

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 2007 – FEBRUARY 2008)

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This report covers the period from December 2007 through February 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*, *Holmes*, *Okaloosa*, *Santa Rosa*, *Walton*, and *Washington* are in Alabama. “@” = under review by; “ABRC” = Alabama Bird Records Committee; “AOS” = Alabama Ornithological Society field trip; “b.” = banded; “CBC” = Christmas Bird Count; “FOSRC” = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; “FWBSF” = Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields; “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 – Uncommon but regular at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, good numbers were seen there this season: 14 on 4 November and 33 on 2 December (Steve McConnell), 71 on 14 December (Greg Jackson), and 55 on 15 December (Wheeler CBC) (ph.). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, 14 was a good number on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser *et al.*). Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain but regular at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, several records were received from this site: four on 24 November (Larry Gardella), 14 on 17 December in the Alabama portion of the Eufaula NWR CBC, and 37 (a maximum count for the Inland Coastal Plain) on 6 January (Rodney McCollum).

SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH) – A single was at Clay, *Jefferson*, 31 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent) (uncommon in the Mountain Region).

ROSS’S GOOSE – The ninth record for the WP was marked by a single at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 December (Don Ware). Rare but increasing in Alabama, numerous reports were received: one harvested by a hunter in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 1 December (*vide* Keith Gauldin); one at Ballard Lake,

Shelby, 4 December (Helen Kittinger, Kap Garmon, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*); three at Walker Pond west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 4 December (Damien Simbeck); two on 4 December (David Plumb) and three on 6 December (Bill Summerour) at a pond along County Road 55 near Foley, *Baldwin*; four on 17 November (Steve McConnell) and seven (good number) on 14 December (Greg Jackson) at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (regular at this site); one on 6 January at Lake Point Marina, Eufaula, *Barbour* (Rodney McCollum *et al.*); one at the mouth of Colbert Creek, *Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, AOS); one at Helena, *Shelby*, 15 February (Melissa Smith *et al.*; ph.); and one at Lakeview Estates in Bessemer, *Jefferson*, 17 February (LeeAnn McMahon) – 18 March (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (ph.).



Ross's Goose, 17 February 2008, Bessemer, AL; L. McMahon.

- CAKCLING GOOSE** – There are five accepted records of this species for Alabama. One was seen at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 8 January (Dwight Cooley; @ ABRC). Two additional records also came from Wheeler NWR, but in *Morgan*: eight at the observation building 22 January (Frank Fekel, Phillip Casteel) and seven along Flint Creek 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.) (@ ABRC).
- CANADA GOOSE** – The 86 recorded 5 January on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast.
- SWAN SP.** – A single Trumpeter/Tundra was on the Tennessee River, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December (Bill Rogers, Keith Hudson) (rare).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** – Very rare in the WP, one was recorded from *Holmes*, 27 December (Ron Smith).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – On the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December, 112 was a good number for winter.
- REDHEAD** – A single was at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 9 January (Don Self, Judy Self) where the species is locally rare.
- GREATER SCAUP** – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, two-three were observed at Speigner, *Elmore*, 1 December (Eric Soehren, Rita Kempf, m.ob.). The Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, tallied 255 (good number) on 26 December. Twenty-two were at Russellville, *Franklin*, 24 January (Damien Simbeck) where the species is locally rare.
- SURF SCOTER** – A single at Tallassee, *Elmore*, 31 December (Robert Reed) marked the second record for the Inland Coastal Plain.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** – Very rare in the WP, a single was at the FWBSF,

Okaloosa, 3 December (Don Ware). Rare in Alabama, two were at Brown's Creek, Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 23 February (Steve McConnell); a single was at Oneonta, *Blount*, 26 February (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown); and three were at Spring Creek, Guntersville Reservoir, *Marshall*, 29 February (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

BLACK SCOTER – Rare in Alabama, singles were noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 12 January (Dwight Cooley, Ken Ward, m.ob.), and at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 26 January (Damien Simbeck, AOS).

COMMON GOLDENEYE – Rare on the Inland Coastal Plain, three were at Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 9 January (Don Self, Judy Self).

