

Volume 51
No. 1
June 2005



ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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. 51

No. 1

2005

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.

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COVER: Cerulean Warbler; photograph by J. Culbertson/VIREO

STATUS OF THE CERULEAN WARBLER (*DENDROICA CERULEA*) IN NORTHERN ALABAMA, 1999 - 2004

**John P. Carpenter, Eric C. Soehren, Adrian A. Lesak, Yong Wang,
and Callie J. Schweitzer**

INTRODUCTION

The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) is a Neotropic-Nearctic migratory passerine that breeds in eastern North America and winters in northwestern South America (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Hamel 2000a, 2000b). The northern two-thirds of Alabama historically represented the southernmost extension of the Cerulean Warbler's breeding range, where they were recorded in 1887 (Holt 1921) and later described as moderately common in the 1920s (Howell 1928). In the mid-1970s, Imhof (1976) stated that they were most numerous toward the western half of the state and a locally common summer resident south to the "Fall Line", the boundary separating the Appalachian foothills and Coastal Plain. Today, Cerulean Warblers are rarely encountered in Alabama during the breeding season and, as a result, their current status and distribution are poorly understood. Furthermore, the Cerulean Warbler is reportedly experiencing the most precipitous population decline of any warbler species in the United States (Hamel 2000b). In 2002, it was designated as a Priority 1 species (Highest Conservation Concern) in Alabama based on its population trends, low relative abundance, patchy distribution, dependence on mature, contiguous forests and continual threats of habitat disturbance and destruction (Soehren 2004a).

The Cerulean Warbler belongs to the subfamily Parulinae, which consists of 16 genera with 53 species breeding in North America (Sibley 2000). Males are sky blue and streaked above, with two wing bars, and a dark band across a white breast; females and juveniles are blue-green above and yellowish below with two wing bars and a broad supercilium (Hamel 2000a, 2000b). The species is a short-tailed insectivore measuring 11.5 cm long and weighing approximately 8-10 g, and is classified as an upper canopy specialist of mature deciduous forests (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Hamel 2000a, 2000b). Cerulean Warblers are a trans-Gulf migrant whose combined average spring and fall migrations total 1,200 miles (1,930 km) across the Gulf of Mexico each year (Hamel 2000b, Soehren 2003).

Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat is characterized by mature floodplain

forests and mesic upland forests with large-diameter hardwoods, complex canopy structures, and sparse understory. The size of forest tracts used varies from >8,000 ha in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley to 10 ha in Ontario, with elevations ranging from <30 m to >1000 m (Hamel 2000a, 2000b). Nests are typically constructed on a horizontal limb at an average height of 11.5 m above the ground in the mid to upper tiers of the canopy and concealed from above by the vegetation of an adjacent branch (Hamel 2000a, 2000b). Clutch size ranges from three to five eggs that are creamy white and blotched around the large end with bay, chestnut, or auburn (Bent 1953, Griscom 1979, Hamel 2000b). Typically only one brood is raised per season, but pairs frequently re-nest after a failed attempt (Oliarnyk and Robertson 1996, Hamel 2000a, 2000b).

At present, the Cerulean Warbler's breeding range encompasses 32 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces with highest concentrations in the Ohio Hills and northern Cumberland Plateau (Hamel 2000a, 2000b, Rosenberg et al. 2000, Nicholson 2003). This species was recognized as one of the most abundant warblers in the Ohio and Mississippi Alluvial Valleys at the turn of the 20th century, but is currently classified as "vulnerable" in both Canadian provinces, "endangered" in one U.S. state, "threatened" in two, and a "species of concern" in 13 others (Hamel 2000a, 2000b, Rosenberg et al. 2000).

Conservationists have witnessed a sharp decline in the number of Neotropical migrants over recent decades, and many of these species have become the focus of research and conservation initiatives (Terborgh 1989, Finch 1991, Robbins et al. 1992). Declines have been attributed to loss and fragmentation of breeding, migratory, and wintering habitats, nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and loss of important tree species through the introduction of exotic diseases (Terborgh 1989, Finch 1991, Robbins et al. 1992, Villard and Maurer 1996, Hamel 2000b). Examination of Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data from 1966 to 2001 revealed an annual 4% decline in the Cerulean Warbler population (Sauer et al. 2002), and geostatistical analysis of its entire North American range from 1967 to 1989 indicated the greatest decline was occurring in areas with the highest breeding potential (Villard and Maurer 1996, Hamel 2000b).

Recent discoveries of three Cerulean Warbler populations in Alabama, one in Bankhead National Forest (BNF) and two in Jackson County (Figures 1 and 2, respectively), suggest that suitable habitat may still be available in northern Alabama to support small breeding populations. Nonetheless, current literature on this species in Alabama is limited (Rosenberg et al. 2000; Soehren 2003,

2004a, 2004b, 2004c), and as a result, intensive research on *D. cerulea* has begun in this portion of its range. This report summarizes the research efforts involving these populations from 1999 to 2004 by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), USDA Forest Service (USFS), and Alabama A&M University (AAMU).

STUDY AREAS AND METHODS

A challenge cost-share agreement between the USFS and ADCNR's State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section was established in 1999 to assist in conducting breeding bird point count surveys in BNF (Fig. 1) with an emphasis on locating Cerulean Warblers. Point counts at 16 existing stations in mature (80+ year), seral, mesic hardwood and hardwood-pine habitats were performed in late May 1999 to 2004 (Soehren 2004c). In 2004, potential breeding habitat along the floodplains of and surrounding the Sipsey Wilderness Area in northern BNF was identified and surveyed using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangular topographic and USFS Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. All searches and point counts were conducted by foot, with the exception of a vehicle target survey of bridge crossings in 2004. Periodically, the recorded playback of a Cerulean Warbler song was used to elicit responses from males (Soehren 2004c).

In 2002, researchers from AAMU and USFS located a breeding population along Larkin Fork (Fig. 2) near the Tennessee state line while performing an unrelated avian study in Jackson County, AL. Surveys were restricted to observations from AL State Highway 65, which runs parallel with Larkin Fork, because of the proximity of the warbler territories to private property. Subsequent investigations in 2003 were limited because of a lack of personnel; however, weekly roadside surveys resumed in 2004.

The third breeding population of Cerulean Warblers was discovered in 2004 along Hurricane Creek in the newly acquired 5,060 ha Forever Wild Walls of Jericho tract (Fig. 2), situated approximately seven miles east of Larkin Fork and adjacent to Skyline Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This site was surveyed weekly by foot from mid May to early July 2004 using USGS quadrangular topographic maps.

Additional areas exhibiting potential Cerulean Warbler habitat in Jackson County, AL, were chosen using quadrangular topographic maps and surveyed by foot and vehicle from May to July 2004, and included: Skyline WMA, Bucks Pocket State Park, Estill (located between Larkin Fork and Hurricane

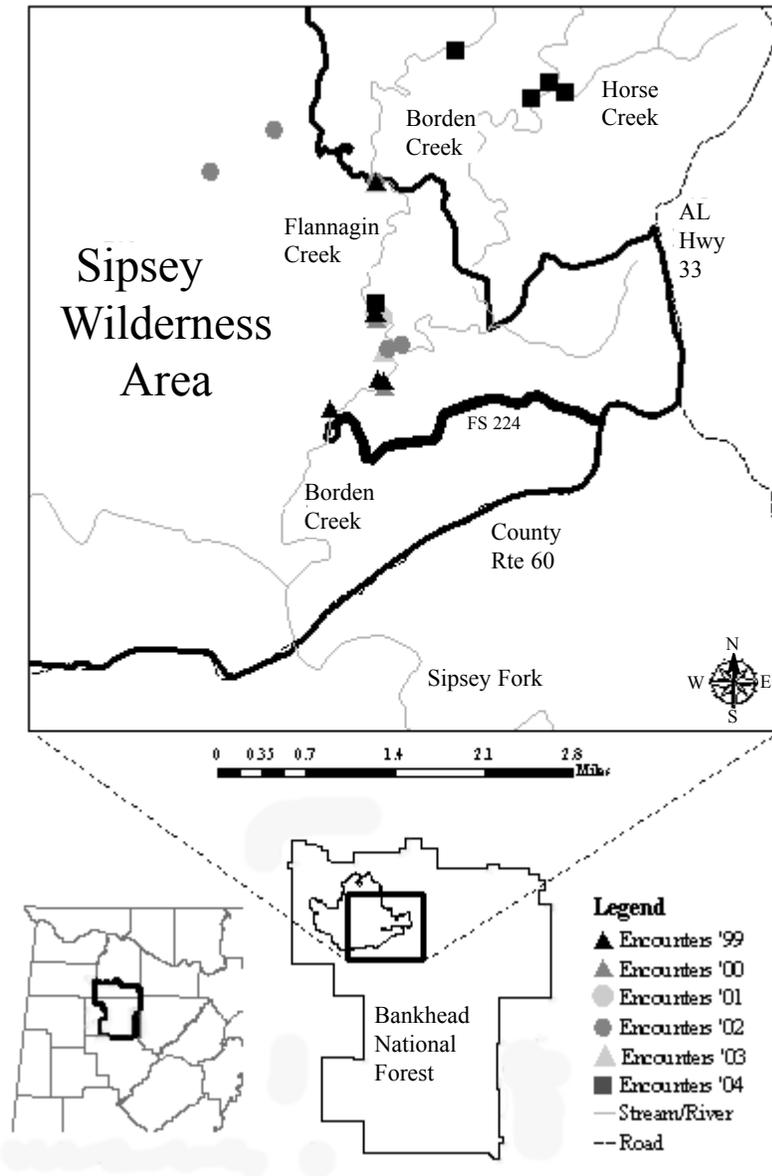


Figure 1. Cerulean Warblers detected in Bankhead National Forest, 1999 - 2004.

