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Layout by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Le Conte's Sparrow, 31 December 2011, Limestone Co., AL; Bala Chennupati

LAWRENCE COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2008**Thomas M. Haggerty and Greg D. Jackson**

Summer Bird Counts (SBC) provide valuable information about the distribution and status of breeding birds, and can afford excellent supplements to Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) efforts and to annual U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Surveys. The baseline data collected from SBCs can be used for temporal and geographical comparative studies, as well as helping to determine conservation needs. Since 2000, numerous SBCs have been conducted throughout Alabama and the results of many of these counts have been published (Jackson 2000; Gardella 2003, 2004; Haggerty and Jackson 2005; Jackson and Haggerty 2007; Kittle 2012). The objective of this paper is to report on the findings of the Lawrence County SBC of 2008.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Lawrence County is in the northwest corner of Alabama (Fig. 1). It encompasses 1790 km² (691 mi²) and has a population density of 19/km² (50/mi²) (U.S. Census Bureau 2012). Physiographically, Lawrence County lies within three Level IV ecoregions: Interior Plateau-Eastern Highland Rim, Interior Plateau-Little Mountain, and Southwestern Appalachians-Dissected Plateau (Fig.1; Mirarchi et al. 2004). In Lawrence County, the Eastern Highland Rim has flat to gently rolling terrain. Current land use and cover in the region includes cropland (cotton, soybeans, hay, corn, and wheat), pasture (cattle), farm woodlots, and primarily oak-hickory deciduous forests (Griffith et al. 2001). The Little Mountain ecoregion has gently rolling to moderately steep open hills and is covered with mixed and deciduous forests, pasture, and some cropland. The Dissected Plateau is rugged, hilly, and has some gorge-like valleys. This ecoregion is mostly covered with oak-hickory and oak-hickory-pine forests with very limited cropland and pasture (Griffith et al. 2001). The Tennessee River (Wilson and Wheeler reservoirs) borders the county to the north (Fig. 1). Traditionally, Lawrence County is in two bird reporting geographic regions: Tennessee Valley and Mountain (Imhof 1976, Haggerty et al. 2004).

The U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle maps, or “quads,” of the county were designated as party-areas for the count. Sixteen observers in 12 parties surveyed twelve quads of the county: Wheeler Dam, Town Creek, Courtland, Hatton, Masterson, Caddo, Landersville, Moulton, Oakville, Bee Branch, Grayson,

and Upshaw (Fig. 1). Party surveys were conducted by automobile and on foot within assigned quads on a single morning (approximately 0500 - 1100 hours) in the period 6 – 22 June 2008. A total of 67.2 party-hours was expended surveying for diurnal species and four hours for nocturnal species. All individuals seen and heard were counted, and relative abundance estimates were obtained by dividing the total number of individuals of a species by the total number of diurnal party-hours.

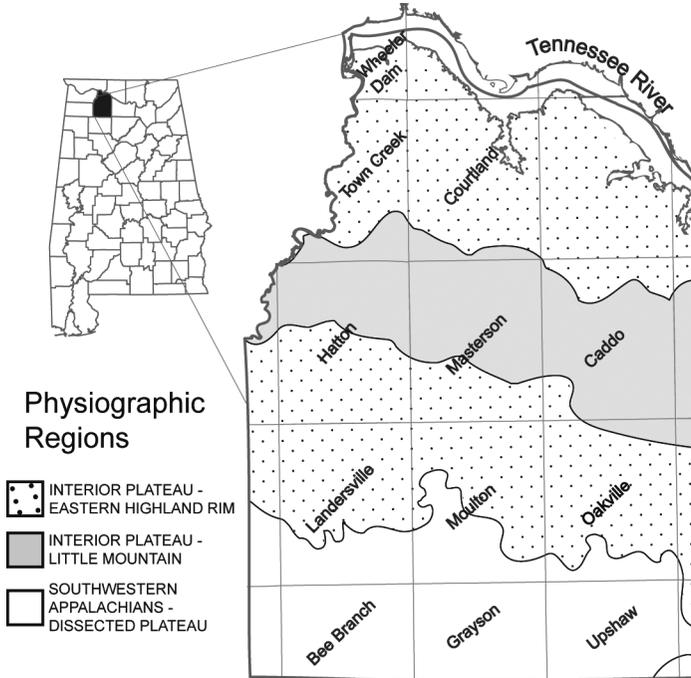


Figure 1. Lawrence County showing Level IV physiographic ecoregions and topographical quadrangles that were sampled during the study.

Observations of breeding activity were also noted, and during this SBC were recorded using the following designations and criteria. “Confirmed” breeding was concluded by an adult seen with nesting material, carrying food or a fecal sac, or building a nest (excluding woodpeckers and wrens), by either a nest with nestlings or an identifiable freshly-used nest, by an adult on a nest, or by newly-fledged young seen or heard begging. “Probable” breeding was designated by a count of at least seven widely-distributed singing males, by a pair observed in appropriate habitat, or by notation of courtship, agitation, or territorial behavior; some of these

activities only qualified within “Safe Dates” for the species, as established by the BBA program (Haggerty 2009). “Possible” breeding was determined by detection of the species in suitable breeding habitat within Safe Dates. The “Observed” category was used if the species was found in unsuitable breeding habitat and/or outside Safe Dates, or for vultures not near a roost, independent juveniles, or for most heron species away from a rookery (Jackson and Haggerty 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 107 species and 9757 individuals was recorded during the total 67.2 hours of diurnal and four hours of nocturnal surveying, and yielded approximately 144 individuals per party hour (not including nocturnal species). Forty-one species (39%) were confirmed as breeders, 33 (31%) as probable breeders, 27 (25%) as possible breeders, and five (5%) were listed as “Observed” (Table 1). The nine species detected in greatest numbers (> 4.0 individuals/party hour) were (in descending order): European Starling, Purple Martin, Mourning Dove, Barn Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, Cliff Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, and Northern Cardinal. Thirty-five species were considered widespread in the county by presence in at least 11 of the 12 quads (Table 1). Seven species were deemed both abundant (>4.0 individuals/party hour) and widespread (>10 quads): Mourning Dove, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting. Species with the most limited distributions (i.e., found in only one quad) and low counts (one to four total individuals for the SBC) were: American White Pelican, Osprey, American Coot, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Fish Crow, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Swainson’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler (Table 1). The Yellow Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler sightings were especially notable, as only eight and four quads, respectively, had records statewide in the 2000-2006 Breeding Bird Atlas, and none were reported for Lawrence County (Haggerty 2009).

SBCs can help determine the distribution and status of species of conservation concern in the state. The third Alabama Nongame Wildlife Conference was held 23-24 July 2012. From that meeting, a new Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) checklist of Alabama birds for greatest conservation need was established (E. Soehren, pers. comm.). Species ranked as “Priority I” and “Priority II” are of the greatest conservation need, and information about these species is important. The Cerulean Warbler is listed as a “Priority I” species on the 2012 ADCNR checklist, and therefore the two from the Bee Branch quad and

the one in the Caddo quad were significant. Based on the new checklist, only one “Priority II” species was found, the Loggerhead Shrike. Shrikes were seen in six of the 12 quads, with the highest counts coming from the Upshaw (nine) and Caddo quads (six). As Loggerhead Shrike observations have been significantly reduced in recent years in northwest Alabama (D. Simbeck, pers. comm.), this result was encouraging.

