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Layout by Tom Haggerty

**COVER:** Roseate Spoonbill, 27 July 2016, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

## Evidence of Breeding Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) at White Hall, Lowndes County, Alabama

Lawrence F. Gardella

Tree Swallows are considered rare in Alabama during the summer (Soehren, et al. 2017) and their generally accepted breeding range extends little beyond the northern end of the state (Winkler et al. 2011). For example, breeding bird atlas work conducted in Alabama between 2000 and 2006 found fewer than 3% (16 of 585) of the standardized priority blocks with confirmed breeding evidence (Haggerty 2009; Fig.1). Further, of the 16 atlas blocks with confirmed breeding evidence, only 1 (6%) came from the Southeastern Plains Ecoregion (Haggerty 2009; Fig. 1). Therefore, confirmed breeding records, especially in southern Alabama, are noteworthy and can help document the southern boundary of the species range (e.g., see Winkler et al. 2011). In 2007, 2008, and 2009, breeding evidence of Tree Swallows was observed from White Hall, Lowndes County, AL (32°18'50"N 86°42'50"W; Fig. 1). The details of those observations are presented below.

On 23 June 2007, an apparent immature Tree Swallow and an adult male were perched on a wire over an open-water portion of a swamp in White Hall. The two birds were observed interacting with each other for several minutes, and were later joined by an apparent adult female Tree Swallow. All three were seen perched close together. The immature appeared to be independent, but stayed near the two adults. From these observations, breeding was suspected in White Hall or a location nearby.

On 24 May 2008, I returned to White Hall and saw a Tree Swallow enter an apparent nest cavity in a snag at the same swamp as the 2007 observations. On 14 June, I visited the site and saw a male and female Tree Swallow flying and perching together, and entering the same nest cavity. On 21 June, I saw only the female Tree Swallow for about a minute and the nesting snag had fallen.

On 3 May 2009, I again discovered a Tree Swallow pair at the White Hall nesting site and watched one fly into a hole in a four- or five-foot snag on the southernmost part of the swamp. On 25 May, I watched both the male and female go into a cavity of the snag, one entering right after the other. They appeared to be feeding young, but I never saw food in their bills. On 31 May, both adults were again seen entering the nest hole, and on 6 June, the female flew out of the nest with a fecal sac. On 13 June, I saw either the female or an immature go into the nest cavity briefly. On 20 June, my last sighting in the nesting area was of an adult female and a juvenile.

There have been sporadic reports of Tree Swallow nesting south of their usual range (e.g. northeastern Louisiana, Burleigh and Miles 1942; and southeastern

New Mexico, Hundertmark 1974). Indeed, the Tree Swallow breeding range has expanded to the south over recent decades. The range map in the 1980 edition of the Peterson Field Guide (Peterson 1980) shows the Tree Swallow breeding range with a southern limit of south-central Missouri, over two degrees latitude north of Alabama. However, the species has become a regular breeding bird in Alabama (Winkler et al. 2011; Fig. 1) and the nesting observations from White Hall provide the southernmost confirmed breeding records for the state. Observation of Tree Swallow nesting at White Hall during three consecutive years suggests a permanent nesting site at that southerly locale. Tree Swallows readily utilize the boxes associated bluebird nest box trails, which should support continuation of its southern range extension in Alabama (Winkler et al. 2011).

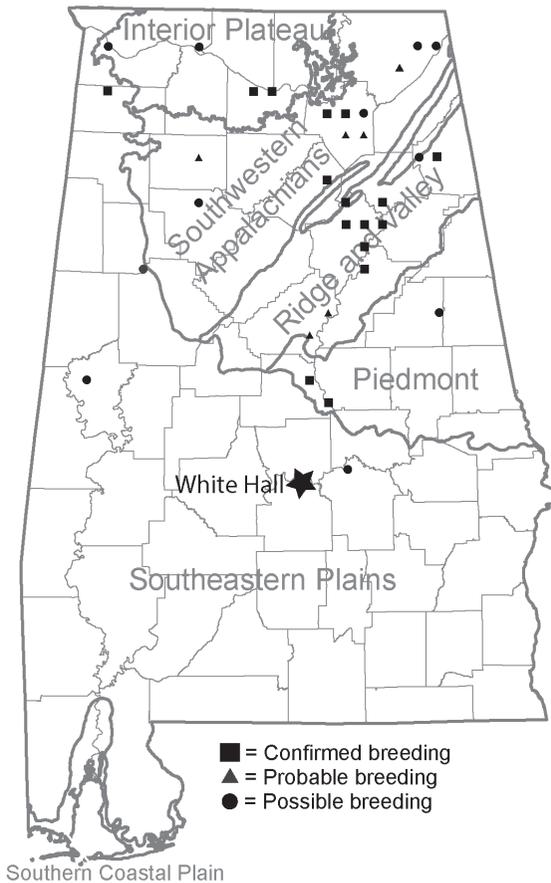


Figure 1. Standardized priority blocks from the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas, 2000-2006, that indicated evidence of breeding for Tree Swallows. The star symbol on map marks the approximate location of a Tree Swallow nesting area in White Hall, Lowndes County, 2007-2009.