Creek) and Lick forks, and Dry, Short, Guess, and Jones creeks.

Coordinates of all Cerulean Warbler encounters were recorded with a Global Positioning System (GPS) and taken under nests and singing males or as close to the individual as possible if it was heard from an inaccessible area. Furthermore, ArcGIS 9 software (Environmental Systems Research Institute 2004) was used to estimate distances from each encounter to the nearest stream, major road, and adjacent Cerulean Warbler.

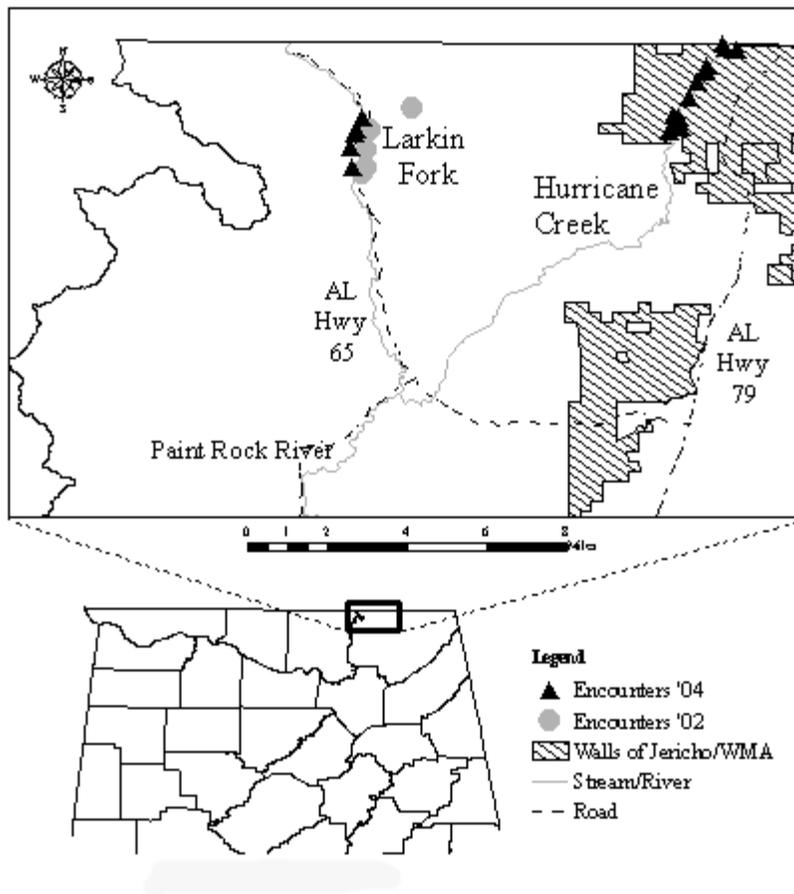


Figure 2. Cerulean Warblers detected in Jackson County, 2002 and 2004.

RESULTS

Bankhead National Forest. — From 1999 to 2004, a total of 30 males and two females was detected within BNF. Of the 16 established point count stations sampled, three yielded singing males. Most encounters occurred inside the Sipsey Wilderness Area along Borden and Flannagin creeks, and all birds were found in riparian hardwood habitat (Fig. 3A). In 2001, one female was observed collecting nesting material near Flannagin Creek. In 2004, an active Cerulean Warbler nest (Table 1) was discovered just outside of the Sipsey Wilderness Area along Horse Creek near its confluence with Borden Creek (Soehren 2004c).

Larkin Fork. — In 2002 and 2004, a total of 11 males, three females, two fledglings, and one nest (Table 1) was discovered along Larkin Fork. In 2004, a pair was observed performing a nest site selection ritual that included the male rubbing his cloaca in the fork of a branch before being bumped out and replaced by the female who would repeat the action; however, no nest was found in the vicinity. In 2002, a transient male was observed just northeast of the population on an upland clear-cut near Miller Mountain.

Walls of Jericho. — In 2004, the Walls of Jericho tract contained a total of 19 males, two females, and two nests (Table 1). This tract may support the highest density population in Alabama. Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen within roughly 90 m of a territorial Cerulean Warbler male; their effects on breeding success within the area were not determined. Both the Larkin Fork and Walls of Jericho populations occurred in riparian bottomland hardwood habitat and adjacent slopes at lower elevations (Fig. 3B). None of the additional searches throughout Jackson County revealed new populations.

TABLE 1. Cerulean Warbler nesting records for northern Alabama, 1999 - 2004.

Date Found	Location	Nest Tree Species	Tree Height (m)	Nest Height (m)	Distance to stream (m)	Fate
5/15/2002	Larkin Fork	Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	~ 25	~ 15	~155	Success probable
5/06/2004	Horse Creek, Bankhead NF	Boxelder (<i>Acer negundo</i>)	24	16	28	Unknown
5/11/2004	Hurricane Creek, Walls of Jericho	Bitternut Hickory (<i>Carya cordiformis</i>)	17	12.5	75	Depredated
5/14/2004	Hurricane Creek, Walls of Jericho	White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	23	14	48	Abandoned



FIGURE 3. Cerulean Warbler habitat and nesting areas along Horse Creek, Bankhead National Forest (A), and along Hurricane Creek, Walls of Jericho Forever Wild Tract (B) in 2004. Photographs by Eric Soehren.

Geographic Information System Analysis. — Compared to Larkin Fork and Walls of Jericho, Cerulean Warblers in BNF occurred closer to streams and further from roads and intraspecific neighbors, while encounters at Larkin Fork were farthest from water than those at BNF and Walls of Jericho (Fig. 4A-C, respectively). Despite the fact that many of the GPS coordinates recorded at Larkin Fork were exact Cerulean Warbler locations, several others represented only relative positions of males singing up or down slope from AL Hwy 65 on adjacent, private property. As a result, mean distance to nearest road was not calculated for this population, and mean distances to nearest neighbor and stream should be interpreted as close approximations.

Cerulean Warblers formed three distinct, clumped populations across northern Alabama, which supports theories of this species associating in breeding “colonies” (Griscom 1979, Oliarnyk and Robertson 1996, Hamel et al. 1994, Hamel 2000a). Furthermore, encounters at Walls of Jericho demonstrated a more aggregated distribution than the other two populations.

DISCUSSION

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data provides the best large-scale population estimate for several species of Neotropical migrants; however, the reliability of these roadside surveys has been questioned in regard to the Cerulean Warbler because of its propensity for large forest tracts, which are often situated far from these types of corridors (Hamel 2000b). The Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project (CEWAP), in conjunction with Partners in Flight, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, was launched in

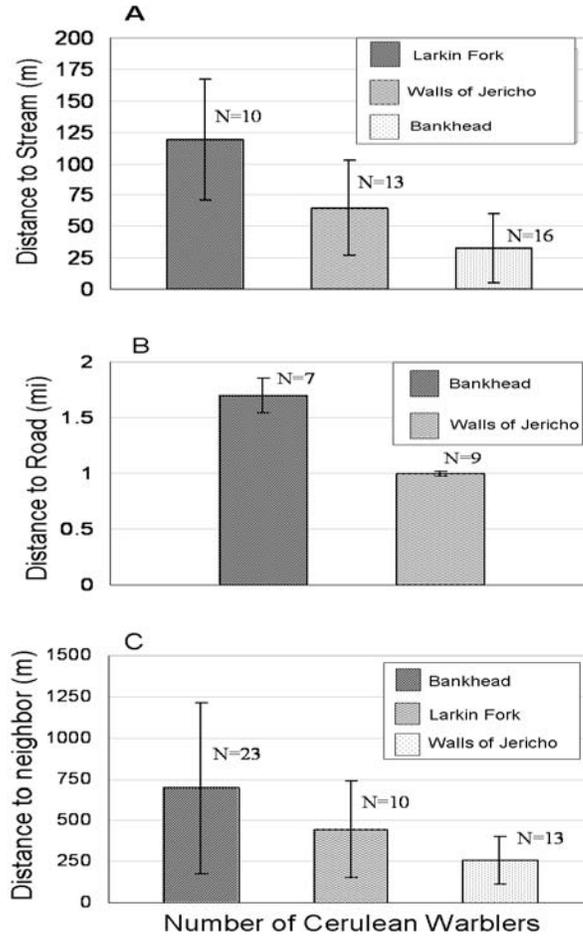


FIGURE 4. Mean distances (\pm SE) from Cerulean Warbler encounters to nearest stream (A), road (B), and intraspecific neighbors (C) during breeding seasons 1999 - 2004.

1997 and outlined several ambitious goals. CEWAP examined regional population status, habitat and area requirements, and investigated potential breeding areas not accessible by BBS protocol. The results were assumed to be most accurate in the periphery of the Cerulean Warbler's breeding range due to low abundance and consequently a higher detection probability (Rosenberg et al. 2000). While CEWAP included seven records from Bankhead National Forest, both Jackson County populations were undetected.

These results support an urgent need for Cerulean Warbler research to continue in northern Alabama with initiatives focused on locating “new” breeding populations, monitoring breeding success, and examining habitat characteristics. It is our hope that the future research efforts of ADCNR, USFS, and AAMU will provide the information necessary to facilitate the management and preservation of this unique species in Alabama.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was funded by Alabama A&M University, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We thank Mark Sasser, Greg Lein, Keith Hudson, Gary Wilkinson, Tom Counts, Allison Cochran, Rick West, Steve McConnell, Paul Hamel, Tom Haggerty, and Paul Kittle.

