sixth state record of this species. The Wood Storks that invaded the Coastal Plain beginning in mid-summer reached a peak count 12 Aug with 137 seen in *Perry* (TAI,PF,RF,DW).

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl were present in excellent numbers during the first half of the winter. The warm weather in January and February was credited with an earlier than usual departure of ducks and geese by personnel at Wheeler NWR. I received three reports of the rare **Tundra Swan** this winter. One bird was on the Mobile Causeway in *Baldwin* 14-27 Jan (LSD,RAD,mob); another was seen 26 Jan to 10 Feb near Eufaula (RRS,MBS,HHF,mob); the third was noted in *Escambia Bay*, Fla., 1 Feb (BM,RB,JS). Greater White-fronted Geese were more plentiful than usual throughout the region. The first sighting was of four birds 1-4 Nov at Panama City, Fla. (HL,mob). Sixteen were located at Wheeler NWR (*Limestone*) 27 Nov (GDJ,HHK), and increased to 53 birds (a new state maximum) on the refuge in *Morgan* 1 Dec (DMB). Two White-fronteds were on the Choctawhatchee Bay (Fla.) CBC 18 Dec, and

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5-6 birds were present 30 Dec to 6 Jan in south *Baldwin* (RRS, MBS, mob).

Snow Geese are regular in small numbers on the coast, but this year there were three sightings involving at least 100 birds in south *Baldwin* 3 Nov to 30 Dec (PB, RAD, mob). **Ross' Geese** seem to be increasing in incidence in the Southeast in recent years, and this winter there were two sightings in Alabama. One was located in Wheeler NWR (*Limestone*) 18 Nov (ALM, mob), and the second was in south *Baldwin* 1-4 Jan (DMB, mob) (both * ABRC). There are only three prior confirmed records of this species in Alabama, and none of these have been from the coast. To round out the geese, up to 25 Canadas were noted in the Pensacola, Fla., area (where they are rare) 17 Sep (AS) and 26 Nov (RAD, PT).

Mottled Ducks continue to do well at Blakely Island, and a new Alabama high of 53 was recorded there 12 Aug (DMB, CAB). As is usual, a few Greater Scaup were sighted on the Tennessee River this winter. Three were noted 26 Dec on the Guntersville CBC, and one bird was at Town Creek, *Colbert*, 14 Jan (GDJ). An out-of-season Lesser Scaup was at Blakely Island 20 Aug (GDJ, DGJ). Oldsquaws seemed easier to find this winter. Sightings included one at Blakely Island 25 Nov (RAD, JP), another on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (DMB), one east of Guntersville 6-7 Jan (PF, mob), two to three birds at Gulf Shores 4-17 Feb (PB, GF, JL, mob), and a lone individual 10-11 Feb at Eufaula (PF, mob).

Scoters were present in good numbers on the coast. Black Scoter reports included three at Gulf Shores 2 Dec (GDJ, DGJ), four on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (MR), and five on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan. I received eight reports of Surf Scoters totaling 42 birds; this is the scoter species most frequently seen in our area. One at Gulf Shores 21 Oct (MN, MFF, mob) was a new early record for Alabama, and another early arrival was at Gulf Breeze, Fla. 29 Oct (RAD). A White-winged Scoter was on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (DMB), four were seen at Gulf Shores the following day (GDJ), and another individual was at Ft. Morgan 14 Feb (DMB). Finishing out the ducks, Common Mergansers were noted widely this winter. This species is only regular (in small numbers) at a few spots in the Tennessee Valley, and the high reported from this region was six 14 Jan at Waterloo, *Lauderdale* (GDJ, DGJ). More unusual was a solitary bird in west *Jefferson* on Porter Lake 31 Jan to 18 March (ALM, HHF, TAI, mob). Quite rare on the coast, a Common Merganser was well described on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (PT).