Only two species (Yellow and Chestnut-sided warblers) were found during the SBC which were not reported in Lawrence County during the 2000-2006 BBA (Haggerty 2009). Eleven species, conversely, were reported for Lawrence County during the BBA, but were not located by the SBC: Least Bittern, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Willow Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. Since these species, with the exception of Great Horned Owl, were shown to have restricted distributions within the county during the BBA (Haggerty 2009), these findings are not surprising.

TABLE 1. Lawrence County Summer Bird Count totals, June 2008.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Canada Goose	107	1.59	5	Confirmed
Wood Duck	47	0.70	5	Confirmed
Mallard	47	0.70	5	Probable
Wild Turkey	7	0.10	2	Possible
Northern Bobwhite	49	0.73	10	Probable
American White Pelican	3	0.04	1	Observed
Double-crested Cormorant	35	0.52	1	Observed
Great Blue Heron	54	0.80	10	Confirmed
Green Heron	20	0.30	7	Observed
Black Vulture	68	1.01	3	Possible
Turkey Vulture	104	1.55	11	Possible
Osprey	3	0.04	1	Confirmed
Cooper’s Hawk	4	0.06	2	Possible
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	0.18	4	Possible
Broad-winged Hawk	12	0.18	5	Possible
Red-tailed Hawk	23	0.34	7	Confirmed
American Coot	3	0.04	1	Observed
Killdeer	135	2.01	10	Confirmed
Rock Dove	19	0.28	2	Probable

TABLE 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Eurasian Collared-Dove	26	0.39	7	Probable
Mourning Dove	516	7.68	12	Confirmed
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	75	1.12	11	Possible
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	0.13	3	Possible
Barred Owl	13	0.19	6	Confirmed
Chuck-will's-widow	37	0.55	7	Probable
Eastern Whip-poor-will	22	0.33	4	Possible
Chimney Swift	72	1.07	11	Probable
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21	0.31	8	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	7	0.10	3	Possible
Red-headed Woodpecker	34	0.51	9	Probable
Red-bellied Woodpecker	97	1.44	12	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	48	0.71	11	Possible
Hairy Woodpecker	3	0.04	1	Possible
Northern Flicker	2	0.03	1	Possible
Pileated Woodpecker	22	0.33	7	Possible
American Kestrel	13	0.19	4	Probable
Eastern Wood-Pewee	89	1.32	11	Probable
Acadian Flycatcher	42	0.63	10	Probable
Eastern Phoebe	71	1.06	10	Confirmed
Great Crested Flycatcher	62	0.92	12	Probable
Eastern Kingbird	118	1.76	12	Confirmed
Loggerhead Shrike	29	0.43	6	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	171	2.54	12	Confirmed
Yellow-throated Vireo	37	0.55	8	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	190	2.83	11	Probable
Blue Jay	120	1.79	12	Possible
American Crow	245	3.65	12	Confirmed
Fish Crow	3	0.04	1	Observed
Horned Lark	8	0.12	2	Possible
Purple Martin	698	10.39	12	Confirmed
Tree Swallow	4	0.06	2	Possible
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	161	2.40	11	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	402	5.98	9	Confirmed
Barn Swallow	496	7.38	12	Confirmed

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TABLE 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Carolina Chickadee	156	2.32	11	Confirmed
Tufted Titmouse	184	2.74	12	Confirmed
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	0.37	5	Probable
Brown-headed Nuthatch	9	0.13	3	Possible
Carolina Wren	185	2.75	12	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	174	2.59	12	Confirmed
Eastern Bluebird	301	4.48	12	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	44	0.65	9	Probable
American Robin	172	2.56	9	Confirmed
Gray Catbird	4	0.06	2	Possible
Northern Mockingbird	496	7.38	12	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	98	1.46	10	Confirmed
European Starling	747	11.12	10	Confirmed
Cedar Waxwing	5	0.07	1	Probable
Ovenbird	12	0.18	4	Possible
Worm-eating Warbler	35	0.52	5	Probable
Louisiana Waterthrush	15	0.22	5	Probable
Blue-winged Warbler	3	0.04	1	Possible
Black-and-white Warbler	21	0.31	4	Confirmed
Prothonotary Warbler	12	0.18	5	Possible
Swainson's Warbler	2	0.03	1	Possible
Kentucky Warbler	70	1.04	11	Confirmed
Common Yellowthroat	108	1.61	11	Probable
Hooded Warbler	57	0.85	7	Probable
Cerulean Warbler	5	0.07	2	Possible
Northern Parula	24	0.36	6	Probable
Yellow Warbler	2	0.03	1	Possible
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0.03	1	Possible
Pine Warbler	120	1.79	11	Confirmed
Yellow-throated Warbler	16	0.24	3	Probable
Prairie Warbler	78	1.16	10	Confirmed
Black-throated Green Warbler	20	0.30	3	Confirmed
Yellow-breasted Chat	254	3.78	12	Probable
Eastern Towhee	140	2.08	11	Probable
Chipping Sparrow	141	2.10	12	Confirmed

TABLE 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Field Sparrow	103	1.53	10	Probable
Lark Sparrow	41	0.61	6	Confirmed
Grasshopper Sparrow	38	0.57	4	Confirmed
Summer Tanager	79	1.18	11	Probable
Scarlet Tanager	38	0.57	5	Probable
Northern Cardinal	297	4.42	12	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	101	1.50	11	Confirmed
Indigo Bunting	440	6.55	12	Confirmed
Dickcissel	46	0.68	6	Confirmed
Red-winged Blackbird	144	2.14	11	Probable
Eastern Meadowlark	174	2.59	10	Probable
Common Grackle	125	1.86	11	Confirmed
Brown-headed Cowbird	100	1.49	11	Probable
Orchard Oriole	45	0.67	9	Probable
House Finch	45	0.67	7	Confirmed
American Goldfinch	44	0.65	8	Probable
House Sparrow	218	3.24	9	Confirmed

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FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2011)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 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*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b” = banded; “BAS” = Birmingham Audubon Society; “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; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – A single at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 16 July – 16 August (Gary Parsons, Don Ware) marked the seventh record for the WP. In Alabama, this species is rare but increasing rapidly, especially along the Gulf Coast. This species continued from the summer at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, where it nested during the previous two years. Observations were made at this site on three dates: a pair of adults and eight downy young on 21 August (Bill Summerour, Kathy Hicks);

26, a maximum for Alabama, on 15 September (Allen Burrows); and five on 5 October (John Trent *et al.*). Seven were noted north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 19 October (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds).



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck with young; 21 August 2011; Mobile Co., AL.; B. Summerour.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE –

This species is rare but becoming regular in northwest Alabama. Good numbers were seen at a pond west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, as follows: 73 on 25 October (Tom Haggerty), 68 on 27 October (Damien Simbeck), 85 on 7 November (Paul Kittle *et al.*), and 50 on 25 November (Ashley Peters). Craig Litteken reported six from east of Daphne, *Baldwin*, 2 November (uncommon on the Gulf Coast).