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John P. Carpenter, Adrian A. Lesak, and Yong Wang, Center for Forestry and Ecology, Alabama A&M University, PO Box 1927, Normal, AL 35762. **Eric C. Soehren**, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Natural Heritage Section, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130. **Callie J. Schweitzer**, USDA, U.S. Forest Service, Ecology and Management of Southern Appalachian Hardwoods, PO Box 1387, Normal, AL 35762.

**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
2002-2004**

Lawrence F. Gardella

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews reports of species that generally have fewer than 20 accepted records for the state. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 90 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 following two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

Seventeen records from nine observers were evaluated between 2002 and 2004 (Table 1). During this evaluation period, three species were added to the Alabama state list: MacGillivray’s Warbler, Spotted Towhee, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 425. Of these, two are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet) and three extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Common Raven and Bachman’s Warbler). Fourteen species are included in the hypothetical category due to the absence of a photograph or specimen or written documentation of visual observations by at least three experienced observers.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by Alabama Bird Records Committee of 17 records from 9 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
02-01	Cory's Shearwater	6/30/01	Pelagic ^d	V	A	14
02-02	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	22
02-03	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	6
02-04	Red-billed Tropicbird	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	2
02-05	White-faced Ibis	7/14/01	Mobile	V	A	12
02-06	White-faced Ibis	10/11/01	Mobile	V	A	13
02-07	Willow Flycatcher	9/7/01	Jefferson	V	A	16

Table 1. Continued

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
02-08	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	9/15/01	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
02-09	Couch's/Tropical Kingbird	9/22/01	Mobile	V	A	4
02-10	Cave Swallow	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	15
02-11	Sprague's Pipit	11/11/01	Baldwin	P	A	16
02-12	MacGillivray's Warbler	9/13/00	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
02-13	Spotted Towhee	4/18/01	Jefferson	V	A	1
02-14	Spotted Towhee	12/18/58	Wilcox	V	NI	—
02-15	Spotted Towhee	11/21/93	Limestone	V	NI	—
02-16	Chestnut-collared Longspur	11/16/01	Baldwin	P	A	1
02-17	Shiny Cowbird	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	20

^a V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded.

^b A = accepted, NI = not accepted due to identification questions

^c Number of accepted Alabama records

^d Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Baldwin County.

Lawrence F. Gardella, 3549 Audubon Road, Montgomery, AL 36111.

CULLMAN COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2004

Thomas M. Haggerty and Greg D. Jackson

Although there is a general understanding of the current distribution, abundance, and breeding status of birds in Alabama, data from many regions are incomplete. While Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) are excellent ways to monitor the distribution and abundance of breeding birds over time, they do have limitations (Jackson 2000). An excellent way to supplement BBS data and improve our knowledge of breeding birds is to assign experienced birders to specific areas during the breeding season and have them identify and count all individuals seen and heard, much like what is done during Christmas Bird Counts (Jackson 2000). Summer Bird Counts (SBC) have been conducted in counties in Alabama where our understanding of breeding bird distribution and abundance is inadequate (Jackson 2000, Gardella 2003, 2004). Begun in 2000, SBC's have been carried out in conjunction with the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) project, both to assist the BBA and to obtain quantitative data. The primary goal of the BBA is to determine the breeding distribution of species by sampling uniformly distributed 25 km² (10 mi²) blocks throughout the state. In June 2004, an SBC incorporating BBA methodology was conducted in Cullman County and the objective of this paper is to report the findings.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Physiographically, Cullman County (Fig. 1) is in the Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion and contains three level IV ecoregions within its borders: the Plateau Escarpment along the northwestern edge, the Southern Table Plateaus in the northern one-third and the Dissected Plateau in the southern end of the county (Mirarchi et al. 2004). The county encompasses 1,919 km² (738 mi²) and has a population of approximately 40 people/km² (105 people/mi²) (USCB 2005). The Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River flows along its southeastern border and the Ryan Creek branch of Lewis Smith Lake is in the southwestern corner of the county. Almost all creeks and rivers of the county are considered part of the Black Warrior drainage of the Mobile Basin, with minimal drainage in the far north to the Tennessee River (Mirarchi et al. 2004). Traditionally Cullman County has been considered part of the Mountain Region of bird reporting geographic regions (Imhof 1976).

Predominant habitats within the county include extensive pasturelands, croplands, and forests. Woodland types range from riparian and slope hardwoods to pine and mixed pine-hardwoods. Extensive fragmentation of wooded habitat has occurred, less so in the southern and western portions of the county. Wetland habitats are rather limited in Cullman County, consisting primarily of Lewis Smith Lake as well as scattered smaller lakes, agricultural ponds, small rivers and creeks, and minimal marsh/swamp habitat. Elevations range from approximately 76 m (250 ft) to just over 305 m (1000 ft).



Figure 1. County map of Alabama showing location of Cullman County (darkened).

To conduct the count, nine parties composed of 12 observers surveyed BBA blocks on various single mornings during the period 5-20 June 2004. Eight blocks (Massey: CE, Eva: CE, Lawrence Cove: CE, Jones Chapel: CE, Simcoe: CE, Crane Hill: CE, Hanceville: CE, and Cold Springs: CE) were surveyed by automobile and on foot by eight parties; additional data were collected from four blocks (Hanceville: CW, Arkadelphia: CE, Arkadelphia: SE, and

Creel: NE) by a single party transiting the Mulberry Fork by kayak. The quantitative period of the survey extended from roughly dawn until late morning (ca. 1100 hrs), but additional breeding status data were collected after 1100 hours and on other days. A total of 49.7 party-hours was expended searching for diurnal species; surveys for nocturnal species involved 0.75 hours. All individuals seen or heard were counted, and relative abundance estimates were obtained by dividing the total number of individuals of a species by the total number of party-hours. All counts were done during periods of favorable weather conditions (i.e., no sustained precipitation or strong winds).

In addition to counting, surveyors looked for evidence of breeding. The breeding designation codes used in this study are the same as those currently used by the Alabama BBA project and that have been used previously on similar counts (Gardella 2003, 2004). "Confirmed" breeding was designated if a species was observed carrying nest material or food, constructing a nest, performing a distraction display, or incubating. Further, the discovery of a nest with eggs or young, a used nest, or dependent short-tailed young also confirmed breeding. "Probable breeding" for a species was indicated when at least seven singing males were noted on the same date in the same block within safe dates (i.e., when migrants are unlikely to occur). This designation also was used for the detection of a pair in suitable habitat, for individuals showing courtship behaviors or agitated behaviors that are associated with nest disturbance, and for species of wrens and woodpeckers that were nest building. "Possible breeding" was noted if a species was found in suitable habitat within the safe dates. An "observed" breeding status was used for species that were seen or male song heard in suitable habitat outside safe dates. This designation was also used for independent juveniles, for species not in suitable habitat, and for soaring vultures and colonial species away from their colony.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 94 species and 6664 individuals was recorded during 49.7 hrs of surveying for a total of 134.1 individuals per party-hour (Table 1). The most frequently encountered species (i.e., > 4.0 individuals/party-hr; > 199 individuals) were Mourning Dove, American Crow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Common Grackle (Table 1). Interestingly, five of these 11 species (Mourning Dove, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting) were also reported as the most abundant species on the Perry County SBC (Gardella 2004) and seven

species (Mourning Dove, American Crow, Purple Martin, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting) were also listed as most abundant species on the Monroe County SBC (Gardella 2003).

The most widely distributed species (i.e., discovered by all nine parties) were Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, and American Goldfinch (Table 1). Species with a more limited distribution (i.e., seen in only one or two blocks) included: Canada Goose, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Cliff Swallow, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, American Redstart, Swainson's Warbler, Ovenbird, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Summer Bird Counts are an excellent way to obtain data on species of conservation concern. None of the seven species (Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Cerulean Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow) listed by Mirarchi et al. (2004) as species of highest conservation concern (Priority I Species) were found on the Cullman County SBC. However, four species (Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler) considered of high conservation concern (Priority II Species) were recorded and are worthy of note. The Wood Thrush was found in fairly good numbers (69 or 1.39/party-hr) and in seven of nine sample areas. This species is declining throughout its range, so population monitoring is needed (Kittle 2004). The Kentucky Warbler is also a species that needs monitoring because of population declines in the last few decades (Hill 2004). It was found in relatively good numbers (31 or 0.62/party-hr) and in seven blocks. The Worm-eating Warbler and Swainson's Warbler numbers were not as impressive. Only nine (0.18/party-hr) Worm-eating Warblers were counted and they were found in only three blocks (Massey: CE, Cold Springs: CE, and Jones Chapel: CE). Three (0.06/party-hr) Swainson's Warblers were found along the Mulberry Fork in two blocks (Arkadelphia: CE and Arkadelphia: SE).

