

the breeding season is unknown, it is thought that it does not occur in the western Atlantic.

Luis Monteiro did not live to see his hard work come to fruition, and Glen Woolfenden, who died before the publication of the split, did not witness the part played out on this side of the Atlantic. But they must have suspected they were part of the discovery of a new species. The importance of salvaging specimens through rehabilitation centers like Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida cannot be overstated.

Robert A. Duncan and Lucy R. Duncan, 614 Fairpoint Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (Email: town_point@bellsouth.net).

SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2008)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2008 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*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Walton*, are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “b.” = banded; FOSRC = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NABS” = North Alabama Birdwatcher’s Society; “NF” = National Forest; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WMA” = Wildlife Management Area “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – Larry Gardella found seven near Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 2 March, and six at the same site 16 March (rare on the Inland Coastal Plain except at Eufaula NWR). At Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck *et al.* recorded 12 on 10 March, 14 on 14 March, and nine on 16 March (locally rare).

CANADA GOOSE – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tallied 62, a new spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. Similarly, the Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 26 April, recorded 191, a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

WOOD DUCK – One hundred five was a good number on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April.

HOODED MERGANSER – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tallied 29, a good number so late. This species is a rare breeder in the Mountain Region, so a male at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 13 May (Helen Kittinger, Anne Miller, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*) was noteworthy.

COMMON LOON – Jessie Griswold noted four at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 15 May, a good number for the Mountain Region at this late date. A single was late at Lake Jordan, *Elmore*, 26 May (Bruce Parsons; ph.).

HORNED GREBE – Seventy-five was a good number so late at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 8 March (Steve McConnell), while 100+ on Wilson Reservoir at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 10 March (Damien Simbeck) established a new spring maximum for Alabama.

RED-NECKED GREBE – The seventh record for the WP was marked by a single at Perdido Key, *Escambia*, 20 February (Jan Osborne, Carolyn Henning, Annelise Reunert, Bob Strader, Dave Maitland; @FOSRC).

EARED GREBE – Rare in Alabama, one was spotted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 8 March (Steve McConnell; ph.).

GREATER SHEARWATER – Casual in the WP in spring, a single was found four miles south of Destin, *Okaloosa*, 30 May (Phil Goodyear). One was seen 30 miles south of Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 20 April (Rodney Cassidy) (rare in Alabama).

NORTHERN GANNET – An adult at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 5 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner; ph.) marked the second inland record for Alabama.



Northern Gannet, 5 May 2008, Town Creek, AL; S. McConnell.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Damien Simbeck tallied 192 at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 10 March, to establish a maximum spring count for Alabama. At Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, 115 was a good number 26 March (Paul Kittle, Donna Kittle). Rare in the Mountain Region except at Weiss Lake, two were noteworthy at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Greg Jackson counted 150 at Gadsden, *Etowah*, 30 March, to establish a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

ANHINGA – Ten (good number) were seen along I-65 north of Montgomery,

Montgomery (Larry Gardella). Rare in the Mountain Region, two reports were received from Saginaw, *Shelby*: a single 26 April (Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell, Harriett Wright) and two 13 May (Helen Kittinger, Anne Miller, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD – Rare in the WP, three birds were discovered at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 30 April (Les Kelly); three were at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 11 May (Carol Ascherfeld, Ray Ascherfeld); and a single was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 16 May (Bob Duncan).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely noted inland, Odis Johnson reported four sightings of singles from Hacoda, *Geneva*, 11 and 14 March and 6 and 26 April.

LEAST BITTERN – On 26 April, sightings of singles came from Saginaw, *Shelby* (Frank Farrell) (rare in Mountain Region), and Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (Steve McConnell, Sue Moske) (rare and local breeder in Tennessee Valley).

SNOWY EGRET – Pelham Rowan found two at Lake Purdy, *Jefferson*, 26 April (rare in spring in the Mountain Region).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Two were noted on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April (Dwight Cooley, Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds, Scott Gravette) (rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – On 31 March, Powers McLeod noted 24 individuals at a traditional nesting site on 19th Street in Pensacola, *Escambia*.

WHITE-FACED IBIS – Very rare in the WP, three birds were identified at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 19 April (Bob Duncan). Rare but increasing in Alabama, a single was tallied at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Madison*, 19 April (Neill Cowles, NABS; ph.) to mark the first record for the Tennessee Valley and the fifth inland record for Alabama.



White-faced Ibis, 19 April 2008, Wheeler NWR, AL; N. Cowles.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – Rare but increasing in Alabama in general, a single was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 3 May (Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald, Howard Horne) and marked the fourth spring record for Alabama.

