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Typeset by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Mountain Plover, 18 January 2011, Baldwin Co., AL; Bill Summerour

NEW NORTH AMERICAN LATE BREEDING DATE FOR NORTHERN PARULA (*PARULA AMERICANA*)

Eric C. Soehren

The Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) is a Neotropical migratory songbird that is among the earliest spring arrivals in North America. In the southeastern United States, breeding activities commence in late-March and typically end in July, and rarely carries over into early August. Herein I report a new late breeding observation of Northern Parula that significantly extends all documented breeding dates for North America.

On the afternoon of 21 August 2007 while working on the Forever Wild Wehle Tract (N32.0405, W-85.4675) in Bullock County, Alabama, my attention was directed to constant high-pitched chittering in a nearby second-growth pine-hardwood stand. It was obvious that the begging notes were being emitted from dependent fledglings, so I investigated to determine the species. Upon initial approach, I noticed a female Northern Parula flitting near the ground actively searching for prey at a near-frenzied pace. The female flew to within three feet (0.9 m) of me as she nabbed a small white moth in the leaf litter and then immediately fed it to the closer of two nearby fledglings well camouflaged on the ground. Each time the female approached with a prey item, the intensity of the fledglings' chittering and wing quivering increased substantially. The female made a total of 15 deliveries in the course of ten minutes, provisioning both fledglings about equally. I then left the site to resume work elsewhere on the property. About 90 minutes later a colleague was interested in witnessing this event so we returned to relocate the family group. They had moved approximately 100 feet (30.5 m) from where I first observed them and the female was again observed searching for prey and feeding both begging young.

Based on the fledglings' behavior and appearance, I concluded the young had fledged earlier that day, making it possible to estimate the date of clutch initiation. Northern Parula clutch size ranges from three to five eggs with one egg laid per day. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and time to fledging is usually ten to 11 days after hatching (Moldenhauer and Regelski 1996). Assuming a normal clutch size of four eggs and accounting for the documented ranges of incubation followed by fledging on the eleventh day, I estimated the first egg was laid between 24 and 26 July, with incubation likely commencing between 28 and 30 July. Twelve to fourteen days of incubation would put hatching on or near 10 August.

In North America, documented breeding dates for Northern Parula range from 30 March (nest building; Stevenson and Anderson 1994) to 5 August (dependent

fledglings; Bull 1974), although James and Neal (1986) briefly mention a “family group of three birds” observed in Fulton County, Arkansas on 14 August. Assuming the latter is a valid breeding record, this observation (21 August) significantly extends the late breeding date for Northern Parula in North America by seven days. In Alabama, the previous late breeding date was 29 June (Imhof 1976:341).

The circumstances leading to this very late nesting are unknown; however it is reasonable to presume that this observation was most likely a second brood or a renest following a previous nest failure. Second broods have been reported in the Carolinas (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970, Potter et al. 1980) and in Tennessee (Lyle and Tyler 1934) and is suspected to occur in other southern states (Moldenhauer and Regelski 1996). Although entirely speculative, it is also possible that this observation may have been the result of a third brood or renest based on the wide span of documented breeding dates. Regardless of the scenario, this new late breeding observation is a noteworthy extension in the normal breeding phenology of the Northern Parula.

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2010)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 2010 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*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b” = banded; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSTF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Treatment Facility; “GINS” = Gulf Islands National Seashore; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NABS” = North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society “ph.” = photographed; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – David Plumb *et al.* reported seven from south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 15 August+ (ph.; rare but increasing). This species continued from the summer at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*. Various numbers of adults and young were observed at this site on three dates: 11 adults, nine downy young, and seven older young on 29 August (Allen Burrows; maximum count for Alabama); 12 on 4 September (Chazz Hesselein); and 14 on 17 October (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*). The Blakeley Island observations document the second nesting in Alabama for this rare but increasing species.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – At Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 103 were seen flying west on 20 October (S. Kahl) (good number; uncommon in the fall on the Gulf Coast).

ROSS’S GOOSE – An early arrival date for Alabama was marked by six (two adults, four immatures) seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 31 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare but regular at this site). Kathy Hicks noted a single at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 11 November (ph.; rare but increasing).

EURASIAN WIGEON – A male was reported from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 26 November (Loretta Kolodzieski, Henry Kolodzieski) (ninth record for Alabama; @ABRC).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Seven birds were early at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 28 August

(Chazz Hesselein).

- REDHEAD – At the Walter F. George Dam in *Henry*, Mark McShane and Patty Mclean counted 162 on 20 November, a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- SURF SCOTER – Six were at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 20 November (Mark McShane, Patty Mclean) (rare inland; third record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLACK SCOTER – Three were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 30 November (Lucy Duncan), where the species is rare. Five were seen at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 November (Eric Boehm) (rare inland; third record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- RED-THROATED LOON – An immature was recorded at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 11 November (Eric Boehm) (rare inland; fourth record for the Inland Coastal Plain). Scott Somershoe observed a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 November, where the species is rare but regular.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE – Seventy was a good number at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8 November (Bob Duncan). A single at Speigner, *Elmore*, 8 August (Larry Gardella) represented either an uncommon breeder or an early migrant.
- HORNED GREBE – One was at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 20 November (Mark McShane, Patty Mclean) (uncommon to rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- CORY’S SHEARWATER – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 November and two there 16 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked the eighth and ninth records, respectively, for the WP.
- GREAT SHEARWATER – This species is rare in the WP, and one at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 30 November (Lucy Duncan) provided the first local November record.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER – Two were noted at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP).
- AUDUBON’S SHEARWATER – This species is rare in the WP, and the following sightings at Fort Pickens, *Escambia* (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), provided the first local November records: three on 15 November, six on 16 November, and two on 30 November.
- SHEARWATER SP. – Ten were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 November and 11 were there 16 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- WOOD STORK – Michael Jordan reported two on 1 August and eight on 8 August at a roost on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin* (rare on the Gulf Coast).
- BROWN BOOBY – An adult was reported from west of Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 19 October (Jim Holmes, James Holmes) (occasional in Alabama; late record for Alabama; @ ABRC).
- NORTHERN GANNET – Bob and Lucy Duncan estimated that 1,200 were flying west in five hours at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 November (maximum count for the WP).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – The 1,200 reported from *Okaloosa* and *Santa Rosa* on 31 October (Alex Harper, Patrick James) established a new maximum for the WP.
- GREAT EGRET – Michael Jordan reported 325 (maximum fall count for the Gulf Coast) on 24 August and 300 on 25 August at a roost on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*.