Five other species of interest were recorded on the Cullman County SBC. Pied-billed Grebe is an uncommon and erratic breeder in Alabama, with no known nesting records in Cullman County. A single possible breeder was discovered in the northwest part of the county in the Jones Chapel: CE block. American Kestrel suffered a severe decline as a breeder in the state several

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decades ago (Imhof 1976), but appears to be recovering. Three were found in Hanceville: CE and another in Lawrence Cove: CE. Eurasian Collared-Dove is a recent addition to the state's avifauna, with the first record for Alabama in 1991 (Holmes 1992); since that time the species has spread throughout much of the state. Three birds were found on the SBC in Hanceville: CE (a pair) and Jones Chapel: CE. Grasshopper Sparrow is an irregularly-distributed breeder in Alabama, particularly so in the Mountain Region. Four birds were recorded, three in Jones Chapel: CE and one in Massey: CE. Song Sparrow nesting in the state is limited primarily to the northeast quadrant, though it breeds locally in northwest Alabama, and in recent years has extended as a breeder to just east of Birmingham. No previous nesting has been reported from Cullman County, though the species has bred for years in adjacent Marshall and Morgan counties. A lone individual was discovered in Lawrence Cove: CE near the Morgan County line.

Thirty-six species (38%) on the count were confirmed as breeders, 34 (36%) were probable breeders, 21 (23%) were possible breeders, and three (3%) were noted as only observed species (Table 1).

Table 1. Cullman County Summer Bird Count Totals, June 2004.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding status
Canada Goose	2	0.04	1	Probable
Wood Duck	16	0.32	4	Confirmed
Mallard	6	0.12	1	Confirmed
Northern Bobwhite	73	1.47	8	Probable
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0.02	1	Possible
Great Blue Heron	25	0.50	6	Observed
Great Egret	5	0.10	2	Observed
Green Heron	24	0.48	7	Probable
Black Vulture	8	0.16	2	Observed
Turkey Vulture	44	0.89	8	Possible
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0.04	2	Possible
Cooper's Hawk	3	0.06	3	Possible
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	0.28	7	Confirmed
Broad-winged Hawk	2	0.04	2	Possible
Red-tailed Hawk	11	0.22	7	Confirmed
American Kestrel	4	0.08	2	Possible
Killdeer	93	1.87	7	Confirmed
Rock Pigeon	26	0.52	4	Probable
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	0.06	2	Probable

Table 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding status
Mourning Dove	274	5.51	8	Probable
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	49	0.99	7	Confirmed
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	0.04	1	Probable
Barred Owl	3	0.06	2	Confirmed
Chuck-will's-widow	11	0.22	3	Probable
Whip-poor-will	1	0.02	1	Possible
Chimney Swift	43	0.87	5	Confirmed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9	0.18	5	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	21	0.42	6	Confirmed
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	0.26	6	Confirmed
Red-bellied Woodpecker	75	1.51	8	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	27	0.54	7	Probable
Hairy Woodpecker	7	0.14	3	Possible
Northern Flicker	17	0.34	6	Probable
Pileated Woodpecker	17	0.34	8	Possible
Eastern Wood-Pewee	29	0.58	8	Probable
Acadian Flycatcher	68	1.37	6	Probable
Eastern Phoebe	22	0.44	7	Confirmed
Great Crested Flycatcher	46	0.93	9	Probable
Eastern Kingbird	114	2.29	8	Confirmed
Loggerhead Shrike	27	0.54	5	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	94	1.89	9	Probable
Yellow-throated Vireo	18	0.36	7	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	118	2.37	8	Confirmed
Blue Jay	154	3.10	9	Confirmed
American Crow	229	4.61	9	Confirmed
Purple Martin	202	4.06	9	Confirmed
N. Rough-winged Swallow	110	2.21	7	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	2	0.04	1	Possible
Barn Swallow	212	4.27	9	Confirmed
Carolina Chickadee	110	2.21	9	Probable
Tufted Titmouse	146	2.94	8	Confirmed
White-breasted Nuthatch	12	0.24	6	Confirmed
Brown-headed Nuthatch	12	0.24	5	Probable
Carolina Wren	220	4.43	9	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	66	1.33	9	Probable
Eastern Bluebird	200	4.02	8	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	69	1.39	7	Possible
American Robin	142	2.86	9	Confirmed

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Table 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party-hr	No. Blocks	Breeding status
Gray Catbird	17	0.34	4	Confirmed
Northern Mockingbird	253	5.09	8	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	94	1.89	9	Confirmed
European Starling	351	7.06	8	Confirmed
Northern Parula	16	0.32	1	Probable
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	0.06	1	Possible
Pine Warbler	55	1.11	8	Probable
Prairie Warbler	22	0.44	5	Possible
Black-and-white Warbler	10	0.20	3	Probable
American Redstart	1	0.02	1	Possible
Worm-eating Warbler	9	0.18	3	Possible
Swainson's Warbler	3	0.06	1	Possible
Ovenbird	2	0.04	2	Possible
Louisiana Waterthrush	18	0.36	4	Probable
Kentucky Warbler	31	0.62	7	Confirmed
Common Yellowthroat	78	1.57	9	Probable
Hooded Warbler	28	0.56	5	Possible
Yellow-breasted Chat	156	3.14	9	Probable
Summer Tanager	41	0.82	8	Probable
Scarlet Tanager	13	0.26	4	Probable
Eastern Towhee	164	3.30	9	Probable
Chipping Sparrow	150	3.02	8	Confirmed
Field Sparrow	63	1.27	7	Probable
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	0.08	2	Possible
Song Sparrow	1	0.02	1	Possible
Northern Cardinal	363	7.30	9	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	61	1.23	8	Probable
Indigo Bunting	416	8.37	9	Confirmed
Red-winged Blackbird	180	3.62	7	Confirmed
Eastern Meadowlark	187	3.76	8	Probable
Common Grackle	203	4.08	8	Confirmed
Brown-headed Cowbird	166	3.34	9	Probable
Orchard Oriole	30	0.60	7	Probable
House Finch	42	0.85	6	Confirmed
American Goldfinch	45	0.91	9	Probable
House Sparrow	35	0.70	5	Confirmed

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study would not have been possible without the efforts of P. Kittle, S. & D. Hamilton, D. Jackson, D. George, D. Pylant, V. Meleski, R. West, and P. & K. White.

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Thomas M. Haggerty, Biology Department, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (E-mail: tmhaggerty@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson**, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (E-mail: g_d_jackson@bellsouth.net).

FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2004)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 2004 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 *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – In northern *Escambia*, Laura Catterton observed 32-38 birds 25-27 October (rare in WP). Twenty-eight were observed flying west on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Bob Duncan *et al.*), where the species is uncommon. A new maximum (133) for inland Alabama was set by Steve McConnell who counted 120 flying northwest at Swan Creek WMA and another 13 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 31 October.

ROSS’S GOOSE – Three were found at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 9 November (Damien Simbeck) (rare but increasing).

MOTTLED DUCK – Brian Monk saw four birds at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 26 September (casual fall transients in the WP).

PACIFIC LOON – A single was seen on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall* 23 October (Bob Reid), where the species is rare but regular. This observation sets an early arrival date for Alabama by nearly one month.

PIED-BILLED GREBE – At the Marion Fish Hatchery in *Perry*, Greg Jackson found an adult with five mid-sized juveniles 14 September. Pied-billed Grebes are uncommon and erratic breeders in Alabama. On Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, Greg and Debra Jackson made a careful estimate of 1090 on 8 November, a good

number.

- EARED GREBE** – One was found on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 October (Lorna West, Linda Reynolds) (rare for inland Alabama).
- CORY'S SHEARWATER** – Three, accidental in the WP, were located on a pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, led by Brian Monk on 22 August to the Desoto Canyon.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** – Four, rare in the WP, were located on a pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, led by Brian Monk on 22 August to the Desoto Canyon. In Alabama, one was noted at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Lorna West, Mark Liu; ph.; @ABRC) (first record of this species for inland Alabama, second record of any storm-petrel for inland Alabama) following Hurricane Ivan.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – Ten, casual in the WP, were located on a pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, led by Brian Monk on 22 August to the Desoto Canyon.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD** – One immature, the first record of this species from the WP, was located on a pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, led by Brian Monk on 22 August to the Desoto Canyon.
- RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD** – One immature, the second record for the WP, was located on a pelagic trip out of Destin, *Okaloosa*, led by Brian Monk on 22 August to the Desoto Canyon.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Seven were seen along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 7 August (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), where the species is rare but regular in summer. Eighty were counted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 October (Dwight Cooley, Dick Bruer *et al.*), and 186 were noted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 31 October (Steve McConnell, m.ob.), both good numbers for inland Alabama. Another good number for inland Alabama was the 77 at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 12 October until early December (Linda Baker, Winston Baker) (regular in fall at this site).
- BROWN PELICAN** – One immature was spotted on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 October (Lorna West). This sighting established the 14th inland record for Alabama.
- ANHINGA** – A kettle of 35 probable migrants, the maximum ever seen at one time in the WP, was observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 26 August (Brian Monk). Seven were found at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 11 September (Tommy Pratt, Shawn Reed, Bill Campbell) (uncommon, good number). Rare in the Mountain Region, two were reported from Emerald Valley Lake, *Jefferson*, 20 September (*vide* Bob Sargent).
- GREAT BLUE HERON** – The 12th WP record of the white morph of this species was set 14 August at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (Bob Duncan).
- GREAT EGRET** – A new maximum number (123) for the Mountain Region was recorded 20 September (Greg Jackson); 119 were counted at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, and four at Gadsden, *Etowah*.
- SNOWY EGRET** – Rare in the Mountain Region, two were spotted in a swamp at