ROSS'S GOOSE – Sue Moske reported a single from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 12 November (rare but expected at this site). Ashley Peters found another single at a pond west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 November (ph.; rare but becoming regular in northwest Alabama).

MALLARD – The Birmingham area fall count (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) on 24 September (BAS) produced a total of 150, a maximum fall number for the Mountain Region.

GREATER SCAUP – John Trent found one at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 12 November (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – A single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 November (Sue Yates) (rare in the WP).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – Craig Litteken spotted two on Chacaloochee Bay, *Baldwin*, 11 November (rare).

COMMON MERGANSER – This species is rare in Alabama, especially during the last decade, although there has been a recent increase in reports. A single was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 30 November (Damien Simbeck).

COMMON LOON – Cheryl Horncastle found an early single during the Birmingham area fall count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 24 September.

HORNED GREBE – One at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 12 September (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow) was very early for the WP.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL – One found emaciated in *Walton*, 6 September (associated with Tropical Storm Lee), was taken to Emerald Coast Wildlife Rescue in Fort Walton Beach and identified by S. Kadletz and Don Ware (ph.; first record for the WP).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER – One found at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 5 September (associated with Tropical Storm Lee), was taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida and identified by C. Greene, Bob Duncan, and Lucy Duncan (ph.; 14th record for the WP).

WOOD STORK – One immature was at Owens Crossroads, *Madison*, 11 August (Bobby Fox; *fide* Jerry Green; ph.) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley). A late single was at

Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 November (B. J. Stacey).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD – Numerous reports were received from *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* 3-5 September, associated with Tropical Storm Lee.

MASKED BOOBY – An adult was seen at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 5 September (associated with Tropical Storm Lee) (Lucy Duncan, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (very rare in the WP).

ANHINGA – A male was at Ebenezer Swamp, Montevallo, *Shelby*, 5 August (Paul Franklin) (rare in the Mountain Region).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – The 1,400 reported from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 12 November (Ken Ward, NABS) established a new maximum for inland Alabama.

“WURDEMANN’S” HERON – A single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 2 August (Bob Duncan) marked the first record for the WP.

GREAT EGRET – Damien Simbeck made good counts of 350 on 5 August and 257 on 19 August near Leighton, *Colbert*, the former count a maximum for north Alabama. The Birmingham area fall count (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) on 24 September (BAS) produced a total of 167, a maximum for the Mountain Region.

SNOWY EGRET – Sue Moske noted 10 at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 7 August (good number for the Tennessee Valley). A late bird was found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, 1 October (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy).

REDDISH EGRET (WHITE MORPH) – This morph is rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, and one-two were noted in *Mobile* on Little Dauphin Island, 15 October (Greg Jackson) and Pelican Island, 16 October (Larry Gardella).

CATTLE EGRET – Greg Jackson found 80 along Mt. Stanley Road and 70 at Wheeler Dam in the Leighton area, *Colbert/Lawrence*, 10 August. This total of 150 marks a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – An immature bird was late at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 16 November (Harriett Wright, Alice Stevenson).

WHITE IBIS – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, reports of immature birds from two sites were received: near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 (maximum for north Alabama) on 5 August, 18 on 13 August, six on 20 August, and seven on 27 August (Bala Chennupati *et al.*; ph.), and Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single on 1 October (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy) and four on 17 November (Jerry Green; ph.) (late fall record for the Tennessee Valley).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – A single at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 23 October (Murray Cragin) marked the 13th record for the WP. Another single at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 7-8 October (Howard Horne, John Trent, Ashley Peters, m.ob.) marked the 23rd record for Alabama.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – A single in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 5 September (Gordon Tetlow) marked the ninth record for the WP. One was seen at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3-4 August (Tom Piper *et al.*) (rare but slowly increasing in Alabama).

OSPREY – A late bird was spotted at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 5 November (Greg Jackson).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Ben Garmon reported 25+ along Ala. Hwy. 225 north of

Crossroads, *Baldwin*, 3 August (good number).

NORTHERN HARRIER – An early fall arrival was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 19 August (Damien Simbeck).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – An adult west of Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 15 August (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo; ph.) marked an early arrival record for the Gulf Coast (unless an occasional summering bird).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Single juveniles were seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 16 October (David Plumb), 17 October (Bill Summerour; ph.), and 10 November (William Matthews, David Plumb) (rare but regular at this site in late fall).

RED-TAILED HAWK – A dark morph western bird was seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 2 November (Bill Summerour; ph.) (rare subspecies/morph).

PEREGRINE FALCON – An early bird was at Auburn, *Lee*, 10 September (Jim Holmes, Lorna West).

YELLOW RAIL – One found in a swimming pool in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 19 October (David Pinning) was taken to Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida and identified by Dorothy Kaufmann (casual in the WP in fall).

SORA – An early arrival was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 29 August (Bill Summerour). Six were tallied on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley; ties maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

SANDHILL CRANE – A single at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 18 November (Jeff Shenot) was rare for the WP.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – Reports of singles came from two sites: near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 September (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley), and Pell City, *St. Clair*, 6 September (Greg Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – Numerous reports (all of single birds) were received. This species is rare in November in the WP, but one was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 18 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Uncommon in fall on the Gulf Coast, reports from four sites in that region were received: south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 18 August (David Plumb, Bill Summerour); Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 16-25 September (Cecil Brown, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.); west end of Dauphin Island, 26-27 September (Jennifer Wang); and Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 October (Sue Moske). Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, one was at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 6 September) (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

PIPING PLOVER – At Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, two on 4 September and one on 5 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee) marked the eighth record for the Inland Coastal Plain (occasional inland).

AMERICAN AVOCET – This species is rare for inland Alabama, so 12 at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 6 September (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) were noteworthy.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – Six in the vicinity of Leighton, *Colbert*, 10 August (Greg

Jackson) tied the maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLET – This species is rare inland, so two records were noteworthy. Twelve at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee) marked a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain. At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 10 on 13 November (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson) marked a late record and good fall number for inland Alabama.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 70+ were reported 16 August (David Plumb, Bill Summerour; ph.) to establish a maximum fall count for Alabama.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT – This species is only occasional in Alabama in fall, so three at a sod farm near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 September (Damien Simbeck, Jack Paul) were noteworthy (fifth record for the Tennessee Valley, third fall record for Tennessee Valley).

SANDERLING – Rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee), and two were found at Pickett, *Bullock*, 6 September (Eric Soehren, John Trent). Two were near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 September (Damien Simbeck, Jack Paul) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Rare in fall in Alabama, singles were reported from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 7 October (Howard Horne, John Trent, Ashley Peters) and 17 October (Ben Garmon).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, singles were at Pintlala, *Montgomery*, 27 August (Larry Gardella), and Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, a single was reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 September – 2 October (Greg Jackson *et al.*; ph.).



