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Layout by Tom Haggerty

COVER: Band-tailed Pigeon, 15 April 2013, Madison Co., AL; Jerry Green

FRANKLIN COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2011**Paul D. Kittle****INTRODUCTION**

While the Breeding Bird Survey program of the U.S. Geological Survey provides valuable quantitative data about summer birdlife in Alabama, it is limited in its coverage. The Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009) provided excellent information on the breeding status and distribution of Alabama birds, but provided very limited quantitative data and concentrated on only a portion (one-sixth) of U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangles. Jackson (2000) and Haggerty and Jackson (2005) provided a good introduction to the purpose and value of doing a series of summer bird counts in Alabama. The results for 10 other counties have been published (Jackson 2000, Gardella 2003, Gardella 2004, Haggerty and Jackson 2005, Jackson and Haggerty 2007, Kittle 2011, Haggerty and Jackson 2012), and results for several counties remain unpublished. The objective of this paper is to report the results of a Summer Bird Count that was conducted in Franklin County, Alabama, in June 2011.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Physiographically, Franklin County lies within five Level IV ecoregions (Figure 1; Griffith et al. 2001), as follows (percent coverage approximate): Southeastern Plains-Transition Hills, 44%; Southeastern Plains-Fall Line Hills, 24%; Interior Plateau-Eastern Highland Rim, 16%; Southwestern Appalachians-Dissected Plateau, 15%; and Interior Plateau- Little Mountain, 1% (not considered further). The Southeastern Plains-Transition Hills region consists of dissected open hills with rounded tops and steep side slopes. Land cover and use includes mostly mixed (oak-hickory-pine) forest with limited pine plantations, and some cropland and pasture in narrow valley bottoms and on gently sloping uplands. The Southeastern Plains-Fall Line Hills region consists of dissected open hills with rounded tops and gently to strongly sloping side slopes. Land cover and use includes mixed (oak-hickory-pine) forest and pine plantations, with areas of pasture and minor areas of cultivated cropland. The Interior Plateau-Eastern Highland Rim region is weakly dissected, with level to gently rolling topography. Land cover and use includes deciduous (oak-hickory) forest, extensive cropland (cotton, soybeans, corn, hay)

and pasture, and the urban area of Russellville. The Southwestern Appalachians-Dissected Plateau region is rugged, hilly, and moderately to strongly dissected, with some steep-sided gorge-like valleys. Land cover is mostly forested, including deciduous (oak-hickory) and mixed (oak-hickory-pine) forests, as well as some pasture and minor cropland (Griffith et al. 2001). Franklin County encompasses 1,642 km² (634 mi²) and has a population density of 19 people/km² (50 people/mi²) (USCB 2013).

The count area was based on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle (“quad”) maps (Figure. 1). Nine quads with 50% or greater coverage in Franklin County were surveyed: Frankfort, Guinn Cross Roads, Halltown, Isbell, Newburg, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Site, Russellville, and Spruce Pine (Fig. 1). Six observers in five parties surveyed quads on various single mornings during the period 3-16 June 2011 by automobile and on foot. The quantitative period of the survey began at dawn (ca. 0500 hrs) and extended until late morning (no later than 1100 hrs).

Additional species records and breeding status data were collected after 1100 hours and during pre-count scouting. A total of 49.75 party hours was expended counting diurnal species, and 2.75 party hours were expended counting nocturnal species. All individuals seen or heard were counted. Relative abundances for diurnal species were calculated by dividing the total number of individuals by the total number of diurnal party hours. Relative abundances for nocturnal species (owls and nightjars) were not calculated.

In addition to counting individuals, participants looked for evidence of breeding. Breeding designation codes used in this survey were the same as those used for the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009) and for previous Alabama Summer Bird Counts (Jackson and Haggerty 2007).

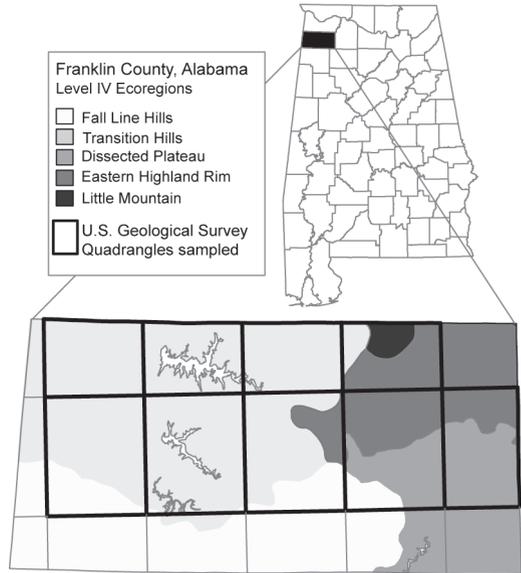


FIGURE 1. Franklin County ecoregions and quadrangles surveyed during Summer Bird Count, June 2011.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 98 species (93 diurnal) and 6375 individuals (6156 diurnal) was recorded during 49.75 diurnal party hours and 2.75 nocturnal party hours. This resulted in a total of 124 individuals per party hour (excluding nocturnal species), with a mean of 1.3 birds per party hour per diurnal species. Twenty-five species (25%) were confirmed as breeders, 40 (41%) were probable breeders, 31 (32%) were possible breeders, and 2 (2%) were noted as only “observed” species (Table 1).

In descending order, the most numerous species (> 4.0 individuals/party hour) were Cliff Swallow, Indigo Bunting, Northern Mockingbird, Mourning Dove, American Crow, Northern Cardinal, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black Vulture, Eastern Bluebird, and Barn Swallow. Many species had wide distributions, with 29 species (30%) found in all nine surveyed quads and 12 (12%) found in eight blocks. Species with a very limited distribution (seen in only one block) included Canada Goose, Great Egret, Osprey, American Coot, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Common Nighthawk, Hairy Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Tree Swallow, Swainson’s Warbler, American Redstart, and Song Sparrow.