RAPTORS: Eighty Black Vultures were unusual on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec, as large numbers are normally not present in the Tennessee Valley, particularly in winter. An Osprey was noted carrying

nesting material at Gulf Shores 18 Feb (PB); this species nests annually in *Baldwin*. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Ft. Pickens 17 Sep (RAD) for a late WP record. **Black-shouldered Kites** are only occasional in our area, though two were sighted in southern Alabama last winter. The fifth state record was 21 Oct at Ft. Morgan (MFF,MN,AF,DF,mob), and another bird was sighted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (RRS,MBS) (both * ABRC). Bald Eagles have fortunately become rather numerous in winter along the Tennessee River, but are still uncommon to rare away from this area. This fall and winter they seemed more common than usual on the Alabama and Florida coasts, with 11 reports totaling 14 individuals. The first sighting on the coast was of three immatures 7 Oct at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF,AF,DF,mob). The Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay was again the best hawkwatching spot this fall, with VBF noting 185 Broad-winged Hawks 28 Sep, 390 on 4 Oct, and 217 the following day. Twenty-two Red-tailed Hawks were spotted in one hour at this site 18 Nov (VBF). The "hawk farm" near Guntersville Dam was dependable again this year for Rough-legged Hawk, with one bird wintering. **Golden Eagles** are seen annually in our area, but are still rare finds. An immature was noted at Dauphin Island 31 Jan (DB,TP,MVH), and probably the same bird was spotted at Ft. Morgan 5 Feb (MH). Another Golden Eagle was located near the Guntersville Dam 10 Feb (HHK,GA).

Merlins are regular in small numbers in fall migration on the coast, and this season I had seven reports involving 16 birds from 28 Sep to 22 Oct. More unusual were two reports near Marion 12 Nov (GDJ,BCG) and 23 Jan (GDJ), possibly the same bird. There were also two Merlins on the Choctawhatchee Bay (Fla.) CBC 18 Dec, and one 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC. Peregrine Falcons seem to be rebounding, with numerous individuals on the coast from 23 Sep to 18 Nov. High count was seven birds at Ft. Morgan 7-8 Oct (PDK,GDJ,mob). Outside the migration period on the coast, there were five noted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec, and two seen 1 Jan on the Ft. Morgan CBC. Inland Peregrines included one at Greenville 3 Oct (CK), an immature in *Limestone* 27 Nov (GDJ,HHK), and an adult in *Morgan* 10 Dec (DMB). The **Prairie Falcon** returned again for the sixth winter to the "hawk farm" near Guntersville, first seen 9 Jan (DMB).

RAILS - SHOREBIRDS: The Common Moorhen spotted 3 Sep in *Colbert* (TMH) was a first occurrence for northwest Alabama. Sandhill Cranes returned this winter to Gulf Shores, with 14 noted 2 Dec (GDJ). The high count was 34 birds 9 Jan (PB) setting a new maximum for the

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Glaucous Gull at Wheeler Dam 15-28 Jan (ALM,mob) (* ABRC). I received three reports of **Great Black-backed Gulls**, all in first-winter plumage. One was seen on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (DMB), another 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (GDJ), and the third 27 Feb in *Colbert* (DMB,CAB) (* ABRC). The last unusual gull reported was the hard-to-categorize "Ole One Foot," seen yet another season in the WP. It was located 4 Dec in *Escambia* (PJ) and 26 Dec in *Santa Rosa* (BM). I'm not fully convinced that this bird will ever die, but if it does perhaps it will have the consideration to do so near a birder so we can try to make a positive identification!

Common Terns are quite uncommon in winter along our coast, so the sighting of "several" at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 29 Nov (BB,OEF) and five 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (BB,DMB) were interesting. Forster's Terns are hard to find in many inland areas in winter; two were seen on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (LR,DR), and one bird was noted 1 Jan at Greenville (CK) for a first *Butler* record. A rare juvenile **Bridled Tern** was noted on the AOS pelagic trip south of *Baldwin* 16 Sep. Two **Sooty Terns** were reported this year. The first was at Ft. Morgan 5 Aug (PB,GF) and the second was found dead on Santa Rosa Island, *Escambia*, Fla., 20 Nov (CLK).

DOVES - SWIFTS: White-winged Doves seemed less common this fall than in many previous years. Solitary birds were seen at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (MN,MFF,mob), 13 Nov (JD), and 2-3 Jan (PB,GF,DMB). Nine Common Ground-Doves were noteworthy 26 Dec in *Butler* (CK). **Groove-billed Anis** are sporadic in fall and winter on the coast, but are usually noted each year, sometimes in good numbers. I only had reports of four birds at three locations in early winter, the first of two birds at Gulf Shores 7 Dec (PB,GF). In the "believe-it-or-not" category comes the tale (*fide* CLK) of a falconer (DVW) in northwest Florida whose Harris' Hawk captured an adult Groove-billed Ani in Pensacola 16 Dec (for the Pensacola CBC!). Van Wormer then decided to fly his hawk in the Ft. Walton Beach area later that day, and the bird captured another ani! Both birds were released unharmed. Harris' Hawks and Groove-billed Anis are native to the same area, but I'll leave it up to you to draw conclusions. A **Burrowing Owl** was noted again this fall at Ft. Morgan 10 Nov (RAD). **Short-eared Owls** are rare most years, and I received a single report of one at Cape San Blas, *Bay*, Fla., 26 Nov (RH *fide* TM). A Chimney Swift 20 Oct at Guntersville (GDE) was rather late.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Thanks to the banding efforts of the Sargents, a pattern is emerging in Alabama and northwest Florida that is similar,