HOODED MERGANSER – It was a good year for this species at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, where Dwight Cooley counted 1,282 on 4 December (a new maximum for Alabama), 935 on 18 December, and 400 on 23 December. The Wheeler NWR CBC tallied 1,004 on 15 December.

WILD TURKEY – Thirty was a good number observed at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 26 December (Guntersville CBC) and 5 January (Ken Ward, NABS). In the Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson*, Steve McConnell counted 38 (with 37 in one flock) on 12 January (maximum count for the Tennessee Valley).

RED-THROATED LOON – Rare but regular at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was there 27 November (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds *et al.*), and Steve McConnell saw two birds on 19 December and one on 23 February.

PACIFIC LOON – Rare but regular in winter at Guntersville, *Marshall*, one was recorded beginning 1 December (Steve McConnell *et al.*), while two were there 10 February (Greg Jackson) and 23 February (Steve McConnell).

COMMON LOON – A good number (460) was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 10 February (Greg Jackson).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – On the Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December, 724 was a good number.

HORNED GREBE – Uncommon in the Mountain Region, six were counted at East Lake, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Andrew Haffenden).

EARED GREBE – Rare in Alabama, a single was on the Tennessee River at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 22 February (Damien Simbeck).

WESTERN GREBE – The sixth Alabama record for this species was marked by a single that lingered at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 8 December – 8 March (Steve McConnell, m.ob.; ph.; @ ABRC).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – This species is increasing and becoming regular inland in winter, as evidenced by the 175 (locally good number) counted on the Tennessee River (50 at Waterloo, 25 at Wilson Dam, 100 at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence*), 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson *et al.*).

BROWN PELICAN – Rare but increasing on the Inland Coastal Plain, a single was at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 17 December (Geoff Hill).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – A maximum count for the Inland Coastal

Plain was established by the 2,661 tallied on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.

ANHINGA – Very rare in winter in the WP, eight were observed in *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Pat Baker, Bob Penhollow). Locally rare in winter in Alabama, two were noted at Langan Park, Spring Hill, *Mobile*, 7 February (John Winn, Beverly Winn).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Rarely reported inland, a single was spotted at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 8 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin).

GREAT BLUE HERON – Fifty were counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December, to establish a new winter maximum for the Mountain Region.

GREAT EGRET – A new winter maximum for the Tennessee Valley was marked by the 275 tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December. At Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 220 on 9 January was a good number for winter (Don Self, Judy Self).

CATTLE EGRET – Fifty was a good number for winter at Foley, *Baldwin*, 31 December (Michael Jordan)

GREEN HERON – Rare in winter inland, one was recorded at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 2 December (Greg Harber), and another single was counted (Mary Lou Miller *et al.*) on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Five (a maximum winter count for the Mountain Region) were tallied at East Lake, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Andrew Haffenden).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – One injured adult was found for the third year along Shades Creek during the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson*, 22 December (Sharon Hudgins, David George; ph.) (occasional in winter inland).

WHITE IBIS – Very rare in winter in the WP, a single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 17 December (Jan Lloyd *et al.*). Twenty-five was a good winter number for inland Alabama at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 8 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin).

TURKEY VULTURE – The 400 recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January, marked a record high for the Gulf Coast.

OSPREY – Twenty was a good number on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December. The Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, found two on 16 December (rare in winter in the Mountain Region). On the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January, 33 were recorded to set a new maximum for Alabama. Uncommon on the Inland Coastal Plain in winter, three were found at Jackson Island, *Montgomery*, during the Montgomery CBC 5 January (Eric Soehren), while two were seen near the Farley Nuclear Plant, *Houston*, 9 January (Jessica Joyner). A single was spotted at Town Creek, *Lawrence*, 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Very early arrivals (both singles) were at Tiger Point,

Santa Rosa, 18 February (Bill Bremser), and Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 22 February (Dana Timmons).