TABLE 1. Franklin County, Alabama, Summer Bird Count, June 2011.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
*Canada Goose	---	---	1	Possible
Wood Duck	18	0.36	3	Confirmed
Northern Bobwhite	23	0.46	8	Possible
Wild Turkey	7	0.14	3	Confirmed
Great Blue Heron	13	0.26	6	Observed
Great Egret	1	0.02	1	Observed
Green Heron	7	0.14	4	Possible
Black Vulture	212	4.26	7	Possible
Turkey Vulture	120	2.41	9	Possible
Osprey	1	0.02	1	Possible
Cooper's Hawk	3	0.06	3	Possible
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	0.10	4	Possible

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TABLE I. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Broad-winged Hawk	4	0.08	3	Probable
Red-tailed Hawk	9	0.18	4	Probable
American Coot	1	0.02	1	Possible
Killdeer	12	0.24	4	Probable
Rock Pigeon	30	0.60	5	Probable
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	0.04	1	Possible
Mourning Dove	283	5.69	9	Confirmed
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	65	1.31	8	Probable
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	---	2	Probable
Barred Owl	7	---	4	Possible
Common Nighthawk	1	---	1	Possible
Chuck-will's-widow	53	---	5	Probable
Eastern Whip-poor-will	49	---	3	Probable
Chimney Swift	16	0.32	7	Probable
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14	0.28	7	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	3	0.06	3	Possible
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	0.26	6	Probable
Red-bellied Woodpecker	49	0.98	8	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	31	0.62	7	Probable
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0.02	1	Possible
Pileated Woodpecker	14	0.28	6	Probable
American Kestrel	2	0.04	1	Possible
Eastern Wood-Pewee	58	1.17	9	Probable
Acadian Flycatcher	33	0.66	7	Probable
Eastern Phoebe	44	0.88	9	Confirmed
Great Crested Flycatcher	32	0.64	9	Possible
Eastern Kingbird	98	1.97	9	Confirmed
Loggerhead Shrike	3	0.06	1	Confirmed
White-eyed Vireo	169	3.40	9	Probable

TABLE 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Yellow-throated Vireo	10	0.2	6	Possible
Warbling Vireo	1	0.02	1	Possible
Red-eyed Vireo	120	2.41	9	Probable
Blue Jay	60	1.21	9	Probable
American Crow	275	5.53	9	Confirmed
Purple Martin	175	3.52	9	Confirmed
Tree Swallow	10	0.20	1	Confirmed
N. Rough-winged Swallow	28	0.56	8	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	596	11.98	7	Confirmed
Barn Swallow	199	4.00	9	Confirmed
Carolina Chickadee	85	1.71	9	Confirmed
Tufted Titmouse	142	2.85	9	Confirmed
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	0.12	3	Possible
Carolina Wren	85	1.71	9	Probable
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	78	1.57	8	Probable
Eastern Bluebird	204	4.10	9	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	21	0.42	7	Possible
American Robin	95	1.91	8	Confirmed
Gray Catbird	7	0.14	3	Possible
Northern Mockingbird	297	5.97	9	Probable
Brown Thrasher	57	1.15	9	Probable
European Starling	89	1.79	8	Confirmed
Ovenbird	7	0.14	3	Possible
Worm-eating Warbler	10	0.20	5	Possible
Louisiana Waterthrush	7	0.14	4	Possible
Blue-winged Warbler	8	0.16	5	Probable
Black-and-white Warbler	24	0.48	4	Confirmed
Prothonotary Warbler	2	0.04	2	Possible
Swainson's Warbler	1	0.02	1	Possible
Kentucky Warbler	50	1.01	8	Probable

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TABLE 1. cont.

Species	Total	Total/party hour	No. Quads	Breeding Status
Common Yellowthroat	95	1.91	9	Probable
Hooded Warbler	30	0.60	6	Probable
American Redstart	1	0.02	1	Possible
Northern Parula	38	0.76	7	Probable
Pine Warbler	45	0.90	8	Probable
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	0.14	3	Possible
Prairie Warbler	59	1.19	7	Probable
Yellow-breasted Chat	235	4.72	9	Confirmed
Eastern Towhee	124	2.49	9	Probable
Chipping Sparrow	131	2.63	9	Probable
Field Sparrow	47	0.94	9	Probable
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	0.08	2	Possible
Song Sparrow	1	0.02	1	Possible
Summer Tanager	76	1.53	9	Probable
Scarlet Tanager	18	0.36	7	Probable
Northern Cardinal	262	5.27	9	Confirmed
Blue Grosbeak	82	1.65	9	Confirmed
Indigo Bunting	380	7.64	9	Probable
Dickcissel	26	0.52	6	Probable
Red-winged Blackbird	63	1.27	8	Probable
Eastern Meadowlark	76	1.53	9	Probable
Common Grackle	78	1.57	8	Confirmed
Brown-headed Cowbird	60	1.21	9	Probable
Orchard Oriole	57	1.15	8	Confirmed
House Finch	18	0.36	5	Probable
American Goldfinch	20	0.40	6	Probable
House Sparrow	78	1.57	7	Confirmed

*Detected outside of a regular 0500-1100 hour count.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has classified Alabama birds with regard to conservation status, with “Priority I” species being of highest conservation concern and “Priority II” species being of high conservation concern (Eric Soehren, personal communication). No “Priority I” species were observed, but Loggerhead Shrike, a “Priority II” species, was found in the Newburg Quad and breeding was confirmed.

Based on distribution status documented in the 2000-2006 Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009), records of the following species were notable. American Coot is a rare summer resident in Alabama which occasionally breeds. Warbling Vireo is a rare and local breeder in northwest Alabama; there are no prior Franklin County records. Tree Swallow, though still an uncommon nesting species, continues to increase and expand its breeding range in the north and central portions of Alabama. Song Sparrow is a locally common breeder in Colbert and Lauderdale counties just to the north of Franklin County, but the Breeding Bird Atlas produced only two records for Franklin County.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following count participants made this study possible: Jeff Garner, Tom Haggerty, Paul Kittle, Phyllis Nofzinger, Damien Simbeck, and Shirley Wayland. Greg Jackson provided useful comments for this article, and Tom Haggerty produced the map in Figure 1.

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REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

2011 – 2013

Steven W. McConnell

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created in 1987 to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven active and experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews Alabama reports of species that generally have fewer than ten accepted records or fewer than two accepted records during the previous ten years. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 95 species, are voted on by all committee members. If the first vote is indecisive, the committee members vote a second time. Vote totals with no more than one “not accepted” vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more “not accepted” votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions after two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual ABRC meeting.

During this period, 48 records from 41 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with one species being added to the Alabama state list: Razorbill. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 446 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Thirteen species on the recognized state bird list are classified as “hypothetical” where physical evidence such as a photo, video, or specimen are lacking or at least three observer testimonies of visual observations have not been provided.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 48 records from 41 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AL Status ³
11-01	Brown Booby	4/17/1999	Baldwin	V	A	22
11-02	Brown Booby	10/19/2010	Baldwin	V	A	23
11-03	California Gull	12/9/2010	Baldwin	P	W	---
11-04	Crested Caracara	2/11/2011	Baldwin	P	A	2
11-05	Eurasian Wigeon	11/26/2010	Barbour	V	Pending	---
11-06	Ferruginous Hawk	2/26/2011	Lauderdale	V	NI	---

