

# Alabama Birdlife

*Volume 59, Number 1, June 2013*



*Journal of the Alabama  
Ornithological Society*



# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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

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Vol. 59

No. 1

2013

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

Layout by Tom Haggerty

**COVER:** Rock Wren, 10 November, 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; Bill Summerour

## NESTING ATTEMPT BY A BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*CYNANTHUS LATIROSTRIS*) IN ALABAMA

**Fred Bassett and Bill Summerour**

Extralimital records of birds well outside of their normal breeding or wintering range have been receiving additional scrutiny in recent years. Vagrancy is seen as one of the mechanisms by which birds expand their ranges, and these pioneers may play an important role in the long-term success of the lineages of migratory birds (Greenburg and Marra 2005).

Although increasing numbers of western hummingbirds have been documented during the fall and winter in the southeastern United States in the last 25 years (Hill et al 1998, Bassett and Cubie 2009, Newfield 2011), no nesting records have been reported. Here, we document the first nesting attempt by a Broad-billed Hummingbird in Alabama, and to the best of our knowledge, the first record of a western hummingbird species nesting in the southeastern United States.

Broad-billed Hummingbirds (*Cynanthus latirostris*) are typically found during the breeding season from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico into central Mexico (Fig. 1; Howell and Webb 1995, Powers and Wethington 1999, Williamson 2001). Evidence of nesting has also been found in Jefferson Co., Texas, along the Rio Grande (Quillen 1935, Oberholser 1974, but see Lockwood et al. 2011), and more recently in the Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis Co., Texas (Lockwood et al. 2011) (Fig. 1). They are regular vagrants in the Southeast during the fall and winter (Williamson 2001, pers. observ.).

On 28 November 2011, an adult female Broad-billed Hummingbird was

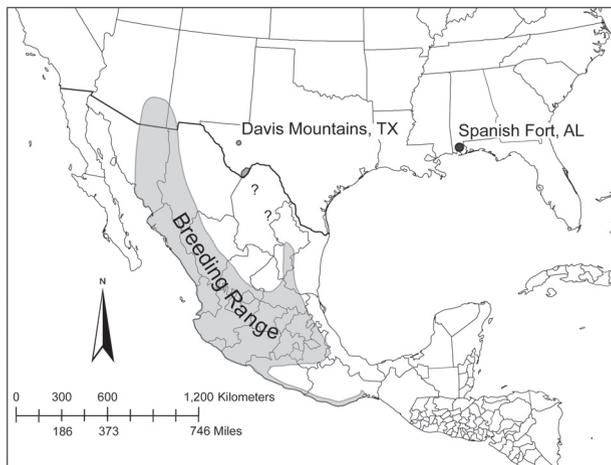


FIGURE 1. Breeding distribution of the Broad-billed Hummingbird and reported nesting location in Spanish Fort, Baldwin Co., Alabama. Map modified from Howell and Webb (1995), Powers and Wethington (1999), and Williamson (2001).

trapped and banded at a private residence in Spanish Fort, Alabama (Kittle et al. 2012), as part of a continuing 14-year study of wintering hummingbirds in southern Alabama and northern Florida (Bassett and Cubie 2009). The location was on a bluff overlooking the eastern shore of Mobile Bay (30° 41' 17" N 087° 54' 54" W, elevation 13.4 m) approximately 52 km north of the Gulf of Mexico. The bird was identified, aged, and sexed according to Pyle (1997) and Ortiz-Crespo (1972), and banded with a numbered aluminum band issued by the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory.

The banded female Broad-billed was observed daily at the home's sugar-water feeders throughout the winter months, and was still present in early April 2012, when all other wintering hummingbirds in the area had departed. On 12 April, the female was discovered sitting on a nest in the yard (Fig. 2). The nest was attached to a 76-cm-long dead twig that was caught in, and suspended vertically from, a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) branch. It was 4 m from the ground, overhanging a small opening adjacent to a paved drive. The bird was frequently observed on the nest from 12 to 20 April. After 20 April, she was present in the yard and continued to use the feeders but was no longer observed on the nest. The nest was collected on 25 April, when it became apparent the hummingbird had abandoned it.

The nest was composed almost entirely of small grayish-brown or buff-colored pieces of bark, plant down, and a few fine grass culms bound together and to the surrounding twigs by spider silk. The bark shreds on the outside of the nest were placed vertically with some trailing below the nest, giving it a ragged appearance. The nest contained four white cylindrical to slightly elliptical eggs (Fig. 3). The eggs were candled and found to be pale yellow with no evidence of embryos. No attempt at re-nesting was observed and the female was last seen at the residence on 2



FIGURE 2. Female Broad-billed Hummingbird on nest, 12 April 2012, Spanish Fort, Baldwin Co., Alabama.

May 2012. Timing, composition, and placement of the Alabama nest were similar to Broad-billed Hummingbird nests documented in Arizona and New Mexico (Powers and Wethington 1999). However, a clutch of four eggs in a hummingbird nest is an anomaly. Two eggs per clutch are typical for all hummingbird species, although Powers and Wethington (1999) reported a Broad-billed nest with three eggs in the aviary of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The cause of nest abandonment is not known; however, a male Broad-billed Hummingbird was never seen in the area. Possibly the eggs were never fertilized and this could explain why embryos were not found in the eggs and why eventually the nest was abandoned. Carpenter et al. (2012) also reported nest building in an unmated female outside the usual breeding range.



FIGURE 3. Broad-billed Hummingbird nest with four eggs, 25 April 2012, Spanish Fort, Baldwin Co., Alabama.

The source population for this female hummingbird is unknown. In the United States, the closest location for breeding Broad-billed Hummingbirds is the Davis Mountains, Texas (Lockwood et al 2011), approximately 1,550 km west of Spanish Fort, Alabama (Fig. 1). In Mexico, the easternmost population of Broad-billed Hummingbirds is found in extreme western Tamaulipas and southern Nuevo Leon (Powers and Wethington 1999), approximately 1,400 km southwest of southern Alabama (Fig 1).

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank J. Eden, the homeowner and hummingbird host, who first found the nest. Special thanks to R. Sargent and M. Sargent of the Hummer/Bird Study Group for their continuing financial assistance with our research projects.

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## OBSERVATION OF PREDATION ON CRAYFISH BY AMERICAN KESTREL (*FALCO SPARVERIUS*) IN ALABAMA

**Malcolm R. Braid**

On 9 March 2013, I observed an adult female American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) on the peak of my roof in Alabaster, Shelby Co., AL. The kestrel was obviously consuming a prey item which I assumed to be a small rodent or bird. The falcon remained for at least 30 minutes and allowed for close observations with binoculars and the taking of photographs.

American Kestrels typically feed on insects, small mammals, birds, and other organisms (Smallwood and Bird 2002). Upon studying the prey item in the photographs, I identified clearly a pincer, antenna, and exoskeleton of a crayfish in the talons of this bird (Fig. 1). Thus far I have found no specific reference to kestrel predation on crayfish in Alabama. According to Sibley (2001), "...kestrels wintering in Florida even take crayfish." I surmise this may be because of competition for food there, as Sibley states (2001) "American kestrels from northern states winter by the thousands in Florida, avoiding the resident kestrels, which maintain territories year-round." Imhof (1962) indicated Alabama kestrels as being "...almost entirely an insect-eater...", listing other food items but with no mention of crayfish. No mention of crayfish as food for kestrels is made in any of the major field guides (Sibley 2003, Peterson 1980, Kaufman 2000, Crossley 2011). Crayfish are probably eaten by kestrels in Alabama more often, but the importance of crayfish in the diet of Alabama kestrels is unknown.