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**SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2016)**

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

This report covers the period from March through May 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; “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; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK** – This species is increasing in frequency in the WP, as witnessed by the 62 seen at five locations 16 March – 17 May in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* (m.ob.). Uncommon and increasing on the Gulf Coast, reports came from three sites: 22 were at Foley and 14 were at the Gulf Shores sewage lagoons (regular site), *Baldwin*, 8 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Cecil Brown); and two were on the Mobile Causeway, *Baldwin*, 22 May (Kathy Hicks). Two birds were in the

McCalla area, *Jefferson*, 30 April (David George, Sharon Hudgins; ph.) (occasional in north Alabama, second record for the Mountain Region). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, but becoming regular at Hacoma, *Geneva*, two were present 21 May and three were there 27 May (Odis Johnson; ph.).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Locally rare but regular, three adults were seen east of Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 5 March (Greg Jackson).

**ROSS'S GOOSE** – Locally rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, two were found east of Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 5 March (Greg Jackson).

**CAACKLING GOOSE** – Two found 30 April continued into June (not present in July) in the McCalla area, *Jefferson* (Sharon Hudgins, David George; ph.).

**WOOD DUCK** – Rodney McCollum counted 101 at Opelika, *Lee*, 8 May to establish a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** – Large numbers occurred in the Muscle Shoals area, *Colbert*, 4-14 March (Greg Jackson *et al.*) with most at Gnat Pond. The 756 counted on 5 March (Greg Jackson) marked a maximum spring high for Alabama.

**SURF SCOTER** – An immature male was at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, 3 April (Michael Weaver, Ellen Miller) (rare inland).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – The 16 found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 May (Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, William Duncan) were late and a good number for the WP.

**BLACK SCOTER** – Singles were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 March (David Muth), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 13 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare and late for the WP).

**RUDDY DUCK** – At Walter F. George Dam, *Henry*, Walt Chambers reported 1500+ on 2 March to establish a spring maximum for Alabama and a maximum number for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**PACIFIC LOON** – Singles were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 16-21 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan), as well as at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 14-17 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare but regular in the WP).

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** – At Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, four were present 10 March and a single was there 11 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> records for the WP).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – A single was 110 km south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Eddie Hicks; ph.) (rare).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – One-three were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 12 March – 1 April (Michael Jordan, Christopher Lipps *et al.*) (early arrival record for Alabama).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** – Damien Simbeck estimated 3,000 at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 17 March (maximum spring count for Alabama).

**ANHINGA** – Five soaring birds was a good number at Auburn, *Lee*, 1 March (Alan Troyer). At Saginaw, *Shelby*, six were noted on 17 March and eight (maximum spring number for Alabama) on 22 May (Ron Kittinger, m.ob.).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – John Trent reported 560 in flight at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 13 April (maximum number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**GREAT BLUE HERON** – Ben Garmon counted 56 in *Hale*, 7 April (maximum spring number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**TRICOLORED HERON** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was reported from along Pea Road east of Brundige, *Pike*, 13 May (Carrie Threadgill; ph.).

**EGRETTA SP.** – An unusual bird, probably a hybrid between Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron, was found near Leighton, *Colbert*, 2 April (Damien Simbeck).

**GREEN HERON** – A single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 March (Andrew Haffenden) and marked an early arrival record for the Gulf Coast (presumed migrant, probably not a wintering bird). An early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley was set by a single south of Hartselle, *Morgan*, 27 March (Brian Johnston; ph.).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – Two adults at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 13 March (Charles Boley) marked an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley.

**GLOSSY IBIS** – At Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, a single was present 25 March (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger), and 10 were there 23 April (Geoff Hill *et al.*) (maximum number for inland Alabama).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** – An adult was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 27 May (Jason Collins; ph.) (seventh record for inland Alabama, fourth for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**OSPREY** – A single at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 7 March provided an early arrival record for the Mountain Region (Ron Kittinger). The Wheeler NWR spring count, held on 30 April in *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, reported eight (ties maximum count for the Tennessee Valley).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – Thirty-three in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa*, 10 March (m.ob.) was a good number for the WP. Occasional in the Mountain Region, a single at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 14 May (Jordan Broadhead) marked the sixth spring record for the region.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** – At Tillman’s Corner, *Mobile*, 175 were reported 23 April (Patsy Russo, Sandra Akhtar; ph.) to establish a maximum count for the Gulf Coast and a maximum spring number for Alabama. Uncommon but increasing in the Mountain Region, sightings of singles came from three sites where the species has not been reported: Meadowbrook south of Birmingham, *Shelby*, 25 April (Ron Kittinger); northeast of Tallassee, *Tallapoosa*, 30 April (Eric Soehren); and Ebenezer Swamp, Montevallo, *Shelby*, 4-22 May (Ron Kittinger). Rare and local in the Tennessee Valley, singles were noted at Marbut Bend, Salem, *Limestone* (not a known site), 27 April (Damien Simbeck), and at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone* (not a regular site), 14 May (Charles Boley).