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TABLE 1. cont.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AL Status ³
11-07	Inca Dove	7/7/2010	Baldwin	P	A	2
11-08	MacGillivray's Warbler	10/10/2010	Baldwin	B/P	A	2
11-09	Mountain Plover	1/18/2011	Baldwin	P	A	2
11-10	Prairie Falcon	1/7/1993	Marshall	V	A	6
11-11	Prairie Falcon	10/10/2010	Mobile	V	A	7
11-12	Snow Bunting	11/22/2010	Marshall	P	A	3
11-13	Thayer's Gull	1/15/2011	Marshall	P	A	8
11-14	Varied Thrush	10/16/2010	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
11-15	Western Grebe	1/3/2011	Chilton	P	A	7
11-16	White-winged Crossbill	1/29/2011	Jefferson	V	Pending	---
12-01	Anna's Hummingbird	1/2/2012	Jefferson	B/P	A	6
12-02	Broad-billed Hummingbird	11/28/2011	Baldwin	B/P	A	6
12-03	California Gull	9/15/2011	Marshall	P	A	9
12-04	Clark's Grebe	1/14/2012	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
12-05	Curlew Sandpiper	5/25/2011	Mobile	P	A	3
12-06	Green-tailed Towhee	11/14/2011	Mobile	P	A	4
12-07	Iceland Gull	11/29/2011	Baldwin	P	A	11
12-08	Inca Dove	7/19/2009	Mobile	P	A	3
12-09	Limpkin	5/13/2012	Barbour	P	A	4
12-10	Painted Redstart	4/16/2011	Mobile	P	A	2
12-11	Purple Sandpiper	1/15/2012	Mobile	P	A	2
12-12	Red Phalarope	9/16/2011	Mobile	V	A	22
12-13	Thayer's Gull	10/24/2011	Marshall	P	Pending	---
12-14	White-tailed Kite	4/22/2011	Montgomery	V	A	12
13-01	Audubon's Shearwater	1/24/2013	Baldwin	V	A	11

TABLE 1. cont.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AL Status ³
13-02	Audubon's Shearwater	9/8/2012	Pelagic	P	A	12
13-03	Cory's Shearwater	9/8/2012	Pelagic	V	Pending	---
13-04	Eurasian Wigeon	1/4/2013	Morgan	P	A	9
13-05	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	12/15/2012	Limestone	V	Pending	---
13-06	Hooded Oriole	12/17/2012	Mobile	P	A	2
13-07	Hudsonian Godwit	9/1/2012	Baldwin	P	A	18
13-08	Hudsonian Godwit	9/5/2011	Colbert	V	A	19
13-09	Inca Dove	8/4/2012	Baldwin	P	A	4
13-10	Lark Bunting	12/29/2012	Mobile	V	Pending	---
13-11	Razorbill	1/6/2013	Baldwin	V	A	1
13-12	Razorbill	1/19/2013	Baldwin	V	Pending	---
13-13	Razorbill	1/25/2013	Baldwin	P	A	2
13-14	Rock Wren	11/9/2012	Baldwin	P	A	4
13-15	Say's Phoebe	9/25/2012	Baldwin	P	A	6
13-16	Sooty Shearwater	11/9/2012	Mobile	P	A	14
13-17	Bicknell's Thrush	9/24/2012	Baldwin	B/P	NI	---
13-18	Western Wood-Pewee	10/2/2012	Baldwin	B/P	Pending	---

¹V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded.

²A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; Pending = review incomplete; W = withdrawn by observer.

³Number of accepted Alabama records.

Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile or Baldwin County.

The records contained in this report were reviewed and voted upon by at least seven of the following Alabama Bird Records Committee members: Dwight Cooley, Bob Duncan, Ben Garmon, Andrew Haffenden, Howard Horne, Dr. Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Dr. Bill Summerour, Betsy Tetlow, and Jake Walker.

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The committee would like to express their appreciation to the following list of observers who carefully collected and submitted evidence for one or more of the records considered. By doing so they have increased the important knowledge base contained in the A.O.S. state bird records archive. Any omission of a contributor from this list is completely unintentional.

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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2013)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 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; “FWBSTF” = Fort Walton Beach Sewerage Treatment Facility; “FWFTA” = Forever Wild Field Trial Area; “GINS” = Gulf Islands National Seashore; “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).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK – This species is a rare but increasing breeder on the Gulf Coast, and records were received from three localities: sewage lagoons at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, two birds 10+ April (Paul Knock *et al.*; return to site); Bon Secour River, *Baldwin*, two on 3 May (Nick Cantrell *et al.*); and Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, a single on 11 May (Jimmy Stephenson; return to site).

GADWALL – The Mobile Causeway, *Mobile/Baldwin*, hosted large numbers of this duck this spring. Jon King counted 2,030 on 20 March, and James White counted 2,100 on 26 March (maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast). John Trent reported two birds

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- from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 5 May (late spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – Several flocks were counted at the pier in Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 16 March (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) to produce a total of 500, a good number for spring on the Gulf Coast. Larry Gardella's total of 130 at the sod farm in Sprague, *Montgomery*, 24 March, marked a maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL** – John Trent reported five birds from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 5 May (late record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- REDHEAD** – Two birds at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 May (John Trent) marked a late record for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- RING-NECKED DUCK** – Randy White reported 280 from north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 1 March (good number for spring on the Inland Coastal Plain). Fifty-four at Mobile, *Mobile*, 6 March (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor) established a maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast.
- LESSER SCAUP** – A maximum count (200+) for spring on the Inland Coastal Plain was made along Ala. Highway 183 southwest of Marion, *Perry*, 16 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).
- SURF SCOTER** – Rare in spring, two records came from *Mobile*: eight birds at Pelican Island, 8 April (Andrew Haffenden), and a late single at the mouth of Mobile Bay, 14 May (Susan Epps) and 16 May (Janine Robin, Mary Mehaffrey).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – Rare in Alabama, a sighting of four birds at Speigner, *Elmore*, 2 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) marked the fourth record and maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain, as well as a maximum spring count for inland Alabama. Larry Gardella had two birds at the same site on 3 March. Damien Simbeck found two on the Tennessee River at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 6 March.
- BLACK SCOTER** – Five were at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 3 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), to mark the second May record for the WP.
- BUFFLEHEAD** – A maximum Gulf Coast spring count of 116 was made at the pier and west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 March (Jessica Henkel, Andrew Haffenden).
- RED-THROATED LOON** – This species is casual in the WP in March, so a single spotted by Laura Catterton at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 15 March was notable.
- COMMON LOON** – Greg Jackson counted 365 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 9 March to establish a new spring maximum for Alabama. The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, found six on 4 May (good number so late). A late bird was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 May (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – A count of 2,480 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 9 March established a new spring maximum for Alabama (Greg Jackson).
- HORNED GREBE** – Greg Jackson counted 635 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 9 March to establish a new spring maximum for Alabama.
- MASKED BOOBY** – Patrick James noted one at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 14 April (rare in the WP).
- NORTHERN GANNET** – A count of 199 (good number for spring) was made from the

pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 18 March (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Michael Jordan counted 275 in the Alabama River area, *Elmore*, 19 March to mark a maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain.