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- Calera, *Shelby*, 21 August+ (Greg Harber, m.ob.).
- CATTLE EGRET** – Records of single late birds came from Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 21 October (Damien Simbeck), and Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 13 November (Steve McConnell).
- WHITE IBIS** – Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, immatures of this species occurred at Calera, *Shelby*, 18-29 August (Ted Vodde, m.ob.), with a maximum of 10 being a good number.
- WHITE-FACED IBIS** – The seventh, eighth, and ninth records for the WP were set by singles seen 22 September, northern *Escambia* (Laura Catterton), 28 September, FWBSF, *Okaloosa* (Laura Catterton), and 8 October, FWBSF, *Okaloosa* (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown); very rare in Florida.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – An immature bird occurred 18-29 August at Calera, *Shelby* (Ted Vodde, m.ob.; ph.), establishing the second record for the Mountain Region. Another immature bird was found after Hurricane Ivan at Whitsett, *Hale*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore), setting the seventh record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.
- WOOD STORK** – Along the Cahaba River south of Brent, *Bibb*, 31 were found 18 August and two on 20 September (Eric Spadgeneke) (rare so far north). One was noted along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 31 August (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds) (occasional on the Gulf Coast). A new maximum for Alabama of 1000+ was found at Whitsett, *Hale*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore), after Hurricane Ivan. Five birds south of Eutaw, *Greene*, 2 November (Jared Caudle), were late.
- OSPREY** – An early migrant was in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 4 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Four was a good number for the Mountain Region in the Weiss Lake area, *Cherokee*, 20 September (Greg Jackson).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – Single birds spotted north of Lineville, *Clay*, 5 August (Tommy Pratt), and north of Cleveland, *Blount*, 6 August (Barry Smith) established the sixth and seventh records, respectively, for the Mountain Region. Two seen along Haysop Creek south of Brent, *Bibb*, 8 September (Eric Spadgeneke) were rare this far northeast.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Fifty+ was a good number along County Road 85, *Sumter/Pickens*, 8 August (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).
- BALD EAGLE** – Two adults and 10 sub-adults or juveniles, a maximum for the WP in modern times, were counted around catfish ponds in northern *Escambia*, 27 October (Laura Catterton). Two adults, acting as a pair and probably nesting, were seen 14 September at the Marion Fish Hatchery, *Perry* (Greg Jackson) (increasing breeder). Five (all immatures) was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Howard Home *et al.*).
- NORTHERN HARRIER** – One found at Foley, *Baldwin*, 14 August (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), established an early record for the Gulf Coast.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK** – A light morph juvenile was observed at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 9 November (Bob Duncan) (casual in the WP). Three to four imma-

tures were recorded in the Foley area, *Baldwin*, 9-10 and 14-23 November (Bill Summerour, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.), to set the 27th record and a maximum number for Alabama.

GOLDEN EAGLE – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 16 October (Lenny Fenimore *et al.*) (casual in the WP).

MERLIN – A single in Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 16 August (Tyler Hicks), established an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Another early bird was at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 28 August (Larry Gardella).

VIRGINIA RAIL – One seen in a suburban yard at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 18-19 November (Francis Markine, Gary Markine), was late.

SANDHILL CRANE – Three birds seen 31 July in *Santa Rosa* (Heidi Moore, Brenda Francisco), established the first summer record for the WP. At the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, Lenny Fenimore found three birds 12 November.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – One at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 13 September (Greg Jackson) set a rare fall record for the Mountain Region.

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Three inland Alabama records were submitted, all after Hurricane Ivan: one bird at Lake Point SP, *Barbour*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu); a single at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore); and two at Porter Lake, *Jefferson* (Sharon Hudgins) (first record for Mountain Region).

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, one was spotted at Lake Point SP, *Barbour*, 17 September (Lorna West), after Hurricane Ivan (second Inland Coastal Plain record for Alabama).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – A late bird was at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 20 November (Steve McConnell).

UPLAND SANDPIPER – Thirty-three was a good number at Foley, *Baldwin*, 25 August (Laura Catterton).

SANDERLING – Rare for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, four was a good number after Hurricane Ivan at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 17 September (Eric Soehren *et al.*). Eight at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 18 September (Bob Reid, Harriett Wright), were rare for the Mountain Region and set a maximum fall number. Eight+ at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 September (Dick Reynolds), set a maximum number for the Tennessee Valley.

LEAST SANDPIPER – At the WTF, *Lowndes*, 230 on 25 August was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama (Greg Jackson).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – The first August record for the WP was established by a single in northern *Escambia*, 22 August (Laura Catterton; ph.). One at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 25-26 October (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown, Alan Knothe, Lenny Fenimore *et al.*), was late and established the third October record for the WP. This sandpiper is rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in fall, and the following records for this region were received: one, Russellville, *Franklin*, 12 August (Damien Simbeck); five, Leighton, *Colbert*, 1 September (Damien

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Simbeck) (maximum for Tennessee Valley in fall); and one, Russellville, *Franklin*, 5 October (Damien Simbeck) (late). Two records were received from the Mountain Region where the species is rare: one, Harpersville sod farms, *Shelby*, 23 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and two, Pell City, *St. Clair*, 25 September (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid). Four was a good number at Foley, *Baldwin*, 4 September (Laura Catterton) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast in fall). Three+ were at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 4-21 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Six was a good number for the Tennessee Valley at Decatur, *Limestone*, 23 August (Bert Harris). Good numbers were seen at Foley, *Baldwin*: 23 on 4 September (Laura Catterton), and 24 on 12 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). Good numbers for the Mountain Region were noted at Harpersville, *Shelby*: 4 on 9 September (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid), and 6 on 13 September (Greg Jackson). Eight was a good number at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 14 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.). Damien Simbeck found one at Russellville, *Franklin*, 5 October (late departure date for the Tennessee Valley).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – Two were found at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 25 August (Greg Jackson) (uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Singles, rare for inland Alabama, were spotted at Russellville, *Franklin*, 12 August (Damien Simbeck), and at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 17 September (Eric Soehren *et al.*).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – One was found at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 8 September after Hurricane Frances (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson, Edith Hunt) (20th Alabama record; @ABRC). Another single was at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 17 September after Hurricane Ivan (Stephen Dinsmore) (21st Alabama record; @ABRC).

RED PHALAROPE – Occasional in Alabama, two records, the 21st and 22nd for Alabama, were received: one at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 9 September (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid), and one at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 September after Hurricane Ivan (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu; ph.).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER – One immature was at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 28 October (Michael Boehm; ph.; @ABRC) (third record for Alabama and the first inland record).

LAUGHING GULL – After Hurricane Ivan, numerous September records were received from inland Alabama localities where this species is rare: one at Demopolis, *Marengo*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore); two east of Linden, *Marengo*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore); two east of Consul, *Marengo*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore); 27 on 16 September and 88 (good number) on 17 September at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox* (Stephen Dinsmore; ph.); 14 (good number) at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 September (Steve McConnell, Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds), with lesser numbers lingering until 27 November; six+ at Speigner, *Elmore*, 17 September (Larry Gardella); six at Lake Point SP, *Barbour*,

17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu); 150 (a new maximum for inland Alabama) at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu; ph.); eight at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 17 September (Eric Soehren *et al.*); one at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 20 September (Greg Jackson); 10 at Wheeler and Wilson dams, *Colbert/Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 22 September (Greg Jackson). Eleven were at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 28 October (Michael Boehm). At Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, one was found on 13 November (Greg Jackson) and two on 20 November (Steve McConnell).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – One adult was found at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 17 September after Hurricane Ivan (Stephen Dinsmore) (fifth record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama). Franklin's Gull is rare but regular in fall in the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, and the following records were received from these regions: two, Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 16 October (Van Remsen); one to 18 between 16 October and 3 November (maximum of 18 on 30 October) at Guntersville, *Marshall* (Craig Brown, Bob Reid, Dick Reynolds *et al.*); nine at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 October (Dwight Cooley, Dick Bruer, m.ob.); one at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 17 October (Howard Horne, m.ob.); two at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 21 October (Damien Simbeck); one at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 6 November (Laura Catterton; ph.); and one at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 30 November (Damien Simbeck) and 5 December (Steve McConnell; ph.).

BONAPARTE'S GULL – Two at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 28 September (Laura Catterton) were the earliest for the WP by 25 days.

RING-BILLED GULL – Nine at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 20 September (Greg Jackson) were unusual this early in the Mountain Region. Good numbers for so early in the season were 79 at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 18 August (Damien Simbeck) and 220 at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence* and 62 at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 22 September (Greg Jackson).

HERRING GULL – Two at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 22 September (Greg Jackson) were early.

THAYER'S GULL – One at West Point Dam, *Clay*, 12 November (Michael Boehm, Eric Boehm, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) was rare. There are two accepted Alabama records and three more @ABRC.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – One was recorded at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 30 November (Damien Simbeck), where the species is rare but regular.

GREAT BLACK- BACKED GULL – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 19 October (Lorna West, Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds), and two were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 October (Betsy Eager *et al.*).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – A single, probably the same bird, was seen at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 13 November (Greg Jackson) and Wheeler

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Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 29 November (Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.; 16th Alabama record; @ABRC).

GULL-BILLED TERN – One juvenile was at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore) and 17 September (Eric Soehren *et al.*) after Hurricane Ivan (third record for inland Alabama).

CASPIAN TERN – At Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 94 were counted 17 September after Hurricane Ivan (Stephen Dinsmore) to establish a new maximum number for inland Alabama. Also on 17 September, 25 were seen at Guntersville, *Marshall* (Steve McConnell) (good number). One was at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 20 September (Greg Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region).