Baird's Sandpiper, 3 October 2011, Baldwin Co., AL; G. D. Jackson.

DUNLIN – Three early arrivals were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 September (Zachary Loman).

STILT SANDPIPER – Rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, several were at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck *et al.* found four on 4 August and six on 5 August (ph.; rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley). South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 100+ on 16 August was a good number (David Plumb, Bill Summerour; ph.). Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, a single was found at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 6 September (Greg Jackson), and another lone bird was at the Harpersville sod farm, *Shelby*, 6 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – Rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 September (Larry Gardella; associated with Tropical Storm Lee).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Rare inland, Damien Simbeck reported a single from a sod farm near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 September, and Larry Gardella found one at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 5 September.

RED PHALAROPE – One at the pier on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 September (Cecil Brown, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked the 22nd record for Alabama.

LAUGHING GULL – Reports from Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, where this species is rare but regular, included two 16-18 September (Chuck Graham *et al.*), three on 23 September (Damien Simbeck), and four on 27 September (Damien Simbeck). Matt Morrow *et al.* reported sightings at Guntersville, *Marshall*, as follows: three+ on 19 September and two+ on 24 September (rare but regular at this site).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – A first-cycle single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 24+ September (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.) (early arrival, rare but regular in this area). Four (three first-cycle and one adult) were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular). Bill Summerour submitted multiple records (ph.) from Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, where the species is rare but regular: one on 8 October, eight on 19 October, and five on 27 October.



Franklin's Gull, 23 September 2011, Marshall, Co., AL.; J. D. Green.

RING-BILLED GULL – Eighty-six at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale*, 19 August (Damien Simbeck) was a good number this early.

CALIFORNIA GULL – An adult at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 15+ September (Matt Morrow, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) marked an early record for Alabama, the fifth record for this site, and the 10th record for Alabama.

ICELAND GULL – A first-cycle bird was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 28-29 November (Bill Summerour; ph.; @ABRC) (11th record for Alabama).



California Gull, 8 October 2011, Marshall Co., AL; B. Chennupati.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare but regular and increasing in both the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, several records were received: Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, an adult on 18 September (Clyde Blum) (early), and an adult and a third-cycle bird there 23-27 September (Damien Simbeck); one adult in basic plumage in the golf course area on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 October (Eric Soehren, Bill Summerour); one adult at Wilson Dam,

Colbert, 21 October (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters); a first-cycle individual at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 November (Damien Simbeck); Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, four on 29 November.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – A third-cycle bird was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 September (David Dortch) and 12-18 October (Wayne Patterson, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular in this area).

BROWN NODDY – Two at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod, John Ball *et al.*) and one there 5 September (Alex Harper, Patrick James) were the sixth and seventh WP records, respectively (associated with Tropical Storm Lee).

SOOTY TERN – Two were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4 September, and 179 there on 5 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway *et al.*) marked a maximum count for the WP (associated with Tropical Storm Lee). This species was also reported in *Okaloosa*, 5 September (Kelly Jones). This same storm produced records of eight+ from multiple sites on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Jon King, Chazz Hesselein, David Dortch, Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.) (rare but expected with tropical storms).

BRIDLED TERN – Records associated with Tropical Storm Lee were received from both Florida and Alabama. Two were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and four were seen there on 5 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). This species was also reported in *Okaloosa*, 5 September (Kelly Jones) (very rare in the WP). Also rare in Alabama but expected with tropical storms, two were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (David Dortch *et al.*; ph.); one bird was found injured and taken to rehabilitation. A single was reported from the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 5 September (Michael Jordan; ph.).

CASPIAN TERN – Seventy-one, a maximum fall number for north Alabama, were reported from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 7 September (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds).

FORSTER'S TERN – Eight at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 6 September, was a good fall number for the Mountain Region (Greg Jackson).

JAEGER SP. – A single (probably Pomarine Jaeger) was at Point Clear, *Baldwin*, 15 November (Jeff Shenot) (rare).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE – Seventeen at a feeder in Underwood, *Lauderdale*, 23 November (Paul Kittle, Donna Kittle) established a maximum count for northwest Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Forty was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 October (Greg Jackson, Andrew Haffenden, Alabama Ornithological Society).

INCA DOVE – One at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Larry Goodman, Alex Harper, Alicia Gerrety; ph.) established only the second record for Florida if accepted (@FOSRC).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – A single was noted at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 11 October (Greg Jackson) (rare in the Mountain Region, but almost regular in this area).

- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – Rare for inland Alabama, singles were reported from Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 11 October (Larry Gardella), and James, *Bullock*, 18 October (John Trent).
- GROOVE-BILLED ANI** – Four were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 October (Alex Harper, Patrick James, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) where the species is rare but fairly regular. One was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14-15 October (Joan Dixon, John Dixon, m.ob.; ph.) (occasional in Alabama).
- BARN OWL** – Very rare along the WP coast, two were reported from Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 23 October (Patrick James, Alex Harper, Alicia Gerrety).
- SHORT-EARED OWL** – Occasional on the Gulf Coast, one was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 November (Howard Horne, m.ob.; ph.).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – Bob and Martha Sargent banded and photographed eight birds on five dates between 30 October and 23 November at Clay, *Jefferson*, where the species is rare but now expected.
- BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** – An adult female was at Spanish Fort, *Baldwin*, 28 November (Fred Bassett, Jeanette Eden *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC) (sixth record for Alabama).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, one banded by Fred Bassett at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 21 September had been present at the home of Renee and George Gollehon since November 2009.
- CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – A single was at the residence of Larue Holtzclaw in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 29 November (Fred Bassett; b.) (over 20 records for the WP). Another single was at Semmes, *Mobile*, 21 November (Fred Bassett, Renee Fransen *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare but regular).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – Fred Bassett banded one at the residence of Ann and Peanut Johnson in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 29 November (seventh record for the WP). An adult male was at the home of Shirley Wayland in Killen, *Lauderdale*, 14 November through the end of the period (banded 23 November by Bob Sargent and Martha Sargent; m.ob.; ph.) (14th record for Alabama).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – A hatching-year male was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 28+ November (Fred Bassett, Barbara Sleeman, Chuck Sleeman *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – Singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 24 August and 12 September (Bob Duncan) (rare but regular at this site). Two were in Bay 6 September (Neil Lamb).
- EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October, 82 were counted to establish a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – Unprecedented numbers were reported from the WP, and several reports were received: one at Live Oak Plantation, GINS, *Santa Rosa*, 7 September (Alex Harper, Patrick James; ph.); one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 11 September (Bob Duncan); three at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 1-2 October (Alex Harper, Patrick James; ph.); and three at Blackwater River State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 6 October (Peggy Baker *et al.*). Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, numerous

reports were received: west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, one on 28 August (Larry Gardella); Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, two on 3 September (Greg Harber), one 11-12 September (Greg Jackson, Howard Horne, Greg Harber), one on 18 September (Greg Jackson), and one 5-11 October (Greg Harber, Ken Archambault); Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, two on 4 September, one 5-9 September, and one on 22 September (Ben Garmon *et al.*); Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, four (good number) on 16 September, one on 19 September, one on 24 September, and one on 30 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); Auburn, *Lee*, two on 24 September (Jim Holmes); Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, *Jefferson*, one on 24 September (Greg Jackson); Homewood, *Jefferson*, one on 29 September (Ken Archambault); Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, two on 1 October (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Milton Harris *et al.*); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one-three 6-16 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett, m.ob.; b.).