ANHINGA – A single was spotted at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 April (Ken Wills, Greg Harber *et al.*) (rare in the Mountain Region; return to site). The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, reported three on 4 May (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham *et al.*; rare in the Tennessee Valley).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, reports were received from three localities: six on Smith Lake northeast of Marylee, *Walker*, 30 March (Billy Mize); two on Wadsworth Lake, Mountain View, *Blount*, 17 April (Helena Uber-Wamble; ph.); and five on the Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 27 April (Cheryl Horncastle, Sallie Bryce). Also rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, Point A Lake, *Covington*, hosted 75 on 8 April and 35 on 22 April (Lucie Wilder). Two were late on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 4 May (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham), as were two in eastern *Montgomery*, 24 May (Larry Gardella).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species is rarely detected inland, so records from two sites (both of singles) were noteworthy: Coon Creek, *Tallapoosa*, 2 April (Ashley Peters), and Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 9 April (John Trent).

GREAT EGRET – Ben Garmon tallied 135 along county roads 25 and 16, *Hale*, 26 March to mark a new spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Eight were seen at Red Bank, *Lawrence*, 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (maximum spring count in recent years for the Tennessee Valley).

TRICOLORED HERON – One was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 5 May (John Trent; ph.) (rare inland).

REDDISH EGRET (WHITE MORPH) – An adult of this morph, rare in Alabama, was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4+ April (Andrew Haffenden, m.ob.).

CATTLE EGRET – A maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley was marked by the 150 counted at Elgin, *Lauderdale*, 27 April (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

GREEN HERON – Early singles were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, at the golf course 13 March (Andrew Haffenden) and at the Sanctuary 14 March (Patsy Russo).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – A single was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 14 April (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald *et al.*) (rare but becoming regular in Alabama; occasional in spring).

TURKEY VULTURE – A maximum of 60 was counted 7-24 March at Bon Secour, *Baldwin* (Nick Cantrell) (maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast).

OSPREY – Six, a maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain, were noted at



Tricolored Heron, 5 May 2013, Barbour Co., AL; J. Trent.

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Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (John Trent). One at the Guntersville Dam area, *Marshall*, 9 March (Greg Jackson) ties the early spring arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Tom Haggerty spotted one at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 18 April (rare but increasing in northwest Alabama).

COOPER'S HAWK – Ten were tallied on the Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 27 April, to tie the spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

RED-TAILED HAWK – An adult Fuertes's Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis fuertesi*) visited Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 15-26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan; ph.).

VIRGINIA RAIL – Rare but probably regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, one was found at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 21 April (Damien Simbeck), and two were detected at McFarland Park, Florence, *Lauderdale*, 2 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner, Warren Massey). Also rare but probably regular in spring in the Mountain Region, Jim Holmes reported a single from Opelika, *Lee*, 26 April.

AMERICAN COOT – Greg Jackson counted 81 (good number so late) at three sites near Leighton, *Colbert*, 13 May. A late single was at Huntsville, *Madison*, 27 May (Dean Cutten).

SANDHILL CRANE – Barry Fleming reported a single from Auburn, *Lee*, 3 May (late record for inland Alabama).

KILLDEER – Dwight Cooley counted 88, maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley, at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 21 March. Larry Gardella found 23, maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain, at Sprague, *Montgomery*, 23 March.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, hosted a single 27 April – 30 May (David Sparks, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – A nest with eggs at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 26 May (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) marked a rare breeding record for the WP. A single was spotted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 2 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner, Warren Massey) (rare inland).

AMERICAN AVOCET – A maximum count (53) for the WP was made in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 May (Ann Forster, Dan Forster). Three seen at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 14 April (Tom Haggerty; ph.) marked the seventh spring record for inland Alabama and the third spring record for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLET – This species is a rare breeder in the WP, so one seen on a nest with eggs at Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 17 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Lilian Mauney) was noteworthy. This species is rare but regular in inland Alabama, so 30 was a good number along South Sauty Creek, *Marshall/Jackson*, 25 April (Jerry Green; ph.).



Willet, 25 April 2013, Marshall/Jackson Co., AL; J. Green.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – A single was at Pryor Field north of Decatur, *Limestone*, 13 May (Greg Jackson) (late spring departure date for the Tennessee Valley).

- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** – A count of 951 at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 10 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked a new maximum for the WP.
- LEAST SANDPIPER** – A high count (410) for the WP came from the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 10 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare in spring, a single was found on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 4 May (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – The 42 counted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 27 April (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) marked a maximum for inland Alabama. John Trent reported five from the FWFTA, *Cedarville, Hale*, 8 May (occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain; ties maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Four to eight were at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, 6-10 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Malcolm Swan) (very rare in the WP in spring).
- LAUGHING GULL** – An estimate of 2,500 along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 20 March (Jon King) established a new spring maximum for Alabama.
- RING-BILLED GULL** – Jon King reported 550 from along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 20 March to mark a new spring maximum for the Gulf Coast.
- HERRING GULL** – Jon King reported 170 from along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 20 March to mark a new spring maximum for the Gulf Coast. Three were noted at Ruffner Mountain NC in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 3 May (Greg Jackson) (rare in spring in the Mountain Region; maximum spring count for the Mountain Region).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A second cycle bird was at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 17 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP).
- COMMON TERN** – This species is rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley. Two at Second Creek, *Lauderdale*, 28 April (Damien Simbeck) tied the early spring arrival date for the Tennessee Valley. Four were found at Wheeler Dam/Town Creek Marsh, *Lawrence/Colbert*, 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).
- RAZORBILL** – Three were seen at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 4 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). One found dead at Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 13 May (Toby Stapleton) provided the latest WP record from the recent winter invasion. Nine reports of up to 10 individuals came from Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 10 March – 4 April (Bill Summerour, Kathy Hicks, Samantha Salkeld, Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo, Keith Brown, William Matthews, Brittany Peterson; ph.; @ABRC). Maxima of three were reported from two sites on 16 March. A mortally injured bird was found at Orange Beach 19 March (date approximate) and later euthanized. Another bird was found injured on the beach at the pier on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18 April (Patsy Russo *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC), captured for rehabilitation, but expired (first Alabama record west of the mouth of Mobile Bay). Still another bird was found



Razorbill, 18 April 2013, Mobile Co., AL; K. Hicks.

dead on the beach at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 24 April (Sally Schultz *vide* Jan Osborn and Bill Summerour; @ABRC) (latest date for Alabama). All three dead birds above were prepared as specimens by Bill Summerour and sent to Auburn University. These records represent a continuation from winter of Alabama's first occurrences of this species and family.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON – A single was on Monte Sano Mountain, Huntsville, *Madison*, 11-27 April (Jerry Green, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC). This species was first reported for Alabama in 1971, but this second record is the first for inland Alabama and the first to be confirmed with photographic evidence.