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- SNOWY EGRET – Damien Simbeck found three west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 August (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON – Michael Jordan reported 350 on 24 August and 400 (maximum fall count for Alabama) on 12 September at a roost on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*.
- TRICOLORED HERON – Reports of singles came from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 1-8 August (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain), and from Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 8-14 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (sixth record for the Mountain Region).
- WHITE IBIS – Two records of singles came from the Tennessee Valley, where the species is rare but regular: west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 August (Damien Simbeck), and Leighton, *Colbert*, 29 August (Matt Morrow). Michael Jordan reported 1,750 (maximum fall count for Alabama) on 24 August; 1,500 on 25 August; and 1,200 on 5 September at a roost on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*.
- GLOSSY IBIS – Seventeen was a good number on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 28 August (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS – The 20th and 21st records for Alabama were marked, respectively, by singles on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 28 August (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*), and at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*).
- PLEGADIS SP. – A single was observed at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 October (Dwight Cooley, Marshall Iliff) (species complex rare inland).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL – One was noted on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 8 August (Michael Jordan, Eva Barnett) (rare but increasing).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Holly Hansen *et al.* spotted one at New Market, *Madison*, 22 August (fifth record for Tennessee Valley).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE – Rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, reports of singles came from Pell City, *St. Clair*, 18 August (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson), and Turner, *Talladega*, 21 August (Greg Harber). Steve McConnell sighted one northwest of Decatur, *Morgan*, 16 September (rare in the Tennessee Valley).
- NORTHERN HARRIER – One at Taminco/Air Products Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 4-24 August (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman) marked the third August record for the WP.
- MERLIN – Rare in the Mountain Region, reports of singles came from Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 20 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and Weogulfka, *Coosa*, 12 October (Marshall Iliff).
- PRAIRIE FALCON – One was reported from the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 October (Damien Simbeck, Andrew Haffenden, m.ob.) (seventh Alabama record; @ABRC).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – Twelve were counted south of Opelika, *Lee*, 8 August (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain and maximum count for this region).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – Uncommon in fall in Alabama, records from three sites were received: one near Leighton, *Colbert*, 29 August (Matt Morrow); one at

Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 8 October (Steve McConnell); and three at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 October (David Pylant, Vince Meleski).

KILLDEER – A maximum fall count (320) for the Tennessee Valley was made west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 August (Damien Simbeck).

AMERICAN AVOCET – This species is rare for inland Alabama, so one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 3 September (Matt Morrow) was noteworthy.

WILLET – Three were at the fish hatchery in Marion, *Perry*, 9 August (Jeff Garner), and a single was seen south of Opelika, *Lee*, 18 August (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson) (rare for inland Alabama).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW – One was found at Tyndall Air Force Base, *Bay*, 20 August (Neil Lamb, Tony Menart) to mark the first August record for the WP. This species was formerly rare but regular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, but is now only occasional (last record in 2004). The report of a single from Grand Batture Island, *Mobile*, 5 November (Jake Walker, Don McKee) was therefore noteworthy.

MARBLED GODWIT – This species is occasional for inland Alabama, so one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 6 August (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds) was noteworthy.

RUDDY TURNSTONE – A single was at the fish hatchery in Marion, *Perry*, 17 August (Jeff Garner) (rare inland).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – The first August record for the WP was provided by one at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 24-25 August (Ed Kwater). Rare in fall in Alabama, sightings were made at three sites: Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, two on 8 August and one 16-21 August (Larry Gardella *et al.*); Pintlala, *Montgomery*, one on 8 August (Larry Gardella *et al.*); and south of Opelika, *Lee*, one on 8 August (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was at Pintlala, *Montgomery*, 8 August (Larry Gardella), while several records came from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*: two on 16 August (Kevin Calhoon), one 19-21 August and two on 4 September (Larry Gardella). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, a single was reported from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 16-17 October (Marshall Iliff, m.ob.).

STILT SANDPIPER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was at Pintlala, *Montgomery*, 8 August (Larry Gardella), while several records came from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*: one 15-16 August, four on 19 August, 10 on 1 September, and 54 (maximum count for inland Alabama) on 16 September (Larry Gardella *et al.*). A single was at Leighton, *Colbert*, 28 August (Ken Ward, NABS) (uncommon this early in the Tennessee Valley).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Singles were at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 24-25 August (Ed Kwater), and at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27 August (Bob Duncan) (rare but regular in fall in the WP). Six were tallied near Leighton, *Colbert*, 28 August (Ken Ward, NBS) (uncommon in fall in the Tennessee Valley). Four were found at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 30 August (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare but regular in the Mountain Region).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – This species is rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain. Larry Gardella observed a single at Pintlala, *Montgomery*, 8 August, and Kevin

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Calhoon saw another single at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 16 August.

WILSON'S SNIPE – Larry Gardella found two early birds at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 8 August.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – A single was seen at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 August (Ed Kwater) (rare but regular). This species is rare in Alabama, and reports came from two sites this season: Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, a single on 16 August (Kevin Calhoon), two on 16 September (Larry Gardella), and two on 19 September (Tommy Pratt); and Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, three on 29 August (Allen Burrows), six on 4 September (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*), two on 30 October (Chazz Hesselein), and two on 10 November (late) (Eric Soehren).

LAUGHING GULL – Matt Morrow reported sightings at Guntersville, *Marshall*, as follows: one on 4 September, three on 10 September, and one on 2 October (rare but regular at this site). A single was noted 29 September at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (rare but regular at this site). One was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15-20 October (Dwight Cooley, Marshall Iliff) (rare inland).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – A single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 11 October (Kevin Calhoon; ph.; rare). Another single was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 October (Dwight Cooley, Marshall Iliff) (rare). Three records came from *Baldwin* on the Gulf Coast, where this gull is rare but regular: two west of Gulf Shores 19 October (Jim Holmes, James Holmes), two at Fort Morgan 1 November (Larry Gardella), and one at Magnolia Springs 20 November (Chazz Hesselein, Lynne Fitzgerald). James Flynn reported a single from the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 31 October (seventh record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

RING-BILLED GULL – A single was seen on Smith Lake southwest of Houston, *Winston*, 3 August (Larry Barkey) (rare in the Mountain Region this early). Jeff Wilson counted 3,240+ on Pickwick Reservoir at the mouth of Bear Creek, *Colbert*, 10 November to establish a maximum fall count for Alabama.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare but regular and increasing in Alabama, several records were received: Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, one on 4 August (Kerry Ross) (early arrival record for Alabama); Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, one on 23 August (early record for inland Alabama) (Damien Simbeck), three on 20 September (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell), and singles on 29 September and 6 November (Steve McConnell); Guntersville, *Marshall*, one on 22 September (Matt Morrow) and three on 24 November+ (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, one on 20 November+ (Chazz Hesselein, Lynne Fitzgerald); and Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one on 28 November (Howard Horne).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – A single was seen 10 October on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, where this species is rare but regular (Marshall Iliff, Howard Horne, Ben Garmon *et al.*).

