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COVER: Painted Redstart, 16 April 2011, Mobile Co., AL; Ben Wilson

LAUDERDALE COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT – 2010**Paul D. Kittle****INTRODUCTION**

While the Breeding Bird Survey program of the U.S. Geological Survey provides valuable quantitative data about summer birdlife in Alabama, it is limited in its coverage. The Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009) provided excellent information on the breeding status and distribution of Alabama birds, but provided very limited quantitative data and concentrated on only a portion (one-sixth) of U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangles. Jackson (2000) and Haggerty and Jackson (2005) provided a good introduction to the purpose and value of doing a series of summer bird counts in Alabama. The results for eight other counties have been published (Jackson 2000, Gardella 2003, Gardella 2004, Haggerty and Jackson 2005, Jackson and Haggerty 2007), and results for several counties remain unpublished. The objective of this paper is to report the results of a Summer Bird Count that was conducted in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in June 2010.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Physiographically, Lauderdale County (Figure 1) is in two ecoregions, with the Interior Plateau covering most (80%) of the county. Approximately 20% of the county in the northwest corner is covered by the Southeastern Plains. The Interior Plateau (Highland Rim region) is weakly to moderately dissected, with nearly level to moderately steep topography. Land cover and use includes mixed (oak-hickory-pine) and deciduous (oak-hickory) forest, extensive cropland (cotton, soybeans, corn, hay) and pasture, and the urban area of Florence. The Southeastern Plains (Transition Hills region) consists of dissected open hills with rounded tops and steep-sided slopes. Land cover and use includes mostly mixed (oak-hickory-pine) forest with some pine plantations and some cropland and pasture in narrow valley bottoms and on gently sloping uplands (Griffith et al. 2001). The Tennessee River (Wilson and Pickwick reservoirs) forms the southern boundary of the county. Lauderdale County encompasses 1733 km² (669 mi²) and has a population density of 54 people/km² (139 people/mi²) (USCB 2011).

The count area was based on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle (“quad”) maps. All 12 quads with 50% or greater coverage in Lauderdale County

were surveyed: Blackburn, Center Hill, Florence, Killen, Lexington, Pruitton, Rogersville, Sinking Creek, Threet, Waterloo, Wheeler Dam, and Wright. Eleven observers in eight parties surveyed quads on various single mornings during the period 5 – 22 June, 2010, by automobile and on foot. The quantitative period of the survey began at dawn (ca. 0500 hrs) and extended until late morning (no later than 1100 hrs). Additional species records and breeding status data were collected after 1100 hrs and during pre-count scouting. A total of 49.25 party hours was expended counting diurnal species, and two party hours were expended counting nocturnal species. All individuals seen or heard were counted. Relative abundances for diurnal species were calculated by dividing the total number of individuals by the total number of diurnal party hours. Relative abundances for nocturnal species (owls and nightjars) were not calculated. Only presence or absence and breeding status data were collected for the Killen, Rogersville, and Sinking Creek quads.

In addition to counting individuals, participants looked for evidence of breeding. Breeding designation codes used in this survey were the same as those used for the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009) and for previous Alabama Summer Bird Counts (Jackson and Haggerty 2007).



FIGURE 1. Alabama map showing location of Lauderdale County.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 107 species (101 diurnal) and 8776 individuals (8750 diurnal) was recorded during 49.25 diurnal party hours and two nocturnal party hours. This

resulted in a total of 178 individuals per party hour (excluding nocturnal species), with a mean of 1.8 birds per party hour per diurnal species. Fifty species (47%) were confirmed as breeders, 25 (23%) were probable breeders, 29 (27%) were possible breeders, and 3 (3%) were noted as only “observed” species (Table 1).

In descending order, the most numerous species (> 4.0 individuals/party hour) were Cliff Swallow, European Starling, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Crow, American Robin, Common Grackle, Barn Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark, Purple Martin, and Carolina Wren. Many species had wide distributions, with 33 species (31%) found in all 12 surveyed quads and nine (8%) found in 11 blocks. Species with a very limited distribution (seen in only one block) included Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Barn Owl, Warbling Vireo, Fish Crow, House Wren, Ovenbird, Swainson’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole.

Mirarchi et al. (2004) classified Alabama birds with regard to conservation status, with “Priority I” species being of highest conservation concern and “Priority II” species being of high conservation concern. While no “Priority I” species were observed, four “Priority II” species were found: Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson’s Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. Wood Thrush and Kentucky Warbler were relatively common (0.83 and 0.99 birds per party hour, respectively) and widespread (found in 11 and 10 quads, respectively). Worm-eating Warbler and Swainson’s Warbler were rare (0.04 and 0.02 birds per party hour, respectively) and restricted in distribution (two and one quads, respectively).

Based on distribution status documented in the 2000-2006 Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas (Haggerty 2009), records of these species were notable: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Warbling Vireo, Fish Crow, House Wren, Yellow Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole.

TABLE 1. Lauderdale County Summer Bird Count Totals, June 2010.

| Species | Total | Total/party hour | No. Quads | Breeding Status |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Canada Goose | 194 | 3.94 | 7 | Confirmed |
| Wood Duck | 21 | 0.43 | 2 | Confirmed |
| Mallard | 1 | 0.02 | 1 | Possible |
| Northern Bobwhite | 25 | 0.51 | 9 | Probable |
| Wild Turkey | 12 | 0.24 | 5 | Possible |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 21 | 0.43 | 1 | Observed |
| Great Blue Heron | 132 | 2.68 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Great Egret | 10 | 0.20 | 1 | Confirmed |
| Green Heron | 13 | 0.26 | 9 | Probable |

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TABLE 1. cont.