WOOD STORK – Two were noted at Albertville, *Marshall*, 28 April (Sylvia Gentry) (occasional in the Mountain Region and early). At Hacoma, *Geneva*, Odis Johnson reported 40 on 30 April and 30 on 14+ May (good numbers so early; ph.).

OSPREY – Three were noted 16 March (ties early record for the Tennessee Valley) below Wheeler Dam and at the mouth of Town Creek, *Lawrence/Lauderdale/Colbert* (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); these birds were all on different pylons, with one near a complete nest and the others building nests. One at McCalla, *Jefferson*, 18 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) marked an early record for a migrant in the Mountain Region. Six was a good number on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – More reports than usual were received from the WP

this season, with five a good number locally at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 28 March (Powers McLeod). The eighth and earliest record for the Mountain Region was marked by a single at Oneonta, *Blount*, 31 March (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown), while the ninth record (and early) for the Mountain Region was set by one at Smith Lake south of Houston, *Winston*, 1 April (Larry Barkey).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Two were at Montevallo, *Shelby*, 26 April (Ty Keith, Kenny Keith, Rick Kittinger, Helen Kittinger) and 30 April (Mac Braid) (rare in the Mountain Region but regular in this area). Occasional in the Tennessee Valley except near Wheeler NWR, two were notable at Monte Sano, *Madison*, 2 May (Milton Harris, Bert Harris).

BALD EAGLE – At Marion-Heiberger, *Perry*, 11 were counted 15 March (Maureen Shaffer, Jessica Germany, Lee Brewer, Martha Dagg) to establish a new maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – A single at Monte Sano, *Madison*, 25 March (John Ehinger) was early. Twelve were seen in 10 minutes at Mobile, *Mobile*, 9 April (Chazz Hesselein) to mark a spring maximum for the Gulf Coast of Alabama.

AMERICAN KESTREL – Ten were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, to tie the spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

CLAPPER RAIL – John Trent and Collin Roberts conducted counts at multiple sites in the Grand Bay/Point aux Pins area, *Mobile*, and found 46 on 23 April and 62 on 29 May, the latter count a maximum for Alabama.

KING RAIL – Rare in the Tennessee Valley but regular at this site, calling birds were at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*- two on 26 April and a single on 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner *et al.*). One was found at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 April (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Rick Remy). John Trent and Collin Roberts conducted counts at multiple sites in Lillian Swamp, *Baldwin*, and found 7 on 23 April and 12 on 28 May, with the latter number tying the maximum for Alabama.

VIRGINIA RAIL – A rare migrant in the Tennessee Valley but regular at this site, one was heard at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 26 April (Damien Simbeck).

WILSON'S PLOVER – This species has been absent as a breeder in the WP for decades, but Gulf Islands National Seashore personnel reported seven nests as of 8 May from Santa Rosa Island, *Santa Rosa*.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER – Sixty-five was a good number at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 21 April (Bob Duncan).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Two were early at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 March (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

AMERICAN AVOCET – Good numbers were reported from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*: 84 on 13 March and 86 on 23 March (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*), and 80 on 14 April (Steve McConnell).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Unless it was an occasional wintering bird, one set an early arrival record for the Mountain Region at Sandy Point Creek, *Fayette*, 11

March (David Campbell).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tallied 22, tying the spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, good numbers were at Wright (22) and Wilson Dam (3), *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 26 April (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); 14 were at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 5 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and two were at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 May (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – Damien Simbeck found a total of 120 (good number) 25 April: 94 near Leighton, *Colbert*, and 26 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*.

WHIMBREL – Chazz Hesselein reported 300+ from north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 30 April (maximum count for Alabama by a wide margin).

MARbled GODWIT – Occasional for inland Alabama (mostly in Tennessee Valley), a single was photographed west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 April (Damien Simbeck).

RED KNOT – This species is becoming scarce in Alabama, so records on 16 May (four; Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin) and 26 May (18+ birds; Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Howard Horne; ph.), on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, are noteworthy, as were the two at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 16 May (Bert Harris, Brett Scheffers, Angie Langevin).



Red Knot, 26 May 2008, Dauphin Island, AL; T. Siegwald.

DUNLIN – At Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck's observation of 60+ on 10 March ties the maximum spring count for inland Alabama.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – Damien Simbeck and Jeff Garner found a total of 28 (good number) 26 April: 12 near Leighton, *Colbert*, and 16 west of Florence, *Lauderdale*.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – Two at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 14 March (Damien Simbeck) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley (unless wintering locally). Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, four were noted at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 26 April (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner). Twenty-two were counted on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, to mark a new maximum for inland Alabama (Dwight Cooley, Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds, Scott Gravette).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK – A rare breeder in the Gulf Coast Region, especially so close to the coast, two adults and two large young at Coden, *Mobile*, 4 April (Jabe Fincher; ph.) provided a rare nesting record. Two were noted at Hacoda, *Geneva*, 30 April (Odis Johnson) (rare breeder this far south).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – Rare inland, a single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6

May (Damien Simbeck).