HERRING X KELP GULL (“CHANDELEUR GULL”) – The first record for the WP was provided by one seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 20 August (Bob Duncan). This hybrid

was unknown in Alabama until 2009, but is increasing in frequency of occurrence. A single was seen 10 October on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Marshall Iloff *et al.*), while another single (possibly the same bird as immediately above) was reported from Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 24 November (Chazz Hesselein).

BROWN NODDY – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was only the second ever for the WP.

SANDWICH TERN – High counts for so late in the season (70 on 8 November and 240 on 9 November) were made at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

POMARINE JAEGER – One in *Bay* 6 October (Rufus Rose; ph.) was only the seventh record for the WP.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER – One was photographed off Opal Beach, *GINS*, *Escambia*, 6 September (Kelly Jones) to mark the third record for the WP.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, a single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9-10 October (Eric Soehren, Steve McConnell *et al.*). Another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 17 October (Bob Sargent *et al.*; b.) and 18 October (Jim Holmes).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – This species is a rare but regular fall visitor to the WP. One was seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21-25 November (Keith McMullen *et al.*).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – This species is now known to be of regular occurrence in north Alabama, but it is difficult to detect other than by banding operations. Bob and Martha Sargent banded and photographed nine birds on six dates between 2-13 November at Clay, *Jefferson*. On 5 November, they captured one owl that had been banded at Whitefish Point, Michigan, on 17 March 2010. Fred and Brandee Moore banded 14 birds on 11 dates between 2-27 November on Chandler Mountain, *St. Clair*. Mary and Don Wilson banded and photographed nine birds on seven dates between 4-21 November at Hollins, *Clay*. On 19 November, they captured one bird that had been banded in New York on 16 October 2010.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, an adult male was captured at Eight Mile, *Mobile*, 7 September (Fred Bassett, Shirley Cantrell, Bob Cantrell; b.; ph.). Another bird was trapped in Mobile, *Mobile*, 19 November (Fred Bassett, Donna Bullard, Vic Bullard; b.; ph.).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – An early arrival was at Powder Magazine in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 30 September (Larry Gardella).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – Rare but expected in fall in Alabama, numerous reports were received, all of singles unless otherwise noted: one-two 25 August – 27 September, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson* (Larry Gardella, Greg Jackson, Greg Harber, Ken Archambault *et al.*); 27 August and 3 September, two on 17 September, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); 13 September, Tennessee River (AL 92), *Jackson* (Kevin Calhoon); 18 September, Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall* (Matt Morrow); 19 September, Shorter, *Macon* (Eric Soehren); 20-22 September (Ben Garmon), 15 October (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), and 18 October (Ben Garmon) on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*; 24-26 September, Mountain Brook,

- Jefferson* (Ken Archambault); 26 September, northwest of Auburn, *Lee* (Jim Holmes, James Holmes *et al.*); and 4 October, Clay, *Jefferson* (Bob Sargent).
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – Good numbers were counted on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*: 15 on 5 September, 20 on 6 September, 30 on 19 September, and 20 on 26 September (Michael Jordan). The count of 30 marked a maximum for the Gulf Coast and a fall high for Alabama.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER – The sixth record for the Inland Coastal Plain was established by the detection of a calling bird at Powder Magazine in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 25-26 September (Larry Gardella).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER – A calling individual was noted in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 August (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER – A single was observed at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 15 October – 27 November (Bruce Purdy, Betsy Tetlow *et al.*) (rare but regular at this location).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Singles were noted at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21-29 October (David Sparks *et al.*) and at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 23 October – 19 November (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown, Alex Harper, Patrick James) (rare but regular at these sites).
- SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – The third record for the WP was marked by one seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 3-7 October (Brenda Calloway, Jerry Calloway, Alex Harper *et al.*; ph.).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD – One spotted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 24 November (Stephen Messer, Micah Messer) marked a late fall departure date for Alabama.
- BELL'S VIREO – Alex Harper found one at Naval Live Oaks, GINS, *Santa Rosa*, 5 September to establish the 12th record for the WP. Rare in Alabama, one was reported on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 October (Lucy Duncan).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO – A single west of Tuckabatchee, *Elmore*, 3 September (Robert Reed) set an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Another early single was at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 5 September (Larry Gardella).
- WARBLING VIREO – This vireo is only occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, and one at Cypress Pond in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 1 August (Bill Campbell) set an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Reports of singles came from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 October (Howard Horne *et al.*), and the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 October (Marshall Iliff *et al.*) (rare on the Gulf Coast).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO – One that was seen and heard singing along the Tennessee River, *Jackson*, 8 August (Kevin Calhoun, Daniel Jacobson) was the earliest arrival for Alabama by three weeks. Other early birds included a single at Clay, *Jefferson*, 8 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent), and two at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 11 September (Matt Morrow, NABS).
- FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, 24 (fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley) were counted along the Tennessee River near Brown's Ferry, *Limestone/Lawrence* on 20 September (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell). Two

were noted at Wheeler NWR, Morgan, 15 October (Dwight Cooley, Marshall Iliff).

BROWN CREEPER – Three early arrivals were received for this species: one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 30 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (earliest for Tennessee Valley); one at the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 October (Greg Jackson); and two at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 October (Marshall Iliff, Howard Horne, John Trent) (earliest for the Gulf Coast).

BEWICK'S WREN – This wren is only occasional in Alabama, so one at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 16 October (Chazz Hesselein) was noteworthy.

HOUSE WREN – This species is a rare breeder in the Mountain Region, especially in the western portion. Eugene Tidwell documented the first local breeding record with his observation of a pair and two young between spring and 10 August at Hamilton, *Marion*. One was late at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17 November (Dwight Cooley).

