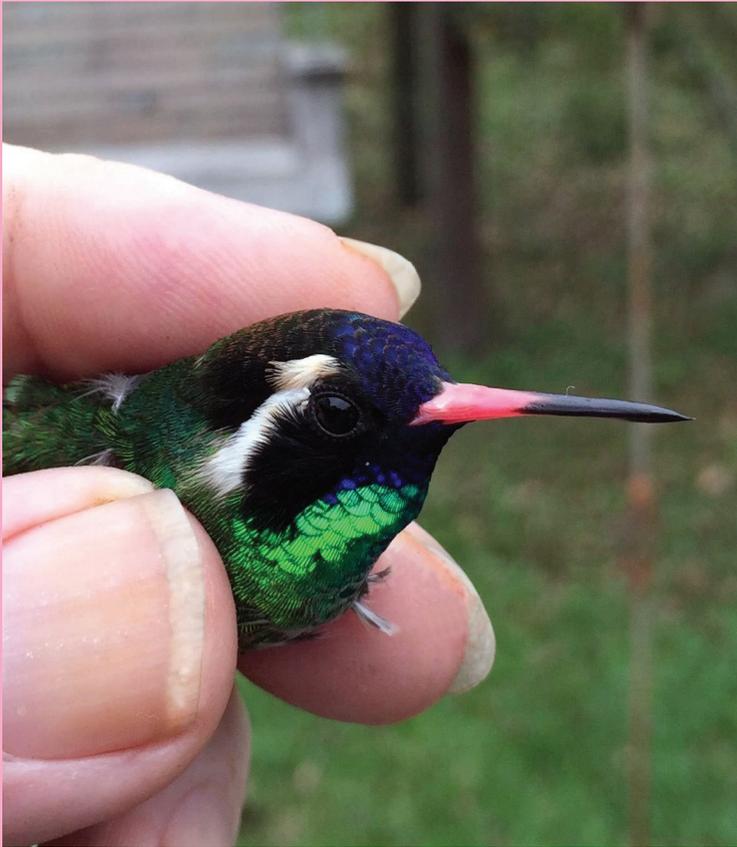


# Alabama Birdlife

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Layout by Tom Haggerty

## LATE AUTUMN BREEDING BY KILLDEER IN CENTRAL ALABAMA

Eric C. Soehren and Ethan N. Soehren

The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) has the widest distribution of any plover species in North America and is well adapted to occupy almost any open natural or anthropogenic habitat across the continent (Jackson and Jackson 2000). In the southeastern United States, breeding pairs form in late winter with nest activities commencing as early as late February (Jackson and Jackson 2000). Killdeer normally attempt one to two nest clutches per season and breeding activities typically end by late July (Jackson and Jackson 2000). However, a few isolated observations of rare late autumn nesting attempts (October – December) have been reported in the southern United States (Jackson et al. 1995; Post 1996; Heck and Heck 2008) making it the only fall nesting shorebird in North America (Smith et al. 1999). Herein we report the first confirmation of late autumn breeding by the Killdeer in Alabama that significantly extends all documented breeding dates for the state and contributes to a growing list of observations nationally.

At approximately 1430 hrs on 3 December 2016, the authors and other family members visited Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park, a popular youth entertainment venue in the Atlanta Crossing Shopping Center in east Montgomery, Alabama (32.38063°N, -86.20698°W; WGS 1984). The weather was overcast, breezy, and drizzling with the temperature near 13°C (55°F). While walking separately toward the venue's entrance, ENS noted a small, dead bird on the edge of the shopping center sidewalk and alerted ECS. It was immediately identified as a downy Killdeer chick, approximately one or two days old (Figure 1). It had apparently been dead for several hours since the eyes were already sunken and shriveled. The cause of mortality was unknown and no adults or other young were observed during our visit.

The entertainment venue forms the northern terminus of a busy shopping center complex and is located about 0.2 km (0.1 mi) southeast of a major intersection of Eastern Boulevard and Atlanta Highway where vehicular traffic is constant. The immediate landscape surrounding the shopping center is mostly paved with a large parking lot to the west and service roads bordering the north and east sides. Given the tolerance of this species to human disturbance, we surmised the adults likely nested nearby in either a small, manicured lawn of a convenience store just to the north, or possibly on the roof of the venue itself.

Based on the chick's small size and downy plumage, we determined it was no older than two days, making it possible to estimate the date of clutch initiation. Killdeer clutch size is normally four eggs usually laid on successive days. Incubation is shared by both sexes and commences after the final egg is laid and averages 25 days (range 22 – 28 days). Hatching is nearly synchronous and adults lead the precocial chicks away from the nest to feeding grounds shortly after their down dries (Jackson and Jackson 2000). Assuming a normal clutch size of four eggs laid on successive days and accounting for the average incubation span of 25 days, we estimated the nest clutch was initiated on or near 3 November, with incubation likely commencing on or near 7 November. A twenty-five day incubation period would place the hatching date on or near 1 December. This significantly extends the previous late date of 14 July (Imhof 1976) for downy young in Alabama by more than four months and represents the eighth record for late autumn breeding in the United States (Table 1).

There appears to be a correlation emerging between mild and dry weather conditions triggering late autumn breeding by Killdeer (Smith et al. 1999). Both of the 1988 nesting observations in Mississippi (Jackson et al. 1995) and the 1998 observation in Arkansas (Smith et al. 1999) were reported following unseasonably warm and dry weather in the southern United States. In addition, the 2002 observation in Oklahoma also noted unusually warm weather in early December (Heck and Heck 2008). These weather related events correspond with the prolonged warm and exceptionally dry conditions that affected Montgomery in the autumn of 2016. The weather station at Maxwell Airforce Base (KMXF) in Montgomery reported mean monthly high temperatures of 33.3°C (92.0°F),



Figure 1. Killdeer chick found dead on sidewalk of the Atlanta Crossing Shopping Center in east Montgomery, Alabama, 3 December 2016.

TABLE 1. Documented late autumn breeding records (October – December) of Killdeer in the United States.

Date	# Eggs/Yg	Est. Age	Location	Citation
7 Nov 1987	1 chick	sev. days old	Hancock Co., MS	Smith et al. (1999)
16 Nov 1988	3 chicks	1–2 d.o.	Oktibbeha Co., MS	Jackson et al. (1995)
11 Dec 1988	2 chicks	2 weeks	Oktibbeha Co., MS	Jackson et al. (1995)
13 Nov 1995	3 chicks	1–2 d.o.	Berkeley Co., SC	Post (1996)
28 Oct 1998	3 chicks	N/A	Pulaski Co., AR	Smith et al. (1999)
5–15 Dec 1998	4 eggs incub.	Nest abandoned	Charleston Co., SC	Smith et al. (1999)
15 Dec 2002	2 chicks	9 d.o.	McCurtain Co., OK	Heck and Heck (2008)
3 Dec 2016	1 chick (dead)	1–2 d.o.	Montgomery Co., AL	This study

29.2°C (84.5°F), and 23.1°C (73.7°F) for September, October, and November, respectively, which were 4.1°C (7.3°F), 4.7°C (8.3°F), and 3.8°C (6.9°F) above the average monthly high temperatures for those same months. Moreover, rainfall amounts totaling only 9.0 cm (3.5 in) for the same three months was 20.2 cm (8.0 in) below the average of 29.2 cm (11.5 in), resulting in severe drought conditions for the region (Weather Underground data accessed 15 December 2016).

Our observation supports the hypothesis that prolonged warm and dry weather events may occasionally extend the Killdeer breeding season into late autumn, and possibly winter (Smith et al. 1999). This is further supported by several late summer (August – September) nesting reports in Iowa (Sordahl et al. 2002), North Dakota (Igl and Kantrud 2003), and South Dakota (Tallman et al. 2002) in more northern latitudes, which connects and expands confirmed breeding from February to December in the United States. Moreover, some Killdeer pairs have been reported to remain together and defend territories year around (Jackson and Jackson 2000), which may initiate breeding any time of year when conditions are favorable. Hence, these late autumn reports may not be a new phenomenon in the breeding phenology of Killdeer, but one that has been overlooked until recently. Additional reports of late autumn and winter nestings are encouraged to help better understand this aspect of the life history of the Killdeer.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank Bill Summerour for providing helpful comments on an earlier draft of the manuscript.