Band-tailed Pigeon, 15 April 2013, Madison Co., AL; J. Green.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Audra Wilson reported a single at a feeder in Excel, *Monroe*, 14 April (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

INCA DOVE – A pair at a nest with two eggs was reported from south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 4 April (Bill Summerour; ph.) (continuation at this site where first discovered 4 August 2012). The young had fledged by 27 April, and this marks the fourth record (and first nesting) of this species for Alabama.



Inca Dove, 4 April 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – At Harpersville, *Shelby*, three were reported on 27 April (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller) and two on 4 May (Ken Wills) (rare in the Mountain region but regular in this area).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Barry Fleming noted an early arrival at Auburn, *Lee*, 20 April (rare inland).

BURROWING OWL – The 19th Alabama record was marked by a single seen south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 18-19 March (David Plumb *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC).



Burrowing Owl, 18 March 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; D. Plumb.

BARRED OWL – Seven were counted by Larry Gardella at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16 March (ties maximum spring count for the

Inland Coastal Plain).

- LESSER NIGHTHAWK** – Singles of this species, which is casual in spring in the WP, were found at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 April – 2 May (Patrick James, Jerry Callaway) and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).
- EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL** – John Trent *et al.* reported singles from southeast of Midway at the Barbour WMA, 13 May, and at the Wehle NC, 21 May, both sites in *Bullock* (found at the latter site in July 2012). This species is rare this far southeast in the state during the breeding season and may be expanding its range.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT** – Larry Gardella reported one from Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 March (ties early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain). Anne Miller observed 100 north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 20 April (maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** – Sue Moske reported five from Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 6 April (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley). A late immature was seen in Mountain Brook, *Jefferson*, 8 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).
- AMERICAN KESTREL** – A maximum spring count (11) for Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May.
- MERLIN** – Three were counted on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 April (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo) (ties spring maximum for Alabama).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – One was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 May (ties early arrival date for Alabama), and two were there 4 May (Andrew Haffenden, Ben Garmon *et al.*; ph.) (fifth spring record for the Gulf Coast).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – A single was found during the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 4 May (Stan Hamilton, Rick Remy) (rare in spring). John Trent found four at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 May, the only known Alabama breeding site south of the Tennessee Valley (since 2010; occasional in spring on the Inland Coastal Plain). Scott Gravette found four west of Hartselle, *Morgan*, 18 May (rare breeder in Alabama; rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley; records from this site since 2009).
- EASTERN PHOEBE** – Twenty (maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May.
- SAY'S PHOEBE** – A single was present at the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, from winter to 1 April (Malcolm Swan *et al.*) to mark the fifth record for the WP.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – One at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, was present from winter to 16 March (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser) (rare in the WP).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Rare but regular along the Gulf Coast in spring, three sightings (all of singles) were received: south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 20 April (Eric Soehren, John Trent (unusual away from outer coast); Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 April (Andrew Haffenden); and Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 11 May (Michael Jordan).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD** – Early arrivals were at the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 24 March (John Trent), and at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 April (Damien Simbeck).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – One was at the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20-21 April (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (rare but regular in spring on the Gulf

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Coast).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Larry Gardella reported five from west of Millbrook, *Elmore*, 29 March (ties maximum spring number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

WARBLING VIREO – This species is a rare breeder in Alabama, but one was at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 2 May (return to known site) (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner, Warren Massey). Lorna West found a single at Opelika, *Lee*, 8 May (rare in the Mountain Region).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Rare but regular in spring, records came from four sites: one at the Muscle Shoals Reservation, *Colbert*, 26 April (Damien Simbeck); one on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 29 April (Sue Moske); one at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 May (Stan Hamilton, Rick Remy); and two on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 May (Andrew Haffenden, Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo; ph.).

FISH CROW – Rare but regular and increasing in the Tennessee Valley, reports came from five sites: a single at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 6 March (Damien Simbeck); five at two sites on Wheeler Reservoir, *Lawrence*, 29 March (Damien Simbeck); two in Huntsville, *Madison*, 31 March (Harold Peterson); and two at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 2 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner, Warren Massey).

PURPLE MARTIN – An estimated 400 near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) established a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

TREE SWALLOW – This species is rare but increasing as a breeder in Alabama, and seven reports were received: Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 75 on 23 March and 225 (maximum spring count for the Mountain Region) on 26 March (Greg Jackson); three at Clay, *Jefferson*, produced two broods, 1 April+ (return to site) (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); a nest-building pair at Saginaw, *Shelby* (new site), 13 April (Charlie Prince; ph.); two pairs at nest boxes at Lake Lurleen SP, *Tuscaloosa* (new site), 6-9 May (Susan Bowman *et al.*); a nest-building pair at Lady Ann Lake, *Madison*, 7 May (Dean Cutten); eight on the Muscle Shoals Reservation, *Colbert*, 21 May (return to site) (Damien Simbeck); and two at the Intergraph wetlands, *Madison*, 28 May (Dean Cutten).



Tree Swallow, 13 April 2013, Shelby Co., AL; C. Price.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – Four birds were early at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 6 March (Larry Gardella).

CLIFF SWALLOW – Early arrivals were at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 6 March (one bird) (Damien Simbeck); one at the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 March (Andrew Haffenden); and two at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 26 March (Greg Jackson).

CAVE SWALLOW – Reports of this species, rare in spring in the WP, came from Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, two birds on 25 March (Bob Duncan), and the FWBSTF, *Okaloosa*, a single on 10 May (Malcolm Swan). One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*,

21 April (Frank Fekel, Phillip Casteel, Mary Zimmerman) (rare but regular in spring on the Gulf Coast).

BARN SWALLOW – John Trent encountered an early arrival at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Eric Soehren reported five (maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain) from Shorter, *Macon*, 12 March. One at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 28 April (Larry Gardella) marked a late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Another late bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 May (Andrew Haffenden).

BEWICK'S WREN – Bob Duncan found one at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 26 April (latest departure date for the WP).

HOUSE WREN – This species is a rare but regular local breeder in Alabama. At Ruffner Mountain NC, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, a pair was attending a nest box on 29 April (Greg Jackson), and two+ pairs with young were seen 8 May (Larry Gardella) (return to site). A pair with young was reported from Clay, *Jefferson*, 15 May (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (return to site).

SEDGE WREN – Ten were tallied at Grand Bay NWR, *Mobile*, 19 March (Matt Boone) (maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast). A single was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 May (Ken Ward, John Ehinger, David Pylant) (rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

MARSH WREN – Allen Burrows counted 10 at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 April, to establish a new spring maximum for Alabama. Jim Holmes found one at Opelika, *Lee*, 21 April (rare in spring in the Mountain Region). Three were found during the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 4 May (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham) (rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley; ties maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – Twenty were counted on Monte Sano Mountain, *Madison*, 4 April (Lance Benner) (maximum spring number for Alabama).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – The 4 May Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 104, a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley.

HERMIT THRUSH – A very late bird (latest ever in the WP by 12 days) was seen at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 May (Ann Forster, Dan Forster; ph.; @ Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee).