ALDER FLYCATCHER – The seventh record for the Inland Coastal Plain was established by the detection of a calling bird at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 30 August – 4 September (Larry Gardella). A singing bird at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 19 September (Damien Simbeck) marked the third record for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – A calling bird was reported from the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 September (Ben Garmon) (rare). A singing bird was found at Lake Guntersville SP, *Marshall*, 29 September (Eric Soehren) (rare in the Tennessee Valley).

EASTERN PHOEBE – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October, 53 were counted to set a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

SAY'S PHOEBE – The third record for the WP was marked by one at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 1 October (Peggy Baker, Patrick James, Brenda Callaway *et al.*; @FOSRC).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – An adult male visited Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 16-22 November (Mike Resch *et al.*) (rare).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Rare but regular in the WP in recent years, a single was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 6 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway, Don Ware), and two were at this site 12-18 November (Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore, Alan Knothe, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 October (John Hintermister *et al.*). One was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 October (John Stowers, Jenny Stowers *et al.*; ph.) (rare).

EASTERN KINGBIRD – Fifty was a good number at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 8 September (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – A total of seven was a good number for Dauphin Island, *Mobile/Fort Morgan, Baldwin*, 13 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*)/14 October (Bill Summerour), respectively.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER – The first record for the WP was established by one at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 5 October (David Sparks; ph.; @FOSRC).

- WARBLING VIREO** – Rare in Alabama during fall migration, three reports of singles were received: Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28 August (Howard Horne); Sports Park East in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 28 August (Greg Jackson) (early fall arrival record for the Mountain Region); and Auburn, *Lee*, 4 September (Jim Holmes).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – One was early at Auburn, *Lee*, 10 September (Jim Holmes, Lorna West). A single at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 13 September (Larry Gardella) set an early fall arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- RED-EYED VIREO** – An estimated 200 at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 2 September (Jerry Callaway) was an all-time high count for the WP.
- HORNED LARK** – Now rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, two were noted in southern *Lee*, 19 November (Jim Holmes).
- TREE SWALLOW** – Two at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 16 August (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow) were early for the WP.
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – Greg Jackson tallied 75 in the Logan Martin Dam area, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 6 September to set a maximum fall count for the Mountain Region.
- CAVE SWALLOW** – One west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 19 September (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum) was the first for the Tennessee Valley, the third for inland Alabama, and the second fall record for Alabama.
- HOUSE WREN** – One at Auburn, *Lee*, 11 September (Jim Holmes) was early if not a rare local breeder. A late bird was at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 5 November (Greg Jackson).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – Mark Kudraw reported two late birds from the Goldsmith/Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, *Madison*, 24 November.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – An early arrival was at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 4 September (Greg Jackson).
- WOOD THRUSH** – Ten were tallied on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).
- VARIED THRUSH** – An adult male at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 20 October (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown, Laura Catterton; @FOSRC) was only the second record for the WP.
- EUROPEAN STARLING** – Harold Peterson estimated 10,000 at Huntsville, *Madison*, 7 November (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – Rare in the WP, Alex Harper reported one from the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19 November. South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, David Plumb reported two on 29 November and Bill Summerour saw three on 30 November (ph.) (rare but regular at this site).
- CEDAR WAXWING** – Six were early at James, *Bullock*, 7 September (John Trent).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – A female was at Auburn, *Lee*, 12-13 October (Jim Holmes, Lorna West) (late). Another single was at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 17-18 October (Debbie McKenzie; ph.) (late departure record for the Mountain Region).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – One at the Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 18 October (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow) marked the latest departure date for the WP by eight days.

- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – An early arrival was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 20 September (Damien Simbeck).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – One on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Jon King) was early, as was a single at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 10 September (Ken Ward, Bill McAllister, NABS). Tom Savage reported one from Andalusia, *Covington*, 24 September (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, a report of one came from Homewood, *Jefferson*, 1 October (Ken Archambault).
- MOURNING WARBLER** – A single was seen in Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 20 September (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum) (rare).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** – Seventy were tallied on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).
- HOODED WARBLER** – An adult male was seen at Leeds, *Jefferson*, 24 November (Harold Faulkner, Nelda Faulkner), setting a late departure date for Alabama.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October tallied 150 to establish a maximum count for inland Alabama.
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER** – A single was at Auburn, *Lee*, 23 September (Jim Holmes) (occasional inland in fall).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Rare in the Mountain Region, two reports were received: one at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 10 September (Greg Harber, Lynn Brown), and a female 9-18 October and a male 18 October at Anniston, *Calhoun* (Debbie McKenzie; ph.). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, two reports of singles were received: Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 24 September (Ken Ward, NABS), and Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, 1 October (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy).
- PALM WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October tallied 32 to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. Ten was a large number so late at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 5 November (Greg Jackson).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – The Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 24 September (BAS) tallied five to mark a maximum fall count for the Mountain Region.
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – One at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 1 September (Damien Simbeck) set an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley. Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, a male was at the Cahaba Water Treatment Plant in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 11-13 October (Greg Jackson *et al.*).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – A late bird was at Auburn, *Lee*, 27 October (Jim Holmes).
- GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE** – A single was seen in Mobile, *Mobile*, 14-16 November (Elizabeth French, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) to mark the fourth record for Alabama.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW** – John Trent noted one at James, *Bullock*, 18 October (few fall records so late).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – A single was noted at the University of West Florida,

Escambia, 24 September (Laura Catterton). Up to 12 were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1-18 October (Alex Harper, Patrick James *et al.*) (unprecedented numbers for the WP). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, hosted one on 2 October (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*; ph.), while two were banded there 15 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Fred Bassett *et al.*) and five were counted 16 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted three on 13 October and two on 15 October (Greg Jackson, Stan Hamilton, Jon Dunn, m.ob.; ph.).



Clay-colored Sparrow, 15 October 2911, Mobile Co., AL.; B. Chennupati.

VESPER SPARROW – An early bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1-2 October (Greg Jackson *et al.*; ph.).

LARK SPARROW – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 August (James Pfeiffer) and four at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 29 August (Bruce Furlow, Les Kelly, Larry Goodman) were rare for the WP. Larry Gardella reported one from Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 October (rare so late inland).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – A single was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 22 October (Chuck Graham) (rare in the Tennessee Valley).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 23 October (Jon Dunn) was early.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – An early arrival was recorded on the Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 24 September (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*).

DARK-EYED JUNCO – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 October (Bob Duncan, Bala Chennupati *et al.*) was early.

INDIGO BUNTING – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October tallied 357 to establish a maximum fall count for north Alabama.

DICKCISSEL – A late male was at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 23 November (Debbie McKenzie; ph.).