though on a lesser scale, to that noted previously in Louisiana. Five species were banded in the fall and early winter in our region, but none were reported after the "Big Chill" in mid-December. The third Florida record of **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was a bird banded in *Walton* 18 Dec (*FBRC). Alabama has yet to record this species, though it occurred again this year in coastal Mississippi. A late Ruby-throated was banded in *Mobile* 6 Dec. Banded **Black-chinneds** on the coast included six birds in the WP 5 Nov to 19 Dec, and two on the Alabama coast 6 Dec. Inland banded Black-chinneds included one in east *Jefferson* 1-2 Aug and one in *Decatur* from mid-October to mid-December. An albino hummingbird was in *Shelby* 23 Aug to 4 Sep, and was banded and photographed 28 Aug (*ABRC). This was thought to have been a young Black-chinned based on measurements, structure, and voice. The most exciting hummingbird was a **Calliope**, Florida's first, banded near Ft. Walton Beach 18 Dec and present for the next two days (accepted FBRC). An immature male Rufous Hummingbird was observed in *Birmingham* 8 Sep (TAI). Four Rufous were banded in the WP from 9 Oct to 19 Dec, and on 6 Dec on the Alabama coast three birds were banded.

FLYCATCHERS: There were three reports this fall of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Single birds were at Ft. Morgan 16 Sep (JTP) and 30 Oct (PB), and on Dauphin Island 22 Sep (JTP,MMc,BMc). The Eastern Wood-Pewee 29 Oct in *Montgomery* (LG) was a late record for the Coastal Plain. Positively identified **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are rare; one bird was banded at Ft. Morgan 1 Oct (RRS,MBS). The female **Vermilion Flycatcher** noted near Marion 17 Sep (ALM,ADM) was a new early date for the state. Another female Vermilion was seen 26 Oct at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (DMW). Western Kingbirds are normally observed in small numbers on the outer coast in autumn, and this year I received nine reports of 12 birds at Ft. Morgan and Dauphin Island from 8 Sep (JH) to 25 Nov (EMW). High count was three at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ,mob). This species is less common in winter, with one record this year from Ft. Morgan 17 Feb (PB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are a regular treat in the fall, but seemed harder to find this year. The only reports were of solitary birds at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (RRS,MBS) and 4-5 Nov (PB,RAD), and on Dauphin Island 22 Oct (GDJ,DGJ).

SWALLOWS - VIREOS: The N. Rough-winged Swallow 17 Nov in *Santa Rosa*, Fla. (BM) was rather late. Fish Crows continue to be seen above the Fall Line at Porter Lake in *Jefferson*, with five present 5 Oct to 18 Nov (TAI,mob). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged an invasion this fall, with many birds remaining throughout our area for the winter. The

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earliest report was of an amazing 100+ birds at Ft. Morgan 1 Oct (RRS,MBS), far exceeding the previous maximum for the state. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 27 Nov (GDJ, HHK) was a late record for the Tennessee Valley. A flock of 75-100 Eastern Bluebirds was notable at Ft. Morgan 29 Nov (CLK, mob). The fourth winter WP record of Swainson's Thrush was on the Pensacola CBC 16 Dec (AF,DF,BeB). The total of 48,184 Am. Robins listed on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec was a new Gulf Coast maximum. The only unusual vireo report that I received was from the winter, with a Yellow-throated seen in *Montgomery* 1 Feb (DTM,JF) for the second Coastal Plain record in that season.