ROYAL TERN - After Hurricane Ivan, several September records were received from inland Alabama where there were only five previous records: two east of Linden, *Marengo*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore); seven at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 16 September (new maximum number for inland Alabama) and four on 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore); two at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu); one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 September (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.) and 27 September (Dick Reynolds) (first record for the Tennessee Valley); and one at Whitsett, *Hale*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore).

SANDWICH TERN – At Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, three were found 16 September and four 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore; ph.) after Hurricane Ivan (second record for inland Alabama). Five were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (good number this late).

COMMON TERN – A conservative estimate of 900+ was made at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), the maximum counted in Alabama since 1958. This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama, but Hurricane Ivan produced several records: two east of Consul, *Marengo*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore); at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 10 were found on 16 September and 23 (good number) on 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore); 30 were at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu) (maximum number for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama); and one was at Whitsett, *Hale*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore).

FORSTER'S TERN – Good numbers were seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, with 100+ on 20 October and 75 on 25 October (Dick Reynolds).

LEAST TERN – Two were found at Leighton, *Colbert*, 18 August (Damien Simbeck), and a single was at Guin, *Marion*, 21 August (Jud Johnston) (rare inland).

BRIDLED TERN – One was at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 8 September after Hurricane Frances (Lorna West) (second record for inland Alabama).

SOOTY TERN – Casual in the WP, a single was spotted in northern (and inland) *Escambia*, 16 September after Hurricane Ivan (Laura Catterton). The ninth inland record for Alabama was established by two adults seen at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 16 September after Hurricane Ivan (Stephen Dinsmore). Additional inland

records associated with Hurricane Ivan came from Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 17 September where a “wrecked” adult was recovered alive and sent to rehabilitation (*vide* Anne Miller, Greg Harber; ph.), and six+ in the West Point Dam area, *Clay*, 17 September (Lorna West, Walt Chambers).

BROWN NODDY – Two records followed and were apparently associated with Hurricane Ivan. The first record for the WP was set by the observation of an adult at Big Lagoon SP, *Escambia*, 16 September (Jonathon Burrill; ph.). The first record for inland Alabama and the sixth for the state was marked by an adult found at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 16 September (Stephen Dinsmore; @ABRC).

BLACK SKIMMER – Several inland Alabama sightings (eight previous records) occurred after Hurricane Ivan: five at Lake Point SP, *Barbour*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu) (maximum for inland Alabama); another five at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 September (Geoff Hill, Mark Liu) (maximum for inland Alabama); three adults and one immature at Dannelly Reservoir, *Wilcox*, 17 September (Stephen Dinsmore); and one immature at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 20 September (Greg Jackson).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Bob Duncan found 11 at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 November (good number in migration).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – This species is rare in the Tennessee Valley, so one found at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 13 November (Linda Reynolds), was notable.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – A single was spotted on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton) (rare but regular at this site).

BURROWING OWL – One was reported from Range 70, Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 3 October (Lenny Fenimore) (continued presence).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK – One was spotted among some 120 Common Nighthawks flying north from the Gulf at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 31 August (Lucy Duncan) (seventh record for the WP).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – An adult male was in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 16-22 September (Jan Lloyd, Paul Blevins; ph.; @FOSRC) and marked the first record for Florida.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – One trapped at East Brewton, *Escambia*, Alabama, 18 October (Fred Bassett, Pat McArthur) was the same bird banded at this site in the winter of 2003-2004 (16th record for Alabama).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – A new maximum (100+) for Alabama was set at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 21 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – Two were early at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 10 September (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – A rare fall migrant in Alabama, one was noted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 15 October (Larry Gardella).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – One banded at Clay, *Jefferson*, 26 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), set a late departure date for the Mountain Region.

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Another single identified by call at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 30 October (Larry Gardella), set a late record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

ALDER FLYCATCHER – Calling singles were at the following sites and set the 14th and 15th records, respectively, for Alabama (@ABRC): Harpersville, *Shelby*, 13 September (Greg Jackson); and Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 October (Larry Gardella) (first record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – One calling at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26-28 November (Bob Duncan *et al.*; ph.) was the latest ever for the WP by 59 days. Lorna West found a singing bird at Opelika, *Lee*, 25 August (20th Alabama record, second for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama; @ABRC), and Greg Jackson found a calling bird at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 13 September (21st Alabama record; @ABRC).

“TRAILL’S” FLYCATCHER – One was noted at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 15 October (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – An immature male was spotted at Riverside, *St. Clair*, 25 September (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid) (11th record for inland Alabama, second for the Mountain Region). Another immature male was seen on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 15 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton) (rare).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Singles were found at Turkey Creek Park, Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 18 November (Bob Duncan), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 November (Bob Duncan *et al.*) (rare but regular in the WP). Bill Summerour photographed a calling single at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 26 November (rare).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – An early bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 31 August (Howard Horne).

EASTERN KINGBIRD – One at Foley, *Baldwin*, 17 November (Bill Summerour) set a late departure date for Alabama.

GRAY KINGBIRD – Now rare in Alabama, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted three on 14 August (Barbara Byrd) and two on 16 August (John Porter).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – In the WP there was a total of 14 individuals noted 14 October – 16 November (Lenny Fenimore, Bob Duncan *et al.*).

BELL’S VIREO – Three singles were banded and photographed 25 September, 2 October, and 12 October at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* (Rachel Bru, Lisa Fitzgerald, Asia Anderson *et al.*), where the species is rare but regular.

WARBLING VIREO – The second August WP record was set by one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 30 August (Lucy Duncan), and the first record for September was marked by a single in *Escambia*, 9 September (Laura Catterton). One was noted at Clay, *Jefferson*, 7 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (rare).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Six was a good number on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton).

- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO** – The first August record for the WP was marked by one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 11 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- CAVE SWALLOW** – Two birds were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 7 September (Brian Monk) (13th WP record).
- BARN SWALLOW** – A late bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 November (Steve McConnell).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was late.
- SAGE THRASHER** – One was found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, by several observers on multiple dates to establish the fifth Alabama record (@ABRC): 14 November (Tony Ziccardi, Ann Ziccardi, Bob Duncan), 16 November (Bill Summerour), and 17 November (Lorna West).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** – Larry Gardella found a late bird at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 15 October (ties late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).
- “BREWSTER'S” WARBLER** – Two reports of this rare migrant (both singles) were received: Rebecca Mountains east of Sylacauga, Talladega NF, *Talladega*, 18 September (Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society); and Opelika, *Lee*, 4 October (Lorna West).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Four reports were received: one, Rebecca Mountains east of Sylacauga, Talladega NF, *Talladega*, 18 September (Greg Harber, Birmingham Audubon Society) (rare but regular); one, Opelika, *Lee*, 4 October (Lorna West) (rare but regular); two, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 26 September (Damien Simbeck) (uncommon in fall in northwest Alabama); and one, Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 November (Betsy Tetlow, Linda Bogiage, Howard Horne *et al.*) (rare but regular).
- YELLOW WARBLER** – A single male at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 November (Steve McConnell) was very late for inland Alabama.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – An early migrant was at Coleman Lake in Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 10 August (Lorna West). Reports of four late birds were received: one at Clear Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 30 October (Greg Harber *et al.*); two+ at Clay, *Jefferson*, 4 November (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 November (Larry Gardella) (record late departure for Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama); and two at Mobile, *Mobile*, 16 November (Laurie Bailey) (record late departure for Alabama).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – This species is rare for inland Alabama, so three records were notable: one female at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 29 September (Larry Gardella); another female at Piedmont, *Calhoun*, 23 October (Greg Harber *et al.*); and one male at Clear Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 30 October (Greg Harber *et al.*).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – Five at Clear Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 30 October (Greg Harber *et al.*), was a good number for such a late

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date. Another late bird was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 30 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent).

PRAIRIE WARBLER – Higher than usual numbers were present throughout the WP in August and early September (*vide* Bob Duncan).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – A late bird was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 4 November (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent).

AMERICAN REDSTART – One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), was late.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – A maximum count (12+) for fall in Alabama was made 17 August on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch). One was late at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 17 September (Damien Simbeck).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – Damien Simbeck found one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 26 September, to establish the fourth autumn record for the Tennessee Valley.

MOURNING WARBLER – Rare but regular during fall migration on the Gulf Coast, an immature male was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 August (Jim Holmes, James Holmes).

WILSON'S WARBLER – Three (two males, one female) was a good number for inland Alabama at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 22 September (Greg Jackson).

SUMMER TANAGER – One female-type was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 November (Larry Gardella) (late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama).

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in the WP, an adult male in basic plumage was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26-29 November (Will Duncan *et al.*). The fifth record for inland Alabama was marked by a basic-plumaged male found at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 19 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE – An adult, banded and photographed at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 12 October (Rachel Bru, Lisa Fitzgerald, Asia Anderson; @ABRC) established the third record for Alabama.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Rare but regular in fall on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, two birds were seen on the east end 15 October (Van Remsen) and 19 October (Lorna West), and another two were found at the country club 16 October (Van Remsen).

LARK SPARROW – Casual in the WP, two were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 11 August (Brian Monk) and 24 August (Don Ware), and one was found in northern *Escambia*, 17 August (Laura Catterton). This species is not known to nest in the Mountain Region, but a single was seen at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 9 September (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid), and two adults and three immatures were found at the same site 17 September (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds). A late bird was south of Eutaw, *Greene*, 31 October (Jud Johnston).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – One was noted at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 15 October (Damien Simbeck), where it is rare but regular.