FIGURE 1. American Kestrel female with head and claw of crayfish in talons of left foot, Shelby Co., Alabama, 9 March 2013.

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## FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2012)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 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 *Escambia*, *Franklin*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b” = banded; “FWBSTF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Treatment Facility; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NC” = Nature Center; “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 was at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 20 August – 3 September (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman) (rare in the WP). Rare but increasing along the Gulf Coast in Alabama, reports came from two sites: 34 (18 adults, 16 juveniles; good number) were north of Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 7 September (David Plumb), and eight were north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 18 October (Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds). The fourth record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by a single near Spring Creek on Wheeler Reservoir, *Lawrence*, 23 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.).

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – This species is a rare winter visitor to the WP, so 35 at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown) were noteworthy. Five were noted north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 23-25 November (Patsy Russo *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).
- ROSS'S GOOSE** – A single was spotted at Brown's Ferry, *Limestone*, 10 November (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley). Another single was north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 11-15 November (Howard Horne, Patsy Russo *et al.*; ph.) (rare on the Gulf Coast). Still another single was at Beauregard, *Lee*, 26 November (Jim Holmes *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region).
- GADWALL** – Two were seen at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 4 August (John Trent, Ty Keith, Greg Harber, m.ob.) (probably rare summering birds).
- MALLARD** – A trip through the western Black Belt from Boligee to Marion, *Greene/Hale/Perry*, 3 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) produced a total of 170 (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – Jim Holmes reported two late birds at Opelika, *Lee*, 26 November.
- CINNAMON TEAL** – One at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 30 September – 6 October (Malcolm Swan, Brue Purdy, Alan Burrows; ph.) marked only the fifth record for the WP.
- REDHEAD** – A count of 280 (maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain) was made at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 November (Joel McNeal, Nathan Farnau, Patrick Addy).
- LESSER SCAUP** – One was seen at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 4 and 25 August (Greg Harber, John Trent, m.ob.) (probably a rare summering bird).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – Two were on Wilson Reservoir at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 17 November (Damien Simbeck, Howard Horne, Matt Crunk) (rare, especially inland).
- BLACK SCOTER** – Rare in Alabama, four were noted along the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, 20 November (Howard Horne). On the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 11 were seen 20 November (Kathy Hicks; ph.).
- SCOTER SP.** – Two birds, probably Surf Scoters, were at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 17 November (Joel McNeal, Nathan Farnau, Patrick Addy) (any scoter rare inland).
- BUFFLEHEAD** – Jim Holmes counted 34 at Opelika, *Lee*, 26 November (maximum fall count for the Mountain Region).
- HOODED MERGANSER** – Jim Holmes counted 111 at Opelika, *Lee*, 9 November (maximum count for the Mountain Region).
- RED-THROATED LOON** – A juvenile was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 4 November (Sue Moske, Bala Chennupati, Linda Reynolds *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).
- PACIFIC LOON** – Eric Soehren found a single at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 21 November (first record for the Inland Coastal Plain). Another single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 24 November (Greg Jackson) (rare but regular at this site).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – One-two seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 3 and 4 November (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske, m.ob.; ph.) were notable for several reasons: early, 20<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama, and third occurrence of more than a single bird.



Red-necked Grebe with 2 Horned Grebes, 3 November 2012, Marshall Co., AL; B. Chennupati.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** – One at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 30 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Daniel Stangeland) was associated with Hurricane Isaac and marked the ninth record for the WP. Ten birds 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September (Craig Litteken) established the 10<sup>th</sup> record for the WP. A single was reported from 62 km and two from 81.5 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Howard Horne, m.ob.; @ABRC) (rare but regular offshore in fall).

**GREAT SHEARWATER** – An estimated 20 at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 30 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Daniel Stangeland) were associated with Hurricane Isaac (casual in the WP). Fifteen birds were 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September (Craig Litteken). Singles were reported from 71.6 and 87.2 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Howard Horne, m.ob.; ph.) (rare offshore in fall).



Great Shearwater, 8 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; P. Russo.

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – An estimated 30 at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 30 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Daniel Stangeland) were associated with Hurricane Isaac and marked about the 15<sup>th</sup> occurrence for the WP. Three birds 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September (Craig Litteken) was about the 16<sup>th</sup> occurrence for the WP. Sixteen were reported from between 62 and 85.8 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Howard Horne, John Trent, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (rare, good number).



Audubon's Shearwater, 8 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Hicks.

**SHEARWATER SP.** – An estimated 30 unidentified shearwaters were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 30 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Daniel Stangeland) (associated with Hurricane Isaac). Two unidentified shearwaters, also associated with Hurricane Isaac, were seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 August (Don McKee) (any shearwater rarely seen from land).

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – Thirteen birds were 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September (Craig Litteken) (casual in the WP).

**WOOD STORK** – Michael Barbour counted 3,054 (maximum for Alabama) in the western Black Belt, *Hale/Greene/Perry*, 1 September, and 2,155 were noted in the same area 3 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). An immature was late on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 November (Andrew Haffenden; ph.) (second record for

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

outer coastal Alabama). Thirteen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 10 November (Terry Honan) were late.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – This species was widespread throughout the WP during Hurricane Isaac, with 115 at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 29 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP except in storms).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Andrew Arnold photographed 105 in flight at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 20 October (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**GREAT BLUE HERON** – A count of 485 in the western Black Belt, *Greene/Hale/Perry*, 3 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) marked a maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain and a maximum fall count for Alabama.

**GREAT EGRET** – Stan and Dana Hamilton counted 1,000+ in the western Black Belt, *Greene/Hale/Perry*, 4 August, and 4,035 (maximum count for Alabama) were noted in the same area 3 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). The Birmingham area fall count (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) on 29 September produced a total of 178, a maximum for the Mountain Region.

**CATTLE EGRET** – Damien Simbeck counted 418 at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 6 September (maximum count for the Tennessee Valley).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – A single north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 23 November (Patsy Russo; ph.) marked a late date for Alabama (rare).

**PLEGADIS SP.** – A single was noted 28-29 September at Hope Hull, *Montgomery* (Tommy Pratt, Rod Douglass *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – A total of five records was received of this species that is rare anywhere in Alabama: two immatures along County Road 290 near Danway, *Chambers*, 11 August (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson); one-two in the airport area on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9-16 September (Howard Horne, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); a second year bird at two sites at Opelika and Auburn, *Lee*, 10-23 September (Rodney McCollum, Jeannie McCollum, Jim Holmes *et al.*; ph.); an immature at the municipal park in Mobile, *Mobile*, 15 September (Cindy Stanfield; ph.); and a single in the Mobile Delta, *Mobile*, 4 October (Sam Tagatz, Merilu Rose, *vide* Lucy Duncan).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – In *Hale*, 100+ and 55 were reported from along County Road 61 south of Newburn on 4 and 5 August, respectively, with 77+ seen on Red Bamberg Road on 4 August (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Greg Harber, m.ob.) (good numbers so far north).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, a maximum for Alabama (200+) was reported from along County Road 290 near Danway, *Chambers*, 12 August (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson *et al.*). Four were noted at Hueytown, *Jefferson*, 19 August (Sharon Hudgins).

