

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005)

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This report covers the period from December 2004 through February 2005 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*, *Gulf*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties); “WTF” = Woerner Turf Farm.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Rare but becoming more regular in the WP, 19 were found at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 22 January (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan *et al.*). Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, is a regular site for this species, and 38 (good number) were counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, 18 December. This goose is rare on the Gulf Coast in winter, so 15 was a good number at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (David Plumb *et al.*; ph.). Eight near Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) were probably part of the previous group. Three were at Russellville, *Franklin*, 7 February (Damien Simbeck), where the species is locally rare.

SNOW GOOSE – On the 19 December Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 118 was a good number for the Gulf Coast. A single blue morph was noted at Blountsville, *Blount*, 20 January (Greg Jackson) (rare in winter in Mountain Region). Two were near Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

ROSS’S GOOSE – The eighth record for northwest Florida was marked by four birds at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 30 January (Laura Catterton; ph.). Rare but increasing in south Alabama, one was noted at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 2 December (Howard Horne), one was found at Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 1 January (Larry

Gardella *et al.*), and two were at the previous site on 23 January (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow). Uncommon and local in the Tennessee Valley, a single was found west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 December (Greg Jackson; ph.). At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, three were noted 8 January (Steve McConnell) where this species is expected in small numbers.

SNOW X ROSS'S GOOSE – This hybrid is rarely recorded in Alabama, so one west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 8 December (Greg Jackson; ph.), was notable.

CAACKLING GOOSE – The status of this species in Alabama is uncertain, but it is probably rare but regular. Three reports were received: two at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 30-31 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC); at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single on 7 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) and four 23-30 January (Steve McConnell *et al.*; ph.; @ABRC); and 19 at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (David Plumb, Ann Miller; @ABRC).

TUNDRA SWAN – Small flocks were seen at two sites in *Lauderdale*: three at Smithsonia, 3 December (Damien Simbeck), and four at Walker Pond, 29 December (Shirley Wayland) (rare).

EURASIAN WIGEON – A single male seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 February (Geoff Hill, Tyler Hicks; @ABRC), set the 11th record for Alabama and the third for the Inland Coastal Plain (if not a repeat of last winter's bird at the same site).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – Rare in winter in north Alabama, one was tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and three were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 February (Damien Simbeck). The 75 observed at Leighton, *Colbert*, 23 February (Damien Simbeck), was a large number for so early in the season and were probably early migrants.

RING-NECKED DUCK – A record high count for Alabama was set by the 5,105 recorded on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

SURF SCOTER – Rare for inland Alabama, one was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 28 December (Lorna West, Steve McConnell).

BLACK SCOTER – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, a single was found 7 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) and 8 January (Paul Kittle *et al.*; ph.) (rare for inland Alabama).

LONG-TAILED DUCK – One female occurred at Leighton, *Colbert*, 23 February and 22 March (Damien Simbeck) (rare).

RUDDY DUCK – Good numbers were found on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*: 1,100 on 9 January and 1,300 on 20 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

WILD TURKEY – One flock north of Waterloo and another east of Wright, *Lauderdale*, 8 December, totaled 27 (good number) (Greg Jackson; ph.).

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare in the WP, one was on Choctawhatchee Bay, *Okaloosa*, 16 December (Don Ware). Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one occurred there 29 December – 13 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.).

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular on the Gulf Coast, two singles were noted in the

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WP at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 9-30 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and at Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Santa Rosa*, 22 January (John Ball, Powers McLeod, Rosann McLeod). In Alabama, one to two were seen at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 23 December – 13 February (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.) (rare but regular at this site).

RED-NECKED GREBE – A single, seen 12 December – 2 January on Lake Guntersville, *Marshall*, established the 16th record for Alabama (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*; @ABRC).

HARED GREBE – Rare but regular in winter in the WP, two were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 4 December – 10 February (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.).

WESTERN GREBE – Spring Creek Embayment of Wheeler Reservoir, *Lawrence*, hosted a single 19 January – 5 February (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.; ph.; @ABRC) (fourth Alabama record).

MASKED BOOBY – An adult was at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Steve McConnell) (rare).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Rare but increasing in winter for inland Alabama, numerous reports were received: 10, Spring Creek Embayment, *Lawrence*, 25 December (Steve McConnell); 22, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8 January (Steve McConnell, m.ob.) and 34 on 9 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); 22, Bear Creek Embayment, *Colbert*, 24-26 January (*vide* Paul Kittle); nine, Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 28 January (Damien Simbeck); and 50, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 February (Greg Harber *et al.*) (first late winter record for the Mountain Region).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Maximums for the Mountain Region and the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama were established, respectively, by 1,300 at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and 2,527 on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.