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## FALL SIGHTINGS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2015)

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

This report covers the period from August through November 2015 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River). The appearance of observations in this article does not suggest verification or acceptance of records for very rare species; these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. All submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, must be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification. For guidance, observers are encouraged to consult the Alabama Ornithological Society checklist. Reports should note conditions of observation and the diagnostic characters observed. Your help in this matter is appreciated.



**Abbreviations and italics:** County names are in italics and, except for the Florida counties of *Bay*, *Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b” = banded; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NP” = Nature Preserve; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** – Uncommon on the Gulf Coast but an increasing breeder, three records were received from *Baldwin*: eight were north of Gulf Shores, 19 August (Jim Holmes); two pairs with downy young were at the Gulf Shores sewage lagoon, a regular site, 13 October (Bill Summerour; ph.); and two were at Gulf Shores 27 November (Ed Wallace). This species is rare but increasing

on the Inland Coastal Plain, and the first and second inland nesting records came, respectively, from Hacoma, *Geneva*, 28 September – 5 October where Odis Johnson (ph.) reported up to 10 birds and a nest with 15 eggs, and from Huxford, *Escambia*, 5 September – 20 November where John Cole *et al.* (ph.) noted a pair with 10 downy young and up to six adults.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – At a regular site west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, Sue Moske and Jane Allen saw eight on 23 October and 20 on 11 November (locally uncommon). This species is rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, but is becoming more frequent at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, as evidenced by a single noted 14 November (Rodney McCollum), and two seen 21 November (Geoff Hill).

**ROSS'S GOOSE** – Damien Simbeck reported a single from Marbut Bend near Salem, *Limestone*, 13 November (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley; not a regular site). Another single was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 27 November (Scot Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare but becoming regular on the Gulf Coast).

**WOOD DUCK** – A maximum number (220+) for the Mountain Region was reported from Opelika, *Lee*, 27+ August (Rodney McCollum *et al.*), and Jim Holmes reported fledglings from the same site 30 August.

**GADWALL** – Two at Stevenson, *Jackson*, 5 August were probably rare summering birds, and 39 there 8 September was a good number so early in fall (Sue Moske, Jane Allen). Six near Leighton, *Colbert*, 21 August (Sue Moske, Jane Allen) may have been summering birds but more likely early migrants. Three were found on the Birmingham area fall count, *Shelby*, 26 September (John Imhof, Jeremy Bearden) (early).

**AMERICAN WIGEON** – Three were found on the Birmingham area fall count, *Shelby*, 26 September (John Imhof, Jeremy Bearden) (early). Jim Holmes counted 58 at the Westvaco ponds near Marht, *Russell*, 22 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – A single was at Stevenson, *Jackson*, 27 November (Jane Allen) (late; rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** – Jim Holmes reported 500 from the Westvaco ponds near Marht, *Russell*, 22 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** – Geoff Hill found 120 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 21 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**RING-NECKED DUCK** – An adult male in basic plumage was a rare summering individual at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, Cedarville, *Hale*, 12 August (Ron Kittinger). South of Birmingham in *Shelby*, 220 were reported 19 November to mark a maximum fall count for the Mountain Region (Ron Kittinger).

**GREATER SCAUP** – Damien Simbeck reported 100 from Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 13 November (good number so early). Jim Holmes noted a single at Tallasee, *Elmore*, 25 November (rare but regular on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BLACK SCOTER** – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, three records came from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*: five on 25 October ( ; ph.) (early record for Gulf Coast,

ties early record for Alabama); six on 26 November (Ed Wallace); and 93 on 27 November (Scot Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (maximum fall and second highest count for Alabama). Damien Simbeck found a single at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 13 November (rare inland).



Black Scoter, 25 October 2015, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Chiasson.

**BUFFLEHEAD** – Three on Marvyn Lake, *Lee*, 14 November (Jim Holmes) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. Six early birds were east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16-17 November (Kenneth Hare).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** – Two at Alabama Port, *Mobile*, 15 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) were rare summering birds. Amber Hart (ph.) counted 112 in flyover flocks at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 8 November to mark a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**RUDDY DUCK** – This species rarely summers in Alabama, but two summer records were received. A single was at Newburn, *Hale*, 1 August (Anne Miller, m.ob.), where the species is becoming regular. Another single was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 14 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger). Greg Jackson counted 1,510 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 November to mark a fall maximum for Alabama.

**RED-THROATED LOON** – One was reported from the Tennessee River, Huntsville-Decatur, *Madison/Limestone/Morgan*, 30 August (Randy Crouse) (first August record for Alabama, probably a summering bird- two prior summer records for Alabama).

**PACIFIC LOON** – A single was reported from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10+ November (Amber Hart *et al.*; ph.) (rare though regular in this area).

**COMMON LOON** – Seventy flying west over Pensacola Bay, *Escambia*, 8 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) indicated a migratory movement. Amber Hart counted 341 on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 November (maximum fall number for inland Alabama).

**HORNED GREBE** – Greg Jackson counted 325 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 27 November to mark a fall maximum for Alabama.

**EARED GREBE** – A single was seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 November (Amber Hart) (rare inland).

**GREAT SHEARWATER** – Three were at Pensacola Bay Pass, *Escambia*, 2 August (James Pfeiffer), and a single was off Destin Pass, *Okaloosa*, 6 November (Erika Zambello) (casual in the WP). One was on the water in mid Mobile Bay, *Baldwin*, 29 November (Danner Bradshaw, George Fuller; ph.) (rare).



Greater Shearwater, 29 November 2015, Baldwin Co., AL; G. Fuller.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** – Two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in the WP).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – Five were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 August (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in the WP).

**SHEARWATER SP.** – Seven (including two probable Audubon's Shearwater and one probable Cory's Shearwater) were seen from the pier at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 19 August (Jim Holmes) (rare).

**WOOD STORK** – Jerry Callaway reported a single from northern *Escambia*, 29 October (very rare in the WP). One juvenile was at Hillsboro, *Lawrence*, 15 September (Tom Ress; ph.) (occasional in the Tennessee Valley). Six late birds were south of Greensboro, *Hale*, 4 November (Judy Self)



Wood Stork, 29 September 2015, Lawrence Co., AL; T. Ress.

**MASKED BOOBY** – A single was at Henderson Beach, *Okaloosa*, 11-15 November (Steven Exley, Bruce Purdy, Wendi Greene) (rare in the WP in November). An immature was at the mouth of Mobile Bay, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 12-20 October and 30 November (Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.) (rare).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Tom Howe found 18 on Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 2 November (regular at this site; rare but increasing in the Mountain Region). An estimated 1,500 (good number) were at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 8 November (Charles Grisham *et al.*). The Tennessee River at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan/Limestone*, hosted 2,500 (good number) on 14 November (Ken Ward, Jane Allen).

**SNOWY EGRET** – Damien Simbeck counted 19 near Leighton, *Colbert*, 31 August (maximum fall number for north Alabama).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** – A single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 17 October, marked a late departure record for the Tennessee Valley (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**TRICOLORED HERON** – One was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 16-23 August (John Trent; ph.) (rare inland).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – Wendi Greene reported one from Veteran's Memorial Park, *Okaloosa*, 12 August (very rare in the WP in August). At Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 30 were found on 21 August and 40 (good number) on 20 September (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – Charles Boley found an adult at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 25 October (late departure record for the Tennessee Valley).



Tricolored Heron, 16 August 2015, Barbour Co., AL; J. Trent.