AMERICAN ROBIN – Michael Jordan counted 125 in the Alabama River area, *Elmore*, 5 March to mark a maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain. A single was reported from Mobile, *Mobile*, 12 May (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor) (rare and local breeder on the Gulf Coast).

GRAY CATBIRD – A single was reported from Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 May (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor) (rare breeder on the Gulf Coast).

EUROPEAN STARLING – Nick Cantrell reported 1,000 from Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 23 March (spring maximum for the Gulf Coast).

AMERICAN PIPIT – Six late birds were at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 May (Ken Ward, John Ehinger, David Pylant).

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- OVENBIRD** – One arrived early in Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 11 April (Larry Gardella).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – One seen at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 2 March (Michael Jordan) was early unless a rare wintering bird.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – One was at Perry Lake near Marion, *Perry*, 16 March (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) to set an early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – An early arrival was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 23 March (Michael Jordan).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER** – Sue Moske spotted an early arrival on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 12 April.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – A single was southwest of Auburn, *Lee*, 26-29 April (Jim Holmes) (late record for the Inland Coastal Plain). Another late bird was at Ruffner Mountain NC, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 7 May (Greg Jackson, Stan Hamilton).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, a single was at Huntsville, *Madison*, 27 April (Harold Peterson), and two were at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 30 April (Milton Harris *et al.*).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – Rare in Alabama, singles were noted at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 1 May (Ken Archambault), and in Union Hollow west of Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 2 May (Jeff Garner, Warren Massey, Damien Simbeck).
- HOODED WARBLER** – Ashley Peters located one at St. Florian, *Lauderdale*, 30 March (ties early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Damien Simbeck found one on the Muscle Shoals Reservation, *Colbert*, 26 April (rare in northwest Alabama).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** – Late singles were seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 May (Andrew Haffenden, Michelle Steber), and west of Millbrook, *Elmore*, 5 May (Larry Gardella).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – Three were late east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 18 May (Larry Gardella).
- YELLOW WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 51 on 4 May to mark a maximum number for the Tennessee Valley.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in spring, Sue Moske spotted one on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 29 April. Rare in the Mountain Region, singles were noted at Ruffner Mountain NC, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 3 May (Greg Jackson), and in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Ken Wills). One was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 5 May (John Trent; ph.) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in spring in the WP). Ken Wills reported one from Moss Rock Preserve in Hoover, *Jefferson*, 4 May (rare in the Mountain Region in spring).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – A single at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 10 March – 12 April (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway *et al.*) provided the first March and first

April records for the WP.

- VESPER SPARROW** – A single was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 4 May (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham) (late departure record for the Tennessee Valley).
- LARK SPARROW** – One at Fort Pickens, GINS, *Escambia*, 10 March – 6 May (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway *et al.*) marked the latest departure date for the WP by two days. Twenty-four were tallied on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May (maximum spring count for Alabama).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW** – The 4 May Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 150, a large number so late in the season.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, records (all of singles) came from three sites: near Leighton, *Colbert*, 1 April (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters); near Smithsonia, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Paul Kittle, Francis Menapace, Dee Patterson *et al.*); and Madison, *Madison*, 5 May (Dean Cutten). Jim Holmes found one at Opelika, *Lee*, 26 April (rare in the Mountain Region, especially in spring).
- SWAMP SPARROW** – At the Wehle NC southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, John Trent reported two on 6 May and a single on 10 May (ties late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE GROSBEAK** – The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May, tallied 87, a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- PAINTED BUNTING** – Daniel Stangeland reported one from Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 24 March (casual in spring in the WP). On the Inland Coastal Plain, this species is a rare migrant and a still rare, but slowly increasing, breeder. The following five records (all of singles) are from sites not known for nesting records: at a feeder in Atmore, *Escambia*, 29 March – 6 April (Jon Yoder *et al.*); near Prattville, *Autauga*, 18 April (approximate date) (Gayle Meyers *vide* Tommy Pratt); near Wetumpka, *Elmore*, 19-21 April (Rod Douglas *et al.*); near Autaugaville, *Autauga*, 24 April (approximate date) (Bill Lipscomb *vide* Tommy Pratt); and at Selma, *Dallas*, 27 April (Betty Weatherbee *vide* Tommy Pratt; ph.). Larry Gardella reported one along Rabbit Road, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 17 May (return to site; ph.).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was reported from Excel, *Monroe*, 28 March (Audra Wilson; ph.).
- COMMON GRACKLE** – Dwight Cooley reported 4,000 from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 21 March (maximum spring count for Alabama).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** – In the Escambia River marshes, *Escambia*, Max Griggs observed a male displaying courtship behavior and a female carrying nest material on 11 May to provide the first confirmed breeding record for the WP.
- BRONZED COWBIRD** – Jim Brady found a single in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 May to mark the third spring record for the WP.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE** – The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May, tallied 58, a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- PURPLE FINCH** – An estimated 200 were at Clay, *Jefferson*, 2-3 March (Bob Sargent,

Martha Sargent) (maximum spring count for Alabama).

COMMON REDPOLL – The 11th and 12th records for Alabama were marked, respectively, by singles at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 March (Phyllis Nofzinger; @ABRC), and on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 14-18 May (Janice Neitzel, m.ob.; ph.:@ABRC) (late record for Alabama).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH – A late bird was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 3 May (Jimmy Dunn). The Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 4 May, tallied 160, a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley.



Common Redpoll, 14 May 2013, Baldwin Co., AL; J. Neitzel.

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2013)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 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. “BBS” = Breeding Bird Survey; “FWFTA” = Forever Wild Field Trial Area; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SBC” = Summer Bird Count; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – Three at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 3-29 June (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) and three in Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 7 July (Kyle Holley), marked the 12th and 13th records, respectively, for the WP. Rare but increasing on the Gulf Coast, two records were received from this region: a single at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 7 June (Larry Gardella) (not a usual site), and 20 at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 9 July (Karen Chiasson *et al.*) (return to breeding site).

MALLARD – A count of 75 near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) provided a maximum summer number for Alabama.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – This species is rare but regular in summer in Alabama. Carl

DelFavero found six at West Blocton, *Bibb*, 6 June. At a sinkhole pond on Marthaler Lane near Leighton, *Colbert*, Tom Haggerty saw four on 10 June and Damien Simbeck had two there on 11 June. Seventeen were counted in the Muscle Shoals/Leighton area, *Colbert*, 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – At the Sinks near Leighton, *Colbert*, a male in alternate plumage was noted 17 July (Amber Hart), while a male in basic plumage was observed at the same site on 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (rare in summer).

REDHEAD – Two alternate-plumaged males at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 12 June (John Trent, Walker Price; ph.) marked the fourth summer record for Alabama and the first summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain.