WINTER WREN - One at the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 October (Greg Jackson) marked an early arrival record for the Mountain Region. Other early birds included one at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 5 October (Debbie McKenzie), and two at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 October (Eric Soehren, John Trent *et al.*).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – Reports of early birds came from four locations: one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 6 October (Larry Gardella); one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 7 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 October (Bob Sargent *et al.*; b.); and two at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 October (John Trent, Marshall Iliff, Howard Horne).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, hosted an early arrival on 18 September (Ken Ward, NABS).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – One seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 2-10 September (Ken Archambault *et al.*) marked an early arrival record for the Mountain Region.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – Larry Gardella counted pre-dawn calling flyovers of this species at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, and tallied 52 on 29 September and 61 on 14 October, the latter a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

WOOD THRUSH – Good numbers were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 October (63) and 16 October (45) (Bob Sargent *et al.*).

VARIED THRUSH – The third record for Alabama was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC).

SNOW BUNTING – The third record for Alabama and the first for the Tennessee Valley was established by one at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 22 November+ (Kevin Calhoun, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – Larry Gardella reported an adult male from Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 August, an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain (although this species is a probable occasional breeder on the



Varied Thrush, 16 October 2010, Baldwin Co., AL; M. Sargent.

- Inland Coastal Plain). Eight was a good number at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 August (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER – Singles seen on 5 September at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore* (Larry Gardella) and at Shorter, *Macon* (Eric Soehren) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – One in *Okaloosa* 18 September (Don Ware) was very early for the WP. Another early arrival was along the Tennessee River (AL 92), *Jackson*, 13 September (Kevin Calhoun).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER – Larry Gardella found one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 14 September (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, two reports of singles were received: Anniston, *Calhoun*, 25 September (Debbie McKenzie), and northwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 25 September (Jim Holmes, James Holmes *et al.*). Eight were counted at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 September (Chazz Hesselein) to establish a maximum count for Alabama.
- YELLOW WARBLER – Ninety-six (good number) were counted passing through Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, in just 80 minutes on 22 August (Bob Duncan). An adult male at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 November (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) was late.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – A single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 August (Larry Gardella) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Four was a good number so early at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 August (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Six was a good number so early at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 August (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER – Lorna West reported one from Opelika, *Lee*, 5 September (rare in fall).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A lone female was spotted at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 30 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (rare inland).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – One at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 18 September (Matt Morrow) marked an early arrival date for Alabama.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – A single was early at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 August (David Dortch *et al.*).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – One lingered at Raccoon Creek, *Jackson*, 4 November (David Chaffin, Jan Chadwell) to mark a late fall record for inland Alabama (except for the occasional winter record). Another late bird was at the Goat Tree on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 November (Chazz Hesselein).
- PALM WARBLER – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 August (James Pfeiffer) was the earliest ever for the WP by 15 days. An early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain was set by two at the Farquhar State Cattle Ranch, Cedarville, *Hale*, 13 September (John Trent). Two birds were also early at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 18 September (John Trent).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – An early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain was set by one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella). Another single was early at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 11 September (Matt Morrow, NABS). A

third early individual was along the Tennessee River (AL 92), *Jackson*, 13 September (Kevin Calhoon).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – A late single was at Powder Magazine, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 26 October (Larry Gardella).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 30 October (Peggy Baker, Sue Peters-Ferree) was only the fourth October report for the WP.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – One was reported from Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 27 August (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (rare in Tennessee Valley).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 3 October (Merilu Rose) was only the eighth record for the WP.

MOURNING WARBLER – Rare in fall in the Tennessee Valley, a lone bird was noted at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 28 August (Bala Chennupati; ph.). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, another single was seen at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 September (Jake Walker *et al.*).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER – The banding operation at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, produced Alabama's second record for this western species. An immature female was banded and seen 10 October+ (Fred Bassett, Bob Sargent, Emma Rhodes *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – A late individual was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17 November (Dwight Cooley).

WILSON'S WARBLER – This species is rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region. Three reports (all of singles) were received: Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, a male on 18 September (Greg Jackson) and a female-type on 20 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); Anniston, *Calhoun*, 22 September (Debbie McKenzie).



MacGillivray's Warbler, 10 October 2010, Baldwin Co., AL; M. Sargent.

CANADA WARBLER – A new early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley was marked by one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 17 August (Damien Simbeck, Jack Paul).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE – The second record for the WP was provided by one at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 31 October – 27 November (Alex Harper, Patrick James, Chris James *et al.*). This individual was seen at the same spot as one that provided a fall 2009 record of this species and may have been a returning bird.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW – John Trent found a singing bird at a new site on the Coosa Wildlife Management Area, *Coosa*, 10 August (rare in the Mountain Region).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Singles were noted at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 13-30 October (Laura Catterton *et al.*) and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 16 October (Bob Duncan), sites where the species is rare but regular. Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, one site on Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, hosted two on 13 October (Bob Duncan,

Lucy Duncan) and one on 18 October (Jim Holmes), while one bird was banded at another site on 14 October (Bob Sargent *et al.*). Still another single was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 16-17 October (Chazz Hesselein), an unusual location away from the outer coast.

LARK SPARROW – Rare but regular at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, one was seen 5 September – 15 November (Alex Harper, James Pfeiffer, Patrick James, Alicia Gerrety *et al.*). Nine at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 28 August (Chazz Hesselein, m.ob.) set a new maximum for the Gulf Coast.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – Eight reported from Centre, *Cherokee*, 7 September (Maureen Shaffer, Ty Keith, Anne Miller) marked a maximum fall count for the Mountain Region.

NELSON'S SPARROW – One at Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 16 September (Bob Duncan) was the earliest ever for the WP by two days.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Singles were seen at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 29 October (Greg Harber), and at Opelika, *Lee*, 5 November (Jim Holmes) (rare in the Mountain Region).

SWAMP SPARROW – John Trent counted 113 at the Farquhar State Cattle Ranch, Cedarville, *Hale*, 28 October, a fall maximum for inland Alabama.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – The fourth Alabama record for the western subspecies, *Zontrichia leucophrys gambelii*, was marked by an immature seen at the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16-20 October (Marshall Iliff, Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.).

WESTERN TANAGER – Casual in the WP, a female was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 September (Bob Duncan), and another female was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4 October (Alan Sheppard). Rare but increasing in Alabama, a single was reported from the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 October (S. Welles), 17 October (Jake Walker), and 20 October (Jim Holmes). A single was at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 26 November (Chester Martin).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A maximum count (120) for the WP was made at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 24 October (Paul Blakeburn).

BLUE GROSBEAK – Four at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8 November (Bob Duncan) were late for the WP. Three late birds were at the Farquhar State Cattle Ranch, Cedarville, *Hale*, 28 October (John Trent).