**WHITE IBIS** – One-two juveniles were found at different but nearby sites at Opelika, *Lee*, 5 and 14 September (Rodney

McCollum; ph.) (rare but regular in the Mountain Region).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – Three were found at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 11 October (John Trent, Howard Horne, Alabama Ornithological Society) (rare).

**PLEGADIS SP.** – Jeff Garner saw a single along County Road 16 in *Hale*, 25 August (rare inland).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – Rare in Alabama, reports came from four sites: three were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 14 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger), and a single was there 8-12 October (Sue Moske *et al.*); a single was north of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 6-7 October (Michael Jordan); one was present for several days and to 6 November near Fairhope, *Baldwin* (John Oldshue; ph., videotaped); and still another single was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 November (Andrew Haffenden).

**BLACK VULTURE** – Damien Simbeck counted 158 at Marbut Bend near Salem, *Limestone*, 13 November (maximum fall count for inland Alabama).

**TURKEY VULTURE** – Damien Simbeck counted 83 at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 7 October (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley).

**OSPREY** – Fourteen were counted at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 16 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (maximum fall count for the Gulf Coast). Late singles were at Tanner, *Limestone*, 21 November (Anne Miller), and West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 21 November (Jim Holmes).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – Rare in the Mountain Region, a single was at Auburn, *Lee*, 9 August (Geoff Hill).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley, two reports of singles came from sites where this species is not regular: Hartselle, *Morgan*, 23 August (Steve McConnell), and TVA Reservation in Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 1 October (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (late departure date for north Alabama).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 17 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual in the WP in fall).

**COMMON GALLINULE** – Jim Holmes reported 125, including 40 fledglings, from the Westvaco ponds at Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (maximum count for inland Alabama). Rare in north Alabama, the first definite nesting for this area was confirmed by the sighting of 13 (good number), including an adult with four downy young, at Lake Guntersville south of Scottsboro, *Jackson*, 3 September (Jeff Garner, Michael Buntin).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – At Guntersville, *Marshall*, three were noted on 13 October and two on 17 October (Amber Hart *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland).

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** – A single was spotted at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 20 August (Jim Holmes) (locally rare). This species is rare but regular at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, and four (good number) were seen 25 October (Emma Rhodes).



American Avocet, 13 October 2015, Marshall Co., AL; A. Hart.

**SNOWY PLOVER** – Shane Hunt counted 35 on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 14 November, to mark a maximum count for Alabama.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – The report of 10 from the Alabama A&M Farm at Hazel Green, *Madison*, 1 August (Charles Boley) ties the maximum fall number for inland Alabama. A tally of 19 on Pelican Peninsula and at the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) marked a fall maximum for Alabama.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – Damien Simbeck reported six from near Leighton, *Colbert*, 31 August (ties maximum fall count for Alabama).

**WILLET** – Rare but regular inland, two reports of singles were received: west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 13 September (Sue Moske, Jane Allen; ph.), and Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 22 September (Larry Gardella).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** – One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 September (Janice Neitzel; ph.) marked the 20<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama and the 8<sup>th</sup> in fall.

**DUNLIN** – Jim Holmes reported a single from the Westvaco ponds at Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (early record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, records were received from three sites: four at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 14 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger); one on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 September (Andrew Haffenden; ph.); and two on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 September (Lisa Hathaway, Marybeth Lima). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley in fall, records from three sites were received: one at the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 18 August (Sue Moske); and two near Leighton, *Colbert*, and two west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 September (Damien Simbeck). Larry Gardella found a single at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 29 September (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).



Hudsonian Godwit, 28 September 2015, Baldwin Co., AL; J. Neitzel.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – One was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 22 August (Malcolm Swan) (very rare in the WP in fall). A single was found at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 11 October (Jon Dunn, John Trent, Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph. Bala Chennupati) (rare in fall on the Gulf Coast).

**RUFF** – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 4-6 October (Daphne Asbell, ph.; Bruce Purdy; Malcolm Swan, ph.; Jerry Callaway; Brenda Callaway; ph.; Bob Duncan; Lucy Duncan) (third record for the WP).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Andrew Haffenden counted 67 on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 1 August to mark a maximum fall number for Alabama.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – A single was at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 18 October (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, three records were received: a single was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 August (Andrew

Haffenden; ph.); another single was on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 15 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger); and three were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 August (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo, Michelle Steber). Jim Holmes reported a single from the Westvaco ponds at Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**POMARINE JAEGER** – Sue Moske found two at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 November (rare).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – A single was at Opal Beach, *Escambia*, 17 September (Chris Holt) (very rare in the WP).

**LAUGHING GULL** – Two were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 29 September (Damien Simbeck) where this species is rare but regular. At Guntersville, *Marshall*, a single was noted 29 October (Amber Hart) and four were there 3 November (Sue Moske *et al.*) (rare but regular at this site).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – One was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 14-26 November (Bruce Purdy, Malcolm Swan) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, records from four sites were received: a single was on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 10 October (Larry Gardella) and three were there 30 October (Andrew Haffenden); a single was at the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 October (Damien Simbeck), and five were seen there 26 October (Marbry Hopkins, David Disher, Susan Disher; ph.); one immature was at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 27 November (Scot Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); and two were found at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 27 November (regular at this site) (Jim Holmes, James Holmes). At Guntersville, *Marshall*, nine were noted 13 October and three were found 5 November (Amber Hart *et al.*; ph.) (rare but regular in fall at this site).

**RING-BILLED GULL** – Jim Holmes reported 320 from West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 24 November (maximum fall number for the Mountain Region).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – One-six were at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 16 August – 14 November (Malcolm Swan, Bruce Purdy) (first August and September records for the WP). Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, is a regular site for this rare species, and Damien Simbeck reported one on 16 September, five on 29 September, seven (good number) on 1 and 24 October, and three on 24 November. One-two were noted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 October – 28 November (Sue Moske, Jane Allen, Amber Hart *et al.*) (rare but regular at this site). Andrew Haffenden found two on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 30 October (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A late report (omitted from the summer sightings article) summer in the WP). An immature bird continued from summer on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 10 August – 30 October (Patsy Russo, Andrew Haffenden, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular in this area).

**CASPIAN TERN** – A single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 13 November (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) to mark a late fall record for inland Alabama (although there are two winter records).



Wilson's Phalarope, 12 August 2015, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

**ROCK PIGEON** – Jim Holmes counted 84 south of Phenix City, *Russell*, 3 October (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, two+ were at Atmore, *Escambia*, 16 August (Jon Yoder) (continuation at a regular site).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** – Scot Duncan reported a late single at Avondale, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 7 November.

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15-16 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bob Kornegay) (rare but fairly regular at this site in fall).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – One hundred fifty (40 b.) at Antioch, *Lauderdale*, 29 August (Robert Daly, Damien Simbeck, Margie Anderton) established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley. At Gallion, *Marengo*, 79 were counted 15 September (Don Self, Judy Self) to mark a maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – Daniel Stangeland reported a single from Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 16 November (rare in late fall in the WP). One was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 25-28 November (Ellen Crotty *et al.*) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD** – The first record of this species for Alabama was established by an adult male in west Mobile, *Mobile*, 7-10 November (Deb Zdneck, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.: @ABRC).



White-eared Hummingbird, 8 November 2015, Mobile Co., AL; F. Bassett.

**SAPSUCKER SP.** – A probable Yellow-bellied X Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (Jim Holmes; ph.) (only one other probable report of this hybrid from Alabama).