| Species | Total | Total/party hour | No. Quads | Breeding Status |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 3 | 0.06 | 1 | Possible |
| Black Vulture | 16 | 0.32 | 7 | Observed |
| Turkey Vulture | 105 | 2.13 | 12 | Observed |
| Osprey | 3 | 0.06 | 3 | Confirmed |
| Cooper's Hawk | 5 | 0.10 | 4 | Confirmed |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 14 | 0.28 | 8 | Confirmed |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 2 | 0.04 | 3 | Possible |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 16 | 0.32 | 9 | Confirmed |
| American Kestrel | 19 | 0.39 | 6 | Confirmed |
| Killdeer | 63 | 1.28 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Rock Pigeon | 20 | 0.41 | 4 | Possible |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | 19 | 0.39 | 4 | Confirmed |
| Mourning Dove | 474 | 9.62 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 34 | 0.69 | 10 | Probable |
| *Barn Owl | --- | --- | 1 | Confirmed |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 3 | --- | 2 | Possible |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | --- | 2 | Possible |
| Barred Owl | 3 | --- | 4 | Confirmed |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 8 | --- | 4 | Possible |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | 11 | --- | 2 | Probable |
| Chimney Swift | 37 | 0.75 | 12 | Possible |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 8 | 0.16 | 6 | Probable |
| Belted Kingfisher | 4 | 0.08 | 5 | Possible |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 12 | 0.24 | 5 | Probable |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 67 | 1.36 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Downy Woodpecker | 29 | 0.59 | 12 | Possible |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 4 | 0.08 | 5 | Possible |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | 0.02 | 2 | Confirmed |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 14 | 0.28 | 8 | Possible |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 40 | 0.81 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 64 | 1.30 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Eastern Phoebe | 53 | 1.08 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 21 | 0.43 | 9 | Confirmed |
| Eastern Kingbird | 93 | 1.89 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 11 | 0.22 | 4 | Probable |
| White-eyed Vireo | 142 | 2.88 | 12 | Probable |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 19 | 0.39 | 7 | Possible |
| Warbling Vireo | 1 | 0.02 | 1 | Possible |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 101 | 2.05 | 12 | Probable |

TABLE 1. cont.

| Species | Total | Total/party hour | No. Quads | Breeding Status |
|-------------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Blue Jay | 66 | 1.34 | 12 | Probable |
| American Crow | 260 | 5.28 | 12 | Confirmed |
| *Fish Crow | --- | --- | 1 | Possible |
| Purple Martin | 208 | 4.22 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Tree Swallow | 2 | 0.04 | 3 | Confirmed |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow | 42 | 0.85 | 10 | Confirmed |
| Cliff Swallow | 1119 | 22.72 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Barn Swallow | 234 | 4.75 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Carolina Chickadee | 95 | 1.93 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Tufted Titmouse | 121 | 2.46 | 12 | Confirmed |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 23 | 0.47 | 9 | Possible |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | 12 | 0.24 | 3 | Probable |
| Carolina Wren | 206 | 4.18 | 12 | Confirmed |
| House Wren | 1 | 0.02 | 1 | Possible |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 59 | 1.20 | 12 | Probable |
| Eastern Bluebird | 328 | 6.66 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Wood Thrush | 41 | 0.83 | 11 | Probable |
| American Robin | 242 | 4.91 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Gray Catbird | 5 | 0.10 | 3 | Possible |
| Northern Mockingbird | 346 | 7.03 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Brown Thrasher | 87 | 1.77 | 12 | Confirmed |
| European Starling | 582 | 11.82 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Cedar Waxwing | 4 | 0.08 | 2 | Possible |
| Ovenbird | 6 | 0.12 | 1 | Possible |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 2 | 0.04 | 2 | Possible |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 8 | 0.16 | 6 | Possible |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 3 | 0.06 | 2 | Possible |
| Prothonotary Warbler | 6 | 0.12 | 5 | Confirmed |
| Swainson's Warbler | 1 | 0.02 | 1 | Possible |
| Kentucky Warbler | 49 | 0.99 | 10 | Probable |
| Common Yellowthroat | 79 | 1.60 | 9 | Confirmed |
| Hooded Warbler | 12 | 0.24 | 5 | Probable |
| Northern Parula | 26 | 0.53 | 9 | Probable |
| *Yellow Warbler | --- | --- | 1 | Possible |
| Pine Warbler | 21 | 0.43 | 8 | Probable |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 33 | 0.67 | 10 | Probable |
| Prairie Warbler | 32 | 0.65 | 8 | Probable |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 131 | 2.66 | 12 | Probable |
| Eastern Towhee | 134 | 2.72 | 12 | Confirmed |

TABLE 1. cont.

| Species | Total | Total/party hour | No. Quads | Breeding Status |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Chipping Sparrow | 115 | 2.34 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Field Sparrow | 125 | 2.54 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Lark Sparrow | 6 | 0.12 | 4 | Confirmed |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 6 | 0.12 | 3 | Possible |
| Song Sparrow | 5 | 0.10 | 3 | Possible |
| Summer Tanager | 68 | 1.38 | 12 | Probable |
| Scarlet Tanager | 23 | 0.47 | 5 | Probable |
| Northern Cardinal | 383 | 7.78 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Blue Grosbeak | 55 | 1.12 | 12 | Probable |
| Indigo Bunting | 396 | 8.04 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Dickcissel | 38 | 0.77 | 8 | Confirmed |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 104 | 2.11 | 11 | Confirmed |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 224 | 4.55 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Common Grackle | 240 | 4.87 | 12 | Confirmed |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 125 | 2.54 | 12 | Probable |
| Orchard Oriole | 46 | 0.93 | 9 | Confirmed |
| Baltimore Oriole | 2 | 0.04 | 1 | Possible |
| House Finch | 26 | 0.53 | 8 | Confirmed |
| American Goldfinch | 66 | 1.34 | 12 | Probable |
| House Sparrow | 128 | 2.60 | 11 | Confirmed |

*Detected outside of a regular 0500-1100 hour count

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REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010

Steve W. McConnell

The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created in 1987 to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven active and experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews Alabama reports of species that generally have fewer than ten accepted records or fewer than two accepted records during the previous ten years. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 80 species, are voted on by all committee members. If the first vote is indecisive, the committee members vote a second time. Vote totals with no more than one “not accepted” vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more “not accepted” votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions after two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual ABRC meeting.

During this period, 41 records from 43 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with six species being added to the Alabama state list: Glaucous-winged Gull, Plumbeous Vireo, Hooded Oriole, Ivory Gull, Lazuli Bunting, and Mangrove Cuckoo.