DICKCISSEL – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22 August was very early, and another was there 5 September (James Pfeiffer). Forty were counted at Centre, *Cherokee*, 7 September (Maureen Shaffer, Ty Keith, Anne Miller) (maximum fall count for Alabama and maximum number for the Mountain Region).

BOBOLINK – Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, singles were reported from the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5-6 September (Craig Litteken *et al.*; ph.), and from the east end of the island 22 October (Chazz Hesselein).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD – Dwight Cooley estimated 25,000 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 3 November (maximum fall count for Alabama), and 4,500 were reported from south of Eufaula, *Barbour*, 29 November (Anmarie Honan, Terry Honan)

(maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Casual in the WP, an immature was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 16 September (David Sparks), an immature male was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 18 September, and a female was at Blackwater River State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 3-9 October (Carol Tebay). Rare in Alabama, a female was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 29 September (Merilu Rose *et al.*).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD – Dwight Cooley and Marshall Iliff estimated 6,000 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 October (maximum fall count for Alabama), and 3,000 were reported from the Farquhar State Cattle Ranch, Cedarville, *Hale*, 29 October (John Trent) (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

ORCHARD ORIOLE – A first-year male at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 29 October (Alex Harper, Patrick James; ph.) was the latest ever departure for the WP by 10 days.

RED CROSSBILL – This species continues to be seen along the Pinhoti Trail near Coleman Lake in the Talladega NF, *Cleburne*. David Trently *et al.* reported 20+ on 18 October, a maximum reported from this site.

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – Reports of this exotic came from Lillian, *Baldwin*, 18 birds on 31 October (Kathy Hicks) (continuation at this site for several years), and the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, six birds on 9 November (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon, Ann Johnson) (continuation on Dauphin Island, first noted in 2009).

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Snow Bunting, 27 November 2010, Marshall Co., AL; Paul H. Franklin.

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2010 – FEBRUARY 2011)

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

This report covers the period from December 2010 through February 2011 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*, *Holmes*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSTF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Treatment Facility; “GINS” = Gulf Islands National Seashore; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Reports from an unprecedented 12 sites were received for this species. Northern *Escambia* hosted 10 on 17 January (Gary Davis). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, singles were noted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (William Bremser, James Pfeiffer *et al.*) and south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 26 January (Howard Horne *et al.*), while four were seen at Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 February (Christine Kelley). At Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, Larry Gardella observed three on 1 January and seven on 6 February, while Allen Tubbs *et al.* reported seven on 18 January (locally rare). Rare in the Mountain Region, two reports were received: four at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 29 December (Rick Houlk), and two in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 25-26 January (Ken Wills). Large numbers were reported from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*: 36 on 12 December (Steve McConnell), 142 on 9 January (Steve McConnell), 300 on 20 January (David Hollie), and 400 on 30 January (Kim Upper), the latter total a maximum for inland Alabama and a maximum winter count for Alabama. This species is locally rare at the following three sites: three at Dothan, *Houston*, 4 December (Rodney Cassidy); one at Sloss Lake in Russellville, *Franklin*, 8 December (Damien Simbeck); and 30 at Cedarville, *Hale*, 11 February (Don Self, Judy Self). Locally rare but regular in the Waterloo CBC area, *Lauderdale/Colbert*,

good numbers were reported as follows: 15 on 17 December (Damien Simbeck; ph.), 55 on 18 December (Tom Haggerty, Bill Rogers), and 31 on 27 December (Ashley Peters).

SNOW GOOSE – Northern *Escambia* hosted three 14-17 January (Gary Davis), and 28 were at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 February (Don Ware). Larry Barkey counted 85 south of Houston, *Winston*, 1 December, a good number for the Mountain Region.

ROSS'S GOOSE – In northern *Escambia*, 1-8 were noted 29 December – 17 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Alex Harper, Patrick James, Gary Davis), and a single was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 February (Don Ware). Rare but regular and increasing in Alabama, seven records were received. South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, there were three on 6 December, four on 28 December, and two on 2 January (David Plumb *et al.*; ph.). A single was spotted east of Montrose, *Baldwin*, 6 December (Bill Summerour; ph.). Another report of a single came from the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 16 December (Geoff Hill *et al.*; ph.). Three were on Koger Island, *Lauderdale*, 17-18 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*). The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 11 on 18 December, and the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, reported a single on 26 December. A maximum count (25) for Alabama was made on 26 February, with 21 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, and four north of Leighton, *Colbert* (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum *et al.*).

ACKLING GOOSE – The 12th record for Alabama was marked by birds at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, as follows: one on 12 December (Steve McConnell), eight on 18 December (Wheeler CBC), one on 14 January (Sue Moske), four on 15 January (Dwight Cooley *et al.*), two on 20 January (David Hollie *et al.*; ph.), and one on 2 February (Sue Moske). The 13th record for Alabama was established by a single south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 21-28 December (David Plumb, Bill Summerour; ph.).

TUNDRA SWAN – An immature was seen at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 6 February (Larry Gardella) (rare).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – A maximum winter count (80) for inland Alabama was made at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 16 December (Joel McNeal *et al.*). Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, seven was a good number on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

CANVASBACK – Eric Soehren *et al.* reported 400 from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 30 January (good number for inland Alabama).

REDHEAD – At Regatta Bay Pond, Destin, *Okaloosa*, 1500 were reported on 14 February (Wes Tallyn, Don Ware), a maximum count for the WP.