**COOPER'S HAWK** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied nine on 6 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** – A single was seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 28 September (David Plumb *vide* Bill Summerour) (early arrival record for Alabama), and

up to six (maximum for Alabama) were seen in the same area 22-24 October (David Plumb, m.ob.) (rare but regular at this site in fall).

**RED-TAILED HAWK** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 29 on 6 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – An immature was observed at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 11 November (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske; ph.) (rare).

**YELLOW RAIL** – A single was seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 19 September (David Plumb *fide* Bill Summerour) (rare).

**AMERICAN COOT** – Singles that were probably rare summering birds were reported from the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 4 August (John Trent), and on the west end of Dauphin Island (unusual site), *Mobile*, 13 and 25 August (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – A single north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 15-23 November (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) was locally rare.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** – This species is rare in fall in the WP, but two were at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 15 October – 20 November (Malcolm Swan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*). Uncommon in fall in Alabama, singles were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 25 September (Janice Neitzel; ph.), and Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Limestone*, 10 November (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** – Two were along County Road 35 near Cedarville, *Hale*, on 3 September after Hurricane Isaac (Greg Jackson) (rare inland).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – Damien Simbeck located a single west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 31 August (rare inland).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** – This species is rare in Alabama, and one at Lake Shelby in Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 1 September, marked the seventh and earliest fall record for the state (Lisa Comer, Karen Chiasson; ph.) (after Hurricane Isaac).



Hudsonian Godwit,  
1 September 2012,  
Baldwin Co., AL.; L.  
Comer.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – Rare in fall in Alabama, a single was reported from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 28 August (Larry Gardella). On the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, one was reported 28 September (Peter Carter) and two on 2 October (Andrew Haffenden).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was reported from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 31 August (Michael Barbour), while one seen at the same site 12-18 November (Larry Gardella; ph.) marked a late departure date for inland Alabama.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Three were seen at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 12-18 November (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, a single was at Lake Shelby in Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 2-3 September (after Hurricane Isaac) (Howard Horne *et al.*), and two were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 September (Bill Summerour; ph.).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** – A single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2-3 September (after Hurricane Isaac) (Terry Hartley, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** – A single at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 20 October (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow) was the earliest arrival ever by three days for the WP. Two first-cycle birds at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 23 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) marked the earliest fall arrival record for inland Alabama.



Red-necked Phalarope, 2 September 2012; Baldwin Co., AL; T. Hartley.

**LAUGHING GULL** – Reports from Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, where this species is rare but regular, included four on 6 September (after Hurricane Isaac) and a single on 24 September (Damien Simbeck).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – A single at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 22 October (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow) was very early. One was at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 15 November (Annette Williams) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast in fall, six were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 October (Geoff Hill *et al.*), two were on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22 October (Andrew Haffenden), and two were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 23 October (Howard Horne).

**RING-BILLED GULL** – Damien Simbeck reported 20 on 1-4 August and 349 on 6 September at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, the latter count a large number for so early in the season. Four seen south of Newburn, *Hale*, 5 August (Greg Harber) marked the first August record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – One on Okaloosa Island, *Okaloosa*, 4 August (Malcolm Swan), marked the first August record for the WP. Rare but regular and increasing in both the Tennessee Valley and on the Gulf Coast, several records were received: Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, an early adult and a first cycle bird on 6 September as well as an early third-cycle bird on 23 September (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.); one adult on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 10-23 October, and two adults on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 November (Andrew Haffenden, m.ob.; ph.); two adults and two first-cycle birds (maximum fall count for inland Alabama) at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 13 October (Damien Simbeck); one on 4 November (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.) and two adults and one first-cycle bird on 10 November (Damien Simbeck, Greg Jackson *et al.*) at Guntersville, *Marshall*; and a third-cycle single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 23 November (Jim Holmes; ph.).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – An adult was seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 October (Ben Garmon, Andrew Haffenden, Patsy Russo) (rare but regular at this site). One-two were reported from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 November+ (Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).

**HERRING X KELP (CHANDELEUR) GULL** – An adult was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 September and 14 October (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular).

**SOOTY TERN** – Fifteen birds were 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September

(Craig Litteken) (rare in the WP). A single was seen on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 18 August (Andrew Haffenden; ph.) (rare but regular).

**BRIDLED TERN** – Singles were in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, and at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 28 August (Lucy Duncan, John Connor). Two birds were 50-95 km off Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 2 September (Craig Litteken) (rare in the WP). A single juvenile was reported from the Gulf SP Pier, *Baldwin*, 1-2 September (Lisa Comer *et al.*; ph.) after Hurricane Isaac (rare onshore). A single was reported from 52.8 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Howard Horne, John Trent, m.ob.) (uncommon-rare but expected offshore).



Bridled Tern, 1 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; L. Comer.

**POMARINE JAEGER** – Two (singles) were reported at 24.1 and 87 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 8 September (Damien Simbeck, Howard Horne, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – Nineteen at a feeder in Underwood, *Lauderdale*, 22 November (Paul Kittle) established a maximum count for northwest Alabama.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Four were at a feeder at Excel, *Monroe*, 19 August (Andrew Arnold) (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**INCA DOVE** – Up to three were seen and heard south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 4 August – 9 September (Howard Horne *et al.*; ph. @ABRC) (fourth record for Alabama).



Inca Dove, 22 August 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – Two were noted at Harpersville, *Shelby*, 29 September during the Birmingham area fall count (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region, but regular at this site).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – Rare in fall, two early individuals were at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 August (Andrew Haffenden, Eugenia Carey, Patsy Russo, Howard Horne).

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI** – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Dotty Robbins, John Murphy) where the species is rare but fairly regular. A single was south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 16 November (Karen Chiasson) and 17 November (Bill Summerour, D. Miller; ph.) (rare).



Grooved-billed Ani, 17 November 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

**BARN OWL** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 16 October (Heather Wolf, John

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Connor) (rare in the WP).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – Bob and Martha Sargent banded 22 (good number) 29 October – 25 November at Clay, *Jefferson*, where the species is regular. This species is rare but expected at the following two sites: Hollings, *Clay*, five banded 9-26 November (Mary Wilson, Don Wilson), and Chandler Mountain near Steele, *St. Clair*, 25+ (good number) banded during the fall season to 25 November (Fred Moore, Brandlee Moore, *fide* Bob Sargent).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** – “Hundreds” were reported in Cantonment, *Escambia*, and Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 6 September (Jerry Callaway, J. Nickerson).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – A maximum for Alabama (200+) was reported from feeders at Clay, *Jefferson*, 5 September (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent). Twenty-three was a good number for fall, especially on the outer Gulf Coast, at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 October (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.).

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – A hatching year male was in Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 5 September (Fred Bassett, Lucy Sowell; b.) (rare but regular).

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – One was noted at Foley, *Baldwin*, 4-5 November (Michael Jordan, Eva Barnett) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 6 October, 152 were counted to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**AMERICAN KESTREL** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 6 October, 32 were counted to establish a maximum fall count for inland Alabama.