BOBOLINK – Eleven were found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 1 October (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette) (uncommon in fall; good number).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK – This species typically is only occasional in Alabama, but the following records of singles marked the third and fourth records, respectively, for 2011: west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 November (Howard Horne), and southern *Lee*, 19 November (Jim Holmes).



Yellow-headed Blackbird, 2 October 2011, Baldwin Co., AL; G. D. Jackson.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Rare in the WP, single males were in Destin, *Okaloosa*, 16 August (Walter Spence), and at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 4 October (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway). Rare in Alabama, an immature female was noted at Fort Morgan,

Baldwin, 1 October (Greg Jackson; ph.).

BRONZED COWBIRD – One male was in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 25 October (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) where very rare.

ORCHARD ORIOLE – A hatching-year female was very late at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 October (Doreen Cubie, Fred Bassett, m.ob.; b.).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – Five at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 24 October were at a new location for the species. Two were at Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, *Baldwin*, 5 November (William Matthews; ph.) (continued expansion, although not yet established in Alabama).

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH – This exotic continues to be reported in east Pensacola, *Escambia*.

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WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012)

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

This report covers the period from December 2011 through February 2012 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*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Washington*, 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; “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).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Damien Simbeck counted 104 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 9 December (maximum for northwest Alabama). Except at Eufaula NWR, this species is rare on most of the Inland Coast Plain, so the 11 reported by Larry Gardella from Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 13 February, were notable.

ROSS’S GOOSE – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied six on 17 December (rare but expected). Damien Simbeck observed singles west of Florence,

- Lauderdale*, 13-17 January, and near Leighton, *Colbert*, 29 January (rare but regular).
- CAACKLING GOOSE** – Two were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 17 January (Damien Simbeck) (rare). At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single was reported 24 January (Sue Moske) and 28 January (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon *et al.*) (rare).
- MOTTLED DUCK** – A single at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown) marked the 16th record for the WP.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – Forty north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 8 December (Patsy Russo) was a good number for winter. Two were found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).
- CINNAMON TEAL** – A drake at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 14-21 February (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow; ph.; @FOSRC) marked the fourth record for the WP.
- REDHEAD** – At Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, 300 on 1 February was a good number for the Gulf Coast in recent years (John Trent, Eric Soehren).
- GREATER SCAUP** – A single was at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 4 December (John Trent) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- KING EIDER** – One at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, and Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 21-26 December (Ryan Colburn, Will Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.; @FOSRC) marked the second record for the WP.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK** – A female spent much of the winter (3 December – 7 February) at the Florence sewage settling ponds, *Lauderdale* (Damien Simbeck, Bala Chennupati) (rare).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE** – Tommy Pratt reported a single female from Speigner, *Elmore*, 29 January (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- COMMON MERGANSER** – Seven were tallied during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (Bala Chennupati; ph.) (rare). A single was found on the Dog River, *Mobile*, 20 February (Julie Page *et al.*) (occasional on the Gulf Coast).
- PACIFIC LOON** – One was seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 January (Alex Harper, Alicia Gerrety), where this species is rare but regular. Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, Howard Horne noted one at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 25 February.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, reported 1,645 on 17 December, a maximum count for northwest Alabama.
- AECHMOPHORUS SP.** – One was observed at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 14 January (Shirley Wayland, Keith Fraser, m.ob.; @ABRC). This probable Clark's would be the first for Alabama if accepted by the ABRC. Members of the genus are occasional in Alabama.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Rare but increasing and becoming regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, multiple reports came from two sites as follows: Eufaula, *Barbour*, nine on 3 December (Patty McLean), 15 on 15 December (Geoff Hill), and seven on 7 January (Kyle Fritz); Miller's Ferry, *Wilcox*, 18 on 29 December (Ricky Ault) and 40 on 12 February (J. Bennett). Ross Smith reported 200 (good number) from the Elk River near Anderson Creek, *Limestone*, 20 February (increasing in the

Tennessee Valley; not a known site).

AMERICAN BITTERN – One-two were sighted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 7 January (Kyle Fritz) and 8 January (John Trent) (rarely reported in winter from the Inland Coastal Plain).

GREAT EGRET – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 183 on 17 December (good number for winter in north Alabama).

WHITE IBIS – This species is rare in the Tennessee Valley, and the first winter record for north Alabama came from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*. Three immatures and one adult were noted 17 November – 3 December (Harold Peterson, Kelly Peterson), and two immatures lingered until 29 January (Chuck Graham). Good winter numbers for inland Alabama came from Eufaula, *Barbour*, eight on 4 December (John Trent) and 34 on 15 December (Geoff Hill, Lorna West), as well as from Hacoda, *Geneva*, 40 on 18 February and 56 on 20 February (Otis Johnson).

BLACK VULTURE – The Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, tallied 543 (excellent number) on 26 December.

OSPREY – Rare but increasing in winter in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, and the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December. Two were noted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 23 December (Ty Keith *et al.*) (rare in winter in the Mountain Region).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – An early arrival was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 February (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – Two were at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (Don Ware) (casual in the WP).

RED-TAILED HAWK – A rare Western dark morph bird was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 26 October – 8 March (Ben Garmon; ph.).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK – An adult dark morph bird was seen during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 17 December (Andrew Haffenden, Milton Harris) (rare).

GOLDEN EAGLE – Several governmental agencies cooperated to successfully photo monitor deer carcasses placed at two sites (*vide* Eric Soehren). A single bird was on Rattlesnake Mountain in Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 19 December – 4 March, and up to three were at Letson Point in Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 27 January – 13 February. Damien Simbeck found an adult along the Tennessee River at Wates Cemetery, *Lauderdale*, 6 February (rare in Alabama).

MERLIN – Rare in winter in north Alabama, four reports were received: three on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December (ties maximum for inland Alabama); one on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December; one west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 29 December (Damien Simbeck); and one near Leighton, *Colbert*, 29 January (Damien Simbeck).

PEREGRINE FALCON – Locally rare in winter, one was found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Andrew Haffenden) and was also seen 1 January (Sue Moske).

VIRGINIA RAIL – Two were reported from Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 28 January

(Ben Garmon, Howard Horne, Patsy Russo *et al.*) (rare in winter in North Alabama).

SANDHILL CRANE – A single was in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 23 February (Wes Tallyn) (rare here in winter). The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, produced a total of 5,353 (good number). Records came from three unusual sites in Alabama: north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, three on 1 January and five on 17 January (Patsy Russo, m.ob.); Stevenson, *Jackson*, seven on 8 February (Bert Harris); and DeSoto SP, *DeKalb*, one+ transient heard on 20 February (Harold Peterson).

WHOOPIING CRANE – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied seven captive-reared birds 17 December (good number).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – One at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 2-3 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Alex Harper, Patrick James) marked a very rare December record for the WP.

SNOWY PLOVER – Good numbers were reported from Pelican Island, *Mobile*: 20 on the Dauphin Island CBC, 17 December, and 25 (ties maximum count for Alabama) on 25 January (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – A single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Jan Lloyd) (very rare here in winter).

PURPLE SANDPIPER – The second record for Alabama was established by a single on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15+ January (Howard Horne, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC).