BALD EAGLE – A new maximum for the Gulf Coast was marked by the seven found during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

COOPER'S HAWK – On the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December, 23 were tallied (a new maximum for the Mountain Region and a maximum winter number for Alabama). A new winter maximum for the Gulf Coast was marked by the 13 found during the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

RED-TAILED HAWK (WESTERN) – A melanistic adult of this rare subspecies/morph was observed along Ala. Highway 101 north of Town Creek, *Lawrence*, 15 February (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson).

GOLDEN EAGLE – One was seen at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 19 December (Helen Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger) (rare).

PEREGRINE FALCON – Rare in winter for inland Alabama, one was reported from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 26 January (Eric Soehren, AOS).

VIRGINIA RAIL – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Geoff Hill *et al.* found two during the Auburn CBC, *Lee*, 15 December.

SORA – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, Geoff Hill *et al.* found one at Opelika, *Lee*, during the Auburn CBC, 15 December.

AMERICAN COOT – The Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, reported 31,015 on 15 December (a good number and a local maximum).

SANDHILL CRANE – Very rare in winter in the Florida Panhandle, two were at DeFuniak Springs, *Walton*, 6-8 December (Heidi Moore). Fourteen were found at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, 14 December (Dick Reynolds) (locally rare). Good numbers continued to be tallied at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*: 16 on 4 November (Steve McConnell), 175 on 17 November (NABS), 217 on 29 November (Larry Gardella), and 1,537 on 15 December (Wheeler NWR CBC). Eleven were seen at Coffee Slough west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 14 January (Charles Moore *et al.*) (locally rare).

WHOOPIING CRANE – Two birds at Garth Slough on Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 15+ December (*vide* Dwight Cooley *et al.*; ph.) returned from last winter and marked a continued occurrence of birds from the captive breeding program.

KILLDEER – A maximum for Alabama was established by the 3,480 counted during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Five found on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 29 December, was a good number for winter on the Gulf Coast. Rare in winter for inland Alabama, a single was observed on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, the 238 counted 15 December marked a new winter maximum for inland Alabama.

MARbled GODWIT – Two were found during the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 22 December (rare in winter)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Occasional into December in Alabama, a single was noted at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 2 December (Steve McConnell).

DUNLIN – A single was recorded on the Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 16 December (occasional in the Mountain Region in winter).

STILT SANDPIPER – This species is occasional/erratic in winter in Alabama. At Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 25 were found 30 December (Chazz Hesselein) and seven+ were found 6 January (Joan White-Spunner, John Dixon; ph.).

DOWITCHER SP. – The 100+ tallied on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone*, 15 December marked a maximum winter count for inland Alabama. Eleven were counted on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January (good number for winter on the Inland Coastal Plain).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Damien Simbeck found 206 at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 22 February (a locally good number, especially at a single site).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – Very rare in December in the WP, a first year individual (present since November) was seen at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 6-8 December (Don Ware, Bob Duncan *et al.*).

THAYER'S GULL – A first-year individual was found at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 3 January (Bert Harris, Dick Reynolds), 13 January (Greg Jackson; ph.), and 24 January (Scott Gravette) (seventh Alabama record; @ ABRC).

ICELAND GULL – The fifth record for the WP was marked by a first winter bird at the Perdido Landfill, *Escambia*, 18 February (Laura Catterton; ph.; @ FOSRC). The eighth record for Alabama was marked by a single immature at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 25 January (Bill Summerour, Ann Miller; ph.; @ ABRC).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – The 11th record for the WP was marked by an adult at the landfill in Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 8-17 February (Bob Duncan). In Alabama, records were received from three sites where the species is rare but regular and increasing: one on the east end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 December (Ben Garmon); one at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 29 December (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.); and five at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 4+ January (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson, m.ob.) (good number).

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – An adult individual in basic plumage, and probably of this species, was found at Magnolia Springs, 5 January (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson; ph.; @ ABRC). This record is currently under expert review and identification has not been fully established, but if confirmed as Glaucous-winged Gull, it would mark the first record for Alabama and the southeastern U.S.



Thayer's Gull, 13 January 2008, Guntersville, AL; G. Jackson.