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** – Occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports of singles came from Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (Jim Holmes), and Cypress Pond, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 20 September (Larry Gardella). Rare but regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, one was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 12 September (Andrew Haffenden). A single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 13 September (Chuck Graham) (rare).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** – Eight was a good number for so late in the season, seen at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 November (Karen Chiasson; ph.). A calling single was in Oak Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 11 November (Larry Gardella) (late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain). Michael Jordan reported a single from Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 14 November (latest departure date for Alabama).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – One was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare in the WP in fall). Numerous reports were received as follows: five sightings, five birds in the Tennessee Valley, 27 August – 26 September; nine sightings, nine birds in the Mountain Region, 3 September – 6 October; six sightings, seven birds on the Inland Coastal Plain, 31 August – 9 October; and four sightings, six birds on the Gulf Coast, 14 September – 2 November, including three (good number so late) on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2

November (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** – On the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, Michael Jordan counted 32 (maximum fall number for Alabama) on 19 September, 24 on 20 September, and two on 25 October (late).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** – Larry Gardella reported a calling bird from Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 October (rare).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – A singing bird was at Ebenezer Swamp northeast of Montevallo, *Shelby*, 30 August (Ron Kittinger) (rare). A calling bird was at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 7 September (Larry Gardella) (rare).

**“WESTERN” FLYCATCHER** – A Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher individual was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1-2 October (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). A photo of this potential second record for Florida was submitted to FOSRC.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** – Daniel Stangeland found a single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 19 September (very early arrival for the WP). Geoff Hill counted 23 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 21 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SAY’S PHOEBE** – Larry Barkey reported one from southwest of Houston, *Winston*, 7 October (seventh record for Alabama, second for the Mountain Region; @ABRC).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Rare in fall in the WP, one-three were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 14 October – 29 November (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Dana Timmons, Steve Coster, Cindy Coster), and one-two were at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 8-15 November (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). An adult female was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 10 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) and 12 October (Greg Jackson) (rare).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – Rare but regular in fall in the WP, a single was at Naval Live Oaks, *Santa Rosa*, 4 November (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway). At Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one was found 12 October (Greg Jackson) (rare). A single was noted north of Stockton, *Mobile*, 15 October (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo; ph.) (rare, especially away from the outer coast).

**BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER** – One was found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 October (Andrew Haffenden, Jon Dunn, Bala Chennupati *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) (third record for Alabama).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** – Dwight Cooley found one at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 11 October (late departure date for the Tennessee Valley).

**SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 18 September (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (fourth record for the WP; ph. to FOSRC).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Three records were received from the Alabama



Brown-crested Flycatcher, 9 October 2015, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Chennupati.

A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*: 14+ (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley) on 21 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger); 10 on 29 September (Amber Hart); and three on 16 October (Charles Boley).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Good fall numbers for the Inland Coastal Plain came from three sites: 14 were at Chewacla SP, *Lee*, 13 September (Geoff Hill); 14 were southeast of Andalusia, *Covington*, 7 September and 16 (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain) were there 14 September (Thomas Savage); and 15 were at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 20 September (Larry Gardella). The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 49 on 26 September (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley).

**BELL'S VIREO** – A single was at the Goat Trees on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 September (Howard Horne *et al.*) (rare). Another single was at the golf course on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 October (Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (rare). Larry Gardella found one at Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 7 October (occasional inland; fourth record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**PLUMBEOUS VIREO** – One was reported from the TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 14 October (Damien Simbeck, Keith Fraser) (second record for Alabama; @ ABRC).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – A single seen at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 11 September (Milton Harris *et al.*) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley. A late single was at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 28 November (Greg Jackson).

**WARBLING VIREO** – Michael Jackson reported one from the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 5 September (rare on the Gulf Coast away from the outer coast). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, two reports of singles were received: TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 11 September (Damien Simbeck), and Huntsville, *Madison*, 18 September (Charles Boley). Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, two reports of singles were received: Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 12 September (Scot Duncan, John Marvin) and 19 September (Scot Duncan). Andrew Haffenden sighted one at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28 September (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – Two early birds were at Chewacla SP, *Lee*, 13 September (Geoff Hill).

**FISH CROW** – Increasing in the Tennessee Valley, good numbers (24 and 15, respectively) for this region were reported from the Tennessee River at the Natchez Trace Bridge, 13 September (Sue Moske, Jane Allen), and Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 20 October (Dwight Cooley). Eric Soehren reported 300 from north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 13 November (maximum fall number for the Gulf Coast).

**HORNED LARK** – Three were found north of Eufaula, *Russell*, 23 November (Jim Holmes) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**TREE SWALLOW** – Jim Holmes noted two at the Westvaco Ponds, Mahrt, *Russell*, 22 November (late fall record for the Inland Coastal Plain, although there are three December records).

- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – A count of 1,135 at Round Island Creek, *Limestone*, 11 August (Sue Moske, Jane Allen) marked a maximum number for Alabama.
- CLIFF SWALLOW** – A late bird was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 November (Ben Garmon).
- CAVE SWALLOW** – Two were reported from the airport on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 October (Andrew Haffenden) (casual in the fall, second fall record for the Gulf Coast).
- BARN SWALLOW** – Damien Simbeck counted 150 near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 August (maximum fall number for north Alabama).
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE** – Chris Goulart counted 23 south of Grand Bay/Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 29 November (maximum fall number for the Gulf Coast).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, records from six sites were received: one was found at the Wehle NP southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 25 August – 1 November (John Trent *et al.*); singles were noted at three sites in Montgomery, *Montgomery*: Oak Park, 27 August (Larry Gardella), Lagoon Park, 11 September (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Lee McElvaine), and Powder Magazine Park, 11 September (Ron Kittinger *et al.*); three, one, and four on 5, 13, and 23 September, respectively, at Chewacla SP, *Lee* (Rodney McCollum); and five south of Phenix City, *Russell*, 3 October (Jim Holmes).
- HOUSE WREN** – Late singles occurred at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 21 November (Scot Duncan), and at Opelika, *Lee*, 29 November (Rodney McCollum).
- WINTER WREN** – An early single was found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, 26 September (Chuck Graham, Paul Graham).
- SEDGE WREN** – Three was a good number at two different sites for this uncommon species in the Mountain Region: Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 4 October (Scot Duncan), and Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 November (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** – Two early birds were found at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 September (Ron Kittinger, Scot Duncan) and 7-8 September (Greg Jackson).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – Four were identified by nocturnal calling east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 3 September (Larry Gardella) (ties early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- WOOD THRUSH** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 37 on 26 September (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley).
- GRAY CATBIRD** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 78 on 26 September (maximum number for the Tennessee Valley).
- EUROPEAN STARLING** – Robert O'Connell reported 2,200 from Wetumpka, *Elmore*, 26 September (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, one was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 October (Lucy Duncan).
- CEDAR WAXWING** – Twelve were noted at Estillfork, *Jackson*, 1 August (Amber Hart) (uncommon breeder). Charles Boley reported 150+ at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8

November (ties maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley). In the Oakmulgee Unit of Talladega NF, Chris Agee counted 75 on 26 November (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain). Chris Goulart counted 55 at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile*, 29 November (maximum fall number for the Gulf Coast).

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** – A single was found on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 November (Tyler Petroelje, Kristopher Harmon) (rare on the Gulf Coast).

**“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER** – A single was at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 31 August (Charles Grisham; ph.) (rare).

**“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER** – Michael Jordan found one on the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 19 September (occasional in Alabama).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Six were reported from Chewacla SP, *Lee*, 25 August (Jonathan Dreelin) (maximum fall count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SWAINSON’S WARBLER** – One was heard on the TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 3 and 11 September (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (regular site; rare and local but regular in the Tennessee Valley).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** – Early singles were at River Oaks, *St. Clair*, 28 August (Ron Kittinger), and Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 6 September (Larry Gardella).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Sue Moske found a single (earliest arrival for Alabama) on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 8 September. Eric Soehren reported one from Shorter, *Macon*, 17 September (early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain). A late single was at Marbut Bend near Salem, *Limestone*, 27 November (Damien Simbeck). Reports of four birds from each of two locations marked maximum fall numbers for the Inland Coastal Plain: south of Phenix City, *Russell*, 28 November (Jim Holmes, Rodney McCollum), and Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 29 November (Larry Gardella).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** – Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, three records were received: one in Avondale, Birmingham, *Jefferson* (regular site), 11 September (Scot Duncan); one-two at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson* (regular site), 12-13 September (Scot Duncan *et al.*); and a single at Opelika, *Lee*, 15 September (Rodney McCollum).