GREATER SCAUP – Three were tallied on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December (rare in the Mountain Region). Three were noted at Speigner, *Elmore*, 16 January (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SURF SCOTER – Four reports came from Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*: seven on 2 January (Michael Russell, Joan Russell), four on 7 January (Lisa Comer), five on 22 January (Howard Horne *et al.*), and five on 15 February (Sue Moske) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Reports from the WP included seven on Santa Rosa Sound, *Escambia*, 11 December (Lucy Duncan), and 30 at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 18 December (Ann Forster, Dan Forster). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, 16 (good number) were observed on Bon Secour Bay, *Baldwin*, 8 December (Clyde Blum). Two were reported from Alabama waters at West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 30 January (Lorna West) (rare in the Mountain Region). Rare in the Tennessee Valley, three were noted at Huntsville, *Madison*, 5-11 February (Bill Montgomery; ph.), and two were reported from the Tennessee River near Smithsonia, *Lauderdale*, 26 February (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum).
- BLACK SCOTER – Four records were received from the WP: singles at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 11 December (Peggy Baker) and 24 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); another single in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 December (Bob Duncan *et al.*); and seven at GINS, *Escambia*, 5 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, three were noted on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 December (Howard Horne). Rare in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 9 January (Steve McConnell).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK – Two were in *Bay* 17 February (Neil Lamb). West of Florence, *Lauderdale*, two were seen 17 December and one on 26 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.) (rare). At Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was seen 27 January (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds) and two on 30 January (Eric Soehren, Alabama Ornithological Society) (rare).
- COMMON MERGANSER – One was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 21 December (Laura Catterton). Rare in Alabama, records came from three locations: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, four on 18 December (Steve McConnell *et al.*), seven on 30 January (Sue Moske), and several on 11 February (Dwight Cooley *et al.*); Tennessee River at Natchez Trace, *Lauderdale*, six on 22 December and one on 23 December (Paul Kittle); and one on Bear Creek, *Colbert*, 29 January (Jeff Wilson).
- WILD TURKEY – Nineteen were counted at Josephine, *Baldwin*, during the Gulf Shores CBC, 2 January (Morris Clark *et al.*) (ties maximum winter count for the Gulf Coast).
- RED-THROATED LOON – One was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 11 December (Peggy Baker).
- PACIFIC LOON – One was seen on Santa Rosa Sound, *Escambia*, 6-22 January (Alex Harper, Bob Wallace, Patrick James, Alicia Gerrety). Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was observed 15 December (Sue Moske) and 30 January (Andrew Haffenden).
- EARED GREBE – A single was spotted on Choctawhatchee Bay, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Bruce Purdy). Two were reported from the mouth of Bear Creek, *Colbert*, 29 January (Jeff Wilson) (rare).
- WESTERN GREBE – One was seen on Lake Mitchell south of Walnut Creek, *Chilton*, on multiple dates between 3 January and 31 May (Bill Dodson, Ann Dodson, m.ob.; ph.) (seventh record for Alabama and second for the Inland Coastal Plain; @ABRC).
- GREAT SHEARWATER – One was at Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 4 December (Bob

Duncan), feeding with mergansers within 20 yards of the beach.

CORY'S/GREAT SHEARWATER – An unidentified shearwater (probably Cory's) was at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 9 February (Lucy Duncan) (rare).

GREAT CORMORANT – A single was at St. Andrews SP, *Bay*, 28 January (Larry Cemo).

ANHINGA – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast, two were discovered on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December, and Brian Naylor saw up to three birds at Mobile, *Mobile*, 13-27 February. John Trent found one on the Wehle Forever Wild Tract southeast of Midway Station, *Bullock*, 11 January (rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – At Andalusia, *Covington*, Thomas Savage reported 14+ on 24 December (locally rare). A maximum winter count for Alabama was set by the 1398 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January.

AMERICAN BITTERN – The five encountered at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) marked a new maximum for the WP.

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was spotted at Dothan, *Houston*, 4 December (Rodney Cassidy).

REDDISH EGRET – The maximum count for Alabama was tied by the 17 tallied on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A single was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 19-20 December (Don Ware, Bill Bremser). An immature was counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December (David George, Sharon Hudgins) (occasional in winter in the Mountain Region).

WHITE IBIS – Birds were seen north of Hartford, *Geneva*, as follows: 12 (good number) on 18 February and six on 20 February (Bill Loebick) (rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).

GLOSSY IBIS – A lone bird seen at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4 January (Patrick James) was the second January record for the WP.

PLEGADIS SP. – A single was at Andalusia, *Covington*, 26 December (Thomas Savage) (rare inland).

BLACK VULTURE – The Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, tallied 280 on 2 January to set a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

OSPREY – Rare but regular and increasing in winter in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, and at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 29 December (Kim Upper). Rare but regular and increasing in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, five was a good number for the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 2 January. Occasional in winter in the Mountain Region, one was seen at Auburn, *Lee*, 29 January (Perry Washburn, James Wingard).

BALD EAGLE – Nine on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December, was a local maximum. A new maximum for south Alabama was marked by the 30 counted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – An immature was at Lake Land Farms near Marion, *Perry*, 23 December (Ben Garmon; ph.) (occasional inland in winter).

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

FERRUGINOUS HAWK – An immature was reported from west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 26 February (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum; @ABRC) (fourth record for Alabama and second for the Tennessee Valley).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK – A juvenile light morph bird was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 5 January – 11 February (Dwight Cooley *et al.*).

GOLDEN EAGLE – One in northern *Escambia*, 11 December (Bob Wallace, Dexter Richardson; ph.) provided the 11th record for the WP.

CRESTED CARACARA – An adult was seen sporadically 10 February – 15 March south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (David Plumb, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (second record for Alabama).

MERLIN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and singles were observed south of Lexington, *Lauderdale*, 1 January; southwest of Huntsville, *Madison*, 8 January; and at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 January (all three singles Damien Simbeck).

PEREGRINE FALCON – Rare but regular in winter for inland Alabama, five (ties maximum for inland Alabama) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and one was found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Andrew Haffenden).

YELLOW RAIL – Two were captured west of Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 18 January (Eric Soehren, m.ob.; b.; ph.) to mark the 21st record for Alabama.

SANDHILL CRANE – Records from four sites in the WP were received: 10 at Blackwater Bay, *Santa Rosa*, 7 December (Heidi Moore); four at Hurlburt Field, *Okaloosa*, 7 December (Wes Tallyn); 10 at Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 7 December (Kelly Jones); and one in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 27-31 December (Laura Catterton). The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, produced a total of 6417 (good number). Records came from four locations in Alabama where



Yellow Rail, 18 January 2010, Mobile Co., AL; E. Soehren.

the species is locally rare: 10 along the Tombigbee River near Leroy, *Washington*, 2 January (Matthew Rouse); two at Royal, *Blount*, 12 January (Keitha Hudson); three at Tallassee, *Elmore*, 13 January (Pat Reed); and a single north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 21 January – 18 February (Randy White, Bill Loebick). Damien Simbeck counted 33 on Koger Island, *Lauderdale*, 3 February (locally rare but regular and increasing).

WHOOPIING CRANE – Eleven captive-reared birds wintered at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan* (*vide* Dwight Cooley), with nine recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC 18

December. Another flock of captive-reared birds visited Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, and three reports were received: seven on 18 December, nine on 29 December (Rick Houlk), and seven on 29 January (Marion Dobbs), with one bird later shot and killed.