**MERLIN** – A single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 5 September (Bob Duncan, Gary Davis) was very early.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – One was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but expected in fall, numerous reports were received: Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, one on 20 August (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters); singles at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 31 August (Ben Garmon) and 23-24 (Ken Archambault *et al.*); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, a total of four, 5-24 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.), one on 25 September (Greg Jackson), and singles on 4 and 14 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.); a total of six+ on multiple dates at three sites on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6-19 September (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo, Andrew Haffenden), with five on 6 September establishing a maximum count for the Gulf Coast; one-two on 14 and 25 September at the Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (David Dortch); a single northwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 16-18 September (Jim Holmes); one at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 24 and 28 September (John Trent; ph.); one at Powder Magazine Park in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 25-28 September (Larry Gardella); one found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, 6 October (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy); and one at Lanark west of Millbrook, *Autauga*, 7 October (Larry Gardella).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** – Rare in Alabama, records of vocalizing birds came from

three sites: five (maximum count for Alabama) at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, and south of Newburn, *Hale*, 25 August (John Trent, Ashley Peters; ph.); singles on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9-11 September (Goat Trees) (Andrew Haffenden, Patsy Russo, Ben Garmon *et al.*) and 13 September (Shell Mounds) (Howard Horne); and one at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 16 September (Larry Gardella).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – A calling bird was reported from the Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 August (Patsy Russo, Bill Summerour, Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden) (rare). Another calling bird was at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 24 September (Howard Horne, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare).

**“TRAILL’S” FLYCATCHER** – The banding program at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, produced a total of 97, 4 September – 10 October (high number for the total season), with 29 on 8 September marking a maximum for this complex in Alabama (T. J. Zenzal, *et al.*).

**SAY’S PHOEBE** – The fourth and fifth records for the WP were marked, respectively, by singles at Tamincó Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 8 October (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman; ph. to FOSRC), and at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 12 November – 1 December (Malcolm Swan, Alan Knothe, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.). A single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 25 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) established the sixth record for Alabama.



Say's Phoebe, 25 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; J. Neitzel.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), marked only a second September record for the WP. An adult male was at Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, 4 October (Sheila Barr, Eric Soehren, m.ob.; ph.) (rare). A female was observed at Glen Lakes south of Foley, *Baldwin*, 30 November+ (Karen Chiasson, m.ob.; ph.; return to site) (rare).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but fairly regular in the WP, records came from three sites: three at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 11-27 October (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); a single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 October (Bob Duncan); and one-two at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8-19 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown *et al.*). One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 October (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare). A single was on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 7-9 November (Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden) (rare).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – One at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 August (Bob Duncan) was an early arrival. Another early single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 August (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – A tally of 14 near Sledge, *Hale*, 4 August (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton *et al.*) marked a maximum count for inland Alabama. Observations at multiple sites (Fort Morgan, Dauphin Island, Alabama Port, Magnolia Springs) in *Baldwin/Mobile* on 20 October produced a total of 28+, a maximum count

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

for Alabama (Janice Neitzel, Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.).

**BELL'S VIREO** – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27-29 October (James Pfeiffer, Patrick James, Lucy Duncan) marked the second October record for the WP. A single was near the Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 August (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo *et al.*; ph.) (rare). One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 21 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare).

**WARBLING VIREO** – Rare in Alabama during fall migration, seven reports of singles were received: Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 August (Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden, Patsy Russo *et al.*); Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Ben Garmon); Chewacla SP, *Lee*, 17 September (Jim Holmes); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 24 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.); Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 4 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 October (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*); Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 October (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – One was early at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 7 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*). An early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a single at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9 September (Geoff Hill).

**FISH CROW** – One was found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Morgan*, 6 October (Linda Reynolds *et al.*) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

**HORNED LARK** – A single was noted near Society Hill, *Lee*, 27 October (Jim Holmes) (rare so far south).

**CAVE SWALLOW** – Very rare in the WP in fall, a single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22 October (Bob Duncan). One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 24 September (Greg Jackson) marked the first fall occurrence for the Gulf Coast and the third fall record for Alabama.

**BARN SWALLOW** – John Trent reported one from Eufaula, *Barbour*, 10 November (late fall departure for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – This species was widely reported throughout the WP. Bob Reed found one at Joe Wheeler SP, *Lawrence*, 14 September (early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – A single was noted at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 8 August – 29 November (John Trent) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**ROCK WREN** – The fourth record for Alabama, and the first since 1984, came from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9-12 November (Karen Chiasson, m.ob.; ph.; see cover of this issue; @ABRC).

**WINTER WREN** – An early bird was at Powder Magazine Park in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 September (Larry Gardella).

**SEDGE WREN** – One-two were reported from Saginaw Swamp, *Shelby*, 21 October (Greg Jackson) and 22 November (Ken Wills) (rare but regular in the Mountain Region).

**MARSH WREN** – One was at Opelika, *Lee*, 9 November (Jim Holmes) (rare but regular

in the Mountain Region).

- CAROLINA WREN** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 6 October, 171 were counted to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – An estimated 500 in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 21 August (Bob Duncan, Scot Duncan) marked a maximum ever for the WP.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD** – A pair feeding young on 4 November on Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Pam Brown) established the latest nesting record for Alabama.
- VEERY** – An early fall arrival was south of Sanford, *Covington*, 3 and 9 September (Thomas Savage).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – Singles that arrived early were at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 1 September (Greg Harber), the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Andrew Haffenden), and Camp Winnataska northwest of Pleasant Grove, *St. Clair*, 6 September (Ty Keith).
- COMMON MYNA** – Eight were reported from Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 28 October (*vide* Peggy Baker). Birds were observed feeding young during the summer of 2012 (first report for the WP).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – Rare in the WP, a single was noted at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8-15 November (Bob Duncan, Brook Rohman *et al.*). South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, David Plumb reported a single on 29 October (rare but regular at this site).
- OVENBIRD** – Big Lagoon SP, *Escambia*, hosted a single on 7 November (Bob Strader *et al.*) (casual in the WP in November).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** – A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – Four (maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain) were counted at Chewacla SP, *Lee*, 19 September (Jim Holmes, James Holmes, Lorna West).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** – Four (maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain) were counted at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 16 September (Larry Gardella).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – A late bird was north of Ashford, *Houston*, 20 November (D. Lassiter).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – Two were on the TVA Muscle Shoals Reservation, *Colbert*, 31 August and 7 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (rare in the Tennessee Valley, but regular at this site).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Two were early at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27 September (Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley, Larry Goodman).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – One at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Howard Horne, Patsy Russo *et al.*) was early. Nine were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 September – 16 October (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*), with singles on 5 and 7 September being early arrivals. Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, a single was found at Ruffner Mountain NC, *Jefferson*, 29 September (Greg Jackson), and one or more individuals were observed on multiple dates, 8-27 October, at Anniston, *Calhoun* (Debbie McKenzie; ph.).

**MOURNING WARBLER** – Three at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 30 August – 29 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Pam Beasley) was an unprecedented number of a very rare warbler. Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast in fall, one-two were at the Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 August – 1 September (Bill Summerour, Andrew Haffenden, Don McKee *et al.*), and four were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5-11 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; ph.).