As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 445 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Sixteen species are classified as “hypothetical” where objective evidence such as a photo or specimen and multiple observer testimonies is lacking.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 41 records from 43 observers.

| Record No. | Species | Date | County | How Noted ¹ | Decision ² | AL Status ³ |
|------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 09-06 | Glaucous-winged Gull | 1/4/2008 | Baldwin | P | A | 1 |
| 09-10 | Plumbeous Vireo | 10/26/2008 | Baldwin | V | A | 1-H |
| 09-12 | Thayer’s Gull | 1/16/2005 | Colbert/Law. | V | NI | --- |
| 09-14 | “Western” Flycatcher | 10/13/2005 | Baldwin | P/B | NI | --- |
| 09-15 | Band-rumped Storm-Petrel | 6/20/2009 | Pelagic | P | A | 9 |
| 09-16 | Broad-billed Hummingbird | 1/23/2009 | Baldwin | P/B | A | 5 |
| 09-17 | Black-bellied Whist.-Duck | 3/19/2009 | Mobile | V | A | 8 |
| 09-18 | Black-bellied Whist.-Duck | 4/28/2009 | Mobile | P | A | 9 |

TABLE 1. cont.

| Record No. | Species | Date | County | How Noted ¹ | Decision ² | AL Status ³ |
|------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 09-19 | Black-bellied Whist.-Duck | 5/21/2009 | Mobile/Bald. | P | A | 10 |
| 09-20 | Black Swift | 4/7/2009 | Colbert | V | NI | --- |
| 09-21 | Cackling Goose | 1/16/2009 | Morgan | V | A | 10 |
| 09-22 | Fork-tailed Flycatcher | 5/21/2009 | Mobile | P | A | 4 |
| 09-23 | Hooded Oriole | 1/24/2009 | Baldwin | P | NI | --- |
| 09-24 | Hooded Oriole | 1/27/2009 | Baldwin | P/S | A | 1 |
| 09-25 | Little Gull | 12/20/2008 | Lauderdale | P | A | 10 |
| 09-26 | Say's Phoebe | 2/26/2009 | Madison | P | A | 4 |
| 09-27 | Snow Bunting | 1/2/2009 | Baldwin | P | A | 2 |
| 09-28 | Western Tanager | 12/13/2008 | Mobile | P | A | >10 |
| 10-01 | Anna's Hummingbird | 1/18/2010 | Madison | P/B | A | 5 |
| 10-02 | Am. Tree Sparrow | 12/16/1989 | Colbert | V | NI | --- |
| 10-03 | Am. Tree Sparrow | 12/16/1989 | Lauderdale | V | NI | --- |
| 10-04 | Audubon's Shearwater | 9/20/2009 | Pelagic | P | A | 10 |
| 10-05 | Band-rumped Storm-Petrel | 9/20/2009 | Pelagic | V | A | 10 |
| 10-06 | Burrowing Owl | 12/12/2009 | Mobile | P | A | >10 |
| 10-07 | California Gull | 10/17/2009 | Marshall | P | A | 8 |
| 10-08 | Dusky Flycatcher | 10/17/2009 | Baldwin | P/B | NI | --- |
| 10-09 | Dusky Flycatcher | 10/19/2009 | Baldwin | P/B | A | 3 |
| 10-10 | Flammulated Owl | 12/10/2009 | Lee | P/S | A | 2 |
| 10-11 | Gyr Falcon | 1/8/2010 | Marshall | V | NI | --- |
| 10-12 | Hudsonian Godwit | 9/22/1989 | Mobile | V | NI | --- |
| 10-13 | Iceland Gull | 12/31/2009 | Baldwin | P | A | 10 |
| 10-14 | Ivory Gull | 1/29/2010 | Chambers | P/S | A | 1 |
| 10-15 | Kelp Gull | 3/14/2009 | Mobile | P | NI | --- |
| 10-16 | Lazuli Bunting | 1/31/2010 | Baldwin | P | A | 1 |
| 10-17 | Lesser Nighthawk | 11/10/2009 | Mobile | P | A | 6 |
| 10-18 | Mangrove Cuckoo | 9/17/2009 | Baldwin | P/B | A | 1 |
| 10-19 | Northern Goshawk | 12/10/2009 | Madison | P | NI | --- |
| 10-20 | Northern Wheatear | 10/18/2009 | Baldwin | P | A | 5 |
| 10-21 | Say's Phoebe | 10/18/2009 | Baldwin | V | A | 5 |
| 10-22 | Thayer's Gull | 11/29/2009 | Marshall | P | A | 7 |
| 10-23 | Western Gull | 12/20/1999 | Mobile | V | NI | --- |

¹V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VD = video, A = audio recording, S = specimen, H = heard

²A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO – not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = review incomplete

³Number of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile or Baldwin County

The records contained in this report were reviewed and voted upon by: Bill Bremser, Bob Duncan, Larry Gardella, Ben Garmon, Howard Horne, Dr. Greg

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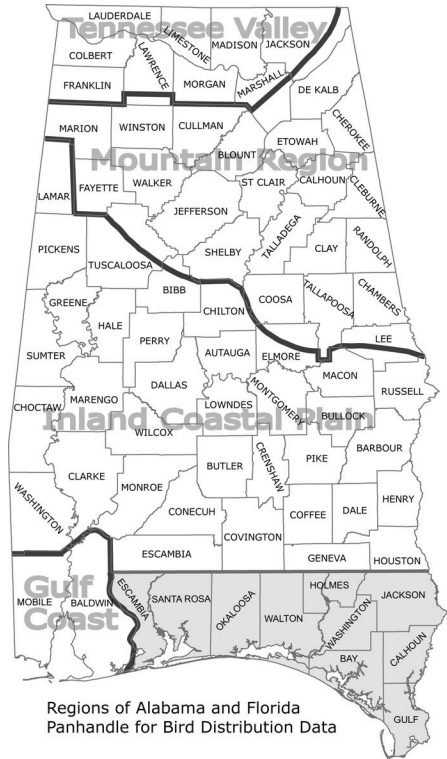
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SPRING SIGHTINGS (MARCH - MAY 2011)

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

This report covers the period from March through May 2011 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; “AFB” = Air Force Base; “b.” = banded; “m.ob.” = many observers; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SP” = State Park; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK – Two seen at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 May (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked the sixth record for the WP. Rare but now regular on the Gulf Coast, one adult was at the Dauphin Island Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 22 April (Samuel Hodges; ph.). This species is now expected at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, where it breeds. Observations at this site include five on 7 May (Chazz Hesselein), 16 on 18 May (Craig Litteken), and 11 on 28 May (Erik Johnson).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – South of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, one-three were seen on three dates between 5-15 March (Michael Jordan, William

Matthews, Eric Soehren, John Trent) (rare but regular in this area).