ANHINGA – One was at Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, 4 February (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species is rare in winter for inland Alabama, especially the Mountain Region, so one from the East Lake area of *Jefferson*, 27 December (John Imhof), was notable.

GREAT EGRET – Twenty were seen at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (maximum in winter for the Mountain Region). On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, 316 were recorded to set a new winter maximum for inland Alabama.

CATTLE EGRET – Rare in winter in the WP, three were at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa* 28 December (Bob Duncan). Occasional in winter in the Tennessee Valley, two were found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. A single was seen at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 January (Larry Gardella) (rare in winter for inland Alabama). Twenty was a good number south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 3 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, Steve McConnell) (uncommon

and erratic on the Gulf Coast in winter).

WHITE IBIS – One immature was noted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December (Carolyn Snow, Phil Snow, Annabelle Markle) (occasional in winter for inland Alabama).

GLOSSY IBIS – One was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 8 December (Bob Duncan), to mark the second December record for the WP.

PLEGADIS SP. – Fifteen was a good number for winter on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 19 December.

BLACK VULTURE – A new maximum (216) for the Mountain Region was set on the Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 18 December. Surpassing even this number and setting a new maximum for Alabama, 269 were tallied on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

TURKEY VULTURE – Good numbers of this species, some setting records, were noted this winter: 401 on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December (maximum for Alabama); 165 on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (good number); 268 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (maximum for the Gulf Coast); and 200 roosting at Upper Bryant Landing, *Baldwin*, 10 January (*vide* Claire Krusko) (good number).

OSPREY – One was observed at Eutaw, *Greene*, 19 January (Jared Caudle *et al.*) (rare in winter for inland Alabama).

NORTHERN HARRIER – Thirty-six were seen leaving a roost at Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale* 15 January (Greg Jackson) (maximum for north Alabama).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – One immature was found in downtown Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 24 January (Steve Willis *et al.*) and 31 January (Stan Hamilton *et al.*) (fifth Alabama record; ph.; @ABRC).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – An adult was discovered at Tensaw Lake, *Baldwin*, 9 January (Claire Krusko, Ken Krusko) (rare in winter).

MERLIN – Rare in north Alabama in winter, one was seen at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson), and another single was counted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

PEREGRINE FALCON – One was found in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 5 February (Greg Harber, *et al.*) (rare in north Alabama in winter).

BLACK RAIL – One was spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Don Ware) (very rare in WP).

SANDHILL CRANE – Casual in the WP, six were at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa*, 15 December (Bill Bremser), one was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Bob Duncan), and another single was at Molino, *Escambia*, 23 December (Laura Catterton). Increasingly common in winter in Alabama, several reports were received: 10, Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 18 December (locally rare); 600 (estimated), Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 21 December – 5 January (Linda Baker, Winston Baker) (maximum for Alabama); 500+, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 29 December (Steve McConnell, m.ob.) (good number); eight, Fort Toulouse,

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Elmore, 26 February (Larry Gardella, Andrea Menyhert) (locally rare); and 60, *Opelika, Lee*, 26 February (Lorna West) (locally rare).

WHOOPIING CRANE – The three seen near Belle Mina, *Limestone*, 18+ December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, m.ob.; ph.) had been released from a captive flock (2002 cohort) as part of the Eastern reintroduction program.

KILLDEER – A maximum count (2,686) for inland Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. A good number locally was the 428 tallied on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December.

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Two birds were at catfish farms in northern *Escambia*, 31 January (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown) (first January record for the WP).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – A maximum count (151) for inland Alabama was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Four was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast 18 December (Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*). Rare in winter in north Alabama, a single was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 20 January (Greg Jackson; ph.).

MARBLED GODWIT – Two were discovered on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 5 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) (rare in winter).

STILT SANDPIPER – One was spotted at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Don Ware) (first December record for the WP). This species is rare in winter, so the 17 found during the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 19 December (Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.) was a good number.

LAUGHING GULL – An adult was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell) (rare inland, but regular at this site).

RING-BILLED GULL – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December, a new maximum (2,901) was set for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

CALIFORNIA GULL – A first-year bird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2 February (Dick Reynolds) (seventh record for Alabama; @ABRC).