Mourning Warbler, 5 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; E. Ospina.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Rare in fall, reports (all of singles) came from four sites: Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 14 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.); Anniston, *Calhoun*, 26-28 September (female) and 8 October (male) (Debbie McKenzie; ph.); and Green Mountain, *Madison*, 23 October (Sue Moske).

**NORTHERN PARULA** – One at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 23-26 October (Debbie McKenzie; ph.) marked a late record for the Mountain Region.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** – Early arrivals were on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 9 September (Sue Moske), and at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9 September (Geoff Hill; ph.).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – Andrew Haffenden reported an early arrival at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 August.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** – Singles were found on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 19 September and 16 October (Sue Moske) (occasional for fall in inland Alabama).

**YELLOW-RUMPED (AUDUBON'S) WARBLER** – One was reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 November (Howard Horne, Patsy Russo, Andrew Haffenden; ph.) (occasional in Alabama).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – A single at Shorter, *Macon*, 28 October (Eric Soehren) marked a late fall record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**CANADA WARBLER** – Good numbers were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4-22 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*). The total of 44 included 21 banded on 8 September, a maximum for the Gulf Coast.

**WILSON'S WARBLER** – Early singles were at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 September (Andrew Haffenden), and at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 September (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.). Three at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 12 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) tied the maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley. Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, singles were at Ruffner Mountain NC, *Jefferson*, 15 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and at Anniston, *Calhoun*, 26-27 September (Debbie McKenzie; ph.). Six on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 October (Andrew Haffenden) was a good number.

**EASTERN TOWHEE** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 6 October,

28 were tallied to tie the maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** – Eric Soehren counted 110 at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 20 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September – 19 November (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) (rare but fairly regular in the WP). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, hosted one on 24 September (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), two on 30 September (Michael Jordan), one on 6 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.), and two on 11 October (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, T.J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.). Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted one on 26 September (Howard Horne) and two from 2-10 October (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*). A single was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 29 October (Howard Horne) (unusual site).

**LARK SPARROW** – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 September – 24 November (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Peggy Baker *et al.*) (rare but fairly regular at this site). A single was seen southeast of Midway (not a known breeding site), *Bullock*, 5 September (John Trent, Andrew Arnold) (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain). Dwight Cooley reported a late bird at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 6 October.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** – Rare but expected on the Gulf Coast, an early single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 October (Ben Garmon), while another single was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 October (Andrew Haffenden). One was found in the Key Cave NWR area, *Lauderdale*, 20 October (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk; ph.) (rare in the Tennessee Valley). One was seen at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale* (not a known regular site), 30 November (John Trent) (rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SONG SPARROW** – Dwight Cooley tallied 80 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 20 November to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Four were found in the Key Cave NWR area, *Lauderdale*, 20-21 October (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk *et al.*; ph.) to mark a maximum count for the Tennessee Valley. Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were noted at Saginaw Swamp, *Shelby*, 21 October (Greg Jackson), and at Opelika, *Lee*, 9 November (Jim Holmes). Five (good number) were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 October (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.).

**SWAMP SPARROW** – Dwight Cooley tallied 150 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 20 November (ties maximum fall count for inland Alabama).

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** – Dwight Cooley tallied 55 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 20 November to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**WESTERN Tanager** – Very rare in the WP, records came from three sites, all of singles: Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 September (Jerry Callaway); St. George Island, *Franklin*, 10 September (Gary Davis); and Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 23 September (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 23 October (T. J. Zenzal *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare).

**INDIGO BUNTING** – Eric Soehren reported one at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway,

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

*Bullock*, 20 November (late fall record for the Inland Coastal Plain, except for five winter records).

**BOBOLINK** – Very rare in fall in the WP, a very early single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 August (Daniel Stangeland; ph.), while another single was at the same site on 24 September (John Murphy, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Dotty Robbins). Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, two were found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 October (Andrew Haffenden); a single was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 6 October (Dwight Cooley); and another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 October (Ben Garmon).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – Lucy Duncan reported one from the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 14 November (only the second report for the WP since 1965). A singing and calling bird was found west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 17 November (Howard Horne, Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley, rare in Alabama).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Very rare in November in the WP, singles were at Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 27 September (Malcolm Swan); at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 9 October (Jerry Callaway); and at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 14-17 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*). Rare in Alabama, reports arrived from five sites: one at the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 September (Howard Horne); one at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 23 September (Wayne Patterson; ph.); one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 September (Ben Garmon, Andrew Haffenden, Paul St. Clair *et al.*; ph.); three south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 13-20 October (William Matthews, Howard Horne); and a single southwest of Foley, *Baldwin*, 10 November (Howard Horne).



Yellow-headed Blackbird, 26 September 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; P. St. Clair.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** – Dwight Cooley reported 800 from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 6 November (maximum for the Tennessee Valley in recent years).

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – A single was in Pensacola. *Escambia*, 12-30 November (Vaughan Hedrick; photo to FOSRC) (fourth record for the WP since 2000).

**HOUSE SPARROW** – On the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 6 October, 128 were counted to establish a maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley.

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** – This invasive species continues to be reported from the WP, and is increasing in Alabama as well. One was at a feeder in Daphne, *Baldwin* (new site), 3 November (Craig Litteken). The six seen at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, were present for a week prior to 21 November (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) (continuation in this area). Twelve were counted on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 22 November (Janice Neitzel, Steve Neitzel; ph.) (continuation in this area).

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## WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2012 – FEBRUARY 2013)

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

This report covers the period from December 2012 through February 2013 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species; these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. All submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, must be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. For guidance, observers are encouraged to consult the Alabama Ornithological Society checklist. Reports should note conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in this matter is appreciated.



Regions of Alabama and Florida Panhandle for Bird Distribution Data

**Abbreviations and italics:** County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSTF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Treatment Facility; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NC” = Nature Center; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** – The fifth record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by a single at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 December (Rick Remy, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton). This species is occasional in Alabama, but is much decreased in recent years.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Four were seen south of Malbis, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Corte’s Pond; Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) and 16 February (Rigsby

Road; Karen Chiasson) (rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast). Rodney McCollum *et al.* saw three at Lakepoint Resort SP, *Barbour*, 5 February (rare but regular on the Inland Coast Plain).

**ROSS’S GOOSE** – This species is rare but regular and increasing in the Tennessee Valley, and reports from four sites were received. At Proctor, *Limestone*, several sightings were made: four on 5 December (Damien Simbeck); six on 6 December and three on 19 December (Jud Johnston); and one on 25 January (John Trent, Andrew Arnold). The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied nine (good number) on 15 December. Damien Simbeck found two at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 4 February. Ashley Peters *et al.* (ph.) counted eight (good number) west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 23-24 February.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** – A male visited Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 4-5 January (Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) (occasional in Alabama).



Eurasian Wigeon, 5 January 2013, S. W. McConnell,

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single male was reported on 4 December (Dwight Cooley) and two males were there on 15 December (Stan Hamilton *et al.*) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in winter).

**CANVASBACK** – John Trent reported 300 at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 21 January, to establish a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** – During the 14 December CBC at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, Geoff Hill *et al.* tallied 2,960 (good number).