ROSS'S GOOSE – A single was seen at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 10 March (Damien Simbeck; ph.) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley and increasing). Rare in the Mountain Region, one was noted at Springville, *St. Clair*, 29 March (Jim Deason *et al.*), and two were at East Lake, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 28 April – 23 June (Greg Jackson, m.ob.; ph.) to mark the first summer record for Alabama.



Ross's Goose, 1 May 2011, Jefferson Co., AL; P. H. Franklin.

NORTHERN SHOVELER – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, Dwight Cooley counted 2,278 on 2 March (maximum count for inland Alabama and maximum spring count for Alabama) and 1,010 on 16 March.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – At Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, Dwight Cooley counted 800 on 2 March (maximum spring count for Alabama) and 279 on 16 March.

GREATER SCAUP – Damien Simbeck counted 24 at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 15 March, to mark a new spring maximum for Alabama. A late bird lingered on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 20 April (Dean Cutten, Raylene Cutten).

SURF SCOTER – Two males were noted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 March (Dwight Cooley) (rare inland). A late bird was at Gulf SP, *Baldwin*, 14 May (Craig Litteken) (rare but regular on the Gulf Coast).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Seven were counted at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 7 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (casual winter visitor to the WP). Damien Simbeck found a single female at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 15 March (rare inland).

BLACK SCOTER – One female in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 29 May (Caralyn Zender, Will Duncan, Lucy Duncan) marked a late departure date for the WP by two months.

LONG-TAILED DUCK – One was on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 24 April (John Stowers) (rare).

HOODED MERGANSER – A single was observed at McConnico Creek on Lake Demopolis, *Greene*, 8 May (Don Self, Judy Self) (localized breeder).

PACIFIC LOON – One was discovered on the Tennessee River at Spring Creek, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, 31 March (Damien Simbeck) (rare; second spring record for inland Alabama).

PIED-BILLED GREBE – Two were observed at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 May (Craig Litteken) (localized breeder).

EARED GREBE – Damien Simbeck found a single at Town Creek Point, *Colbert*, 15 March (rare).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – The 2,500 counted at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 3 March (Damien Simbeck) ties the maximum spring count for Alabama.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – At Cat Island, *Mobile*, 633 were seen in flight 17

March (Howard Horne *et al.*) (maximum spring count for Alabama). The 230+ seen at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 19 March (Phyllis Nofzinger *et al.*) was a good spring number for inland Alabama. In the Town Creek Marsh area, *Colbert*, 213 were counted on 15 March and 304 on 3 April, the latter number a spring maximum for inland Alabama (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.).

AMERICAN BITTERN – This species occurs regularly inland during spring migration, but is rarely detected. Sightings came from four sites this season: one at Halawakee Creek near Tuckersburg, *Chambers*, 24 March (Lorna West, Kevin Jackson); one in Vestavia Hills, *Jefferson*, 31 March – 4 April (Lisa Churchill; ph.); two east of Oneonta, *Blount*, 13 April (Duane Brown, Lynn Brown) (ties maximum for the Mountain Region); and one during the Wheeler NWR area count, *Limestone*, 30 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette).

GREAT BLUE HERON – The Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 30 April, recorded 93 to mark a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region. Damien Simbeck and Jeff Garner counted 309 at multiple sites between Waterloo and Town Creek, *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence*, 6 May, to mark a maximum spring count for northwest Alabama.

GREAT EGRET – Sixty were seen at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, 27 April (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (maximum spring count for the Mountain Region), and 57 were counted during the Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, on 30 April.

SNOWY EGRET – Two were found during the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 30 April (Ken Ward, Ruffina Ward) (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley). One was at the Pell City sod farm, *St. Clair*, 15 May (Greg Jackson) (rare in spring in the Mountain Region).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Sue Moske found four west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 7 May (rare but regular in spring in the Tennessee Valley).

REDDISH EGRET – Twelve birds, including one rare white morph, were seen on Cat Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Howard Horne *et al.*) (maximum spring count for Alabama). A single rare white morph was noted on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 April (Greg Jackson, m.ob.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A single in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 30 May (Cecil Brown) was locally late by 19 days. A maximum spring count for the Gulf Coast of Alabama was set by the 38 counted on Cat Island, *Mobile*, 17 March (Howard Horne *et al.*). The Birmingham area spring count, *Jefferson/Shelby/St. Clair*, 30 April, recorded 11 to mark a new spring maximum for the Mountain Region (Greg Harber, Jim Sherrill *et al.*).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – A single was in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 27 March – 3 April (Alex Harper) to mark the 12th record for the WP.

PLEGADIS SP. – Either species is rare inland, so one seen flying over I-20 near Riverview, *St. Clair*, 23 April was notable (Greg Jackson, Debra Jackson) (eighth *Plegadis* record for the Mountain Region).

OSPREY – A pair was observed on a nest in the Cedar Bluff quad, *Cherokee*, 29 May (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare breeder in the Mountain Region, but at a regular site).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Chazz Hesselein counted 15 in *Mobile* 6 March to tie the maximum spring count for Alabama (10 at Bellefontaine, one on the Dauphin Island Causeway, and four on Dauphin Island).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – This species is rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, as evidenced by four records: one north of Montevallo, *Shelby*, 1 April (Mac Braid; regular site); a pair nesting east of Abernant, *Tuscaloosa*, late April+ (Nicholas Duchock; ph.; new site); a single along Ala. Hwy. 25 west of Harpersville, *Shelby*, 30 April (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller; not a regular site); and one along Luxapalilla Creek near Winfield, *Marion*, 25 May (Jud Johnston; regular in this area). Locally rare but increasing in northwest Alabama, three records were received: one near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); three north of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 22 May (Jeff Garner); and one near Leighton, *Colbert*, 27 May (Damien Simbeck).



Mississippi Kite, 5 May 2011, Tuscaloosa, AL; N. Duchock.