Redhead, 12 June 2013, Hale Co., AL; J. Trent

RING-NECKED DUCK – Rare in summer in Alabama and casual in summer on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single alternate-plumaged male was at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 12 June (John Trent, Walker Price; ph.).

LESSER SCAUP – A single was spotted west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) (rare in summer).

RUDDY DUCK – Two males in alternate plumage were along *Hale* County Road 12 west of Laneville, 20 July (Greg Harber *et al.*) (occasional in summer).

COMMON LOON – Rare but regular in summer on the Gulf Coast, one was noted at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 22 June (Ashley Peters). Tom Haggerty found one at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 30 June (rare in summer).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – Although this species is an uncommon breeder in Alabama, reports were received from seven sites. Three birds were at the FWFTA, Cedarville (regular site), *Hale*, 12 June (John Trent, Walker Price). A single was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 15 June – 17 July (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor). Another single was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 7 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk). Three birds were found at the fish hatchery (regular site) near Marion, *Perry*, 13 July (Anne Miller). Randy White reported five from north of Geneva, *Geneva*, 15 July. One adult and one juvenile were noted at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 12-24 June (Ken Wills) and 20 July (Greg Jackson). At Gnat Pond (regular site) near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, nesting was documented with the observation of two pairs and downy young on 8 July and 19 adults plus young on 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

WOOD STORK – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, a single visited Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 20 June (Amber Hart; ph.). Edward Brinkley found another single south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 19 July (rare on the Gulf Coast).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Two at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 June (Bob Duncan) were very rare for June in the WP. One bird in flight in the Double Springs quad during the *Winston* SBC, 15 June (Damien Simbeck), provided a rare summer record for the Mountain Region.

ANHINGA – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, hosted two birds on 27 June and a single on 31 July (Amber Hart; ph.). A single was reported from Decatur, *Morgan*, 24 July (Charles Grisham; ph.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Twenty-six at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 7 July (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow); 32 at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 13 July (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway); and 52 at the latter site on 27 July (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) furnished only the third, fourth, and fifth July records, respectively, for the WP. This species is rare in summer in the Tennessee Valley, but increasing as witnessed by the 12 seen on the Tennessee River at the mouth of South Sauty Creek, *Jackson*, 8 June (Jerry Green; ph.). Uncommon but increasing in summer on the Inland Coastal Plain, records came from four sites: 80 at Lake Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 13 June (Leah Shaw, many observers); 120 at Greenville, *Butler*, 7 July (Charles Kennedy *et al.*; ph.); 100 at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 12 July (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow *et al.*); and “100’s” south of Newburn, *Hale*, 29 July (Greg Harber *et al.*). Sam Sakeld reported 20+ from Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 28 July (uncommon but increasing in summer on the Gulf Coast).

GREAT EGRET – The 173 counted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) represented a good number for the Tennessee Valley in summer.

SNOWY EGRET – Good numbers for early summer in the Tennessee Valley were reported from the Leighton area, *Colbert*: eight on 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk); seven on 13 May (Greg Jackson); and 15 on 10 June (Tom Haggerty). At three sites in the same vicinity as above, 37 were counted 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk), the highest number for the Tennessee Valley in the last 60 years. A report of a single, uncommon in the Mountain Region, came from Pell City, *St. Clair*, 14 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Damien Simbeck tallied 60 in the vicinity of Leighton and Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 31 July, the highest number for the Tennessee Valley in the last 50 years.

WHITE IBIS – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, an immature was found along River Road east of Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 31 July (Damien Simbeck).

GLOSSY IBIS – One adult was at Hacoma, *Geneva*, 1-8 June (Odis Johnson *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland; first summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – This wader is rare but increasing in Alabama, and sightings from three sites were reported: at Borden Springs, *Cleburne*, two were found 15 June (William Allen) and a single was there 16 June (Bill Lotz *et al.*) (unusual area; occasional in the Mountain Region); a single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 22-30 June (Jerry Green *et al.*; ph.) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley); and Jud Johnston sighted three south of Newburn, *Hale*, 30



Roseate Spoonbill, 22 June 2013, Colbert Co., AL; J. Green.

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July.

- TURKEY VULTURE** – Paul Kittle counted 59 at a roost near Wolf Springs, *Lawrence*, 9 June, (maximum summer count for the Tennessee Valley).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – This species is rare in the Mountain Region, but along County Road 290 near Danway, *Chambers*, Lorna West and Kevin Jackson found four on 14 July, and Barry Fleming counted 14 on 20 July, the latter number a maximum for the Mountain Region.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Increasing in the Mountain Region, although uncommon and local, reports came from three locations: a single was at the Bibb County Glades north of Six Mile, *Bibb*, 15 July (Ben Garmon); Barry Fleming tallied 10 along County Road 290 near Danway, *Chambers*, 20 July (regular site; maximum summer number for the Mountain Region); and two were at Twin, *Marion*, 22 July (Jud Johnston *et al.*).
- KING RAIL** – Amber Hart had 1-2 at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 3-27 July (uncommon and local in the Tennessee Valley).
- AMERICAN COOT** – This species is rare in summer in Alabama. A single was at Calera, *Shelby*, 2 June (Shane Coombs). Two were along Marthaler Lane near Leighton, *Colbert*, 11 June, and up to three were at the Sinks near Leighton 7-17 June (Damien Simbeck *et al.*). Larry Gardella noted one at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 18 July.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** – A single near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) marked an early fall arrival date for inland Alabama (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – One at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, 6 June (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked a rare June record for the WP.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Two early singles were found at different sites southeast of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, one on 29 June (earliest fall record for Alabama, unless summering) and another 30 June – 5 July (Larry Gardella). Another early arrival was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 July (Tom Haggerty).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – An early single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS** – One bird north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 26 June was an early arrival (unless summering) (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo). Near Leighton, *Colbert*, two early arrivals were noted 7 July, and 34 were counted 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).
- WILLET** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, an early single was west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, one was early east of Shorter, *Macon*, 7 July (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson). Two were noted at Lake Martin, *Elmore*, 18 July (Lisa Reid *et al.*; ph.) (early arrival date for the Mountain Region where the species is rare).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS** – Ten was a good number so early near Leighton, *Colbert*, 7 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).
- MARbled GODWIT** – Andrew Haffenden found a single on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 30 June (occasional in June).

STILT SANDPIPER – An early adult was reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 July (John Trent; ph.).

SANDERLING – Fifty on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 28 July (Andrew Haffenden) was a good number for summer.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – This species is only occasional in summer in Alabama, but a report of an adult came from Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 22-28 July (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) (early arrival date for Alabama).



Baird's Sandpiper, 22 July 2014, Mobile Co., AL; L. Gardella.

LEAST SANDPIPER – A single southeast of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 30 June (Larry Gardella) marked a new early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Six south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 July were also early (Larry Gardella). John Trent sighted one on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 7 July, to tie the early arrival record for the Gulf Coast. A maximum summer count (81) for the Tennessee Valley was made near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – One south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 July marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain (Larry Gardella).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER – One south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 July marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain (Larry Gardella).