**MOURNING WARBLER** – Rare in the Mountain Region, one was reported from Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 13-19 September (Scot Duncan, Stan Hamilton, Rick Remy *et al.*; ph.). A singing adult male was found at Cypress Pond, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 20 September (Larry Gardella) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain, sixth record, all in fall).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** – Two were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 12 November (Bob Duncan), the latest ever for the WP by 10 days. Rare in fall, reports of singles (all males) came from



Cape May Warbler, 24 October 2015, Baldwin Co., AL; B. J. Thomason.

three sites: Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 12 September (Charles Boley); Lakepoint SP, *Barbour*, 15 October (Richard Prentki); and Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 24 October (Brody Thomason; ph.).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** – Lucy Duncan found a single at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 3 November (first November record for the WP).

**CERULEAN WARBLER** – An encouraging number (eight) came from *Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa*, 1 August – 12 September (m.ob.). At Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, five were found on 21 August and six+ on 1 September (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger *et al.*), the latter number a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley and a tie for the fall maximum for inland Alabama.

**NORTHERN PARULA** – A count of 13 was made at Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (Jim Holmes) marking a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – Larry Gardella found a single at Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16 August (early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – Two immatures were early at Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 16 August (Scot Duncan). Sue Moske noted one on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 18 August (early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley). Records of early singles also came from Monte Sano, *Madison*, 19 August (Jerry Green; ph.), and the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 24 August (Michael Jordan).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Five reports (all of singles) came from five sites: Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 1 September (Ron Kittinger) (rare but regular at this site); Murphy Hill and north of Five Points, *Marshall*, 7 October (Damien Simbeck) (rare inland); and Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 14 October (Larry Gardella) (occasional on the Inland Coastal Plain); and Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 1 November (Scot Duncan) (rare inland; late record for north Alabama, ties late record for inland Alabama).

**PALM WARBLER** – Charles Boley counted 21 at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8 November (good number so late in the Tennessee Valley). Two late birds were found in Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 November (Scot Duncan).

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** – Charles Boley reported 80 from the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 11 November (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley). Chris Goulart tallied 78 at Grand Bay NWR, *Mobile*, 29 November (maximum fall count for the Gulf Coast).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Four were found at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 21 August (Sue Moske, Jane Allen) (maximum fall count for the Tennessee Valley). Jim Holmes had a single at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (late record for the Inland Coastal Plain, ties late record for inland Alabama).

**BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** – An immature was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20-22 September (Pete Blank, Erin Parker, m.ob.; ph.) (12<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama, first since 2001; @ABRC).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – Jim Holmes counted four south of Phenix

City, *Russell*, 28 October (maximum fall number for the Inland Coastal Plain). A late bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 15 November (Kevin Christman).

**CANADA WARBLER** – One was early on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 14 August (Sue Moske). Charles Boley found one in Huntsville, *Madison*, 9 October (late record for the Tennessee Valley).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** – Rare but regular in the Mountain Region, several reports came from Ruffner Mountain NP, *Jefferson*, a regular site: one on 3 September (Ron Kittinger); two on 19 September (Greg Jackson, Stan Hamilton, Scot Duncan *et al.*); and one-three 9 and 11 October (Scot Duncan) and 14 October (Greg Jackson). A single was in Avondale, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 16 September (Scot Duncan). A late male was in Mobile, *Mobile*, 27-28 November (J. Ashbee; ph.).

**EASTERN TOWHEE** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 43 on 26 September (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley).

**CHIPPING SPARROW** – Elizabeth Simison counted 30 at Wilmer, *Mobile*, 28 November (maximum fall number for the Gulf Coast).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Three were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare but regular in fall in the WP). Bob Duncan had a single on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 October (rare but regular in fall on the outer coast). Jim Holmes reported one from near West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 29 October (occasional inland).

**FIELD SPARROW** – Eric Cormier reported good numbers from northeast of Gold Ridge, *Cullman*: 92 on 23 November (ties fall maximum for Alabama) and 70 on 28 November.

**LARK SPARROW** – Rare in the Mountain Region, a single was at Danway, *Chambers*, 15 August (Rodney McCollum; ph.). A late bird was at the Solon Dixon Forestry Center, *Covington*, 30 October (Yves Scholten) (unusual site).

**SONG SPARROW** – Chris Goulart found 10 at Grand Bay NWR, *Mobile*, 29 November (fall maximum for the Gulf Coast).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Singles were in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 12-14 October (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and at Veteran's Memorial Park, *Okaloosa*, 18 October (Malcolm Swan) (rare in fall in the WP). Charles Boley saw four at the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 26 September (ties maximum for the Tennessee Valley). Rare but regular in fall in the Mountain Region, reports came from three sites: one-two at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 10 and 25 October (Scot Duncan); a single at Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 24 October (Scot Duncan); and one at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 November (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** – A report of 15 from the Oakmulgee Unit of Talladega NF, *Tuscaloosa* (Chris Agee) marked a fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**SUMMER TANAGER** – A very late bird was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 26 November (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). A late single was at the Wehle NP southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 4 November (John Trent).

**WESTERN TANAGER** – Very rare in fall in the WP, a single was at Fort Pickens,

*Escambia*, 10-11 October (Brenda Callaway, Daniel Stangeland). Occasional inland in Alabama, records of singles from two sites were received: Red Level, *Covington*, 9 September (Thomas Savage) (second record for the Inland Coastal Plain), and Hoover, *Jefferson*, 29 November – 20 December (Eric Carter; ph.). (fifth record for the Mountain Region)

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – Elizabeth Simison reported a late bird from Wilmer, *Mobile*, 28 November.

**BLUE GROSBEAK** – Fourteen seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 13 September (Ron Kittinger) ties the fall maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain. Sue Moske found a single at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 24 October (late record for the Tennessee Valley). A single at Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 7 November (Scot Duncan, Birmingham Audubon Society) marked a late record for inland Alabama.

**INDIGO BUNTING** – The Wheeler NWR fall count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 390 on 26 September (maximum fall number for north Alabama).

**PAINTED BUNTING** – Jim Holmes reported a male from Mahrt, *Russell*, 29 August (rare and local in summer on the Inland Coastal Plain; not a known site).

**DICKCISSEL** – A late bird was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 11 November (Bob Kornegay; ph.).

**BOBOLINK** – Uncommon in fall in Alabama, 30 were tallied during the Wheeler NWR fall count, *Madison*, 26 September (Dwight Cooley *et al.*) (maximum fall number for north Alabama), and a single was at Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 24 October (Scot Duncan) (late record for north Alabama).

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK** – Charles Boley counted 70 on 1 August and 24 October at the Alabama A&M Farm, Hazel Green, *Madison* (maximum fall number for the Tennessee Valley).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Casual in the WP, singles were at Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 27 August (Malcolm Swan), and Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 12 September (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*). Rare but now regular in fall on the Gulf Coast, records came from three sites: one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 13 October (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*; ph.); another single south of Bellaton, *Baldwin*, 29 October (Karen Chiasson); and two south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 27 November (Jim Holmes, James Holmes).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** – An early arrival was at Trussville, *Jefferson*, 25 October (Scot Duncan). At East Lake in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, Scot Duncan found 12 on 22 November (ties maximum fall number for the Mountain Region).

**COMMON GRACKLE** – Larry Gardella reported 9,040 from east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 November (maximum fall number for Alabama). At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, Dwight Cooley reported 1,500 on 17 November and Charles Boley reported 2,000 from a nearby but different site on 27 November, the latter number a fall maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** – Ted Floyd reported 5,000 from along the Bon Secour River, *Baldwin*, 6 November (maximum fall number for the Gulf Coast).