BALD EAGLE – Ken Wills found a pair with one young in a nest at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 15 March (rare breeder locally, return to site). Five on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 April, ties the maximum for the Tennessee Valley.

NORTHERN HARRIER – One was late at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 24 May (Cheryl Bunch).

COOPER'S HAWK – The Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 April, tallied six (spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

AMERICAN KESTREL – Three were counted on the Brooksville Breeding Bird Survey, *Blount*, 29 May (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany, Hans Paul) (locally rare breeder, return to two sites).

YELLOW RAIL – This species is rarely detected in Alabama, but a special effort at Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, produced the fourth and fifth spring records for the state as follows: four (three b., one seen; three ph.) on 15 March (Eric Soehren, Jake Walker, John Trent *et al.*), and two on 6 April (Eric Soehren, John Trent, m.ob.; b.; ph.).

BLACK RAIL – Rare in Alabama, a single was captured at Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, 15 March (Eric Soehren, Jake Walker, John Trent *et al.*; b.; ph.) and provided the second March record for the state.

PURPLE GALLINULE – Twenty counted at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa*, 10 May (Les Kelly, Bruce Furlow, Larry Goodman) was a high number for the WP in recent years.

COMMON GALLINULE – A single was reported from the fish hatchery at Marion, *Perry*, 2 March (Harriet Wright, Alice Christenson) (locally rare).

AMERICAN COOT – Craig Litteken counted 41 at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 May (good number so late).

SANDHILL CRANE – Seventy in Milton, *Santa Rosa*, 4 March (Les Kelly) marked a new maximum for the WP. One was found in a residential area in Fairhope, *Baldwin*, 8 May. It was captured, determined to be not obviously injured, and released locally (Barry Booth, Bill Summerour *et al.*; ph.).



Sandhill Crane, 8 May 2011, Baldwin Co., AL; B. Summerour.

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Rare but becoming regular in the Tennessee Valley, two were west of Leighton, *Colbert*, 2-4 May (Bala Chennupati, Sue Moske *et al.*; ph.).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Early birds were at Buck Island-Easter Ferry along the Tennessee River, *Limestone*, 2 April (Damien Simbeck) (a single), and at Madison County Lake, *Madison*, 9 April (Mike Stahl, Angela Stahl, Sue Moske) (two birds).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – The Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 April, tallied 31 (maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

WILLET – Rare for inland Alabama, 10 were found on the Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone*, 30 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette).

WHIMBREL – Continued good numbers were reported from north of Grand Bay, *Mobile*: 180 on 10 April (Allen Burrows) and 100 on 13 April (Christine Kelley). A late single was reported from West Point Island, *Mobile*, 31 May (Howard Horne, Ben Garmon, David Dortch).

MARbled GODWIT – Two were found west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 16 April (Damien Simbeck; ph.) (occasional inland). Four were late departures on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 28 May (Howard Horne, Tom Siegwald, Joan Siegwald).

LEAST SANDPIPER – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, Damien Simbeck counted approximately 200 on 25 and 27 May (maximum spring count for north Alabama).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Rare in the Mountain Region, especially in spring, a single was found at Brushy Lake in Bankhead National Forest, *Winston*, 12 May (Eric Soehren). Multiple reports were received from near Leighton, *Colbert*: five on 14 May (Ken Ward *et al.*), one on 17 May (Damien Simbeck *et al.*), six on 25 May (Damien Simbeck), and eight on 27 May (Damien Simbeck) (rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, especially in the western end). Eric Soehren found a single at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 24 May (rare on the Gulf Coast in spring).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Late birds were found near Leighton, *Colbert*, two on 25 May and six on 27 May (Damien Simbeck).

DUNLIN – Thirty-six were found on West Point Island, *Mobile*, 31 May (Howard Horne,

Ben Garmon, David Dortch) (good number this late).

CURLEW SANDPIPER – A single found at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 25 May (Bill Summerour; ph.; @ABRC) marked the third record for Alabama and the first in May.



Curlew Sandpiper, 25 May 2011, Mobile Co., B. Summerour.

STILT SANDPIPER – A late bird was at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 28 May (Howard Horne, David Dortch).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – This shorebird is rare inland, so records from two sites were notable. A single was noted at the Alabama A&M farm in Hazel Green, *Madison*, 29 April (A&M staff) and 30 April (Ken Ward). Sightings near Leighton, *Colbert*, included one on 30 April (Paul Kittle, Shirley Wayland *et al.*), three on 1 May (Damien Simbeck), and one on 2 May (Bala Chennupati *et al.*; ph.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – A second cycle bird was found at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, 31 March (Damien Simbeck; ph.) (rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley; latest departure for inland Alabama).

GLAUCOUS GULL – A first cycle individual was seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 17-25 April (Greg Jackson, m.ob.) (rare).



Glaucous Gull, 17 April 2011, Mobile Co., AL; G. Jackson.

SOOTY TERN – This species is a rare but recently regular breeder on West Point Island, *Mobile*. Six birds (three on nests) were seen here 20 May (Jennifer Wang) and two were noted on 31 May (Howard Horne *et al.*).

CASPIAN TERN – Five at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 March (Dwight Cooley) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley. A single at Wright, *Lauderdale*, 24 March (Damien Simbeck) tied the early arrival record for northwest Alabama. Other early birds included 10 at Decatur, *Limestone/Morgan*, 27 March (Sue Moske), and six at Guntersville, *Marshall*, 31 March (Damien Simbeck).



Sooty Tern, 31 May 2011, Mobile Co., AL; D.W. Dortch.

COMMON TERN – Good numbers were reported from West Point Island, *Mobile*: 92 on 20 May (Jennifer Wang); 291 on 25 May (Howard Horne *et al.*); and 400 (recent spring maximum for Alabama) on 31 May (Howard Horne *et al.*).

THALASSEUS SP. – An orange-billed bird in alternate plumage seen on West Point Island, *Mobile*, 25 May (Howard Horne, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, David Dortch; ph.) was likely an Elegant Tern, a Cayenne Tern, or a hybrid. None of these potential types have been previously recorded in Alabama.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Locally rare but now regular and increasing, up to seven

were seen at feeders in Mobile, *Mobile*, from April through 4 May (Chazz Hesselein).