WILSON'S PLOVER – Jake Walker reported one from Grand Batture Island, *Mobile*, 13 January (fourth winter record for Alabama).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER – One was seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 18 January – 15 March (David Plumb, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC), and marked only the second record for Alabama.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Rare but regular in winter for inland Alabama, one was noted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Elmore/Autauga*, 2 January (Allen Tubbs *et al.*).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – Casual in winter on the Gulf Coast, a single was seen at Foley during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon, Karen Chiasson).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – The first winter record for Alabama was established by one seen at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 10-14 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.).



White-rumped Sandpiper, 10 December 2010, Baldwin Co., AL; G. Jackson.

STILT SANDPIPER – One-two were on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18 December (Howard Horne, Ralph Havard) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – A controlled burn on the Dixon Reserve, *Covington*, 10 December, flushed 60+, a maximum for Alabama (Thomas Savage).

LAUGHING GULL – The 18 December Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, tallied 5105, a new maximum winter count for Alabama.

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Very rare in the WP, one was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 18-20 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

CALIFORNIA GULL – A third-cycle bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Greg Jackson; ph.; @ABRC) marked the ninth record for Alabama.

THAYER'S GULL – A first-cycle bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 15-29 January (Matthew Morrow *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) to establish the ninth record for Alabama.



Thayer's Gull, 20 January 2011, Marshall Co., AL; D. Hollie

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Records from three sites in the WP were received. In northern *Escambia*, Laura Catterton reported a single on 19 December and three on 6 February; four were at Molino, *Escambia*, 7-8 January (Alex Harper, Patrick James, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan); and a single was at Naval Live Oaks, GINS, *Escambia*, 22-23 January (Paul Lehman, Alex Harper, Patrick James). Rare but regular and increasing in Alabama, one-four were seen at Wheeler

Dam and the nearby Town Creek Point and Marsh, *Colbert/Lawrence/Lauderdale*: singles on 8 January (Damien Simbeck) and 9 January (Andrew Haffenden), and four (maximum for inland Alabama) on 17 February (Damien Simbeck). Sightings in the Summerdale/Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* area began with a single on 20 November (Bill Summerour *et al.*), then six (ties maximum for Alabama) on 9 December (Greg Jackson), and one-four in January (m.ob.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Very rare in the WP, two adults were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 6 February (Andrew Haffenden). Rare but increasing, though not regular in *Baldwin*, a first-cycle bird was at Perdido Pass 2-3 January (Greg Jackson *et al.*) and at Gulf Shores 19 February (Larry Gardella). Singles were seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 December (Jake Walker) and 19 January (Howard Horne).

CASPIAN TERN – One was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 18 December (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) (second December record for the WP).

SANDWICH TERN – A single was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Bill Bremser), where the species is rare in winter. At Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, one was seen on 2 January (Andrew Haffenden) and two were there on 8 January (Jane McPherson) (rare in winter).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Ten were found during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December (rare but regular in this area and increasing). Five were tallied on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 2 January (rare but now regular in this area).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was seen at Grand Batture Island, *Mobile*, 14 January and 28 January (Jake Walker) (rare and erratic).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – This species is rare but expected in low numbers in north Alabama. Three were at Clay, *Jefferson*, 4 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.). One was at Hollins, *Clay*, 19 January (Mary Wilson, Don Wilson; b.). On Chandler Mountain, *St. Clair*, Fred and Brandlee Moore recaptured one on 19 February that had been banded at this site on 27 November, 2010.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – Two calling birds at Bessemer, *Jefferson*, 19 February (Judy Cacioppo) were early arrivals for Alabama unless they were rare wintering birds.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – This species is rare but regular in winter in Alabama. One that was captured in Mobile, *Mobile*, 28 January (Fred Bassett, Sandra Kerr) had returned for the fifth year.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – An immature male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 December – 22 January (Brenda Roose, Charlie Roose; b. Fred Bassett).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – One first recorded on the Choctawhatchee CBC, *Okaloosa*, 19 December continued to 9 February (Sharon Maxwell, Tom Maxwell; b. Fred Bassett) and was the first confirmed local record.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – A juvenile in Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 14-28 December (Stacy Meader, Frank Meader; b. Fred Bassett) marked the fifth local record. A single was in Theodore, *Mobile*, 17 December (Fred Bassett, Jackie Parks, Wesley Parks; b.; ph.) (rare).

- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 75 on 18 December to set a maximum winter count for the Tennessee Valley.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER – An adult male was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 December – 24 January (present since October) (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Rare but fairly regular in the WP, one was in northern *Escambia*, 29 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, but only occasional in winter, a single was south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 December (Bill Summerour; ph.). The fifth record for inland Alabama was marked by one north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 21 January – 8 February (Randy White, Kathy White; ph.).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, a single was reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 December (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon) and 18 December (Jake Walker *et al.*). The first winter record for inland Alabama was marked by one north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 5-19 February (Randy White, Kathy White; ph.).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – The first winter record for inland Alabama was marked by one at Normal, *Madison*, 28 November – 15 February (Megan Brown *et al.*). Two north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 5-19 February (Randy White, Kathy White; ph.) marked the second winter record for inland Alabama. The 18 December Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, recorded one (rare in winter).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO – This species is rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama. Singles were reported from Andalusia, *Covington*, 8 December and 29 January (Thomas Savage), and from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 2 February (John Trent). Three birds at Andalusia, *Covington*, 20 February (Thomas Savage) were likely early migrants.
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, three were sighted at the Coosa Wildlife Management Area, *Coosa*, 22 December (John Trent, Eric Soehren), and three were also tallied on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December (good numbers for both sites). Also rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were noted on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.
- RED-EYED VIREO – The first winter record for Alabama was established by a single at Andalusia, *Covington*, 9 December (Thomas Savage).
- FISH CROW – At Guntersville, *Marshall*, Steve McConnell reported two on 4 December, and Eric Soehren *et al.* counted eight on 29 January (rare but regular in this area). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, reports came from three sites: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, three on 15 December (Dwight Cooley) and one on 6 January (Sue Moske); Wright area, *Lauderdale*, singles on 18 December and 19 January (Damien Simbeck); and Rogersville area, *Lauderdale*, a single on 23 February (Damien Simbeck). Rick Houlk found one at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 18 December (rare but increasing in the northern Mountain Region).
- HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 1 December (Dwight Cooley), and another single was at Guntersville,