GLAUCOUS GULL – The 12th record for the WP was marked by a third year individual at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 10 February (Kelly Jones, Sarah Jones *et al.*; ph.). One was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 16 January – 15 February (Scot Duncan, m.ob.) (rare).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Very rare in the WP, a first winter individual was at Destin, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan). Rare but increasing on the Gulf Coast, an immature was at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 February, and an adult and two immatures (maximum for Alabama) were there 17 February (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald, Howard Horne).

FORSTER'S TERN – Good winter counts for inland Alabama came from the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December (74); 43 at Second Creek at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 25 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson); and 48 at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 23 February (Steve McConnell).

SANDWICH TERN – Very rare locally in winter, one was seen at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 15 December (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

JAEGER SP. – One was noted on the Fort Morgan CBC, *Baldwin*, 29 December (rare).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – Rare in the WP, one was found at Allentown, *Santa Rosa*, 1-17 December (Nathan Dixon). Also rare in Alabama, one-two were noted south of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 5 December – 11 March (David Plumb, m.ob.). A hatching year individual was banded 14 December (Eric Soehren, John Trent) (ph.).



Groove-billed Ani, 14 December 2008, near Magnolia Springs, AL; E. Soehren.

BARRED OWL – On the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 13 were counted 15 December to mark a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

LONG-EARED OWL – The seventh record for Florida was marked by an emaciated bird that was found at Garcon Point, *Santa Rosa*, 30 November (Dustin Rodgers). The bird was taken to the Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary on 1 December, identified by Dorothy Kaufmann, and released in central *Santa Rosa* on 1 January (ph. Lucy Duncan; @ FOSRC).

SHORT-EARED OWL – Rare and erratic in Alabama, three records were received: a single on the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December; another single on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Ken Ward, R. Ward *et al.*); and two along Ala. Highway 19 southwest of Forest Home, *Butler*, 1 January (Christopher Howard).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – Bob and Martha Sargent banded and photographed an amazing total of eight birds at Clay, *Jefferson*, on various dates between 8 December and 25 February to mark the ninth-11th and 13th-17th

Alabama records (@ ABRC). The Sargent's string of state records was interrupted by Steve McConnell's aural experience with a single along Ala. Highway 146 in the Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson*, 29-30 December (12th Alabama record; @ ABRC).

NIGHTHAWK SP. – The first winter nighthawk record for the Tennessee Valley was marked by an individual at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 17 December (Bill Rogers).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – One was at Blountstown, *Calhoun* (Fla.), 2 January (Ray Dennis, m.ob.; b. Fred Bassett) and lingered through end of period.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD – This species is rare but regular in winter in Alabama. Fred Bassett photographed and banded or recaptured seven singles as follows: Mobile, *Mobile*, 19 December (L.J. Britain, Velma Britain), recapture of a bird banded at another site in Mobile in March 2007; Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 20 December (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch); Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Betsy Eager); Mobile, *Mobile*, 27 December (Nick Southall, Donna Southall); Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 4 January (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch), recapture of a bird banded in Victoria, Texas, 12 May 2007; Hamlin's Landing, *Baldwin*, 9 January (Sandy DeCord, Rick DeCord); and Montrose, *Baldwin*, 10 February (Nancy Moore, Ack Moore).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD – A single, present at the home of Dara and Lloyd Dobson, *Walton*, for about two months, was banded 29 December (Fred Bassett; m.ob.) and was last seen 3 January (second record for Florida). One was at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 18 January – 2 February (Fred Bassett, Mary Gibson, b., ph.) (fourth record for Alabama; @ ABRC).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – The eighth record for the WP was marked by one seen at the home of Burt Warwick, Pensacola, *Escambia*, 9 January (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Betsy Tetlow) and banded 31 January (Fred Bassett) (lingered until 28+ February). Rare but regular in Alabama, four birds were banded and photographed this season: Vestavia, *Jefferson*, 17+ December (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Sharon Kirby); Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 4-10 January (Fred Bassett, David Dortch, Carrie Dortch) (recapture of bird banded 28 February 2007 at St. Rose, Louisiana); Mobile, *Mobile*, 4 January (Fred Bassett, Laurie Bailey, Charlie Bailey) (recapture of a bird banded in 2005 in Mandeville, Louisiana); and Greystone, *Shelby*, 11 January (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrove).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD – One banded (Fred Bassett) at the home of Maryann Friedman, Baker, *Okaloosa*, 8 December marked the fourth record for the WP.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – Rare but regular in winter in Alabama, two singles were banded and photographed by Fred Bassett at two sites in Mobile, *Mobile*, 6 December (Mona Blackmon) and 19 December (Ainsley McNeely).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Rare in February in the WP, one was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 4-6 February (Powers McLeod). Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of