**GREATER SCAUP** – This species was reported from Speigner, *Elmore*, 26 December – 21 February (Vicki Crutchfield, Larry Gardella), with a maximum of five on 13 January (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**LESSER SCAUP** – John Trent reported 600 at the Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 21 January, to establish a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**SURF SCOTER** – A rare inland occurrence was marked by a single at Bessemer, *Jefferson*, 2-7 December (Sharon Hudgins, m.ob.).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – At Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, Greg Jackson saw two on 6 January, while Bill Summerour reported “several” on 10 February (rare).

**BLACK SCOTER** – Thirty at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 30 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked an all-time maximum for the WP. This species is rare in inland Alabama, so a single seen at Proctor, *Limestone*, 5 December (Damien Simbeck; ph.) was notable. Black Scoters were unusually abundant and widespread along the Gulf Coast of Alabama this winter, as indicated by the following



Black Scoter, 8 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL: G. D. Jackson.

records: Dauphin Island area, *Mobile*, four on 18 December (David Dortch) and continuing to 15 January (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*); three near the mouth of Dog River, *Mobile*, 16 January (Eric Soehren, John Trent, Carrie Johnson) (unusual away from outer coast); and multiple reports from Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 18 December – 24 February, with high counts of 13 on 19 December (Howard Horne), 15 on 25 January (Greg Jackson), and 30 on 11 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** – Two-three were at Speigner, *Elmore*, 26 December (Vicki Crutchfield) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain). Six were on the Tennessee River at Town Creek, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) (rare).

**RED-THROATED LOON** – This species is rare in winter in the WP. Singles were noted at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Bruce Purdy), and at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 20 December (Lucy Duncan). One was found at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 1 December (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley). Another single was found at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, during the Gulf Shores CBC on 5 January (Greg Jackson) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**PACIFIC LOON** – Reports of singles of this rare species came from three sites: Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 December (Bob Duncan); Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 18 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and Destin, *Okaloosa*, 27 February (Bruce Purdy). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, Andrew Haffenden noted one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 January.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – Two were found at Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert*, during the Waterloo CBC on 15 December (Shirley Wayland, Phyllis Nofzinger, Stephanie Brown), and four (maximum for Alabama) were on Wheeler Reservoir west of Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 26-27 January (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (occasional in Alabama).

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** – Two at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 20 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked the ninth record for the WP.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** – This species is rare in Alabama and occasional from shore and in winter. Greg Jackson saw four (maximum winter count for Alabama) from the Gulf SP Pier, *Baldwin*, 6 January. Singles was reported from Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 31 January (Kathy Hicks; ph.) and 10 February (Bill Summerour, Kathy Hicks; ph.).

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** – One at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 20 December (Bob Duncan) marked the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the WP. A single one-two km south of Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 9 December (Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne, John Stowers *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) marked the 14<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama.



Great Shearwater, 10 February 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Hicks.



Sooty Shearwater, 9 December 2012, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

**MANX SHEARWATER** – A single at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 23 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, Jerry Callaway; ph.; @FOSRC) marked the third record for the WP.

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – At Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, Greg Jackson found five on 24 January and six on 26 January, while Karen Chiasson and Bill Summerour noted two on 28 January (@ABRC) (occasional in Alabama).

**SMALL SHEARWATER SP.** – Singles were seen at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 6 January (Greg Jackson) and 10 February (Larry Gardella, Lorna West) (occasional in Alabama).

**SHEARWATER SP.** – Three were spotted at Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 20 December (Andrew Haffenden) (rare).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – Occasional in winter in Alabama, two were one-two km south of Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 9 December (Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne, John Stowers *et al.*; ph.), and a single was seen from the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 December (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

**ANHINGA** – Larry Gardella reported one from Speigner, *Elmore*, 1 January (rare this far north in winter).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Multiple reports of this increasingly common species were received. Dwight Cooley counted 2,565 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 December (maximum inland and winter count for Alabama). Geoff Hill *et al.* reported 97 from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 14 December (good number for the Inland Coastal Plain). This species has become a regular winter occurrence in the Riverside/Lincoln area of Logan Martin Lake, *St. Clair/Talladega*, as witnessed by 115 on 4 January (Julie Pounders), 300 (maximum winter count for the Mountain Region) on 31 January (Wally Retan, Josie Retan), and 200 on 2 March (Ross Cohen). Good numbers came from three sites where the species is locally rare: 18 on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 5 January; 20+ at Lannett, *Chambers*, 11 January (Rodney McCollum); and 75 on the Chattahoochee River at Columbia, *Henry*, 8 February (Renea Todd *et al.*).

**CATTLE EGRET** – Two were found at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 21 January (Anne Miller, Ty Keith, m.ob.) (occasional in winter in north Alabama).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – A single was in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 20 December (Powers McLeod) (casual in winter in the WP).

**GLOSSY IBIS** – One was reported from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 15 December (Dwight Cooley) and again on 13 January (Chris Welch *et al.*) (rare inland).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – A single was east of Daphne, *Baldwin*, 5-8 December (Karen Chiasson, Janice Neitzel *et al.*; ph.) (rare).

**BLACK VULTURE** – An estimated 600 (maximum for Alabama) were at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 5 February (Mike Howard; ph.).

**OSPREY** – Rare in winter in north Alabama, reports of singles



White-faced Ibis, 5 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; L. Comer.

came from three sites: Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale*, 1 December and 26 January (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.); Paradise Lake in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 12 October – 13 March (Paul Franklin); and in the Bessemer-McCalla area, *Jefferson*, 3 February (Kenneth Wills).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – One in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 15 January (Brenda Callaway) marked the first winter record for the WP.

**BALD EAGLE** – Twenty-four at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 December (Jerry Callaway) was an all-time high for the WP. Eighteen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 14 December (Geoff Hill *et al.*) established a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** – Two were in northern *Escambia*, 15-16 January (Gary Davis) (very rare in winter in the WP).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** – Malcolm Swan reported one from Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 30 November (casual in the WP in fall and winter).

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** – A light morph bird was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (now occasional in Alabama).

**YELLOW RAIL** – Four were caught on 15 January and two on 26 February at Grand Bay NWR, *Mobile* (Eric Soehren, John Trent, m.ob.; b.; ph.) (rare but apparently regular in winter at this site).

**BLACK RAIL** – A single was seen and heard on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 December (Howard Horne, Ralph Havard) (rare).

**VIRGINIA RAIL** – The Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, tallied 18 on 5 January (maximum count for Alabama). A single was found at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 27 January (John Trent, Andrew Arnold, Carrie Johnson) (occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley).



Yellow Rail, 15 January 2013, Mobile Co., AL; E. C. Soehren.

**SANDHILL CRANE** – This species was reported from north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 3 January – 17 February, with maxima of seven on 6 February and 17 February (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (locally rare). A single was southeast of Prattville, *Elmore*, 5 January (Eric Soehren, Ashley Peters, John Trent) (locally rare).

**WHOOPIING CRANE** – The Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 12 captive-reared birds 15 December (good number, return to area).

**SNOWY PLOVER** – The Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, tallied 26 (maximum count for Alabama) on 15 December.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – A single was found northwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 15 December (Geoff Hill) (rare but regular inland in winter).

**STILT SANDPIPER** – One was found at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 8 December (Greg Jackson; ph.) (rare in winter).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Two found during the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore*, 5 January were seen through 7 January (Larry Gardella; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**DOWITCHER SP.** – Six were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

December (Rick Remy) (rare inland in winter).