DUNLIN – Fifty on the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 15 December (Geoff Hill, Lorna West) was a good number for the Inland Coastal Plain.

STILT SANDPIPER – At Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 15 were counted on 4 December and a single lingered on 1 January (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo *et al.*) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).



Purple Sandpiper, 16 January 2012, Mobile Co., AL; B. Summerour.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – On the Eufaula CBC, *Barbour*, 15 December, five were identified to this species by call (Geoff Hill, Lorna West). Twenty-three probable Long-billed Dowitchers were also tallied (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Rare in the WP, one was at the Central *Santa Rosa* County Landfill, 6 December (Bob Duncan). Bill Summerour had two on 9 December and one 13-31 December from Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*.

THAYER'S/KUMLIEN'S GULL – A first-cycle bird was at the Central *Santa Rosa* County Landfill, 6 December (Bob Duncan) to establish the first record for the WP (@FOSRC).

ICELAND GULL – A first-cycle bird was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, during the fall season and also 13 December (Bill Summerour; ph.; @ABRC) (11th record for

Alabama).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Bill Summerour (ph.) reported two on 13 December and four on 31 December on the Gulf Coast, Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*. Records from three sites in the WP were received, where the species is rare but increasing. A single was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 14 January (Alex Harper); five were in Walnut Hill, *Escambia*, 17 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and a single was in Molino, *Escambia*, 21 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Dana Timmons, Sue Timmons). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, a first cycle bird was seen at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 29 January (Damien Simbeck), and an adult was seen at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 3 February (Sue Moske) and the nearby Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 15 February (Damien Simbeck).

GLAUCOUS GULL – A first-cycle bird was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Bill Summerour; ph.), and an immature was noted at Cedar Point on 18 January and on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19+ January (Scot Duncan, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).



Glaucous Gull, 9 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Rare in the WP, one adult was at Molino, *Escambia*, 21 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Dana Timmons, Sue Timmons). Three different birds were reported from the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18+ January (Scot Duncan, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).



Great Black-backed Gull, 19 January 2012, Mobile Co., AL; P. Russo.

SANDWICH TERN – Three birds at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) were late.

JAEGER SP. – A single was at the bridge to Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 January (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo) (rare).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE – A count of 16 on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December, marked a maximum for northwest Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Twenty-eight were found during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 17 December (locally good number for winter).

MOURNING DOVE – At Springville, *St. Clair*, Mike Bolton reported a pair at a nest with two eggs, 13+ February (few nestings this early; ph.)

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – One was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 9 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – A single was at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 15 January (Sandra Allison, Greg Harber *et al.*) (occasional in winter in inland Alabama).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – This species is rare but regular in winter in Alabama. Two different birds were at Lillian, *Baldwin*, on 29 December and 6 January (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson; b.; ph.).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – An immature male was in Hoover, *Jefferson*,

7 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Bill Young; b.) (rare in winter in north Alabama).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD – An immature female was in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 2 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Bill Young; b.; ph.; @ABRC) (sixth record for Alabama).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – The 12th and 13th records for the WP were marked, respectively, by singles in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 2 December (Fred Bassett, LaRue Holtzclaw; b.), and in Shalimar, *Okaloosa*, 27 January (Fred Bassett, Virginia Floyd; b.). This species is rare but regular in Alabama, and an unprecedented nine reports, all of singles, were received: Atmore, *Escambia* (Alabama), 3 December (Fred Bassett, Jon Yoder; b.; ph.); Mobile, *Mobile*, 5 December (Fred Bassett, Ben Garmon *et al.*; b.; ph.), 11 January (Fred Bassett, Catherine Hayes, John Hayes; b.; ph.), and 12 January (Fred Bassett, Elizabeth Cannon; b.; ph.); Satsuma, *Mobile*, 8 December (Fred Bassett, Ramona Knight, Jerry Knight; b.; ph.) and 11 January (Fred Bassett, Jimmy Stephenson; b.; ph.); Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 23 December (Rick Remy, Susan Remy); Hoover, *Jefferson*, 23 December – 2 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); and Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 12 January (Fred Bassett, Janet Paarlberg; b.; ph.).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – One in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 2 December (Fred Bassett, Ann Johnson, Peanut Johnson; b.) marked the six the record for the WP. In Alabama, the following four records (all of singles) marked, respectively, the 15th-18th records for the state. Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 7-8 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Ellen Crotty; b.; ph.; @ABRC); Mobile, *Mobile*, 11 January (Fred Bassett, Barbara Midkiff; b.; ph.); Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 12 January (Fred Bassett, Ken Underwood; b.; ph.); and Mobile, *Mobile*, 25 January (Fred Bassett, Jimmy Stephenson; b.; ph.).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD – At multiple sites in the WP, 13 were banded on 7 December (Fred Bassett). At multiple sites in Spanish Fort, Grand Bay, and Mobile, *Baldwin/Mobile*, Fred Bassett *et al.* banded 14 on 4 January, with seven in Spanish Fort alone (maximum for Alabama).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – One was east of Foley, *Baldwin*, 6 December (Fred Bassett, Kathryn Dugall; b. ph.). Another single was at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 6+ January (Fred Bassett, Bill Summerour; b.; ph.) (rare).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Two were reported from southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 16-26 February (Michael Jordan *et al.*; ph.) (rare, but at a frequent site).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – Singles were at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (Don Ware), and at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 28 December (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway) (rare in December in the WP).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD – The third record for the WP was marked by one in Bay 17 December (Neil Lamb, K. O'Kane, Patty Kelly).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – This species is rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, and reports of singles came from five sites: near Andalusia, *Covington*, 29 January (Thomas Savage); Brewton, *Escambia* (Alabama), 29 January (Rodney

Cassidy); Andalusia, *Covington*, 7 January – 4 February, 17 February, and 19 February (Thomas Savage); Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 25 February (Larry Gardella); and Conecuh NF, *Covington*, 27 February (Larry Barkey).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare but regular in winter in the Mountain Region, a single was sighted at the Coosa WMA, *Coosa*, 5 December (John Trent, Ashley Peters). Also rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December.

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, three reports from this area were received: two on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December (Tom Haggerty, Jeff Garner); a single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 13 January (Damien Simbeck); and a single at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 15 January (Sue Moske).

PURPLE MARTIN – A single was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 February (Larry Gardella), and two+ were at Grant, *Marshall*, 21 February (Eve Sweatman) (early).

TREE SWALLOW – Two early arrivals were at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 22 February (Paul Franklin).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – One was found in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (Bill Bremser), where very rare.

MARSH WREN – In *Limestone*, a single was found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, 17 December; singles were noted at Wheeler NWR and Swan Creek WMA, 6 January (Matt Morrow); and one was at Wheeler NWR, 5 February (Chuck Graham) (rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – A single was found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

GRAY CATBIRD – A single was found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley). Another single was reported from *Chambers*, 20 January (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson) (rare but regular in winter in the Mountain Region).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December, tallied 224, a maximum count for the Tennessee Valley.