**BALD EAGLE** – Damien Simbeck found seven along the Elk River, *Limestone/Lauderdale*, 9 April (maximum spring number for north Alabama).

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** – A single was south of Mobile, *Mobile*, 24 May (Ben



White-faced Ibis, 27 May 2016, Barbour Co., AL; J. Collins.

Garmon) (rare this late on the Gulf Coast).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** – Thirteen were at Huntsville, *Madison*, 3 April (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley) and seven were there 13 April (Charles Boley *et al.*).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – An adult was in Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 2 March (Bill Summerour; ph.) (rare but regular in this area).

**KING RAIL** – Stan Hamilton heard one in the Nectar quad, *Blount*, 16 May (rare in the Mountain Region).

**VIRGINIA RAIL** – Singles at Huntsville, *Madison*, 14 March (Sue Moske), and Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 18 March (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) were either very early migrants or rare Tennessee Valley wintering birds.

**SORA** – Singles along County Road 36 near the Tallapoosa River, *Cleburne*, 1 March (Sue Moske), and at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 March (Ken Wills) were probably rare Mountain Region wintering birds. Fourteen were found during the Birmingham area count, *Jefferson*, 30 April (David George, Sharon Hudgins), establishing a maximum count for the Mountain Region and for inland Alabama in spring.

**COMMON GALLINULE** – One was at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 30 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette) (rare in the Tennessee Valley but becoming regular at this site). Jim Holmes counted 48 at the Westvaco ponds, Cottonton, *Russell*, 30 April (maximum spring number for Alabama).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – A late departure record for the Mountain Region was marked by a single at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 7 April (Debra Lucas; ph.) (locally rare).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** – Damien Simbeck reported a single from near Leighton, *Colbert*, 12 May (rare inland).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – Ten were in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 May (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) (rare in the WP). Rare inland, Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, hosted 20 on 30 April (Jeff Garner, Tom Haggerty).

**SEMPALMATED PLOVER** – Randy White noted six at High Bluff, *Geneva*, 23 April (maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – An early arrival record for north Alabama was marked by a single at Opelika, *Lee*, 13 March (Rodney McCollum; ph.).

**WILLET** – Eight were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 30 April (Jeff Garner, Tom



Golden Eagle, 2 March 2016, Cleburne Co., AL; B. Summerour.



Sandhill Crane, 7 April 2016, Shelby Co., AL; D. Lucas.

Haggerty) (rare inland).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** – Two were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 May (Christopher Lipps; ph.) (ties late departure date for the Gulf Coast).

**WHIMBREL** – A single on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 16 March (Patsy Russo; ph.) marked an early arrival date for Alabama (unless a rare wintering bird).

**MARBLED GODWIT** – Thirteen was a good number seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 April (Don Martin).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** – A single was spotted north of Gosport, *Clarke*, 18 May (James White; ph.) (rare inland, second spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**RUFF** – One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 April (Michael Jordan, Eva Barnett, Karen Chiasson; ph.; @ABRC) (eighth record for Alabama, third for the Gulf Coast).

**STILT SANDPIPER** – An early arrival record for north Alabama was marked by a single at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 15-17 March (Sue Moske *et al.*).

**SANDERLING** – On Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, Andrew Haffenden counted 300 on 15 March (maximum spring number for Alabama) and 246 on 24 March.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – Rare in spring, although regular in northwest Alabama, reports came from three sites: a single east of Brides Hill, *Lawrence*, 24 April – 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Matt Crunk, Christina Crunk *et al.*); two west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck); and three near Leighton, *Colbert*, 12 May (Damien Simbeck). Larry Gardella found two at Sprague, *Montgomery*, 1 May (eighth spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER** – Malcolm Swan reported 2,500 from the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 9 May (high number for the WP). At the Westvaco ponds, Cottonton, *Russell*, Jim Holmes counted 18 on 30 April (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – Rare on the Gulf Coast, singles were found on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 20 April (Wayne Patterson; ph.), and at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 May (Michael Jordan). Occasional in spring in the Tennessee Valley, one was found during the 30 April Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone* (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy, Ken Marion).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** – One at the fish hatchery near Marion, *Perry*, 31 March (Michael Buntin, Jesse Holifield) established a late departure record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

**LAUGHING GULL** – Damien Simbeck found one at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 3 May (rare but regular at this site).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Three birds were on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14 April (Andrew Haffenden, Kimball Garrett; ph.) (rare but increasing; maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast).

**FORSTER'S TERN** – Six were at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 25 March (Ron Kittinger,



Ruff, 2 April 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Chiasson.

Rick Kittinger) (spring maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SANDWICH TERN** – A single on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 10+ March (Andrew Haffenden; ph.) marked an early arrival record for Alabama.

**INCA DOVE** – Two were at Spanish Cove, *Baldwin*, 9 April (Joan Campbell; @ABRC) (eighth record for Alabama). A single was found along Laurendine Road southeast of Theodore, *Mobile*, 30 April (Howard Horne; @ABRC) (ninth record for Alabama).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** – An early arrival record for Alabama was marked by a single at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 March (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*). Another early single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 21 March (Patsy Russo; ph.).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** – A single was reported from Madison, *Madison*, 8 May (Ken Ward, Milton Harris, Sue Moske) (rare inland).