Alabama, records of singles were received from three localities: Mobile-Tensaw Delta CBC, *Mobile/Baldwin*, 15 December; Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 6 January (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson; ph.); and Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 January (John Stowers, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Very rare in winter in the WP, singles were at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 December (Lucy Duncan) and recorded on the Choctawhatchee CBC, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Charley Saleeby). Rare in winter along the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were found on the Dauphin Island CBC, *Mobile*, 22 December, and along County Road 10 at Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 30 December (David Plumb) and 5 January (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

BELL'S VIREO – The first winter record for northern Florida was marked by one at Valparaiso, *Okaloosa*, 17 December (Morris Clark).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Rare in winter in both the Tennessee Valley and Mountain Region, records of three singles were received: Waterloo CBC, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 15 December (Damien Simbeck), Mallard WMA, *Lawrence*, 9 February (Ken Ward, NABS), and Coleman Lake area of Talladega NF, *Cleburne*, 25 February (Birmingham Audubon Society field trip).

AMERICAN CROW – On the 22 December Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 1,329 was a good number.

FISH CROW – Absent or in small numbers along the WP coast since the West Nile virus outbreak, a count of 88 at the *Santa Rosa* landfill, Milton, 8 February (Bob Duncan) was encouraging. Seventy-seven were counted on the 15 December Pensacola CBC, down from over 4,000 on the 1994 CBC. Locally rare in winter but increasing in the Mountain Region, three were counted on the Birmingham CBC, *Jefferson/Shelby*, 22 December (Sharon Hudgins, David George). Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, calling singles were noted on the Guntersville CBC, *Marshall*, 26 December (Andrew Haffenden), and at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 29 December (Greg Jackson). On the 5 January Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 296 was a good number.

PURPLE MARTIN – Early arrivals were at Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 January (Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald), and at Florence, *Lauderdale*, 18 February (Paul Kittle).

CLIFF SWALLOW – The earliest arrival date for Alabama was established by one at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 29 February (Damien Simbeck).

CAVE SWALLOW – The second winter record for the WP was set by two birds at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 23 December (Bob Duncan, William Duncan).

BARN SWALLOW – A very late bird was at the FWBSF, *Okaloosa*, 3 December (Don Ware).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE – A maximum count for the Gulf Coast was marked by the 106 on the Gulf Shores CBC, *Baldwin*, 5 January.

HOUSE WREN – Rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, one was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell).