WESTERN SANDPIPER – Three early birds were observed on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 7-8 July (John Trent; ph.).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – John Trent found three at the pier on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 July (early). Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, a single was noted at Pell City, *St. Clair*, 14 July (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson). Near Leighton, *Colbert*, nine were counted 21 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk) to establish a new summer maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

HERRING GULL – Two were on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 6-30 June (Andrew Haffenden) (uncommon in summer).

LEAST TERN – John Trent found one on the Tennessee River during the 7 June Triana BBS, *Madison* (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – This species is rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, and nine was a good number at Excel, *Monroe*, 12 July (Andrew Arnold).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – Damien Simbeck reported 20 at Center Star, *Lauderdale*, 27 July (maximum for summer in the Tennessee Valley).

HAIRY WOODPECKER – Two were at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 20 July (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (very rare in the WP).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – This species is a casual breeder in Alabama. Three were

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singing at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 12 June (John Trent, Walker Price) (return to southernmost Alabama site).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – One at the Okaloosa County Water and Sewerage Facility, *Okaloosa*, 27 July (Malcolm Swan) marked the second July record for the WP. This species is a rare but increasing breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain, and records were received from four sites in *Hale*: a single at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 11 June (John Trent, Walker Price) (new site); two along Red Bamberg Road south of Newburn, 25 June (Michael Barbour) (return to site); one along County Road 16 west of Whitsitt, 20 July (Greg Harber *et al.*); and a single along County Road 10 west of Sledge, 20 July (Greg Harber *et al.*) (return to site).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – This species is an uncommon breeder in Alabama, but the *Calhoun* SBC tallied a total of 15 (good number), 14-16 June, with 10 counted on 15 June, nine of which were in the Choccolocco quad (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton *et al.*).

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, reports came from four sites: a single on the Lakeview BBS, *Jackson*, 12 June (Eric Soehren); another single at Rogersville, *Lauderdale*, 16 June (Damien Simbeck); two at Ditto Landing, *Madison*, 27 June (Amber Hart); and three along Wheeler Reservoir, *Lawrence*, 25 July (Damien Simbeck).

TREE SWALLOW – This species is an uncommon and increasing breeder in north Alabama, but a rare breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain. Breeding documentation for the latter region was provided by the report of a pair and a nest with five eggs at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 12 June (John Trent).

BANK SWALLOW – Two early birds were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 5 July (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk).

CLIFF SWALLOW – This species is increasing as a breeder in far south Alabama, as shown by 50+ at Gantt, *Covington*, 7 June (Randy White), and 20 at Point A Lake, *Covington*, 1 July (Lucie Wilder).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – A single was southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 18 July (Eric Soehren, John Trent, Walker Price) (rare this far southeast).

HOUSE WREN – This species is locally rare in Alabama, so three records were noteworthy. A single was noted on the Odenville BBS, *St. Clair*, 9 June (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent); another single was recorded at Section, *Jackson*, during the Lakeview BBS, 12 June (Eric Soehren); and still a third single was found at Arab, *Marshall*, 16 June (Scott Gravette).

AMERICAN ROBIN – A single was reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 June (Eugenia Carey) (occasional on the outer coast in summer). Another single was observed at Meaher SP, *Baldwin*, 9-14 June (Karen Chiasson *et al.*) (rare and local on the Gulf Coast in summer).

GRAY CATBIRD – This species is rare but increasing in summer on the Gulf Coast, and Larry Gardella noted one at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 7 June.

CEDAR WAXWING – John Trent found one on the Triana BBS, *Madison*, 7 June (erratic

breeder in north Alabama).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – Larry Gardella saw one in the Industry quad, *Butler*, 15 June (uncommon and local breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Geoff Hill tallied three in the Fort Deposit quad, *Butler*, 17 June (uncommon and local breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – A single was noted along Splunge Creek in the Poplar Springs quad, *Winston*, 17 June (Jeff Garner) (locally rare).

AMERICAN REDSTART – Two were seen during the *Calhoun* SBC, one on 15 June in the Choccolocco quad and another on 21 June in the Jacksonville West quad (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy) (locally rare breeder).

YELLOW WARBLER – This species is now a rare breeder in Alabama. One was observed in the Choccolocco quad, *Calhoun*, 15 June (Rick Remy, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

LARK SPARROW – This sparrow is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama and is rare in the Mountain Region. The report of a single from the Black Pond quad, *Winston*, 14 June (Jeff Garner), provided the first record for that county, and two seen in the Choccolocco quad, *Calhoun*, 15 June (Rick Remy, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) provided the second record for that county, with one carrying food to confirm nesting.

SONG SPARROW – In the Mountain Region, this species is a local breeder. The 9-23 June *Calhoun* SBC, especially the Piedmont quad, produced a total of 20, with a Mountain Region summer maximum of 11 on 16 June (David George, Scot Duncan, Ty Keith).

PAINTED BUNTING – A single was noted south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 19 July (Edward Brinkley) (unusual location in summer).

PINE SISKIN – One at a feeder in Gallion, *Hale*, 27 June (Don Self, Judy Self) marked the third summer record for Alabama.

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This introduced species continues to be widely reported in the Pensacola area, *Escambia*, and reports are now coming from neighboring *Baldwin*, Alabama, and southern Mississippi.

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH – Reports of singles of this exotic came from Pensacola, *Escambia*, 5 June (James Brinson) and 24 July (Andrew Carr, Scott Rose).

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Seasonal use of habitat by shrub-breeding birds in a southeastern national forest.
McClure, C. J. W., B. W. Rolek, and G. E. Hill. 2013. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 125:731-743.

Shrub-breeding birds in eastern North America are in decline because of habitat loss. More information is needed to better understand the habitat requirements of these birds. In this study, bird counts and measurements of vegetation cover and structure of several early successional habitat types were conducted during the breeding and the non-breeding seasons in Tuskegee National Forest, Macon County, Alabama, 2008 and 2009. The researchers studied the habitat occupancy and use by two partial-migrating resident species (i.e., Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee) and two non-migrating residents (i.e., Carolina Wren and Northern Cardinal) during both seasons at the same sites. Partial migratory species are species in which some individuals of a population migrate, while others do not.

The partial-migrant species showed greater changes in occupancy and the types of habitat used between summer and winter than did the non-migrants. The increase in occupancy of habitats between summer and winter by the Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher was attributed to an influx of migrants from the Northeast. The partial migrants were also more likely to use different habitats between summer and winter than the non-migrants. This suggests that changes in resource availability and/or habitat needs occurred between the breeding and non-breeding season for the Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee. The research highlights the importance of understanding the non-breeding habitat requirements of shrub-breeding birds, as well as their habitat needs during the breeding season, in order to make appropriate management decisions.—TMH

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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