**BARN OWL** – One was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 28 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in the WP).

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK** – One-two were at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 13-16 April (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Daniel Stangeland, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (over 12 records for the WP).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** – Sixty-one in Molino, *Escambia*, 7 May (John Yuhaz) was a good number for the WP.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** – A single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 14 May (Charles Boley) (late departure record for north Alabama).

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** – Rare in the WP, one was at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 29 May (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway), and two were found in Blackwater River State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, 30 May (John Yuhaz).

**MERLIN** – Four (maximum spring number for Alabama) were found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 April (Geoff Hill, Kimball Garrett).

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** – One at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 March (Michael Jordan) tied the early arrival date for Alabama. The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 13 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** – One was at Veteran's Memorial Park, *Okaloosa*, 26-28 April (Malcolm Swan, m.ob.) (fifth spring record for the WP). Rare in spring in Alabama, singles were found at Huntsville, *Madison*, 3 May (Charles Boley); Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 8 May (Michael Jordan); and Pelham, *Shelby*, 11 May (Rick Kittinger).

**EASTERN PHOEBE** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 24 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for



Vermillion Flycatcher, 28 March 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Chiasson.

the Tennessee Valley.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – Rare in the WP, reports of singles came from three locations: Walnut Hill, *Escambia*, 1 March (Bob Duncan, VerLucy Duncan); Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 2 March (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway); and International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 6 March (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway). A male was at Emelle, *Sumter*, 13 March (Jennifer Dial; ph.) (occasional inland; third spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain). Occasional in spring on the Gulf Coast, a female was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 28 March (Karen Chiasson; ph.), and a first spring male was found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 March (Mary Holycross, m.ob.).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 83 on 30 April to mark a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Singles were at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 2 May (Ron Kittinger; ph.) (sixth spring record for inland Alabama), and south of Wilsonville, *Shelby*, 12 May (Ken Wills *et al.*; ph.) (seventh spring record for inland Alabama).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – A male was at Elberta, *Baldwin*, 1 May (Jan Lloyd) (rare in spring on the Gulf Coast away from the outer coast).

**FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – An immature occurred at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7-8 May (Christopher Lipps *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC) (fifth record for Alabama).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** – One was in the Coleman Lake area of Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 8 March (Ron Kittinger) (early arrival record for inland Alabama). Another early single was at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 11 March (Ron Kittinger). Charles Boley reported one from Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 19 March (early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley).

**WARBLING VIREO** – One was at the University of West Florida, *Escambia*, 3 April (Jan Lloyd) (very rare in the WP). A single at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (Damien Simbeck) marked a return to a longtime site (rare breeder). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 4 May (Sue Moske). A single was at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 8 May (Ken Wills *et al.*) (rare). Rick Remy found one at Ruffner Mountain NP in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10 May (rare).

**BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO** – A single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 March (Michael Jordan, Eva Barnett, Janice Neitzel; ph.) (early).

**AMERICAN CROW** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 201 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**FISH CROW** – John Williams reported 70 at Pelham, *Shelby*, 28 March (maximum spring count for north Alabama).

**HORNED LARK** – One-two were seen north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 6 and 25 March (Randy White) (rare in recent decades on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**TREE SWALLOW** – An estimate of 950 north of Eufaula, *Barbour* (450 at Lakepoint SP and 400 at Eufaula NWR), 3 April (Geoff Hill; ph.) established a new maximum for the Inland Coastal Plain. Three birds (with a pair nesting in an old Cliff Swallow nest) at Bayview Lake, *Jefferson*, 21 April (Ken Wills) were at a new site (local but

increasing breeder).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – Andrew Haffenden counted 25 at the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 March (maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast). The Birmingham area count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, tallied 348 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region

**CLIFF SWALLOW** – Leif Milliron reported 105 (good number) from Clanton, *Chilton*, 20 April and 150 (maximum spring number for the Inland Coastal Plain) from Lake Mitchell Dam, *Chilton*, 22 April.

**CAVE SWALLOW** – Two were at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 26 March (Malcom Swan) (rare migrant in the WP). At Phenix City, *Russell*, a single was observed 3 April (Geoff Hill) and 30 April (Jim Holmes), nesting in Georgia but observed flying into Alabama. This record is the fifth for inland Alabama, the third for the Inland Coastal Plain, and the first for inland Alabama in spring.

**BARN SWALLOW** – An early arrival was in *Bullock* 7 March (Jeff Garner).

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – One was at the Wehle NP southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 18-31 May (Eric Soehren *et al.*) (rare this far south, but becoming regular at this site).

**HOUSE WREN** – A single was at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 26 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) (early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley, unless a rare wintering bird).

**WINTER WREN** – One was found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Madison*, 30 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette) (late record for the Tennessee Valley).