- MARSH WREN** – Rare in the Tennessee Valley in winter, one was tallied for the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, ~15 December (CBC count week).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** – The first WP record for February was marked by one at Fort Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, 2 February (Alan Knothe).
- AMERICAN PIPIT** – On the 16 December Cullman CBC, *Cullman*, 256 were counted to establish a new maximum for the Mountain Region.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** – Rare in winter in the Mountain Region, a single was seen at Hoover, *Jefferson*, 20 January (Helen Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger, Jo Kittinger).
- NORTHERN PARULA** – One was early on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 25 February (David Dortch, Carrie Dortch).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, singles were seen at Avalon Beach, *Santa Rosa*, 17 December (James Pfeiffer), and at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 12 February (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).
- PALM WARBLER** – This species is uncommon in winter in the Tennessee Valley, so singles at the same site near Guntersville, *Marshall*, 29 December (Steve McConnell) and 2 February (NABS) were notable.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** – Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, two were found during the Gulf Shores CBC, 5 January (Don Ware, Bill Bremser, Greta Bremser *et al.*).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – The sixth winter record for Alabama was marked by one at Chickasaw Lake, *Mobile*, 11 December (Ben Garmon).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** – Alex Harper found one on the University of West Florida campus, *Escambia*, 7 December to mark the fifth December record for the WP.
- SUMMER TANAGER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, records of four singles were received: one at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 1 December (Bob Duncan); one on the Pensacola CBC, *Escambia*, 15 December (James Pfeiffer, Ann Zicardi); and a male at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 26 December – 18 February, with a female at the same site 22 February (Morris Clark). Rare in winter in Alabama, John Dillon found one at a feeder in Bon Secour, *Baldwin*, 23 December (ph.).
- WESTERN TANAGER** – Very rare in winter in the WP, single males were found at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 7 December (Betsy Tetlow), and at Niceville, *Okaloosa*, 6-13 January (Carol Goodyear, Robin Stiles *et al.*).
- LARK SPARROW** – Linda Reynolds found one during the Wheeler NWR CBC, *Limestone/Morgan*, 15 December, to mark the third winter record for the Tennessee Valley. Rare in winter on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, singles were at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 3-19 January (Michael Willison, m.ob.; ph.), and on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 February (Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Howard Horne, Ben Garmon). One at Eufaula NWR, *Barbour*, 9 February (Peggy Baker, Pat Johnson, Jayne Rushin), marked the first winter record for the Inland Coastal Plain.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW – This species is uncommon and local in Alabama in winter, but good numbers were found at Grand Bay, *Mobile*, 13 December (five, with one b. and ph.), and 1 February (four, with two b.) (Eric Soehren, John Trent).



Henslow's Sparrow, Grand Bay, 1 February 2008; E. Soehren.

FOX SPARROW – Uncommon in the WP, four were found in *Washington* 26 December (Ron Smith).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW – Rare in winter in Alabama, one was found on the Montgomery CBC, *Montgomery*, 5 January.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – At Oneonta, *Blount*, 12 were counted on 7 December and 14 on 22 January, good numbers for the Mountain Region (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR – At Whiteside, *Limestone*, Steve McConnell counted 242 on 15 December and 300+ on 18 December (good numbers).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBK – Roger Johnson photographed an immature male at a feeder in Opelika, *Lee*, that lingered to 2 December (occasional this late for inland Alabama).

PHEUCTICUS SP. – One (probably a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak) was at a feeder east of Springville, *St. Clair*, 1 January (Andrew Bates) (both Rose-breasted and Black-headed grosbeaks casual inland in winter).

INDIGO BUNTING – Very rare in winter in the WP, one was at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 18-20 December (Bob Duncan).

DICKCISSEL – One was seen at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 27 February – 13 March (Bill Summerour; ph.) (rare in winter on the Gulf Coast).



Dickcissel, 27 February 2008, Silverhill, AL; B. Summerour.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Gene Fleming found a male at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 31 December (rare).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – Brian Ahern estimated 250 in *Okaloosa*, 19 January (good number). At a roost near Brushy Lake in Bankhead NF, *Lawrence*, Steve McConnell counted 980 on 1 February, a good number for recent years.

BRONZED COWBIRD – The 11th record for the WP was marked by a male at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 8 February (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE – Very rare in winter in the WP, one was recorded (James Pfeiffer) on the Pensacola CBC, *Escambia*, 15 December.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – Casual in winter in the WP, a single was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 February (Dana Timmons, Sue Timmons; ph.). Rare in winter in

Alabama, one was at Silverhill, *Baldwin*, 28 February – 21+ March (Bill Summerour; ph.).

NUTMEG MANNIKIN – This exotic continues its presence in the Pensacola, *Escambia*, area. A flock of 12-15 has persisted at a feeder in east Pensacola for nine years (Betsy Tetlow). Reports are being received from Lilian in neighboring *Baldwin*, Ala., and as far east as Milton, *Santa Rosa*. A request for sightings from Bob Duncan resulted in reports from over 20 feeding stations.

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