BONAPARTE'S GULL – On Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, the 100 seen on 30 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) set a spring maximum for the Mountain Region.

A first-year bird was late at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair*, 3 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

LAUGHING GULL – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, two were at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 4 May (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, NABS), while “several” were noted at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 May (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – A first winter bird at the *Santa Rosa* Landfill, 10 April (Bob Duncan) marked the second April record for the WP.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – At the *Santa Rosa* Landfill, an adult in breeding plumage, a third winter bird, and a first summer bird were seen 2, 10, and 23 April, respectively (Bob Duncan) (very rare in the WP).

GLAUCOUS GULL – Very rare in the WP, a first-winter bird was on Pensacola Bay, *Escambia*, 27 March – 7 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

SOOTY TERN – Rare in Alabama, a single was noted on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 20 April (Bailey McKay *et al.*).

FORSTER'S TERN – Maximum counts (100+ and 100, respectively) for inland Alabama were made at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 16 March (Greg Jackson), and at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 March (Steve McConnell).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE – The spring count on the Wheeler NWR area, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tallied 33, marking a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Rare but increasing inland in Alabama, a single was reported at a feeder in Atmore, *Escambia*, 9 May (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder).

INCA DOVE – The first record of this species for Alabama was marked by one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 19-20 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, m.ob.; ph; videotaped; @ABRC). See page 8 of this issue.



Inca Dove, 19 April 2008, Fort Morgan, AL; L. Duncan.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO – A conservative count of 50+ was a good number for mid-May at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 May (Jacob Walker).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – An early arrival was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 18 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson, m.ob.; ph.; see cover of this issue), while good numbers were reported from the same site on multiple dates: four+ on 29 April (Eugenia Carey, Chazz Hesselein *et al.*), three on 16 May (Jacob Walker), and three on 17 May (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald). Three was also a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 12 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – The 18th record for Alabama was marked by one

at Clay, *Jefferson*, 12 March (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.; @ABRC).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW – A census for this species in Blackwater State Forest, *Santa Rosa*, revealed 20 birds on 20 May (Peggy Baker, Jan Lloyd). One heard at Shorter, *Macon*, 26 March (Eric Soehren) marked the earliest record for inland Alabama.

WHIP-POOR-WILL – Rare documentation of nesting for this species came from Skyline WMA, *Jackson*, 7-9 May, where Bill Summerour found a nest with two eggs (ph.), and from Weogulka Creek at Hatchett Creek, *Coosa*, 9-21 May, where Mark Bailey, Jeff Baker, *et al.* found a nest with two eggs (ph.) that then produced two downy young.



Whip-poor-will nest, 9 May 2008, Skyline WMA, AL; B. Summerour.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – The 16 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tied the spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – One was early at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Michael Jordan).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – John Trent recorded a single north of Tallassee, *Tallapoosa*, 8 April (early record for inland Alabama).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – One was seen and heard at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 April (Larry Gardella), and marked an early arrival record for Alabama and the second for the Inland Coastal Plain.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – Four were recorded at two sites along the Elk River, *Limestone/Lauderdale*, 9 May (Jason Mitchell, Damien Simbeck, R.J. Moore) (maximum count for Tennessee Valley and ties the maximum for inland Alabama).

EASTERN PHOEBE – The 14 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. The 84 tallied on the Birmingham area (*Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*) count 26 April was a good number.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – A male at Penny Bottoms, Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 April (Stan Hamilton), marked the second record for the Tennessee Valley (first in spring) and the third spring record for inland Alabama.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – The 64 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD – The ninth record for the WP was established by a single seen at the Pensacola Airport, *Escambia*, 30 May (Powers McLeod).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Singles were spotted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 April (Bob Duncan) and 14 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (very rare spring transient

in the WP). Rare in spring in Alabama, three records were received. At Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, one was seen 10 April (Jennifer Rycenga *et al.*) and two were found 19 April (Michael Jordan), while a single was at the country club on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 April (David Dortch; ph.).