**LAUGHING GULL** – One adult was seen on Wheeler Reservoir near Spring Creek, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, is an expected site that hosted this species on 6 December (six, Karen Chiasson), 7 December (four, Greg Jackson), and 11 December (one, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo); a single was at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 14 January (Larry Gardella) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).



Franklin's Gull, 7 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; G. D. Jackson.

**ICELAND GULL** – One first-cycle bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 7 December (Greg Jackson; ph.) marked the 12<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama.



Iceland Gull, Baldwin Co., AL; 7 December 2012; G. D. Jackson.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – This species is rare but regular and increasing on the Gulf Coast and in the Tennessee Valley. A single was reported from Dauphin Island/Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 5-9 December and 8 January (Andrew Haffenden). At Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, six were found on 7 December and three on 26 January (Greg Jackson *et al.*; ph.) (regular site). An adult was seen on Bear Creek Embayment of Pickwick Reservoir, *Colbert*, 15 December (Jeff Garner, Jacob Garner).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** – Two immatures were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 21 January+ (Lisa Comer *et al.*; ph.) (rare).

**HERRING X GLAUCOUS (NELSON'S) GULL** – A first-cycle bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 7 December (Greg Jackson; ph.) marked the second Alabama record of this hybrid.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted an adult and an immature on 9 December and a second-year bird on 29 January (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (rare but expected in this area).



Glaucous Gull, 21 January, Baldwin Co., AL; L. Comer.

**BLACK TERN** – A single at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 20 December (Bob Duncan) marked the first December record for the WP.

**FORSTER'S TERN** – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, tallied 153 on 15 December to mark a maximum count for inland Alabama. At Guntersville, *Marshall*,

Greg Jackson counted 105 (good number) on 19 January.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – One at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 31 December (Ann Forster, Jan Lloyd) marked the first December record for the WP.

**RAZORBILL** – An unprecedented invasion of this species occurred along the Gulf Coast of the WP and Alabama, beginning in December and continuing through the season. Lucy Duncan saw the first bird on 18 December to establish the first record for the species in the Gulf of Mexico north of Tampa. For the WP, a total of 19 birds was reported between 18 December and 25 February: seven at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 18 December (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan; ph.; Linda Bogaiges, Larry Goodman; ph.); one lingered at the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, *Escambia*, 19-27 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Dana Timmons, Bruce Purdy, David Dortch, Don McKee, Chris James, Patrick James, Kathy Hicks, Daniel Stangeland, Jerry Callaway, Scot Duncan; ph.); six a few miles south of the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, *Escambia*, 27 December (Pam Beasley); one dead bird at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 January (Angelina Thompson; ph.); one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 January (Lucy Duncan); one at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 1 February (Jim Kittinger); one at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 7 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and one at the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, *Escambia*, 25 February (Don Ware). In Alabama, ten+ reports came from along 11 km of shore between the Gulf SP Pier and Perdido Pass, *Baldwin* (most from Gulf SP Pier), to mark the first records for the state (@ABRC; ph.). Many were flybys, but some were noted at rest on the water. Reports include two on 6 January (Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden); one on 19 January (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk); three on 25 January (Greg Jackson) through 11 February (two; Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and six on 6 February and 9 February (Bill Summerour, Kathy Hicks).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Fifteen were reported from Mobile, *Mobile*, 21 January (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor) (increasing on the Gulf Coast, now regular in this area). One-two occurred at Excel, *Monroe*, 30 January – 21 February (Andrew Arnold; ph.) (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).



White-winged Dove, 10 February 2013, Monroe Co., AL; A. Arnold.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** – A single was seen along the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, 12 December (Andrew Haffenden, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo *et al.*) (occasional on the Gulf Coast).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – Singles were at Clay, *Jefferson*, 11 and 18 December, 20 and 21 January, and 4 February (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.) (now expected in this area).

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK** – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1-7 February (Alex Harper, Patrick James, Daniel Stangeland) marked the ninth record for the WP.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** – A single was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 11 January (Patsy Russo) (casual in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** – A tally of six (good number) previously banded birds was included on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December (*vide* Bob Sargent)

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

(rare but regular).

**ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – Singles were at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 2 December (Fred Bassett, Sandy Leather; b.), and Foley, *Baldwin*, 27 December – 5 January (Fred Bassett, Eva Barnett *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare).

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – One in Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 5 December (Renee Gollehon, George Gollehon, Fred Bassett; b.) marked the 21<sup>st</sup> record for the WP. This species is rare but regular in Alabama, and four reports were received: two at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 12 December (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson; b.); a single in Mountain Brook, *Jefferson*, 27 December (Bob Sargent; b.); one at Point Clear, *Baldwin*, 4 January (Fred Bassett, Eleanor Livaudais, Charlie Livaudais; b.); and a single at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 7 February (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson; b.).

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – One was found at Lillian, *Baldwin*, on 19 and 22 January (Damien Simbeck, Jim Dickerson, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.) (rare but regular).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** – The Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, recorded a total of 23 on 5 January (maximum winter count for the Gulf Coast).

**MERLIN** – This falcon is rare in north Alabama in winter. Three reports of singles were received: Wheeler NWR CBC, *Morgan*, 15 December (Duane Brown, Linda Brown); Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Sharon Hudgins, David George); and Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 27 December (Bert Harris).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – Rare but regular in north Alabama in winter, singles were reported from Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 26 December (Ken Ward *et al.*), 19 January (Ken Marion *et al.*), and 14 February (Jerry Green; ph.), as well as Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 6 January (Sue Moske).

**SAY'S PHOEBE** – One at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 3 December – 28 January (Malcolm Swan, Shelby McNemar, Michelle Rachie; @FOSRC) marked the fifth record for the WP.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15 December – 17 February (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser, m.ob.) (rare in the WP). Two adult males were reported from south of Malbis, *Baldwin*, 8 December – 9 February (Janice Neitzel, Karen Chiasson, m.ob.; ph.), and a single immature male was southeast of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Greg Jackson; ph.) (rare).



Vermilion Flycatcher, 8 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; J. Neitzel.

**CASSIN'S KINGBIRD** – The third record for the WP was marked by one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15-19 December (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser, Wes Tallyn, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, David Dortch, Don McKee; ph.; @FOSRC).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast, reports of singles came from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 December (CBC), and Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 5 January (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – A single was seen at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 5

January (Greg Jackson) and 19 January (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (rare in winter).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – A single was found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (first winter record for the Tennessee Valley). This species is rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, and reports came from four sites: one at Shorter, *Macon*, 14–15 January (Eric Soehren); one at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 24 January – 22 February (John Trent *et al.*); Andalusia, *Covington*, two on 27 January, two on 15 February, and four (maximum winter number for the Inland Coastal Plain) on 17 February (Thomas Savage); and a single southeast of Andalusia, *Covington*, 16 February (Thomas Savage).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5 January 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; G. D. Jackson.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, reports of singles came from three sites: Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (David George); Coosa WMA, *Coosa*, 19 December and 6 February (John Trent, Eric Soehren); and Ruffner Mountain NC, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Greg Harber *et al.*).