**ORCHARD ORIOLE** – Four was a good number so late in the season south of Cottonton, *Russell*, 29 August (Jim Holmes). An adult male at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 13 September (Chuck Graham) marked a late record for inland Alabama.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – At Ruffner Mountain NP, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, a single on 16 August marked an early record for the Mountain Region (other than at rare breeding sites); five were at the same location on 5 September (both records Scot Duncan). A late single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 November (Jim Holmes), and two late birds were at Homewood, *Jefferson*, 26 November (Dave Marvin).

**PINE SISKIN** – Scot Duncan found two early birds in Zion City, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 24 October.

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** – Four were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 14 August (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (early record for the Gulf Coast). On Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 were counted on 14 November to establish a fall maximum for the Gulf Coast (Clay Wilton, Kristopher Harmon, Tyler Petroelje).

**SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** – This exotic (not yet officially established) continues to expand its range on the Gulf Coast of Alabama. One was in west Mobile, *Mobile*, 11 September (not a regular site) (Ryan Crump). One-two were found at Barnwell, *Baldwin*, 15 September – 3 October (Kathy Hicks *et al.*; ph.) (not a regular site).

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## WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016)

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

This report covers the period from December 2015 through February 2016 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*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; “BAS” = Birmingham Audubon Society; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FWFTA” = Forever Wild Field Trial Area; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NP” = Nature Preserve; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).



Regions of Alabama and Florida Panhandle for Bird Distribution Data

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Twelve were at Whiting Field, *Santa Rosa*, 19 January (Kim Kelly), and three were at Walnut Hill, *Santa Rosa*, 20 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (rare in the WP). Rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast, a single was noted north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 5-12 January (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo), and four were there 4 February (Ron

Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**ROSS'S GOOSE** – Rare but expected in the Tennessee Valley, reports came from three sites: a single was at Civitan Park in Guntersville, *Marshall*, 7+ January (Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.) (not a regular site); two were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25-27 January (Greg Jackson *et al.*) (irregular in this area); and near Leighton, *Colbert*, a single was noted 29 January (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) and three were seen 31 January – 1 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (irregular in this area). Sightings of singles from three sites on the Inland Coastal Plain (where rare) were received: western Black Belt, *Perry/Marengo/Hale*, 9 February (Tommy Pratt, Rod Douglas; ph.); Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 February (Larry Gardella); and southeast of Cedarville, *Hale*, 13 December (Don Self, Judy Self). Rare on the Gulf Coast, a single was spotted on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 14 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).



Ross's Goose, 7 January 2016, Marshall Co., AL; G. Jackson.

**CACKLING GOOSE** – Two were observed at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 31 January (Patty McLean, Michael Linz, James White *et al.*) and 4 February (Larry Gardella, Sue Moske) (rare).



Cackling Goose, 31 January 2016, Marshall Co., AL; P. McLean.

**TUNDRA SWAN** – A single found during the 2 January Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery/Elmore/Autauga* (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.) continued until 1 February (rare).



Tundra Swan, 1 February 2016, Montgomery Co., AL; J. White.

**REDHEAD** – East of Allenville, *Marengo*, Don Self and Judy Self counted 126 on 14 February and 140 on 27 February, the latter number a winter maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**GREATER SCAUP** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports of good numbers came from two sites: east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, Larry Gardella found eight on 9 January and 15 on 20 January, the latter number a winter maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain; at Eufaula NWR, 14 were counted on 23 January (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger). Rare in the Mountain Region, Ron Kittinger reported five from southeast of Birmingham, *Shelby*, 11 January, and four at Cropwell, *St. Clair*, 17 February.

**SURF SCOTER** – Rare inland, a single male was on the Tennessee River near Section, *Jackson*, 2 January (Amber Hart).

**RUDDY DUCK** – A count of 382 north of Faunsdale, *Hale*, 7 February (Don Self, Judy Self) eclipsed the previous maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain, but that number was in turn bested by the 410 counted at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 21 February

(Geoff Hill).

**RED-THROATED LOON** – Rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, three records were received: one adult on 19 December (Greg Jackson; ph.); a juvenile on 20 December (Sue Moske; ph.); and three on 7 January (Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.).

**PACIFIC LOON** – At Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, a disabled bird was found 28 December and taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, and another single was at the same site 11 February (Alex Harper) (rare but fairly regular in the WP). A single was found at Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, during the Gulf Shores CBC, 2 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found at Joe Wheeler SP, *Lawrence*, 7-20 February (Mark McShane, m. ob.; ph.), and at Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 20 February (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.).



Pacific Loon, 20 February 2016, Lawrence Co., AL; D. Simbeck.

**HORNED GREBE** – Sixteen at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 6 February (Meegan Dale, BAS) marked a maximum winter number for the Mountain Region.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – Rare in Alabama, singles were found at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 29 January (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger), and Guntersville, *Marshall*, 16 December – 10 January (Sue Moske, m.ob.; ph.).



Red-necked Grebe, 7 January 2016, Marshall Co., AL; G. Jackson.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** – Two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27-28 December (Scot Duncan, William Duncan) (12<sup>th</sup> record for the WP and the first for December).

**GREAT SHEARWATER** – Six were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 December (Scot Duncan, William Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Caralyn Zehnder) (very rare in winter in the WP). Rare in Alabama, a single was found on Mississippi Sound, *Mobile*, during the Dauphin Island CBC, 19 December (Howard Horne, Ralph Havard).

**MANX SHEARWATER** – The fourth record for the WP was marked by one seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22 December (Bob Duncan).

**SHEARWATER SP.** – Forty unidentified birds were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 December (Scot Duncan, William Duncan) (high number for winter).

**WOOD STORK** – Seven were in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 2 December (James Pfeiffer) (very rare in the WP).

**ANHINGA** – Up to seven were noted west of Mobile, *Mobile*, 2 January – 8 February (Brian Naylor, Charlotte Naylor) (ties maximum winter number for the Gulf Coast).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Uncommon in the Mountain Region, 178 at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 6 February (Meegan Dale, BAS) was a good number. John Trent reported 385 from Eufaula, *Barbour*, 22 February (maximum winter number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BROWN PELICAN** – An immature bird at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 30 January (Pixie Lanham, Gary Lanham *et al.*) marked the 12<sup>th</sup> record for north Alabama.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** – Rare in winter in north Alabama, a single was found at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Limestone*, 17 January (Sue Moske).

**REDDISH EGRET** – A white morph adult, rare especially in winter, was seen on the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, 21 January (Jon Motquin *et al.*).

**GREEN HERON** – Pelham Rowan found a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 16 January (fifth winter record for the Tennessee Valley).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – One-four birds were seen on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, on four dates from 2 December – 21 February (Clyde Littiken, Angela Jordan, m.ob.), with the four seen on 31 January tying the maximum number for the Gulf Coast and the maximum winter number for Alabama.

**BLACK VULTURE** – The Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, tallied 288 on 19 December to mark a maximum number for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**OSPREY** – The eight birds counted by Geoff Hill at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, marked a maximum winter number for the Inland Coastal Plain and tied the maximum number for inland Alabama.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – The earliest arrival record for Alabama was marked by one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 February (Bill Allen, Roberta Allen).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** – Two were at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 4 December – 2 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown, Alan Knothe, Malcolm Swan, m.ob.), and a single was at Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 23 February (Bill Stanley) (casual in winter in the WP).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, three records were received. Five (good number) were reported from Talladega NF, *Cleburne/Calhoun*, during the winter season (*vide* Eric Soehren, Greg Harber). An injured bird was found ~10 January in Orrville, *Dallas*, and taken to rehabilitation at Auburn University (*vide* Tommy Pratt). An immature visited Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 26-27 December – 2 January (Ken Ward, Ruffina Ward *et al.*; ph.).