EASTERN KINGBIRD – Sixty was a good number for a single site at the west end of the Birmingham Airport, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

GRAY KINGBIRD – One at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 20 March (Bob Duncan) marked the earliest arrival date for the WP by four days. This flycatcher is rare but becoming regular again in Alabama. One was at the country club, Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 4 April (Howard Horne) (return to probable breeding site).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Very rare in spring in the WP, one was spotted at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 April (Bob Duncan). At the Alabama A&M Farms, Hazel Green, *Madison*, a pair was noted 3 May (Ken Ward, NABS) (regular breeder at this site). One was seen at a new site west of Athens, *Limestone*, 7 May (Carla Gregg).

WHITE-EYED VIREO – One at Saraland, *Mobile*, 1 and 10 March (Michael Jordan) was uncommon if wintering and early if a migrant. The 97 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, tied the maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – Early birds were at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 March (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald), and at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 16 March (Larry Gardella).

WARBLING VIREO – Rare in Alabama, a single was at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 April (Ronnie Blackwell).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Rare in spring in Alabama, one was singing at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 April (Larry Gardella) (second spring record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

RED-EYED VIREO – John Trent observed a single at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 21 March to mark an early arrival date for inland Alabama.

BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO – An early single was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 2 April (Carrie Dortch, David Dortch) and 5 April (Howard Horne), and another early bird was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.). One was still on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17 May (*vide* Howard Horne) to mark a late spring departure date for Alabama.

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, records were received from four sites: six (maximum count for Tennessee Valley) at Decatur, *Morgan*, 9 April (Steve McConnell); one on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette); two at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 5 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and a single at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 5 May (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds). A pair was noted at Clay, *Jefferson*, from early May- 20 May (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (locally rare, but increasing in north Alabama).

- TREE SWALLOW** – The 19 recorded on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, was a good spring number for the Tennessee Valley.
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** – An early arrival record for the Gulf Coast of Alabama was marked by three at Bon Secour NWR, *Baldwin*, 1 March (Gary Koehn) (a single present 2 March). Other early birds included six at Eufaula, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West), and a single along Smith Lake south of Houston, *Winston*, 6 March (Larry Barkey).
- CLIFF SWALLOW** – An early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by one at the Alabama River Parkway bridge, *Elmore*, 13 March (Michael Jordan). Also early was a single at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 15 March (Howard Horne). At Weiss Lake, *Cherokee*, 100 was a good number so early for the Mountain Region, 30 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).
- CAVE SWALLOW** – A rare but now regular spring migrant in the WP, singles were found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 April (Malcolm Boothroyd, Bob Duncan) and 10 April (Bob Duncan), and in *Okaloosa*, 14 April (Kelly Jones). Also rare but now regular in spring on the Alabama Coast, two reports were received from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*: three, 16 March (early arrival record for Alabama) (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan), and 30+ (second highest count for Alabama), 3 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, m.ob.). Four reports came from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*: five+, 5 April (Howard Horne); one, 12 April (Steve McConnell, C.K. Borg); one, 17 April (Howard Horne, Michael Collins); and one, 20 April (Van Remsen *et al.*).
- BARN SWALLOW** – Early birds included a single at Hartselle, *Morgan*, 1 March (Steve McConnell), a single south of Houston, *Winston*, 2 March (Larry Barkey), and two along I-65, *Montgomery/Elmore*, 4 March (Glenn Peterson).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** – Joe Wyatt found one in *Walton*, 10 May (very rare in Western Panhandle). The 24 recorded on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, marked a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- HOUSE WREN** – Evidence of nesting by this species came from Anniston, *Calhoun*, 23 April (Debbie McKenzie), where it is a rare but regular breeder.
- WINTER WREN** – A late departure date for the Gulf Coast was marked by a single at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).
- SEDGE WREN** – Six singing birds in a grassy marsh were surprisingly vocal at Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, 16 April (Bob Duncan). One was found at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 April (Ken Ward, John Ehinger, Neill Cowles, Beth Wood) (uncommon in the Tennessee Valley).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** – A late bird was at Shorter, *Macon*, 12 May (Eric Soehren).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** – The 179 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD** – The 93 on the Wheeler NWR area count,

Limestone/Morgan, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

AMERICAN PIPIT – One at the Alabama A&M Farms, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 3 May (Ken Ward, Linda Reynolds, Dick Reynolds, NABS) was late.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – Nine was a good number on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5 April (Jacob Walker).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – Three was a good number at Ruffner Mountain, *Jefferson*, 26 April (Scot Duncan, Ashlin Duncan).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – Rare in spring, but regular at this site, sightings were made on three dates on Monte Sano Mountain, *Madison*: one, 27 April (land trust property; NABS); two, 1 May, and one, 4 May (SP; Bert Harris, Milton Harris). One was found in western *Lauderdale*, 5 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

NORTHERN PARULA – One was early at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 4 March (Lorna West), and 15+ was a good number this early on 8 March, Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

YELLOW WARBLER – The 40+ on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 May (Jacob Walker) was a good number.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – Twenty-five on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 May (Jacob Walker) was a good number.