GREAT HORNED OWL – The Wheeler NWR area spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 April, tallied three (ties spring maximum for the Tennessee Valley).

BURROWING OWL – Twelve were counted at site 70 on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 29 May (Lenny Fenimore, Don Ware).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – A single at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 13 March (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway) was the earliest arrival for the WP by seven days.

CHIMNEY SWIFT – Three early birds were south of Greenville, *Butler*, 16 March (Robert Reed).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – One was early at Gallion, *Marengo*, 8 March (Don Self, Judy Self).

HAIRY WOODPECKER – One was found on Eglin AFB, *Okaloosa*, 31 May (Don Ware) (locally rare).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – One heard at Tannehill SP, *Tuscaloosa*, 5 April (Maureen Shaffer, Ty Keith) marked an early arrival date for inland Alabama.

ALDER FLYCATCHER – A single was seen and heard at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 28 April (Alex Harper) (very rare at this site),

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – One calling at Auburn, *Lee*, 18 March (Ryan Steiner, Jacob Popham, Matt Tillett *et al.*) marked an early arrival date for inland Alabama.

WESTERN KINGBIRD – Michael Jordan found one at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 7 May (rare in spring).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Four were seen at the Alabama A&M farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, 30 April+ (Sue Moske, m.ob.; ph.) (return to site; rare but regular). One was sighted near Prairie Eden, *Hale*, 13 May (Don Self, Judy Self) (return to site; rare but regular). David George found a female near Attalla, *Etowah*, 14 May (occasional in the Mountain Region). A pair was near Meridianville, *Madison*, 22 May (Milton Harris) (return to site for three years; rare but regular). A single straddling the Alabama-Florida line south of Atmore, *Escambia*, 28 May (Jon Yoder) was a late departure.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – One at Oak Mountain SP, *Shelby*, 19 March (Pelham Rowan *et al.*) marked a new early arrival record for north Alabama.

WARBLING VIREO – This species is a rarely detected migrant, and three records (all of singles) came from north Alabama: Florence, *Lauderdale*, 13 April (Paul Kittle); Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 30 April (Dwight Cooley, Scott Gravette); and Madison, *Madison*, 9 May (Greg Jackson).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – Rare in spring, records came from four sites: one on Dauphin



Thalasseus sp. (left), 25 May 2011, Baldwin Co.; D. Dortch.

Island, *Mobile*, 17 April (Eric Soehren, John Trent *et al.*); one-two on Green Mountain, *Madison*, 20 April and 1 May (Sue Moske); two in the Waterloo area, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner); and a single in Madison, *Madison*, 9 May (Greg Jackson).

RED-EYED VIREO – One heard at Lake Purdy, *Shelby*, 19 March (Harriett Wright) marked an early record for inland Alabama. Two on the Wehle Forever Wild Tract southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 26 March (John Trent) were early arrivals.

BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO – On Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, one was seen on 25 April and two on 26 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, David Dortch, Justin Way, m.ob.). A late bird was found at the same site 13 May (Chazz Hesselein) (rare but expected on the Gulf Coast).

FISH CROW – Larry Barkey reported calling birds from south of Houston, *Winston*, 21-22 April and 6-22 May (locally rare but increasing). Rare but now regular in the Tennessee Valley, three were identified at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

TREE SWALLOW – This species is rare but increasing as a breeder in the Mountain Region, and two records were received: six (with evidence of nesting) were seen at Zamora Lake near Clay, *Jefferson*, 30 April (Greg Harber *et al.*; new site), and a pair nesting at Lock 17 on the Black Warrior River, *Jefferson*, 30 May (David George). Now rare but expected in the Tennessee Valley, two pairs were reported from Madison, *Madison*, 24 May (Dean Cutten, Raylene Cutten).

BANK SWALLOW – Dwight Cooley found three at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 16 March (earliest arrival for inland Alabama by three weeks). Six west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, and 30 near Leighton, *Colbert*, 17 May (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum) was a good total so late.

CAVE SWALLOW – This swallow is rare but now expected in spring in outer areas of the Gulf Coast. Four-five were found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 April (Jeff Timmer, Matt Morrow *et al.*).

BARN SWALLOW – Early arrivals were reported as follows: five at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 5 March (Michael Jordan); several at the Dauphin Island pier, *Mobile*, 6 March (Chazz Hesselein); three at the Wehle Forever Wild Tract southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 6 March (John Trent); and two along Ala. Hwy. 51 near Midway, *Bullock*, 7 March (Eric Soehren).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Larry Gardella found one at Hurtsboro, *Russell*, 29 May (rare this far south on the Inland Coastal Plain).

HOUSE WREN – A pair was nesting at the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 25 April+ (Greg Jackson) (rare local breeder).

SEDGE WREN – Two were found at Hoover, *Jefferson*, 3 April (Ken Wills) (rare in spring in the Mountain Region).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – Phil Berry counted 78 eggs in nest boxes in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 27 March.

GRAY CATBIRD – Singles were reported from north of Hartford, *Geneva*, 26 May

(Randy White), and at Blakely Island, *Mobile*, 28 May (Howard Horne, David Dortch) (rare breeder this far south).

SAGE THRASHER – The bird that wintered at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, lingered until 6 March (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway).

AMERICAN PIPIT – Larry Gardella counted 170 at Sprague, *Montgomery*, 6 March (maximum spring count for Alabama).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – One at Perry Lake, Marion, *Perry*, 19 March (Ken Wills, Maureen Shaffer, Birmingham Audubon Society) marked an early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – Fourteen was a good number at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 1 April (Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent *et al.*; b.). Two were found at Colbert Ferry Park and one on the Muscle Shoals TVA Reservation, *Colbert*, 6 May and 18 May, respectively (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner *et al.*) (rare breeder in the Tennessee Valley, regular at the TVA site).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – A single was reported from Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 13 April (Michael Jordan) (rare in spring on the Gulf Coast). This species is rare but expected in the Tennessee Valley, and reports came from three sites: Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, a single on 23 April (Ken Ward *et al.*) and four (good number) on 25 April (Bala Chennupati; ph.) (regular at this site); Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, a single on 30 April (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); and the Waterloo area, *Lauderdale*, another single on 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner). Rare in the Mountain Region, especially in spring, one was at the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 30 April (Greg Jackson).