**YELLOW RAIL** – One was east of Laurendine, *Mobile*, 3 February (Eric Soehren, John Trent *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare but regular in this area).

**SORA** – Rodney McCollum found seven at Opelika, *Lee*, 6 January (ties maximum winter number for the Mountain Region).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – Two were at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 January (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (rare in the WP). The following six Alabama records came from sites where the species is locally rare: six were at Auburn, *Lee*, 1 January (Geoff Hill); 14 were noted at Geneva, *Geneva*, 13 January (Jimmy Stephenson); one was east of Laurendine,



Yellow Rail, 3 February 2016, Mobile Co., AL; E. Soehren.

*Mobile*, 16 January (Patsy Russo, Howard Horne, Andrew Haffenden, Ben Garmon); 50 were at Wehle NP southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 3 December (Nelson Edwards); a single was at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 15 December (Jerry Green; ph.); and one was found during the Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, 19 December.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – Rare but regular in winter in inland Alabama, reports from multiple sites were received (all of singles except for the noted exception): FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 3 January (Don Self, Judy Self); Lakepoint SP, *Barbour*, 22 January (Ken Ward, Alabama Ornithological Society); two in the western Black Belt, *Perry/Marengo/Hale*, 9 February (Tommy Pratt, Rod Douglas); east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 December – 7 February (Larry Gardella; ph.); Ogletree Lake, *Lee*, 19 December (Auburn CBC); Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 19 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham); and Guntersville, *Marshall*, 19-20 December (Greg Jackson *et al.*).

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – A single at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 11 February (Eric Soehren, John Trent; ph.) was the earliest (by five days) of three inland winter records (early migrant vs. wintering?).

**WHIMBREL** – A single was in the Dauphin Island area, *Mobile*, to 27 December (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 2 January (Malcolm Swan; ph.) (first January record for the WP).

**STILT SANDPIPER** – Three were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 December (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (rare and erratic in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**SANDERLING** – A tally of 624 on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 19 December established a maximum count for Alabama.

**DUNLIN** – Three were found in the western Black Belt, *Perry/Marengo/Hale*, 9 February (Tommy Pratt, Rod Douglas) (locally rare).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Howard Horne found a single during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 19 December (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast, especially the outer coast).

**DOWITCHER SP.** – Rare inland in winter, four birds, probably Long-billed Dowitchers, were at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 21 January (Dwight Cooley, Scot Duncan *et al.*), and one probable Long-billed was northwest of Hartford, *Geneva*, 22 February (Randy White).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – Two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27-28 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, Will Duncan, Caralyn Zehnder) (first December record for the WP).

**JAEGER SP.** – A single was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 26 January (Scot Duncan *et al.*) (rare onshore).



Solitary Sandpiper, 11 February 2016, Hale Co., AL; J.A. Trent.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** – A first-cycle bird was seen along the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Rob Dobbs) (occasional in Alabama- 21<sup>st</sup> record).

**LITTLE GULL** – One adult and one immature were reported from Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, and Joe Wheeler SP, *Colbert/Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 13 December – 7 February (Scot Duncan, Charles Grisham, m.ob.; ph.) (11<sup>th</sup> Alabama record, first occurrence of more than one individual; @ABRC).

**LAUGHING GULL** – Amber Hart reported a single from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 1 and 21 December (rare but expected at this location).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** – Rare in the WP, singles were at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 8 December (Malcolm Swan), and at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 14 December (Bruce Purdy). Rare in winter in Alabama, reports came from three sites: Sue Moske found a first-cycle bird at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 December; an adult and an immature were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 11-14 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*); and a single was at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 15 December (Jerry Green) and 2 January (Steve McConnell).



Franklin's Gull, 15 December 2015, Lawrence Co., AL; J. D. Green.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Rare but becoming regular in the WP, singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 8 February (David Muth). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, a single was at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (unusual site), 21 January (Scot Duncan *et al.*), and three birds were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale* (expected site), 11 December (Damien Simbeck). Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, one was found on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (unusual site), during the Dauphin Island CBC, 19 December (Howard Horne, Ralph Havard).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 27-29 January (Merilu Rose, Bob Duncan *et al.*) marked the 25<sup>th</sup> record for the WP.

**SOOTY TERN** – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 December (Scot Duncan, Will Duncan, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Caralyn Zehnder) (first winter record for the WP).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – A single was south of Webb, *Houston* (not a usual site), 19 January (Bob Kornegay) (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BARN OWL** – Rare in the WP, records of singles came from three sites: Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, 1-15 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); Veteran's Memorial Park, *Okaloosa*, 7 January (Marquett Hammack); and Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 24 January (Andrew Holzinger).

**BURROWING OWL** – One was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 1 December – 25 January (Joe Prendergast, Lucy Duncan, Caralyn Zehnder) (very rare in the WP).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** – Greg Harber found a single in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 7 December (rare this late, though formerly more regular in occurrence in December).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – Three was a good number at a single site

during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Eva Barnett, Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare in winter).

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – A single was at the residence of Glenda Bowman in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4 January (b. Fred Bassett) (over 14 records for the WP).

**ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – A single was at the residence of Jim Brady in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 January (b. Fred Bassett) (sixth record for the WP).

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – One was southeast of Foley, *Baldwin*, 11+ December (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.) (rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**MERLIN** – Jim Holmes reported one from south of Heflin, *Randolph*, 28 February (rare in winter in the Mountain Region).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Three were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 3 December – 26 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.). Singles occurred at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 6 December – 28 February (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway), and at Walnut Hill, *Escambia*, 20 January – 2 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (rare in the WP).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** – A single was at Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 8 January (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) (rare but regular in winter in the WP).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – This species is rare but regular in winter on the Gulf Coast. On Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, three were noted 17 December (Patsy Russo, Ben Garmon), six (good number) were tallied on the Dauphin Island CBC, 19 December, and a single was there 13 February. One was found during the Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, 19 December (Tommy Lishman, David Arnold; ph.) (rare inland, second winter record for inland Alabama).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Three were at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 4 December – 26 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Susan Cerulean, m.ob.) (rare but regular in winter in the WP). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, hosted a probable immature on 12 December (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger), and an adult male on 17 December (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, reports of singles came from five sites: *Chambers*, 7 January (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson); Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 January (Bob Kornegay); Chattahoochee SP, *Houston*, 6 February (Bob Kornegay); Shorter, *Macon*, 29 February (Eric Soehren); and Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 12 December (Larry Gardella). At Jacinto Port, Saraland, *Mobile*, Michael Jordan counted 12 on 20 February and 11 on 27 February, good winter numbers for the Gulf Coast, whether wintering and/or early migrants.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Visits to Talladega NF, Cahulga Creek, and the Tallapoosa River in *Cleburne/Randolph* by Jim Holmes on 28 February produced a total of four (uncommon in the Mountain Region, ties winter maximum for the region). Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were found during the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale*, 19 December (Damien Simbeck *et al.*), and two were also found during

the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 19 December (Milton Harris, Ken Ward *et al.*).

**FISH CROW** – At Guntersville, *Marshall*, 15 (maximum winter number for the Tennessee Valley) were counted 21 December (Amber Hart) and 12 were there 11 February (Greg Jackson).

**HORNED LARK** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, three sightings were made: two were at Ashford, *Houston*, 29 February (Jim Holmes); 15 were found south of Lochapoka, *Lee*, during the Auburn CBC, 19 December; and eight were spotted on the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 22 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent).

**TREE SWALLOW** – Jeff Garner reported a single from Opelika, *Lee*, 29 January (first January record for northern Alabama). Early birds were at Saginaw, *Shelby*: three on 19 February and four on 26 February (Liz Masoner; ph.).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – One was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 5 February (Bob Duncan) (first February record for the WP). Ten were at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 6 February (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (occasional on the Gulf Coast in mid-late winter, possibly very early migrants).