DARK-EYED JUNCO – The first Alabama record of the Gray-headed form of this species was marked by one seen at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 16 October (Dick Bruer, Milton Harris, Callie Switzer *et al.*).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – Two were noted at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 14 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). This species has been rare but regular at this site in recent years.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – Feeders attracted late birds at three localities: one female at Guin, *Marion*, 19 November (Jud Johnston); one at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 19 November (Francis Markine, Gary Markine) (late fall record for Tennessee Valley); and three immature males (good number for so late) at Clay, *Jefferson*, 25 November (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent).

PAINTED BUNTING – A single was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 18 October (Don Ware) (casual in WP). Two were late at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 26 November (Bill Summerour).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Casual in the WP, one female was noted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 September (Laura Catterton). An immature male was spotted at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 September (Paul Milotis) where it is rare.

ORCHARD ORIOLE – One was recorded on the fall count conducted by the Birmingham Audubon Society in *Jefferson*, 25 September (late fall departure date for the Mountain Region).

RED CROSSBILL – Three were near Coleman Lake in Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 7 November (Eric Soehren), and 26 November (Scott Gravette) (continued presence at this site).

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).

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005)

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

This report covers the period from December 2004 through February 2005 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 *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Rare but becoming more regular in the WP, 19 were found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 22 January (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan *et al.*). Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, is a regular site for this species, and 38 (good number) were counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, 18 December. This goose is rare on the Gulf Coast in winter, so 15 was a good number at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (David Plumb *et al.*; ph.). Eight near Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) were probably part of the previous group. Three were at Russellville, *Franklin*, 7 February (Damien Simbeck), where the species is locally rare.

SNOW GOOSE – On the 19 December Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 118 was a good number for the Gulf Coast. A single blue morph was noted at Blountsville, *Blount*, 20 January (Greg Jackson) (rare in winter in Mountain Region). Two were near Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

ROSS’S GOOSE – The eighth record for northwest Florida was marked by four birds at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 30 January (Laura Catterton; ph.). Rare but increasing in south Alabama, one was noted at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 2 December (Howard Horne), one was found at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 1 January (Larry

Gardella *et al.*), and two were at the previous site on 23 January (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). Uncommon and local in the Tennessee Valley, a single was found west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 December (Greg Jackson; ph.). At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, three were noted 8 January (Steve McConnell) where this species is expected in small numbers.

SNOW X ROSS'S GOOSE – This hybrid is rarely recorded in Alabama, so one west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 December (Greg Jackson; ph.), was notable.

CAACKLING GOOSE – The status of this species in Alabama is uncertain, but it is probably rare but regular. Three reports were received: two at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 30-31 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC); at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single on 7 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) and four 23-30 January (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC); and 19 at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (David Plumb, Ann Miller; @ABRC).

TUNDRA SWAN – Small flocks were seen at two sites in *Lauderdale*: three at Smithsonia, 3 December (Damien Simbeck), and four at Walker Pond, 29 December (Shirley Wayland) (rare).

EURASIAN WIGEON – A single male seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 February (Geoff Hill, Tyler Hicks; @ABRC), set the 11th record for Alabama and the third for the Inland Coastal Plain (if not a repeat of last winter's bird at the same site).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – Rare in winter in north Alabama, one was tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and three were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 February (Damien Simbeck). The 75 observed at Leighton, *Colbert*, 23 February (Damien Simbeck), was a large number for so early in the season and were probably early migrants.

RING-NECKED DUCK – A record high count for Alabama was set by the 5,105 recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

SURF SCOTER – Rare for inland Alabama, one was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 December (Lorna West, Steve McConnell).

BLACK SCOTER – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single was found 7 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) and 8 January (Paul Kittle *et al.*; ph.) (rare for inland Alabama).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – One female occurred at Leighton, *Colbert*, 23 February and 22 March (Damien Simbeck) (rare).

RUDDY DUCK – Good numbers were found on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*: 1,100 on 9 January and 1,300 on 20 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

WILD TURKEY – One flock north of Waterloo and another east of Wright, *Lauderdale*, 8 December, totaled 27 (good number) (Greg Jackson; ph.).

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare in the WP, one was on Choctawhatchee Bay, *Okaloosa*, 16 December (Don Ware). Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one occurred there 29 December – 13 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.).

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, two singles were noted in the

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WP at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9-30 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and at Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Santa Rosa*, 22 January (John Ball, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod). In Alabama, one to two were seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 23 December – 13 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).

RED-NECKED GREBE – A single, seen 12 December – 2 January on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, established the 16th record for Alabama (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*; @ABRC).

HARED GREBE – Rare but regular in winter in the WP, two were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 4 December – 10 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).

WESTERN GREBE – Spring Creek Embayment of Wheeler Reservoir, *Lawrence*, hosted a single 19 January – 5 February (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (fourth Alabama record).

MASKED BOOBY – An adult was at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Steve McConnell) (rare).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare but increasing in winter for inland Alabama, numerous reports were received: 10, Spring Creek Embayment, *Lawrence*, 25 December (Steve McConnell); 22, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8 January (Steve McConnell, m.ob.) and 34 on 9 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); 22, Bear Creek Embayment, *Colbert*, 24-26 January (*fide* Paul Kittle); nine, Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 28 January (Damien Simbeck); and 50, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 February (Greg Harber *et al.*) (first late winter record for the Mountain Region).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Maximums for the Mountain Region and the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama were established, respectively, by 1,300 at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and 2,527 on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.

ANHINGA – One was at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species is rare in winter for inland Alabama, especially the Mountain Region, so one from the East Lake area of *Jefferson*, 27 December (John Imhof), was notable.

GREAT EGRET – Twenty were seen at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (maximum in winter for the Mountain Region). On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, 316 were recorded to set a new winter maximum for inland Alabama.

CATTLE EGRET – Rare in winter in the WP, three were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 28 December (Bob Duncan). Occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. A single was seen at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 January (Larry Gardella) (rare in winter for inland Alabama). Twenty was a good number south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 3 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, Steve McConnell) (uncommon

and erratic on the Gulf Coast in winter).

WHITE IBIS – One immature was noted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow, Annabelle Markle) (occasional in winter for inland Alabama).

GLOSSY IBIS – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 8 December (Bob Duncan), to mark the second December record for the WP.

PLEGADIS SP. – Fifteen was a good number for winter on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 19 December.

BLACK VULTURE – A new maximum (216) for the Mountain Region was set on the Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 18 December. Surpassing even this number and setting a new maximum for Alabama, 269 were tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

TURKEY VULTURE – Good numbers of this species, some setting records, were noted this winter: 401 on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December (maximum for Alabama); 165 on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (good number); 268 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (maximum for the Gulf Coast); and 200 roosting at Upper Bryant Landing, *Baldwin*, 10 January (*vide* Claire Krusko) (good number).

OSPREY – One was observed at Eutaw, *Greene*, 19 January (Jared Caudle *et al.*) (rare in winter for inland Alabama).

NORTHERN HARRIER – Thirty-six were seen leaving a roost at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale* 15 January (Greg Jackson) (maximum for north Alabama).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – One immature was found in downtown Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 24 January (Steve Willis *et al.*) and 31 January (Stan Hamilton *et al.*) (fifth Alabama record; ph.; @ABRC).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – An adult was discovered at Tensaw Lake, *Baldwin*, 9 January (Claire Krusko, Ken Krusko) (rare in winter).

MERLIN – Rare in north Alabama in winter, one was seen at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and another single was counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

PEREGRINE FALCON – One was found in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 February (Greg Harber, *et al.*) (rare in north Alabama in winter).

BLACK RAIL – One was spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Don Ware) (very rare in WP).

SANDHILL CRANE – Casual in the WP, six were at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 15 December (Bill Bremser), one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Bob Duncan), and another single was at Molino, *Escambia*, 23 December (Laura Catterton). Increasingly common in winter in Alabama, several reports were received: 10, Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December (locally rare); 600 (estimated), Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 21 December – 5 January (Linda Baker, Winston Baker) (maximum for Alabama); 500+, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 December (Steve McConnell, m.ob.) (good number); eight, Fort Toulouse,

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Elmore, 26 February (Larry Gardella, Andrea Menyhert) (locally rare); and 60, *Opelika, Lee*, 26 February (Lorna West) (locally rare).

WHOOPIING CRANE – The three seen near Belle Mina, *Limestone*, 18+ December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, m.ob.; ph.) had been released from a captive flock (2002 cohort) as part of the Eastern reintroduction program.

KILLDEER – A maximum count (2,686) for inland Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. A good number locally was the 428 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December.

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Two birds were at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 31 January (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) (first January record for the WP).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – A maximum count (151) for inland Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Four was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast 18 December (Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*). Rare in winter in north Alabama, a single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 January (Greg Jackson; ph.).

MARBLED GODWIT – Two were discovered on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 5 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) (rare in winter).

STILT SANDPIPER – One was spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Don Ware) (first December record for the WP). This species is rare in winter, so the 17 found during the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 19 December (Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.) was a good number.

LAUGHING GULL – An adult was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell) (rare inland, but regular at this site).

RING-BILLED GULL – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, a new maximum (2,901) was set for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

CALIFORNIA GULL – A first-year bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 February (Dick Reynolds) (seventh record for Alabama; @ABRC).

THAYER'S GULL – First-year birds were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 30 December – 13 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) (fifth record for Alabama; ph.; @ABRC), and at Speigner, *Elmore*, 19 and 26 February (Larry Gardella) and 20 February (Ben Garmon) (sixth record for Alabama, first for Inland Coastal Plain; ph.; @ABRC).