MOURNING WARBLER – A single was found at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 17 May (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum) (rare).

KENTUCKY WARBLER – The spring count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 41 on 30 April to establish a maximum count for the Tennessee Valley.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – Dwight Cooley found one at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 2 March (early arrival record for the Tennessee Valley, if not a rare wintering bird). Similarly, Ken Wills found a single at Saginaw, *Shelby*, 16 March (early migrant or a rare wintering bird).

CERULEAN WARBLER – An early bird was at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 8 April (Melinda Welton).

NORTHERN PARULA – Two were early arrivals on the Wehle Forever Wild Tract southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, 3 March (John Trent).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – A single at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 22 April (Matt Morrow) marked an early arrival date for the Tennessee Valley; another early single was there 23 April (Sue Moske).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – David Dortch *et al.* tallied 50+ (good number) at the Dauphin Island Sanctuary, *Mobile*, 28 April.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A single was noted at Monte Sano SP, *Madison*, 23 April (Ken Ward *et al.*) (rare but regular at this site). Another single was

found during the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone*, 30 April (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (rare inland). Along Bashi Creek near Morvin, *Clarke*, two were found on 7 May (Don Self, Judy Self) (rare inland, eighth record for the Inland Coastal Plain).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – On the Wehle Forever Wild Tract southeast of Midway, *Bullock*, John Trent spotted one on 2 March (early arrival record for the Inland Coastal Plain) and four on 3 March.

PRAIRIE WARBLER – Ty Keith found one at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, *Jefferson*, 18 March (early arrival record for north Alabama).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – An early bird was at Cahaba Heights, *Jefferson*, 20 March (Harriett Wright).

WILSON’S WARBLER – Rare in spring in the Tennessee Valley, a single was found in the Waterloo area, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).

PAINTED REDSTART – One was seen on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 16 April, first at the Shell Mounds and later at the Sanctuary (Rynetta Coetzee, Lorna West, m.ob.; ph.) (second record for Alabama, first confirmed; @ ABRC).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE – The bird that wintered at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, lingered until 14 April (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

CHIPPING SPARROW – The spring count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 39 on 30 April to establish a maximum spring count for the Tennessee Valley.

LARK SPARROW – All records came from sites where this species is a rare but regular breeder.

Three were at Holtville, *Elmore*, 10 April (Larry Gardella). Eleven (good number) were tallied on the Wheeler NWR spring count, *Limestone/Morgan*, 30 April. At the Alabama A&M farm, Hazel Green, *Madison*, Bala Chennupati found two on 1 May, Ken Ward *et al.* counted six on 7 May, and Jerry Green photographed a used nest on 27 May. Larry Gardella reported a single from Deatsville, *Autauga*, 1 May. A pair and three young were found at Madison, *Madison*, 25 May (Dean Cutten, Raylene Cutten).

SAVANNAH SPARROW – A count of 48 on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 31 March (J. Wang) established a new spring maximum for the Gulf Coast. A single that lingered at Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 May



Painted Redstart, 16 April 2011, Mobile Co., AL; B. Wilson.



Lark Sparrow, 27 May 2011, Madison Co., AL.; J. Green.

(Craig Litteken) marked a new late departure date for the Gulf Coast.

- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** – Rare in spring, one was noted in the Waterloo area, *Lauderdale*, 6 May (Damien Simbeck, Jeff Garner).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO** – This species is a rare winter visitor to the WP, so a single in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 12 March (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) was noteworthy.
- WESTERN TANAGER** – Rare but increasing in Alabama, a male was seen in Mobile, *Mobile*, 19 March (Paul Helminger *et al.*). On Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, single females were seen 16 April near the airport (David Dortch *et al.*) and 18 April at the Shell Mounds (Dean Cutten, Stan Hamilton *et al.*).
- ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK** – An early arrival date for the Inland Coastal Plain was marked by a male and a female at Andalusia, *Covington*, 3 April (Thomas Savage).
- PAINTED BUNTING** – Larry Gardella reported a singing male along Rabbit Road, Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 22 May (rare breeder on the Inland Coastal Plain; return to site).
- DICKCISSEL** – One was at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 10 March (Larry Goodman) (rare but regular in winter). The spring count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 368 on 30 April to establish a new spring maximum for Alabama (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.).
- BOBOLINK** – A male found at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 26 March (Rose Marsh; ph.) marked a new early arrival date for Alabama. The Birmingham area spring count tallied 1,541 at Harpersville, *Shelby*, on 30 April to establish a maximum for the Mountain Region (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller, John Imhof *et al.*). The spring count on Wheeler NWR, *Limestone/Morgan*, tallied 1,403 on 30 April to establish a maximum for the Tennessee Valley (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, m.ob.).
- WESTERN MEADOWLARK** – A single was seen and heard at Lake Land Farms, Marion, *Perry*, 12 March (Greg Harber, Dana Hamilton, Stan Hamilton) (seventh record for the Inland Coastal Plain; fourth record for Alabama in the last 30 years; late). Another single was at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, 2 April (Fred Bassett, Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent; b.; ph.) (fifth record for Alabama and third for the Gulf Coast in the last 30 years; late departure record for the Gulf Coast).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – An immature male and a female were found on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10-18 April (Bailey McKay, Howard Horne, Bill McAllister, m.ob.; ph.) (rare). An immature male was seen near the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 5-7 May (Eugenia Carey, m.ob.) (rare).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** – Damien Simbeck reported eight from near Leighton, *Colbert*, 6 April (rare in the Tennessee Valley; late departure date for the Tennessee Valley).
- BRONZED COWBIRD** – A male was seen in Pensacola, *Escambia*, 28 April (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) (casual at this location).
- NUTMEG MANNIKIN** – This exotic continues to be reported in numbers in east Pensacola, *Escambia* (M. Louy *et al.*).
- PIN-TAILED WHYDAH** – One male of this exotic species was reported from Pensacola,

Escambia, 31 May (M. Louy).