THAYER'S GULL – First-year birds were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 30 December – 13 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan *et al.*) (fifth record for Alabama; ph.; @ABRC), and at Speigner, *Elmore*, 19 and 26 February (Larry Gardella) and 20 February (Ben Garmon) (sixth record for Alabama, first for Inland Coastal Plain; ph.; @ABRC).

ICELAND GULL – A first-winter bird was at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 20 February (Laura Catterton) (third record for the WP; photos to FOSRC). An immature was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 15 January (Greg Jackson *et al.*) and at Trinity, *Morgan*, 30 January (Jeff Wilson *et al.*) (same bird by photos; fourth Alabama record; @ABRC). The fifth record for Alabama was set by a first-year bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 15 February (Bill Summerour, Laura Catterton; ph.; @ABRC).

THAYER'S X ICELAND GULL – A first-year hybrid was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 2-4 February (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*) (eighth Alabama record of the Thayer's/Iceland complex; ph.; @ABRC).

- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – The fourth, fifth, and sixth records for the WP were established, respectively, by the following sightings: second-winter bird at Molino, *Escambia*, 12 January (Laura Catterton); two adults at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 30-31 January (Laura Catterton, Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown); and a first-winter bird at the catfish farms, northern *Escambia*, 20 February (Laura Catterton). One was at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, 25 December (Steve McConnell) and 16-19 January (Larry Gardella *et al.*) (rare but regular at this site). Several sightings of one to three first-year birds and one adult occurred at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 29 December – 28 February (Laura Catterton, m.ob.), where the species is rare but regular.
- GLAUCOUS GULL** – At Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, an immature bird was found 29 December – 28 February (Laura Catterton, Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan; ph.) (rare). Another immature was spotted at several sites along or near the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama (Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, Walker Pond, and Trinity, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, *Lauderdale*, and *Morgan*, respectively) between 16 January and 1 March (Larry Gardella, Damien Simbeck, m.ob.) (rare). The first record for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama was marked by an immature found at Speigner, *Elmore*, 12 February – 1 March (Tommy Pratt *et al.*; ph.).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – A first-winter bird was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 18 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in WP).
- SANDWICH TERN** – One was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 4 January (Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht) (rare in winter).
- FORSTER'S TERN** – Sixteen were at Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 6 December (Greg Jackson) (rare in winter for the Mountain Region; new winter maximum for the Mountain Region).
- ROCK PIGEON** – A new maximum for the Gulf Coast was set by the 412 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January.
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – A new maximum for Alabama was established with the count of 408 on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.
- ANI SP.** – One, probably a Groove-billed, was found at Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bob Duncan) (rare and erratic).
- BURROWING OWL** – The colony continues on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, with five birds reported 11 December (Lenny Fenimore) (rare).
- NIGHTHAWK SP.** – One, probably a Lesser, was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Bob Reid, Elberta Reid; @ABRC) (any nighthawk rare in mid-winter).
- BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** – A female was at Mobile, *Mobile* (Fred Bassett, Velma Britain), and a male was at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (Fred Bassett, Billy Given, Alide Given) (both 3 February; b.; ph.; @ABRC; 17 previous Alabama records).

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- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – One present January – March in Montgomery, *Montgomery* (Larry Gardella, Andrea Menyhert) had been banded earlier south of Troy, *Pike* (Fred Bassett) (rare in winter in Alabama).
- RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** – Six, a maximum for inland Alabama, were found on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December (Bob Sargent *et al.*; five b.).
- ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** – One was at Lillian, *Baldwin*, 21-30 December (Fred Bassett, Jim Dickerson *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC; third record for Alabama).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** – A single was at Spanish Fort, *Baldwin*, 21 December (Fred Bassett *et al.*; b.; ph.; @ABRC; ninth record for Alabama), while another single was at Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Fred Bassett, Ginny Benton; b.; ph.; @ABRC; 10th record for Alabama).
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** – The 19th record for Alabama was marked by one at Cullman, *Cullman*, 11 December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.; @ABRC).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** – The 115 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, was a good number.
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER** – One was found in Tuskegee NF, *Macon*, 6 February (Tyler Hicks) (unexpected this site).
- EASTERN PHOEBE** – Thirty-seven was a good number on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** – Two records of singles came from the Gulf Coast, where this species is rare in winter: Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11-18 December (Mike Wilson, Tommy Pratt, Barry Pratt *et al.*) and Fort Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, 3 January (James Peavy).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – Rare in winter in Alabama, Lucy and Bob Duncan had one south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 2 January, at the same site where the species was found last winter.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO** – Two were recorded on the Tuscaloosa CBC, *Tuscaloosa*, 18 December, and a single was on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 January (rare in winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, CBCs produced four records, all singles: Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December; Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December; Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December; and Birmingham, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December.
- BLUE JAY** – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, 988 were counted to set a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley. On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, 541 were counted (good number).
- FISH CROW** – A maximum count (228) for inland Alabama in winter was made on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December.
- PURPLE MARTIN** – Early birds were at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 25 January (Ann Miller)

and Atmore, *Escambia*, 3 February (Jon Yoder).