**BARN SWALLOW** – Occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast, reports came from three sites: a single on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser); three south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 February (Ron Kittinger); and three on 6 February (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) and two on 9 February (Sue Moske) at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*. One was noted at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 17-22 January (Steve Patterson, m.ob.) (occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley). Two were spotted on the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 22 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent; ph.) (third winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – Five was a good number in the Eufaula area, *Barbour*, 22 January (Ken Ward *et al.*) (rare this far south). At Gilmore Quarters, *Hale*, six was a good number on 13 February (Don Self, Judy Self) (rare this far south).

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH** – Nine were tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 19 December (maximum number for northwest Alabama).

**HOUSE WREN** – Jim Holmes found three (good number) in Talladega NF and vicinity, *Cleburne*, 28 February (rare but regular in winter in the Mountain Region). Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, reports came from three sites: two were in Huntsville, *Madison*, 17 December – 26 February (Charles Boley); two were found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, 19 December; and two were at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 December (Guntersville CBC) while a single was found there 11 January (Amber Hart).

**SEDGE WREN** – Uncommon-rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Scot Duncan found a single on 2 January and three on 3 January (good number) in Zion, Birmingham, *Jefferson*. At Saginaw, *Shelby*, three (good number) were seen on 11 January (Scot Duncan *et al.*) and a single was there on 24 January (Ken Ward).

**MARSH WREN** – One was at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 11 January (Scot Duncan *et al.*) (rare in winter in the Mountain Region). Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley,

three (good number) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 19 December (Milton Harris, Chuck Graham).

**BEWICK'S WREN** – Now occasional in Alabama, Jeff Garner reported one from southeast of Russellville, *Franklin*, 17 January.

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was found at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 18 December and 3 January (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger *et al.*). A single was in Meadowbrook, *Shelby*, 18 December (Shay Handley) (rare in winter in the Mountain Region).

**GRAY CATBIRD** – Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, singles were found on two CBC's: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 19 December (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske), and Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – A single was at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 24 January (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (only four winter records for the WP).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain, an adult male was at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 22 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent; ph.), and a male was found at a different site on Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 23 January (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – One at Blakeley SP, *Baldwin*, 22 February (Michelle Steber) marked the second winter record for Alabama and was probably an early migrant.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, seven was a good number on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, 19 December.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** – A single was reported on the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 22 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent; ph.) (occasional in winter in Alabama, first winter record for inland Alabama).

**NORTHERN PARULA** – Linda Bogiages spotted one in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 19 February (earliest ever arrival for the WP by one day).

**PALM WARBLER** – Uncommon in winter in the Mountain Region, six was a good number at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 10 January (Scot Duncan). At Saginaw, *Shelby*, possible early migrants were reported on 21 February (five birds - good number for this date; Ron Kittinger) and 22 February (two birds; Jamie Nobles). Uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, 21 were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, 19 December (maximum number for winter in the Tennessee Valley). Twelve (good number) were found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December (Ken Ward, Milton Harris *et al.*).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – Rick Ingram found one at Enterprise, *Dale*, 15 January (sixth winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – Singles in Wright, *Okaloosa*, 14 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown) and Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 29 February (Bob Duncan) marked the fifth and sixth winter records for the WP, respectively.

- WILSON'S WARBLER** – An adult male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 6 December – 29 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and one was at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 19 December (Bill Bremser, Daniel Stangeland) (very rare winter visitor in the WP).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Jim Holmes reported one from north of Webb, *Houston*, 29 February (occasional inland, fourth winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- LARK SPARROW** – A single was seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 December – 26 February (Bob Duncan, William Duncan, Caralyn Zehnder, Daniel Stangeland, m.ob.), and another single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 21 February (Shelby McNamar) (rare in the WP). Ten+ were east of Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 11 December (Karen Chiasson) (maximum number for the Gulf Coast, maximum winter number for Alabama).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Singles were noted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 3 January (Geoff Hill) and 12 January (Bob Kornegay), and another single was at the Wehle Nature Preserve southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 11 January (Eric Soehren) (rare but regular in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain). Rare but regular in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was found during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 19 December (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).
- DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO** – One visited a feeder in Underwood, *Lauderdale*, 21 January – 26 February (Paul Kittle; ph.). This morph is occasional in Alabama, and this sighting is one of the few well-documented records for the state and the first since 1989.
- SUMMER TANAGER** – A female was noted in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 December – 1 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan); one was in western Pensacola, *Escambia*, 15 December – 1 January (Steve Coster, Cindy Coster); still another single was at the OCWSTF, 19 December (Bruce Purdy); and two were in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 5 February (Joyce Cobb) and 10 February (Alex Harper) (rare winter visitor in the WP). Keith Fraser found one near Cherokee, *Colbert*, during the 19 December Waterloo CBC (occasional inland in winter; fourth winter record for the Tennessee Valley). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, four reports (all of singles) were received: Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 28 December (Janice Neitzel; ph.); Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.); and Mobile, *Mobile*, 3-16 January (Jimmy Stephenson) and 29 January (Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald).
- WESTERN TANAGER** – A single was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 9 January – 13 February (Kathryn Manley, m.ob.; ph.) (occasional in winter in Alabama; 11<sup>th</sup> inland record for the state; third winter record for inland Alabama).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** – A male and a female were found at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 23-31 December (Linda Bogiages, Paul Blakeburn); a female was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 24 December (Dana Timmons); and one was in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 29 December (Glenda Bowman) (rare in winter in the WP). One-two were at a feeder in Daphne, *Baldwin*, 19 December – 1 January (Cathie Marx; ph.) (occasional in winter on the Gulf Coast).
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** – A male was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 12 January – 29

February (Eva Barnett *et al.*; ph.) (rare and irregular on the Gulf Coast).

**INDIGO BUNTING** – Jim Brady reported a single from Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 February (very rare in winter in the WP). A male was at Thomasville, *Clarke*, 24-28 February (Lisa Downey; ph.) (occasional in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain; perhaps a very early migrant?).



Black-headed Grosbeak, 13 January 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

**PAINTED BUNTING** – A female was seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 11 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Susan Cerulean) (very rare winter visitor to the WP).

**DICKCISSEL** – Michael Jordan observed a single at a feeder in Foley, *Baldwin*, 25 January (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – Occasional in winter in Alabama, a single heard singing several times was found at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 25 January (Greg Jackson; ph.).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – Sue Moske reported an immature male from south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 2 December and 12 January (occasional in winter in Alabama).

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** – An estimate of 25,000 on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 9 December (Rob Dobbs) established a maximum count for the Gulf Coast.

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – An immature male was at Ashford, *Houston*, 20-29 February (Renea Todd; ph.; @ABRC) (13<sup>th</sup> record for Alabama, seventh for inland Alabama).



Bullock's Oriole, 20 February 2016, Houston Co., AL; R. Todd.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, numerous reports were received. Several wintered at Ashford, *Houston* (Renea Todd *et al.*), with 10 observed on 29 February (maximum winter number for Alabama). A single was at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 13 December (Don Self, Judy Self). Two were counted during the Auburn CBC, *Lee*, 19 December (Janet Rogers). A single was found during the Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 22 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent). Larry Gardella sighted an adult male at Powder Magazine Park, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 24 December. A single was found during the Montgomery CBC, *Elmore*, 2 January (Eric Soehren, Ashley Peters, John Trent). Three female-types were counted during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Cecil Brown, Pamela Brown, Andrew Haffenden). At Foley, *Baldwin*, a male was observed 3-31 January (Michael Jordan *et al.*). One adult male and one female-type were seen at Gantt Lake, *Covington*, 8 January – 22 February (Lucie Wilder). Harriet Wright reported one female-type from south of Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 30 January – 7 April (ph.). A female-type was spotted at Rogersville, *Lauderdale*, 19 February (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.) (fifth winter record for the Tennessee Valley).

**SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** – Twelve were in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 29 February (Daniel Stangeland), and 20 were in west Pensacola, *Escambia* 29 February (Sue Yates).

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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.

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