CAPE MAY WARBLER – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, Larry Gardella found one at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 27 April.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Rare inland, a singing male was observed at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, *Jefferson*, 6 May (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – One was early at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 22 March (Scot Duncan).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – One was early near Florence, *Lauderdale*, 28 March (Phyllis Nofzinger).

PRAIRIE WARBLER – One was early at Lowndes WMA, *Lowndes*, 20 March (John Trent).

PALM WARBLER – If migrants, the following records represent early birds: two east of Troy, *Pike*, 18 March (John Trent), and one at Lowndes WMA, *Lowndes*, 20 March (John Trent).

CERULEAN WARBLER – Single singing males were early at two sites in *Madison*: Hays Nature Preserve near Huntsville, 12 April (John Ehinger, Ken Ward, NABS), and Madison County Public Lake, 13 April (John Ehinger, Ken Ward, NABS). As a breeder, this species is rare and localized and nests are seldom found, so the observation of a pair feeding two+ young in a nest along Flannagin Creek, Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, 22 May (John Trent) was noteworthy.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 8 March (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – The 93 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** – Ten was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).
- OVENBIRD** – Forty-nine were banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*) (maximum spring count for Alabama). One at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 7 April (John Ehinger) marked an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley. Another early bird was at Fort Toulouse, *Elmore*, 12 April (John Trent).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** – One at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 14-15 March (John Ehinger) marked an early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** – A maximum spring count for Alabama was set by the 156 at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.).
- HOODED WARBLER** – An early bird was north of Tallassee, *Tallapoosa*, 26 March (John Trent).
- WILSON'S WARBLER** – Rare in spring in Alabama, four records were received: one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 30 March (early) and one on 6 April (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); one in western *Lauderdale*, 5 May (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and two in Madison, *Madison*, 11 May (Ken Ward, NABS).
- CANADA WARBLER** – One was a late departure at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 25 May (Scot Duncan).
- SUMMER TANAGER** – The 118 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- SCARLET TANAGER** – The “100’s” reported from Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 29 April (Chazz Hesselein *et al.*) was an impressive total.
- LARK SPARROW** – Rare but increasing as a breeder, the 12 on the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown, Dwight Cooley, Steve McConnell, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton *et al.*), marked a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. Four were noted at the Alabama A&M Farms, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 3 May (Ken Ward, NABS).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW** – The 57 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.
- NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** – Late singles were noted at Isle aux Herbes, *Mobile*, 14 May, and at Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 15 May (John Trent, Collin Roberts).
- SONG SPARROW** – Nine birds were found in *Walton*, 10 May (Bob Reid, Carol Goodyear, George Russell) (first May record for area). The eight on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley. One nesting at Opelika, *Lee*, 25 May (Lorna West) was a rare breeder this far south.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Very rare in the WP, one was found at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15 April (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan). Rare in spring in Alabama, a single was noted at Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 5 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

SWAMP SPARROW – The 17 on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 26 April, established a spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – Thirty were counted at feeders in Anniston, *Clay*, 7 May (Debbie McKenzie), a good number for a single site in inland Alabama.

INDIGO BUNTING – One at Atmore, *Escambia*, 15 March (Jon Yoder, Dawn Yoder) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain. The 198 banded at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*) was a good number.

SHINY COWBIRD – Rare in Alabama, one was found on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 April (Larry Gardella *et al.*; ph.).

BRONZED COWBIRD – Very rare in the WP, one was identified at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 6 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster). The 14th record for Alabama was marked by one on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 April (Bert Harris).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Two+ were early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 6 April (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).

PURPLE FINCH – At Hollins, *Clay*, Mary Wilson banded 1,050+ from late 2007 through mid-March 2008 period, an impressive number.

RED CROSSBILL – Two were in the Coleman Lake area, Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 1 March (Ken Ward, m.ob.), while one was noted there 10 May (Bill Summerour) (continuation at this site).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – A request from feeder watchers resulted in over 20 reports from throughout northeast and western Pensacola, *Escambia* (Bob Duncan). A specimen 28 February will be deposited with the Florida State Museum in Gainesville.

Paul D. Kittle, Department of Biology, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632 (e-mail: pdkittle@una.edu). **Greg D. Jackson** [Alabama compiler], 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (e-mail: g_d_jackson@bellsouth.net). **Robert A. Duncan** [NW Florida compiler], 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (e-mail: town_point@bellsouth.net).