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** – Michael Jordan tallied 20 at Saraland, *Mobile*, 13 March (ties maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** – One at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 26 March (Daniel Stangeland) was the earliest arrival for the WP by seven days. An early bird was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 March (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*).

**HERMIT THRUSH** – Five were counted in Chattahoochee SP, *Houston*, 4 March (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (maximum spring number for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**AMERICAN ROBIN** – Six were nesting in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 May (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (rare nester in the WP). Ben Garmon tallied 410 at Lake Land Farms near Marion, *Perry*, 3 March (maximum spring count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

**GRAY CATBIRD** – A single was at Hays NP near Huntsville, *Madison*, 10 April (Sue Moske, Carol Kautzman) (ties early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley).

**AMERICAN PIPIT** – Cecil Brown reported a single from the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 25 May (very late for the WP).

**CEDAR WAXWING** – At Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 300 were counted 13 March (Charles Boley) (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 10 on 30 April to mark a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** – A single was at the Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa*

- Rosa*, 25 March (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) (earliest arrival for the WP by three days).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Greg Jackson counted five at Red Mountain Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 9 April (maximum spring number for Alabama). Charles Boley counted four in Huntsville, *Madison*, 17 April (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** – A single was at the Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 22 March (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow) (very early). Rare but regular in spring in the Mountain Region, three singles were reported: Red Mountain Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 9 April (early) (Greg Jackson), and Ruffner Mountain NP in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 12 April and 3-4 May (Rick Remy).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 April (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) provided the 10<sup>th</sup> record for the WP. Rare in spring in north Alabama, a single was seen at Ruffner Mountain NP in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 15 May (Scot Duncan).
- MOURNING WARBLER** – A single was at Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 13 May (Scott Gravette) (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** – One at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 6 March (Damien Simbeck, Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger *et al.*) was an early arrival or an uncommon wintering bird in the Mountain Region.
- HOODED WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 16 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- NORTHERN PARULA** – A single was in Huntsville, *Madison*, 12 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) (early record for the Tennessee Valley).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – Greg Jackson found one in Red Mountain Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 9 April (early record for north Alabama, ties early arrival record for inland Alabama). Larry Gardella noted a single east of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 19 May (ties late departure date for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – Scot Duncan reported one from Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 1 April (ties early arrival date for north Alabama). Another early single was at Ruffner Mountain NP in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 4 April (Greg Jackson).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – Two were found in Huntsville, *Madison*, 1 May (Charles Boley) (rare but regular in this general area).
- PINE WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 67 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – The Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, tallied 8 on 30 April to mark a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Damien Simbeck counted 22 in the Waterloo area, *Lauderdale*, 4 May (maximum number for the Tennessee Valley).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – Charles Boley counted 23 in Huntsville, *Madison*, 24 April (maximum spring number for the Tennessee Valley).
- CANADA WARBLER** – Perry Doggerell saw one at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 22

May (ninth spring record for the WP). A count of seven at Red Mountain Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 4 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) marked the highest spring tally for Alabama since 1974.

**WESTERN TANAGER** – An adult male was in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 11-15 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare and irregular in the WP).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – Occasional in spring in Alabama, one was noted at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 May (Michael Jordan).

**VESPER SPARROW** – Two late birds were found during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Morgan*, 30 April (Andre Coquerel *et al.*).

**LARK SPARROW** – A single was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 17-27 March (John Yuhaz, Daniel Stangeland, David Muth) (rare but regular in the WP). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, three reports were received: two were on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 March (Andrew Haffenden); two were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 April (Karen Chiasson *et al.*; ph.); and a single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 April (Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.).

**SONG SPARROW** – Jane Allen reported 27 from Mud Creek WMA, *Jackson*, 4 March (maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley, reports of singles came from Sheffield, *Colbert*, 1 May (William White), and Wheeler NWR, *Madison*, 13 May (Scott Gravette).

**SWAMP SPARROW** – Twelve were found at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 10 March (Ron Kittinger) (maximum spring number for the Inland Coastal Plain). Gerard Cyr tallied 25 at Meaher SP, *Baldwin*, 7 April (maximum spring number for the Gulf Coast).

**LAZULI BUNTING** – A female observed at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 9 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Larry Gardella; @ABRC) provided the second record for Alabama.

**INDIGO BUNTING** – A male near Leighton, *Colbert*, 2 April (Sue Moske *et al.*) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley.

**PAINTED BUNTING** – This species is a rare and local breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain. A male was noted at the FWFTA, Cedarville, *Hale*, 13 April (John Trent), and a singing male and a female were found at Westvaco ponds, Cottonton, *Russell*, 30 April (Jim Holmes).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – Rare on the Gulf Coast and occasional in spring in Alabama, a calling bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 3 April (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – A single was at Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 15-27 March (Daniel Stangeland) (third March record for the WP). Rare in Alabama, four reports (all of singles) were received: Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 March (Karen Chiasson; ph.); south of Bellaton, *Baldwin*, 2 March (Karen



Yellow-headed Blackbird, 1 March 2016, Baldwin Co., AL; K. Chiasson.