TUFTED TITMOUSE – A maximum count (372) for the Tennessee Valley was made on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, and good numbers were produced on two other CBCs: 262 at Waterloo, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December, and 318 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Twenty-four was a good number on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – On the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, one found 31 December was rare for the Inland Coastal Plain.

HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, three reports were received: two near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, 9 December (Greg Jackson); four on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December; and four on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December.

SEDGE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, a single was noted on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

MARSH WREN – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, one was discovered on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – One occurred at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 10-24 December (Helen Kittinger) (rare in winter for the Mountain Region).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Two were reported from Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 5 December (Lenny Fenimore) (accidental in WP).

TENNESSEE WARBLER – One at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4 December (Jan Lloyd, Fred Bassett) marked the second December record for the WP.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – This species is rare but increasing in winter in north Alabama. Eight (maximum for winter in north Alabama) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, two were found during the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December, and one was noted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 27 December.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – A single was at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Jim Kowalski, Virginia Spisak) (casual in winter in the WP).

YELLOW WARBLER – A single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 10-11 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan) marked the third December record for the WP, while one at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Jim Kowalski, Virginia Spisak) marked the fourth WP December record.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – Occasional for inland Alabama in winter, three reports of singles were received: Eufaula NWR CBC, *Barbour*, 15 December (Lorna West); Dothan, *Houston*, 5 January (Larry Gardella); and Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 12 February (Geoff Hill, Tyler Hicks).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Seven (a maximum in winter for the Tennessee Valley) were found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December.

WILSON'S WARBLER – One was at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 20 December (Bob Reid) (casual in winter for the WP). The fourth and fifth winter records for inland

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Alabama were marked, respectively, by singles at Opelika, *Lee*, 25 December (male) and 24 January (female) (Paul Milotis).

SUMMER TANAGER – A hold-over from the fall season was at a feeder in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4-24 December (Betsy Tetlow) and 10 January (Betsy Tetlow, Neal Nimmo, Dinny Nimmo) (casual in winter in the WP). One was at Trinity, *Morgan*, 25-29 December (Karen Morgan; ph.) (casual in winter for inland Alabama).

CHIPPING SPARROW – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 261 (good number) were counted 18 December.

LARK SPARROW – One was found on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 30 December (rare in winter).

FOX SPARROW – Singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 December (Bob Duncan) and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 28 December (Laura Catterton) (first appearance in WP in a few years).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – Near Key Cave NWR, *Lauderdale*, two were seen 2 December (Damien Simbeck) and 90+ (good number) 9 December (Greg Jackson). Another good number (397) was found on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December. Twelve were at the WTF, *Lowndes*, 2 January (Larry Gardella) (rare but regular at this site).

BLUE GROSBEAK – An adult male was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 February (Bob Duncan) (second February record for the WP).

INDIGO BUNTING – Now almost regular in winter in the WP, three singles were found at three different sites in the Pensacola area, *Escambia*, 8, 18, and 27 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

PAINTED BUNTING – An adult male was at Foley, *Baldwin*, 2 January (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald) (rare in winter).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK – A good number (356) was found on the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 18 December.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD – Fourteen were seen in northern *Escambia*, 30 November (Laura Catterton) (uncommon in the WP). On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 18 December, 88 was a good number for this area.

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 10th record for Alabama was established by an adult male at the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 January – 6 February (Howard Horne *et al.*; @ABRC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, five reports were received: two females at Atmore, *Escambia*, 13 December (Jon Yoder *et al.*); male at feeder, Tallassee, *Elmore*, late November – 26 December (Bob Reed, Pat Reed); three on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 31 December; male at feeder, Demopolis, *Marengo*, 15 January (Arthur Taylor; ph.); and male at Auburn, *Lee*, 18-19 January (Tyler Hicks).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This species is now widespread in the WP. It is found in numbers at feeders and is the source of many inquiries about strange birds at feed-