WOOD WARBLERS: A Tennessee Warbler in *Montgomery* 1 Nov (EMW) was late. Orange-crowned Warblers are rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, and two were discovered in *Limestone* this year. One was at Swan Creek WMA 16 Dec (CAB,LDB,DMB), and the other was in Wheeler NWR 17 Jan (DMB). Three Nashville Warblers at Ft. Morgan 4 Oct (PB) were interesting. The N. Parula seen 18 Dec on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC (GF) was the fourth winter record for the WP. A late Coastal Plain record was set by the observation of a Yellow Warbler 11 Nov in *Montgomery* (EMW). Black-throated Blue Warblers are difficult to find in the fall. This season there were single birds at Montrose, *Baldwin*, 1 Oct (VBF), and at Ft. Morgan 4 Oct and 28 Oct (PB,mob). The impressive total of 11,800 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec established a new state maximum. A Palm Warbler was recorded on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (CDC); this species is rare in the Tennessee Valley at that season.

The first Mountain Region winter record of Black-and-white Warbler was a bird 28 Dec in *Coosa* (DTM). An Ovenbird 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (DFr) was only the third winter record for the state. Rare in the fall, especially inland, was a **Mourning Warbler** found dead 4 Sep (specimen Univ. of N. Ala.). This was the first autumn record for northwest Alabama. The Wilson's Warbler sighted 21 Oct in Birmingham (TAI) was the latest fall migration record for this species in the Mountain Region, though there is a winter record. The fifth winter WP report of this species was 18 Dec on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC. Another rare winter warbler was the Yellow-breasted Chat seen 4 Feb at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF,JL,PG).

GROSBEAKS - LONGSPURS: Eighteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 200+ Indigo Buntings were noted in a few hours at Dauphin Island on the rather late date of 2 Nov (JH). Painted Buntings summer

at Blakely Island, and a male was seen there 12 Aug (DMB,CAB). Another adult male was present during the last week of January in Pensacola (FC) for a first WP winter record. The first winter record of a Dickcissel in the Tennessee Valley was a single bird observed from 27 Jan to 25 Feb in *Lauderdale* (PDK,DEK). **Clay-colored Sparrows** are usually seen each fall on the outer coast, and this year I received a report of one at Ft. Morgan 3 Oct (LG,FS). Normally more common than Clay-colored are Lark Sparrows, though the only submission was of two birds 30 Sep to 1 Oct at Ft. Morgan (RRS,MBS).

Several Grasshopper Sparrows were noted on the coast, beginning with one at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ). Four were discovered near Gulf Shores 7 Dec (PB,GF). The reliable, though tedious to locate, Henslow's Sparrow again made an appearance on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec, when one was found (BB). It seemed to be a good year for finding Le Conte's Sparrows in Alabama. I have records of three birds near Cherokee, *Colbert*, 19 Nov to 16 Dec (GNP,WB), one at Ft. Morgan 2 Dec (PB,GF), four 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC, and two on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan. Lincoln's Sparrows were noted at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ) and 2 Dec (PB,GF). The celebrity sparrow for the season was the adult **Harris'** found on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan (AF,DF,mob) which remained through the winter. This species is quite rare in our area. Only a few Lapland Longspurs were recorded, with reports of two 16 Dec at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone* (DMB), and single birds 18 Dec in Morgan (DMB) and 9 Feb in *Santa Rosa*, Fla. (RB,JB).

BLACKBIRDS - FINCHES: Bobolinks are often difficult to find in the autumn, especially inland; the single bird located in *Colbert* 16 Sep (TMH) and the approximately 50 seen 24 Sep on Dauphin Island (AOS) were noteworthy. Three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found in the WP in September. One was in Pensacola 6 Sep (CLK), another at Ft. Walton Beach 16 Sep (DMW,CW,mob), and the third at Ft. Pickens 17 Sep (RAD). Brewer's Blackbirds are difficult to find in the Tennessee Valley, so six spotted 18 Dec in *Morgan* (DMB) were interesting. There were two winter Northern Oriole reports. One seen 22 Dec to 25 Feb in *Colbert* (GNP,mob) was a first for the Tennessee Valley at that season. Another bird was in *Montgomery* 26 Dec (RAD). House Finch numbers decrease toward the south, so 70 in *Montgomery* 30 Dec (EMW) were noteworthy. Twelve of these invaders were on the Pensacola CBC for a WP maximum. This was not a good year for Evening Grosbeaks in our area, though they were noted sporadically in east *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS). Highest count was 71 on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (CDC).

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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CORRIGENDUM: Vol. 36, No. 1, page 21: Common Mergansers at Lake Purdy 30-31 Oct 1988 observed by HHF and JF, not ALM.

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