Chiasson); south of Foley, *Baldwin*, 25 March (Karen Chiasson); and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 13 April (Andrew Haffenden).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck counted 43 on 25 March and 55 (maximum spring number for north Alabama) on 31 March (ph.).

**SHINY COWBIRD** – A male was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15-16 April (Audrey Etienne, Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Daniel Stangeland) (over 36 records for the WP). Rare in spring on the Gulf Coast, a male was found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 April (Karen Chiasson; ph.).

**BRONZED COWBIRD** – Two males found south of Foley, *Baldwin*, 9-12 March (Karen Chiasson; ph.) provided the 21<sup>st</sup> record for Alabama and the seventh spring record for Alabama.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – One at Foley, *Baldwin*, 21 March (Michael Jordan) was probably a rare wintering bird rather than an early migrant.

**PURPLE FINCH** – Eleven reported from Huntsville, *Madison*, 12 March (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper) marked a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

**PINE SISKIN** – Steve McConnell found a single at Hartselle, *Morgan*, 7 May (late departure date for the Tennessee Valley).

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** – A single which lingered until 10 May at Foley, *Baldwin* (Michael Jordan) provided a late departure record for the Gulf Coast.

**SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** – A continued widespread presence in the WP was shown by multiple records: 22 in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 9 March and 11 there on 2 April (Daniel Stangeland); seven in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4 April (Jan Lloyd); eight in north Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 May (Kirk Roth); and three at the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 29 May (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway).

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## SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2016)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 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. “BAS” = Birmingham Audubon Society; “FWFTA” = Forever Wild Field Trial Area; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “OCWSTF” = Okaloosa County Water and Sewage Treatment Facility; “ph.” = photographed; “SBC” = Summer Bird Count; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).



Regions of Alabama and Florida Panhandle for Bird Distribution Data

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** – Two adults were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 16-17 June (Tom Haggerty *et al.*; ph.) (sixth record for the Tennessee Valley). Alan Troyer reported two from Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 June (seventh record for the Tennessee Valley). Ten were at the fish hatchery near Marion, *Perry*, 15 July (Michael Buntin; ph.) (rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain).

**SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH)** – The first summering record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a single seen south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 5 June – 3 July (Larry Gardella).

**WOOD DUCK** – The report of 136 from Opelika, *Lee*, 3 July (Rodney McCollum) established a summer maximum for the Mountain Region.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – This species is an uncommon and local breeder in Alabama. The 12 found at the FWFTA near Cedarville, *Hale*, 2 June (John Trent, Duston Duffie) were probably late migrants, given the high number.

**HOODED MERGANSER** – This species is a rare breeder in the Mountain Region, but the female found at Railroad Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 June (Greg Harber; ph.) was not likely breeding at this site.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** – An immature male was found on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 9 June (Andrew Haffenden) (rare summering species on the Gulf Coast).

**RUDDY DUCK** – This species was reported from Sledge, *Hale*, 8-31 July, including 32 on 16 July and some males in alternate plumage (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger *et al.*; ph.). Ruddy Ducks are rare summering birds in Alabama, but in recent years have become regular in this area.



Ruddy Duck, 8 July 2016, Hale Co., AL; R. J. Kittenger.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** – This species is an uncommon and local breeder in Alabama, and reports of good numbers came from three sites where it is regular. Adults and young, including up to 15 birds, were reported from the FWFTA near Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 June (John Trent) and 23 June (Larry Gardella). Twelve, including adults and large young, were found at the fish hatchery near Marion, *Perry*, 20 June (Jan Hansen). Thirty, including many young, were seen southeast of Newbern, *Perry*, 29 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

**INCA DOVE** – At Faunsdale, *Marengo*, two were found on 14 June (John Trent *et al.*) and four on 16 July (Geoff Hill) (ninth individual record for Alabama and first inland).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, three reports were received. A single was at Ashford, *Houston*, 3 June (Renea Todd, Renea Simpson) (return to site). Four were at Excel, *Monroe*, 14 June (Andrew Arnold) (continuation at this site). Andrew Arnold found six at Megargel, *Monroe*, 18 June (new site).

**CHIMNEY SWIFT** – An estimate of 250 (maximum summer number for the Inland Coastal Plain) was made 15 July at Montgomery, *Montgomery* (Ashley Peters). Damien Simbeck reported 200 from Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale*, 27 July (maximum summer number for the Tennessee Valley).

**COMMON GALLINULE** – Fifteen birds (maximum summer count for the Inland Coastal Plain) were reported from each of two sites: Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 June (Geoff Hill), and the FWFTA near Cedarville, *Hale*, 29 June (John Trent).

**AMERICAN COOT** – Rare in summer on the Inland Coastal Plain, two reports from *Hale* were received: a single at Whitsitt 9 July (Greg Harber *et al.*) and 16 at Sledge 16 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger).