ICELAND GULL – A first-winter bird was at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 20 February (Laura Catterton) (third record for the WP; photos to FOSRC). An immature was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 15 January (Greg Jackson *et al.*) and at Trinity, *Morgan*, 30 January (Jeff Wilson *et al.*) (same bird by photos; fourth Alabama record; @ABRC). The fifth record for Alabama was set by a first-year bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 15 February (Bill Summerour, Laura Catterton; ph.; @ABRC).

THAYER'S X ICELAND GULL – A first-year hybrid was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2-4 February (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*) (eighth Alabama record of the Thayer's/Iceland complex; ph.; @ABRC).

- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – The fourth, fifth, and sixth records for the WP were established, respectively, by the following sightings: second-winter bird at Molino, *Escambia*, 12 January (Laura Catterton); two adults at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 30-31 January (Laura Catterton, Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown); and a first-winter bird at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 20 February (Laura Catterton). One was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 25 December (Steve McConnell) and 16-19 January (Larry Gardella *et al.*) (rare but regular at this site). Several sightings of one to three first-year birds and one adult occurred at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 29 December – 28 February (Laura Catterton, m.ob.), where the species is rare but regular.
- GLAUCOUS GULL** – At Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, an immature bird was found 29 December – 28 February (Laura Catterton, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan; ph.) (rare). Another immature was spotted at several sites along or near the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama (Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, Walker Pond, and Trinity, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, *Lauderdale*, and *Morgan*, respectively) between 16 January and 1 March (Larry Gardella, Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) (rare). The first record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was marked by an immature found at Speigner, *Elmore*, 12 February – 1 March (Tommy Pratt *et al.*; ph.).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A first-winter bird was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in WP).
- SANDWICH TERN** – One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) (rare in winter).
- FORSTER'S TERN** – Sixteen were at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson) (rare in winter for the Mountain Region; new winter maximum for the Mountain Region).
- ROCK PIGEON** – A new maximum for the Gulf Coast was set by the 412 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January.
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – A new maximum for Alabama was established with the count of 408 on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.
- ANI SP.** – One, probably a Groove-billed, was found at Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bob Duncan) (rare and erratic).
- BURROWING OWL** – The colony continues on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, with five birds reported 11 December (Lenny Fenimore) (rare).
- NIGHTHAWK SP.** – One, probably a Lesser, was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid; @ABRC) (any nighthawk rare in mid-winter).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – A female was at Mobile, *Mobile* (Fred Bassett, Velma Britain), and a male was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (Fred Bassett, Billy Given, Alide Given) (both 3 February; b.; ph.; @ABRC; 17 previous Alabama records).

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- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – One present January – March in Montgomery, *Montgomery* (Larry Gardella, Andrea Menyhert) had been banded earlier south of Troy, *Pike* (Fred Bassett) (rare in winter in Alabama).
- RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** – Six, a maximum for inland Alabama, were found on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December (Bob Sargent *et al.*; five b.).
- ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** – One was at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 21-30 December (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC; third record for Alabama).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – A single was at Spanish Fort, *Baldwin*, 21 December (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC; ninth record for Alabama), while another single was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Fred Bassett, Ginny Benton; b.; ph.; @ABRC; 10th record for Alabama).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – The 19th record for Alabama was marked by one at Cullman, *Cullman*, 11 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.; @ABRC).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** – The 115 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, was a good number.
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER** – One was found in Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 6 February (Tyler Hicks) (unexpected this site).
- EASTERN PHOEBE** – Thirty-seven was a good number on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Two records of singles came from the Gulf Coast, where this species is rare in winter: Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11-18 December (Mike Wilson, Tommy Pratt, Barry Pratt *et al.*) and Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 3 January (James Peavy).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Rare in winter in Alabama, Lucy and Bob Duncan had one south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 2 January, at the same site where the species was found last winter.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Two were recorded on the Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, 18 December, and a single was on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 January (rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, CBCs produced four records, all singles: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December; Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December; Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December; and Birmingham, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December.
- BLUE JAY** – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, 988 were counted to set a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley. On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, 541 were counted (good number).
- FISH CROW** – A maximum count (228) for inland Alabama in winter was made on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.
- PURPLE MARTIN** – Early birds were at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (Ann Miller)

and Atmore, *Escambia*, 3 February (Jon Yoder).

TUFTED TITMOUSE – A maximum count (372) for the Tennessee Valley was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and good numbers were produced on two other CBCs: 262 at Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, and 318 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Twenty-four was a good number on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, one found 31 December was rare for the Inland Coastal Plain.

HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, three reports were received: two near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 9 December (Greg Jackson); four on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December; and four on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

SEDGE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

MARSH WREN – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, one was discovered on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – One occurred at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10-24 December (Helen Kittinger) (rare in winter for the Mountain Region).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Two were reported from Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 5 December (Lenny Fenimore) (accidental in WP).

TENNESSEE WARBLER – One at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4 December (Jan Lloyd, Fred Bassett) marked the second December record for the WP.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – This species is rare but increasing in winter in north Alabama. Eight (maximum for winter in north Alabama) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, two were found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, and one was noted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – A single was at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Jim Kowalski, Virginia Spisak) (casual in winter in the WP).

YELLOW WARBLER – A single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10-11 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan) marked the third December record for the WP, while one at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Jim Kowalski, Virginia Spisak) marked the fourth WP December record.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Occasional for inland Alabama in winter, three reports of singles were received: Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 15 December (Lorna West); Dothan, *Houston*, 5 January (Larry Gardella); and Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 February (Geoff Hill, Tyler Hicks).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Seven (a maximum in winter for the Tennessee Valley) were found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

WILSON'S WARBLER – One was at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Bob Reid) (casual in winter for the WP). The fourth and fifth winter records for inland

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Alabama were marked, respectively, by singles at Opelika, *Lee*, 25 December (male) and 24 January (female) (Paul Milotis).

SUMMER TANAGER – A hold-over from the fall season was at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4-24 December (Betsy Tetlow) and 10 January (Betsy Tetlow, Neal Nimmo, Dinny Nimmo) (casual in winter in the WP). One was at Trinity, *Morgan*, 25-29 December (Karen Morgan; ph.) (casual in winter for inland Alabama).

CHIPPING SPARROW – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 261 (good number) were counted 18 December.

LARK SPARROW – One was found on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December (rare in winter).

FOX SPARROW – Singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 December (Bob Duncan) and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 28 December (Laura Catterton) (first appearance in WP in a few years).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – Near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, two were seen 2 December (Damien Simbeck) and 90+ (good number) 9 December (Greg Jackson). Another good number (397) was found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. Twelve were at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 January (Larry Gardella) (rare but regular at this site).

BLUE GROSBEAK – An adult male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 February (Bob Duncan) (second February record for the WP).

INDIGO BUNTING – Now almost regular in winter in the WP, three singles were found at three different sites in the Pensacola area, *Escambia*, 8, 18, and 27 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

PAINTED BUNTING – An adult male was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald) (rare in winter).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK – A good number (356) was found on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD – Fourteen were seen in northern *Escambia*, 30 November (Laura Catterton) (uncommon in the WP). On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, 88 was a good number for this area.

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 10th record for Alabama was established by an adult male at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 January – 6 February (Howard Horne *et al.*; @ABRC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, five reports were received: two females at Atmore, *Escambia*, 13 December (Jon Yoder *et al.*); male at feeder, Tallassee, *Elmore*, late November – 26 December (Bob Reed, Pat Reed); three on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December; male at feeder, Demopolis, *Marengo*, 15 January (Arthur Taylor; ph.); and male at Auburn, *Lee*, 18-19 January (Tyler Hicks).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This species is now widespread in the WP. It is found in numbers at feeders and is the source of many inquiries about strange birds at feed-

ers. Four were seen in a wooded area of west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 December (Bob Duncan), and a male in a yard at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 30 December, was well-described to Bob Duncan by Jim Dickerson (first known incursion into 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).

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Rainfall, El Niño, and Reproduction of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Richard. C. Conner, Daniel Saenz, Richard R. Schaefer, James R. McCormick, D. Craig Rudolph, and D. Brent Burt. *Southeastern Naturalist* 4: 347- 354.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker inhabits mature and open pine forests of the southeastern United States. The species breeds cooperatively, with males from previous nests remaining with their parents and assisting them in raising subsequent broods. From earlier observations of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and from studies of other bird species, the authors suspected that weather conditions associated with El Niño events (i.e., change in sea surface temperature in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which has wide-ranging effects on weather patterns) affected reproduction in the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. This study tests those suspicions by examining relationships among May precipitation levels (main period when nestlings are being fed), El Niño events, offspring production, and food delivery rates to nestling Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. The research was conducted in national forests in eastern Texas and west-central Louisiana. Food provisioning data were collected during a four-year period from 30 woodpecker groups and were related to precipitation and productivity data collected during the same period. In addition, associations between offspring productivity, precipitation levels in May, and El Niño events were investigated over a 20-year period. The study found that heavy rains did indeed reduce food delivery to nestlings and that the number of hatchling deaths tended to be greater during those years when May precipitation levels were high. The study also found that over a 20-year period, fewer young tended to be produced during those springs with high precipitation levels and that the years of high precipitation were associated with El Niño events. The authors suggest that their research indicates that global climate change, the El Niño events associated with that change, and the increase in precipitation in the Southeast related to the El Niño events, could make it more difficult for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species, to increase in number and recover from the threat of extinction. — TMH.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation, identification or other related topics. Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer, it saves time and money if you submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with a hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred). A manuscript may also be submitted over the Internet as a file attached to an e-mail addressed to: 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 51

No. 1

2005

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