**FISH CROW** – Rare but regular and increasing in the Tennessee Valley, three reports from this area were received: three on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Stan Hamilton); four on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); and a single at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

**PURPLE MARTIN** – A single was at Shorter, *Macon*, 26 January (Eric Soehren) (early).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – A single was south of Birmingham, *Shelby*, 22–23 December (Pelham Rowan, Lisa Bailey) (first early-mid winter record for inland Alabama). Several were in the Lake Purdy area, *Jefferson*, 20 February (Harriett Wright, Alice Christenson) (early arrival date for inland Alabama).

**CAVE SWALLOW** – A single was north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 3 January (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (fourth winter record for Alabama).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – In the WP, numerous reports were received from feeding stations throughout the area.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – One was found at Avalon Beach, *Santa Rosa*, 15 December (Tom Barbig) (very rare in the WP).

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH** – Eight (locally high number) were counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Jessica Germany).

**HOUSE WREN** – Rare but regular in winter in north Alabama, reports came from three sites: two were found during the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December; a single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 6 January (Sue Moske); and one was noted at Homewood, *Jefferson*, 7 January (Kenneth Wills).

**SEDGE WREN** – Rare in the Mountain Region in winter, Kenneth Wills reported singles from Homewood, *Jefferson*, 1 February, and Saginaw, *Shelby*, 23 February.

**MARSH WREN** – Two were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham) (rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley and on the Inland Coastal Plain in winter, singles were reported from five locations: Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); Riverton, *Colbert*, 15 December (Jeff Garner); Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 and 12 January (John Trent); northwest of Brewton, *Escambia*, 11 January (Rodney Cassidy); and Florence, *Lauderdale*, 19 January (Phyllis Nofzinger).

**GRAY CATBIRD** – A single was in the Swan Creek WMA area, *Limestone*, 12 January (Dwight Cooley, m.ob.) (rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – One was southwest of Foley, *Baldwin*, 1 December – 19 January (Bill Summerour, Duane Miller, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular in this area).

**CEDAR WAXWING** – The tally of 1,121 on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December, established a high number for northwest Alabama.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – Ten were southwest of Foley, *Baldwin*, 5 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare on the Gulf Coast).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – A single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 2 February (John Trent; ph.) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain in winter).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley and the Mountain Region, five records of singles were received: Green Mountain, *Madison*, 16 December and 21 January (Sue Moske); Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 January (Andrew Haffenden); Hoover, *Jefferson*, winter season (Paul Franklin; ph.); Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 16-17 February (Rick Remy); and Madison, *Madison*, 24 February (Harold Peterson).

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** – Sue Moske found one at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 5 January (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in winter).

**YELLOW WARBLER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, a single was at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 February (Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).

**PALM WARBLER** – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley and the Mountain Region, three records were received: two on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December; two on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson* (Greg Harber *et al.*); and three on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S)** – A single occurred at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 2-5 December and again 13 March – 3 April (John Trent *et al.*; ph.). This subspecies is rare in Alabama, and the above record marks the first occurrence for the Inland Coastal Plain and the third for inland Alabama.

**WILSON'S WARBLER** – Singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 January (Bob



Sprague's Pipit, 6 January 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; G.D. Jackson.

Duncan) and 20 February (Lucy Duncan) (rare in winter in the WP). Rare in winter in Alabama, singles were reported from Mobile, *Mobile*, 19 December (Ben Garmon); Roebuck, *Jefferson*, 21 January (Scot Duncan); and west of Mobile, *Mobile*, 15 February (Elizabeth French, Keith Watson).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7-24 February (Daniel Stangeland, Jerry Callaway *et al.*) (very rare in winter).

**LARK SPARROW** – One was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 15 December (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy, Ken Marion) and 23 December (Kenneth Wills) (occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** – At Grand Bay NWR, *Mobile*, 11 (good number) were banded 15 January (Eric Soehren, John Trent *et al.*).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** – One was noted at Parker's Crossroads, *Lee*, 2 December (Geoff Hill) and 12 January (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson; ph.) (locally rare). Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, multiple sightings were made at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*: two on 15 December (Wheeler NWR CBC), four on 22 December (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske; ph.), and one on 4 January (Sue Moske).



Le Conte's Sparrow, 9 December 2012, Baldwin Co., AL; G. D. Jackson.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Two were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham *et al.*), and a single was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 22 December (Sue Moske; ph.) (rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**SUMMER TANAGER** – One was found during the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) (rare in winter inland).

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – A male at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 21 January (Steve Goodman) marked the third January record for the WP. An adult male was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 20-24 December (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor; ph.) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** – A male in Cantonment, *Escambia*, 16-18 February (Lin Marvil, Omega Marvil, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway; ph.) marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> record for the WP.

**INDIGO BUNTING** – This species is occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley and on the Inland Coastal Plain. A male was at Killen, *Lauderdale*, 4 January (Matt Crunk; ph.), and one was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 January (Larry Gardella; ph.).

**PAINTED BUNTING** – A male was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 January – 24 February (Andrew Carr, Todd Amacker *et al.*) (very rare in winter). A maximum of three (high winter number for Alabama) was reported from Ozark, *Dale*, 18 Dec – 23 February (Lynne Jones; ph.; return to site) (occasional in winter inland).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – One in northern *Escambia* 24-28 February (Gary Davis, Bruce Purdy; @FOSRC) marked the fourth WP record since 2007.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – Eleven were found at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 15 December (Paul Kittle, Fran Menapace) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in winter).

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** – A total of 39 (28 males and 11 females) was found at Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, 21 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very local).

**BRONZED COWBIRD** – A single was at Avalon Beach, *Santa Rosa*, 15 December (Lucy Duncan) (casual in the WP).

**HOODED ORIOLE** – An adult male was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 17 December – 28 February (Rufus Williams, m.ob.; ph.) to mark the second record for Alabama.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – Rare in winter in Alabama, reports of singles came from three sites: Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/ Autauga/ Elmore*, 5 January (Carolyn Snow); Greenville, *Butler*, 30 January – 2 March (Annabel Markel); and Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 5 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

**PINE SISKIN** – An estimated 1,000+ at Clay, *Jefferson*, 15 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) established a maximum count for Alabama.

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** – Thirty were reported from Lillian, *Baldwin*, 12 January (Patsy Russo, Jim Dickerson) (maximum number for Alabama; continuation at this site).



Hooded Oriole, 17 December 2012, Mobile, Co., AL; P. Russo.

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## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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

Manuscripts should be typed and double spaced. A 8 1/2 x 11 inch page format should be used.

Digital images submitted over the Internet, black and white prints, color prints, and slides are acceptable.

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*).

The author's full name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use only the metric system for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

Table titles should be in CAPS and placed above the tables.

Figure legends should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in past issues for the correct format.

Three or fewer references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, Alabama Birds).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.

# *Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society*

Volume 59

No. 1

2013

## CONTENTS

NESTING ATTEMPT BY A BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD ( <i>CYNANTHUS LATIROSTRIS</i> ) IN ALABAMA <i>Fred Bassett and Bill Summerour</i> .....	1
OBSERVATION OF PREDATION ON CRAYFISH BY AMERICAN KESTREL ( <i>FALCO SPARVERIUS</i> ) IN ALABAMA <i>Malcolm R. Braid</i> .....	5
FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2012) <i>Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan</i> .....	7
WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2012 – FEBRUARY 2013) <i>Paul D. Kittle, Greg D. Jackson, and Robert A. Duncan</i> .....	21

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