- BLACK-NECKED STILT** – A maximum of three was seen at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 28-31 July (Ron Kittinger *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland, second record for the Mountain Region).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – A single was at Sledge, *Hale*, 16 July (Geoff Hill, Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger; ph.) (rare inland, second summer record for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER** – Andrew Haffenden reported four from Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 18-25 June (rare in mid-late June on the Gulf Coast).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** – One was at the Alabama A&M farms, near Hazel Green, *Madison*, 16 July (Harry Dean, Dick Bruer; ph.) (rare in July in the Tennessee Valley).
- MARBLED GODWIT** – A single was on Pelican Peninsula, *Mobile*, 19+ July (Bill Chambers, Audrey Chambers *et al.*; ph.) (rare in July on the Gulf Coast).
- STILT SANDPIPER** – Larry Gardella found one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 July (rare in July on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- SANDERLING** – A single was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 July (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, second July record for the region).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** – A single was at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 July (Larry Gardella) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, first July record for the region). Damien Simbeck found four west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 July (rare but regular in Alabama and unusually early).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Damien Simbeck found one west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 July (rare in July).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, hosted this species 25-31 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Ken Wills), with Ken Wills reporting 20 (maximum summer number for the Mountain Region) on 31 July. Damien Simbeck counted 36 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 July (maximum summer number for the Tennessee Valley).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** – A tally of 12 was made at Gainesville, *Sumter*, 29 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (maximum summer number for Alabama).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS** – One at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – A single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 19 June – 9 July (Malcolm Swan, Bruce Purdy) (casual in summer in the WP).
- RING-BILLED GULL** – Damien Simbeck tallied 32 at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale*, 20 July (maximum summer count for Alabama).
- CASPIAN TERN** – Three were at Coffeetown Lock & Dam, *Choctaw*, 16 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain). James White found two at West Point Lake, *Chambers*, 30 July (rare in the Mountain Region, first summer record for the region).
- FORSTER'S TERN** – Twenty-seven were at Floridatown, *Santa Rosa*, 19 June (Bill Pranty, Valerie Ponzio) (very rare in June in the WP).
- COMMON LOON** – Records of rare summering birds came from two sites. Two were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert*, 7 June (Damien Simbeck), and a single was at Chambers County Lake, *Chambers*, 11 June (Rodney McCollum, Lorna West).
- BROWN BOOBY** – An adult at Cordova, *Walker*, 6 June (Gina Perrin; ph.) marked the

first inland record for Alabama (occasional in Alabama, third record for the last 10 years).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** – This species was reported from Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 21-28 July (Leif Milliron, Ron Kittinger) with Ron Kittinger reporting 125 (maximum summer number for the Mountain Region) on 28 July.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – This species is increasing statewide, but becoming regular near Sledge, *Hale*, where Greg Harber *et al.* estimated 50 on 9 July and Don and Judy Self counted 66 on 10 July. A maximum of three was reported from Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 20-28 July (Leif Milliron *et al.*) (rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, third summer number for the region).

**LEAST BITTERN** – At the International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia*, 30 were counted on 12 June (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) (maximum count for the three westernmost counties of the WP). A maximum number for Alabama (18) was tallied at Little Bateau Bay, *Baldwin*, 27 July (Kathy Hicks, Emma Rhodes, Mark Wetzel; ph.).

**GREEN HERON** – Geoff Hill reported 25 from Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 June (maximum summer count for south Alabama).

**WHITE IBIS** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, reports of immatures came from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, a single on 5 July (Thomas Ress) and three on 22-23 July (Mark Hughes, Lisa Hughes, Doris Gertler), and *Madison*, a single on 30 July (Charles Boley, Mary Hooper).

**GLOSSY IBIS** – Six were at the Eastman/Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 5 July (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow), and a single was at the OCWSTF, *Okaloosa*, 20 July (Bill Chambers) (very rare in the WP).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** – Two immatures were on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 27 July (Patsy Russo, Andrew Haffenden *et al.*; ph.) (rare but increasing).

**TURKEY VULTURE** – Greg Harber counted 54 in the Brooksville quad, *Blount*, 19 June (maximum summer number for the Mountain Region).

**OSPREY** – Geoff Hill tallied 25 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 June (maximum summer count for Alabama). Barry Fleming found four in the Lanette North and Abbottsford quads, *Chambers*, 19 June (uncommon and local in the Mountain Region).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – A maximum of six was seen 16-30 July at Danway, *Chambers* (Lorna West, Rodney McCollum, James White, Geoff Hill) (rare in the Mountain Region, but now regular at this site in late July). Two were at Marvyn, *Lee*, 21-22 July (Rodney McCollum) (locally rare). Ben Garmon reported 47 from north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 30 July (good number so far north).



Brown Booby, 6 June 2016, Walker Co., AL; G. Perrin.



Roseate Spoonbill, 27 July 2016, Mobile Co., AL; A. Haffenden.