- Marshall*, 12 February (Sue Moske). Rare but regular in winter in the Mountain Region, a single was tallied on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December.
- SEDGE WREN – A single bird was reported from a site in Hoover, *Shelby*, 23 December and 24 January (Ty Keith, Rick Kittinger) (rare in winter in the Mountain Region).
- MARSH WREN – Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, hosted three during the CBC on 18 December, and two were noted there on 19 January (Dwight Cooley, Sue Moske) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley). Rare but expected in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was found during the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 2 January (Priscilla Tubbs).
- SAGE THRASHER – The fifth local record was established by a bird at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 January – 25 February (James Pfeiffer, David Dortch, Bob Wallace *et al.*; ph.; @FOSRC).
- AMERICAN PIPIT – A new maximum count for Alabama was set by the 2006 tallied during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – A single was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 12 February (Alex Harper, Patrick James, Alicia Gerrety).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR – One female at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 27 December (Don Ware) provided the first local record since 1979.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, three records (all singles) were received: Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 20 December to late December (Harriett Wright); Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December; and Winfield, *Marion*, 22-23 January (Jud Johnston). Also rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, four records were received: one on the Waterloo CBC, *Colbert*, 18 December; three on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December; a single at Madison, *Madison*, 1 January (Harold Peterson); and another single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 January (Eric Soehren, John Trent).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 25 February (Bernie Master, Susan Master).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – The second winter record for Alabama was provided by one at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 27 February (Carrie Dortch, David Dortch).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was noted on the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 16 December (Geoff Hill *et al.*).
- OVENBIRD – One was in *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Bruce Purdy).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH – One was in *Holmes*, 13 January (Gary Davis).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.
- WILSON'S WARBLER – A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 21 December (Scot Duncan) where very rare in winter.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT – A single was found in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 8-9 December (James Pfeiffer), one was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 16-28 January (Alex Harper, Patrick James), and another single was in northern *Escambia* 29 January (Alex Harper). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, one was observed on 3

December at Barnwell, *Baldwin* (Kathy Hicks; ph.).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE – One that was first seen in October was reported 10 December – 25 February at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia* (Will Domke *et al.*).

CHIPPING SPARROW – The Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 19 December, reported 364, a maximum for the Mountain Region.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – This species is rare in winter in Alabama and only occasional inland, so one at Clay, *Jefferson*, 27 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) was noteworthy.

LARK SPARROW – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4 December – 4 February (Betsy Tetlow *et al.*).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in north Alabama, two were noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and a single was at Proctor, *Limestone*, 25 December (Dwight Cooley).

DARK-EYED JUNCO – Twenty-two at Blackwater River State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 6 December (Peggy Baker *et al.*) set a new maximum for the WP.

SUMMER TANAGER – Very rare in winter in the WP, one was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 25 December (Wes Tallyn). Occasional in winter for inland Alabama, a single was noted at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 10 January (Sue Meadows; ph.).

WESTERN TANAGER – Very rare in winter in the WP, a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 18 December (Dana Timmons, Jerry French).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A female was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 2 January (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway; ph.). Occasional in winter for north Alabama, a male visited a feeder in Florence, *Lauderdale*, 24 December (Phyllis Nofzinger).

BLUE GROSBEAK – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 5 February – 3 March (Bob Duncan).

INDIGO BUNTING – Rare in winter in Alabama, a male was at Grant, *Marshall*, 10 January (Jolene Baughman; ph.).

DICKCISSEL – Michael Jordan reported one at a feeder in Foley, *Baldwin*, 10-19 December (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – Rare in the WP, four were reported from Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3 December (Bob Duncan), and four were in northern *Escambia*, 11 December (Bob Wallace, Dexter Richardson).



Summer Tanager, 10 January 2010, Lauderdale Co., AL; S. Meadows.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE –

Rare in the WP, 22 males were reported from Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, 3 December (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan), and a male and a female were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 February (Lucy Duncan).

SHINY COWBIRD – This species is now only occasional in Alabama. A single on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bill Bremser) marked the second winter record for the state.



Indigo Bunting, 10 January 2011, Marshall Co. AL; J. Baughman.

BRONZED COWBIRD – A male at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 25 December (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) provided the 13th record for the WP.

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE – A male was reported from northern *Escambia*, 5 February (James Pfeiffer, Patrick James, Alex Harper; ph. to FOSRC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare in winter in the WP, singles were reported from different sites in Pensacola, *Escambia*: 10-18 December (Betsy Tetlow) and 1-29 January (Herschel Phillips). Rare but increasing in winter in Alabama, one was at Auburn, *Lee*, 25 January – 25 February (Stewart White); one-two were reported from Brewton, *Escambia*, 20 February (Ann Biggs-Williams; ph.); and an immature was at Greenville, *Butler*, 16 December – late January (Anabel Markle).

PURPLE FINCH – Ten were in northern *Escambia*, 22 January (Alex Harper, Carl Edwards).

CROSSBILL SP. – Any crossbill is rare in Alabama away from Talladega NF, so two possible White-winged Crossbills at a feeder in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 19 February (Richard Mills, Elizabeth Mills; ph.; @ABRC) were notable. If accepted as White-winged Crossbill, this record would be the fourth for Alabama.

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Crested Caracara, 10 February 2011, Baldwin Co., AL; Bill Summerour.

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Egg Success, Hatching Success, and Nest-site Selection of Brown Pelicans, Gaillard Island, Alabama, USA. O.J. Robinson and J.J. Dindo. 2011. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123:386-390.

Brown Pelican populations have made a strong recovery along the Gulf Coast since the days of DDT pesticide use and its ban in 1972. The recovery is demonstrated by the pelican population on Gaillard Island, a man-made, dredge spoil island in Mobile Bay, Alabama. In 1983, only four nests were reported, but today as many as 5,000 breeding pairs occur.

This study focuses on nest-site selection and breeding success in the pelican population on Gaillard Island. During two breeding seasons the authors noted adult arrival times, measured vegetation structure at nest-sites, and monitored eggs and young at 384 nests on the island. The research found that the earliest arriving pairs had the greatest nesting success, and that they selected open areas on the ground with a layer of vegetation within 1-2 meters above the ground for nesting. The authors suggest that nests on the ground probably allowed for breeding adults to move more easily at their nest and this resulted in fewer eggs being crushed or knocked from the nest. Also, the nestlings of ground nests may be able to leave and return to nests sooner than nestlings at elevated nests, and vegetation above the nests may provide thermoregulatory benefits as well as protection from predators.

Although Brown Pelican populations along the Gulf Coast have recovered, the authors warn that the future of the populations is uncertain because of coastal development, the ephemeral nature of nesting islands, and natural and human disasters. - 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.

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