EUROPEAN STARLING – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 17 December, reported 104,211, a maximum for northwest Alabama.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Two were at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 2-19 December (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Don Ware), and a single was there 7 January (Alan Knothe) (very rare in the WP).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – One female at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 2-13 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Don Ware) provided the seventh record for the WP.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, three records were received: one on the Waterloo CBC, *Colbert*, 17 December (Tom Haggerty, Jeff Garner); two on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 17 December; and four on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December. Also rare in winter in the Mountain Region, two records of singles were received: Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 23 December (Sharon Hudgins *et al.*), and at a feeder in Opelika, *Lee*,

3 January (Lorna West).

YELLOW WARBLER – Casual in winter in the WP, two were seen at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow),

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 6-15 January (Matt Morrow *et al.*).

WILSON'S WARBLER – A single was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Bruce Purdy) where rare in winter. Occasional in winter in Alabama, single males were reported from Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 9 January (Scot Duncan, m.ob.), and Greenville, *Butler*, 18+ February (Anabel Markle).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE – The third and fourth records for the WP were provided, respectively, by singles in *Washington*, 15 December (Alan Knothe, Dianah Knothe, Nonie Maines; ph.), and Valparaiso, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Morris Clark, Peggy Baker; ph.).

SPOTTED TOWHEE – A female in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13-20 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Alex Harper *et al.*; ph.; @FOSRC) established the first record for the WP and the third for Florida.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW – Rarely detected in winter in inland Alabama, up to three were singing southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 26-27 February (John Trent).

LARK SPARROW – One was on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18-28 January (Bob Duncan, m.ob.; ph.) (rare on the Gulf Coast in winter).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – A single was spotted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 1 January (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske; ph.) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – This species is rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley. In *Limestone*, two were counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, 17 December, and a single was at Swan Creek WMA, 15 January (Bala Chennupati *et al.*; ph.). A single was also reported from Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 5 January (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske, Damien Simbeck; ph.).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in inland Alabama, one was southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 21 January (John Trent).

SUMMER TANAGER – A male was at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 12 January (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo; ph.) (rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast).

SCARLET TANAGER – A male at Ascend Corporation Sanctuary, *Escambia*, 28 December (Bob Duncan, Larry Goodman; ph.; @FOSRC) marked the first documented winter record for Florida.

WESTERN TANAGER – Rare in winter in the WP, a single was the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19 December (Bruce Purdy).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – An immature male was in Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 28 January (Joseph Sankey; ph.) (rare in winter).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – A male was northwest of Malbis, *Baldwin*, 12



Summer Tanager, 12 January 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; P. Russo.

December – 16 January (Satch Sampson, m.ob.; ph.). (occasional in Alabama).

INDIGO BUNTING – This species is occasional in winter in inland Alabama, and reports from three sites were received: an adult male at a feeder in Tallassee, *Elmore*, 26-27 December (Bob Reed, Pat Reed) (third winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain); one at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 31 December (Sue Moske) (sixth winter record for the Tennessee Valley); and a single at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 28 January (Eric Soehren, m.ob.; ph.) (fourth winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain).



Indigo Bunting,
8 December
2012, Barbour
Co., AL; S.
Summershoe.

PAINTED BUNTING – Lynne Jones reported one male and one female-type from Ozark, *Dale*, 15+ December (ph.; third winter record for inland Alabama).

DICKCISSEL – Michael Jordan reported one from Foley, *Baldwin*, 3 December (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 573 on 17 December, a good number for recent years. This species has been scarce in recent years in the Gulf Coast region, especially near the coast, so the 27 reported from Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, 5 January (Howard Horne, Patsy Russo) were noteworthy.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD – The highest count ever for the WP was established by the 225 seen in Berryhill, *Santa Rosa*, 17 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE – The 37 males reported from Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, 17 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), marked an all-time high count for the WP.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports of singles came from three sites: Ozark, *Dale*, 18 December (Lynne Jones); southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 19-20 February (John Trent); and east of Leroy, *Washington*, 25 February (Matthew Rouse).

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Using long-term constant-effort banding data to monitor population trends of migratory birds: a 33-year assessment of adjacent coastal stations. Osenkowski, J. E., P. W. C. Paton, and D. Kraus. 2012. *The Condor* 114: 470-481.

Although bird banding stations are used to monitor the population trends of migratory birds, few studies have examined their efficacy. This research compared banding reports over a 33 year period (1969-2001) at two Atlantic coastal banding stations in southern Rhode Island. The stations were 30 km (19 mi) apart, one on the mainland and the other offshore on Block Island. The study also compared the data from the two Rhode Island banding stations with Breeding Bird Survey population trend data from northeastern North America and to data from a banding station in Plymouth, Massachusetts ~ 95 km (59 mi) away. Migrants were classified as “neotropical migrants” if they bred in North America and wintered in the Caribbean or Central or South America, “nearctic migrants” if they bred and wintered in North America, or “mixed-distance migrants” if they bred in North America and wintered in the Caribbean, North, Central, or South America. Species were also identified as transients if they did not breed in Rhode Island.

Of the 24 species with adequate samples sizes, 21 showed significant declining population trends at one or both Rhode Island stations. Trend-slope directions were also similar between the two sites, but annual fluctuations and trend magnitude data did not conform as well. Species trend comparisons with the Plymouth banding station were also similar. The population trends from the three banding stations were more negative than the Breeding Bird Surveys in northern New England and southeastern Canada. The authors conclude that banding stations are reliable in monitoring the population trends of many species of migratory songbirds, but currently the specific populations being monitored are difficult to determine.— TMH

Apparent forced mating and female control in Saltmarsh Sparrows. Greenlaw, J. S. and W. Post. 2012. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 124:253-264.

Unlike most bird species, Saltmarsh Sparrows do not defend territories or form pair-bonds. Individuals are promiscuous and only the females raise the young. This research details the social dynamics of male-female mating behavior, male-male interactions during the breeding season, and reports on cloacal protuberance size. A cloacal protuberance is a structure resulting from the storage of semen in reproductive tubules, and previous studies have shown that it is larger in species where males compete intensely to fertilize the eggs of females (i.e., sperm competition). Data to evaluate and substantiate previous reports

of “forced matings” were also collected. The study of 604 uniquely marked individuals was conducted on two salt marshes in New York between 1977-1985. A grid system and observation platforms were used to determine the frequency of activities such as singing, perching, flying, social interactions, and unknown activities.

During the morning hours males primarily patrolled their home ranges (i.e., areas utilized, not defended), especially in areas where females were nest building. No evidence of male aggregations around fertile females was found. Males often chased or approached females that they encountered. Females solicited matings during nest building, but some males undertook forced matings during other times of the breeding cycle. Females would often prevent forced matings by fighting or giving aggressive calls, while others remained passive to more forceful males. Males had large cloacal protuberances, suggesting sperm competition was occurring and that males practice a form of “scramble-competition polygyny.” However, the authors caution that more research is needed to better understand the evolution of this unusual mating behavior in the Saltmarsh Sparrow, and they recommend that studying the mating systems of closely related species may be helpful. — TMH



Greater White-fronted Goose and Ross' Goose, 18 December 2011, Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Limestone Co., AL; Bala Chennupati.

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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