- MISSISSIPPI KITE** – Rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, reports of singles came from two sites where the species is regular: Campbell SE quad, *Chambers*, 9 June (Larry Gardella), and Abbottsford quad, *Chambers*, 19 June (Barry Fleming). An estimated 100 west of Tuscaloosa, *Tuscaloosa*, 10 June (Terrence Schiefer, Marion Schiefer) was a good number. One was northeast of Red Bay, *Franklin*, not a known site, 16 June (Diana Doyle) (rare and local in the Tennessee Valley). Rodney McCollum counted 19 south of Auburn, *Lee*, 17 June (locally good number). A maximum count (70) for the Mountain Region was made near Danway, *Chambers*, 13 July (Lorna West *et al.*). Michael Jordan tallied 30 at the Clearwater Tract north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, 24 July (maximum summer number for the Gulf Coast).
- BELTED KINGFISHER** – Damien Simbeck reported 12 from Bear Creek Reservoir, *Franklin*, 28 June (maximum summer number for the Tennessee Valley).
- AMERICAN KESTREL** – Seven (good number) were found during the SBC in *Blount*: two, Cleveland quad, 3 June (David George); one, Blountsville quad, 8 June (Anne G. Miller); and four, Brooksville quad, 19 June (Greg Harber) (uncommon and local breeder in Alabama).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** – This species is a very rare and local breeder in Alabama. A single was at the FWFTA near Cedarville, *Hale*, 23 June (Larry Gardella), marking a return to the only known nesting site on the Inland Coastal Plain.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – The report of seven from the Alabama A&M farm near Hazel Green, *Madison*, 30 July (Milton Harris, Ken Ward, Sue Moske) marked a summer maximum for the Tennessee Valley (local breeder).
- TREE SWALLOW** – Several were seen at the FWFTA near Cedarville, *Hale*, 23 June (Larry Gardella) (rare breeder this far south).
- BANK SWALLOW** – A single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 July (Bob Duncan) (very early fall arrival for the WP).
- CLIFF SWALLOW** – Damien Simbeck made an estimate of 1,000+ at Spring Creek, *Lawrence*, 6 July (maximum summer number for the Tennessee Valley).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – A pair was noted at the Wehle Nature Center southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 4-18 June (John Trent) (continuation at this site; rare this far south).
- GRAY CATBIRD** – A single was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 June (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo) (late departure for the outer coast).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – Geoff Hill tallied 20 at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 1 June (maximum summer count for south Alabama).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, three singing birds were found on the Muscle Shoals TVA Reservation, *Colbert*, 21 June (Damien Simbeck) (regular at this site).
- HOODED WARBLER** – A maximum summer count (36) for the Mountain Region came from the Camphill and Cusetta quads, *Chambers*, 12 June (Larry Gardella, Lorna West).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** – This species is a rare and local breeder in Alabama. Two

were found along Larkin Fork, *Jackson*, 18 June (Greg Harber, BAS) (continuation at site).

**YELLOW WARBLER** – A single was found along Larkin Fork, *Jackson*, 18 June (Greg Harber, BAS) (rare and local breeder).

**BACHMAN’S SPARROW** – A single was seen and heard northwest of Hillsboro, *Lawrence*, 10 July (Ron Kittinger, Rick Kittinger) (rare in the Tennessee Valley and at a new site).

**LARK SPARROW** – A single was seen in the Nectar quad, *Blount*, 7 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare in the Mountain Region, first record for *Blount*).

**SONG SPARROW** – Greg Harber found a pair at Railroad Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 6 June (locally rare breeder, not a known site).

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** – Greg Harber found a late bird at Railroad Park in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 June.

**BLUE GROSBEAK** – Thirty-two (maximum summer number for the Mountain Region) were found during the SBC in *Blount*, 5 June: 29 in the Clarence quad and three in the Trafford quad (David George, Pelham Rowan, Lisa Bailey).

**PAINTED BUNTING** – This species is a rare and local breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain, with records received from the following four sites: males at two sites near Faunsdale, *Marengo*, 9-23 June (John Trent, many observers; ph.) (not a known site); an adult male south of Greensboro, *Hale*, 16 June (John Trent; song recorded) (not a known site); two singing males south of Gainesville, *Sumter*, 29 June (John Trent; songs recorded) (not a known site); and a singing male west of Woodley, *Montgomery*, 3 July (Larry Gardella). Ron Kittinger reported a female-type from Inverness, *Shelby*, 20 July (casual in the Mountain Region, first summer record for the region).



Painted Bunting, 21 June 2016, Marengo Co., AL; J. Hansen.

**SHINY COWBIRD** – A male was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 23-25 July (Barbara Combs) (very rare in the WP).

**PIN-TAILED WHYDAH** – A single was in east Pensacola, *Escambia*, 1 July (*vide* Carol Tebay) (irregularly reported in the WP).

**SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** – This species continues its presence in the WP as evidenced by the following records: eight were at Innerarity Point, *Escambia*, 11 June (Karen Stanmore); three were in Pace, *Santa Rosa*, 13 June (Les Kelly) and 12 were there 16 June (Daniel Stangeland, Bill Pranty, Valerie Ponzio); nesting was observed at Home Depot in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 25 June (Jerry Callaway, Brenda Callaway) and in Gonzalez, *Escambia*, 2 July (Brenda Callaway); six were in west Pensacola, *Escambia*, 3 July (Steve Coster, Cindy Coster); and two were in north Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 July (Peggy Hombert).

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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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