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY 2011)

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

This report covers the period from June through July 2011 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; “GINS” = Gulf Islands National Seashore; “NWR” = National Wildlife Refuge; “ph.” = photographed; “SBC” = Summer Bird Count; “WP” = Western Panhandle of Florida (*Escambia*, *Okaloosa*, and *Santa Rosa* counties).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – The first record for the Inland Coastal Plain, and the fifth for inland Alabama, was marked by the nine found at Enterprise, *Coffee*, in mid-June (Randy White *et al.*; ph.). This species is rare but dramatically increasing on the coast. Two were at a new site at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 19 July (Ben Garmon). Three were south of



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; 20 July 2011; Mobile Co.; B. Summerour.

Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, 20 July (David Plumb) and two were there 28 July (Bill Summerour; ph.).

GADWALL – A late male was noted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 2-3 June (Damien Simbeck *et al.*).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – A pair was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck), and four males and two females were at the same site 5 June (Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson) (late migrants or rare breeders).



Blue-winged Teal, 5 June 2011, Colbert Co., AL; G. Jackson.

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Four were noted west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, and a single was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3 June (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell) (probably late migrants, although an occasional breeder).

SURF SCOTER – An adult male at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 25 June (Brenda Callaway, Jerry Callaway) provided the first June record for the WP.

HOODED MERGANSER – This duck is a rare and erratic breeder in Alabama. David George found one in the Centre quad, *Cherokee SBC*, 4 June. John Trent observed two at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch Tract, Cedarville, *Hale*, 4 June.

RUDDY DUCK – An adult male in alternate plumage was seen at Sledge, *Hale*, 30 July (Don Sizemore, Ken Wills, BAS) (occasional in summer, non-breeding).

PACIFIC LOON – One was found at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 22 June and brought to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida.

PIED-BILLED GREBE – This species is an uncommon and erratic breeder in Alabama. Numerous reports were received, four from the Tennessee Valley, four from the Inland Coastal Plain, and two from the Mountain Region. A single was found northwest of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 June (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell). Another single was spotted on Lake Mitchell, *Chilton*, 4 June (John Trent, Ashley Peters). Pairs were found at two different sinkhole ponds near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 June (Greg Jackson). Breeding was documented at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch Tract (regular site), Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 June (nest and seven birds, including young; Eric Soehren) and 25 July (two adults, six immatures; Maureen Shaffer *et al.*). Two were discovered in the Cedar Bluff quad, *Cherokee SBC*, 17 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton). Gnat Pond near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, is a regular site for this species, and six were seen there 5 June (Greg Jackson), while 17 (eight adults and broods of four and five large young) were counted 17 June (Paul Kittle, Donna Kittle). Damien Simbeck reported a single from west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 June. A lone bird was reported from Hope Hull, *Montgomery*, 4 July (Larry Gardella) and 13 July (Allen Tubbs, Priscilla Tubbs). Andre Coquerel observed one at Hillsboro, *Blount*, 4 July. Maureen Shaffer *et al.* found a single at Fosters, *Tuscaloosa*, 11 July.

WOOD STORK – An estimated 1300, a maximum for Alabama, were reported from Sledge, *Hale*, 25 July (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*).

NORTHERN GANNET – Rare in summer in Alabama, a single was at Dauphin Island,

Mobile, 24 June (Jennifer Wang).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Ten was a good number for summer in the Mountain Region, found in the Centre quad, *Cherokee SBC*, 4 June (David George). Greg Jackson counted 60 at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, 5 June, including a pair at a nest (first local breeding).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – Good numbers of this species, rare in summer inland, were reported from two sites: 75 (estimated) on 24 June and 34 (counted) on 25 June, west of Florence, *Lauderdale* (Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.), and 100+ west of Sledge, *Hale*, 30 July (Greg Harber, BAS).

GREAT BLUE HERON – A white morph individual was at Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, 15-31 July (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) to mark the 16th record for the WP. Two high counts were made at multiple sites in *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence*: 126 on 3 June (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell), and 234 (maximum summer count for Alabama) on 12 June (Paul Kittle), with 144 at Wilson Dam alone included in the latter total. Another good total (200) was reported from Sledge, *Hale*, 25 July (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*) (maximum summer count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

GREAT EGRET – A total of 47 in the Cedar Bluff quad, *Cherokee SBC*, 17 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) marked a maximum summer count for the Mountain Region. A good total (850) was reported from Sledge, *Hale*, 25 July (Maureen Shaffer *et al.*) (maximum summer count for the Inland Coastal Plain).

SNOWY EGRET – Eleven (good number for north Alabama in recent years) were found at the “Sinks” pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 June (Greg Jackson; ph.).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – A visit to multiple sites in *Lauderdale/Colbert/Lawrence* on 3 June produced a total of five, a good number for the Tennessee Valley in recent years (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell). At a nesting colony north of Stockton, *Baldwin*, Michael Jordan reported 850 on 2 July (maximum for the Gulf Coast).

REDDISH EGRET – A white morph individual, rare in Alabama, was seen on Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 13 July (Larry Gardella).

EGRETTA SP. – An adult in alternate plumage, probably a Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron hybrid, was reported from near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck; ph.) (unusual occurrence).

CATTLE EGRET – A large rookery with about 1000 birds, including Little Blue Herons and other waders, was discovered 7 June at Sterling Fibers in Pace, *Santa Rosa* (Les Kelly, Larry Goodman, Bruce Furlow). A total of 94 in the Cedar Bluff quad, *Cherokee SBC*, 17 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) marked a maximum summer count for the Mountain Region. Good



Egretta sp., 3 June 2011, Colbert Co.; S. McConnell.

numbers were reported at a colony east of Pisgah, *Montgomery*, 6000 on 19 June (Alan Tubbs, Priscilla Tubbs) and 3000 on 9 July (Larry Gardella, many observers).

WHITE IBIS – Rare but regular in the Tennessee Valley, two immatures were noted west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 25 June (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – A single at the Blackwater State Forest fish hatchery, *Santa Rosa*, 12-15 July (Larry Goodman *et al.*) marked the ninth record for the WP. Rare but increasing in Alabama, one immature was at Andalusia, *Covington*, 16 July (Tom Savage; ph.), and three adults were found three miles south of Newburn, *Hale*, 30 July (Rick Remy, Susan Remy, Ken Marion, Vicki Marion; ph.).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – Larry Gardella found a single in the Needmore quad, *Pike* SBC, 7 June (locally rare). At two sites in *Hale*, observations were reported as follows: two at Prairie Eden, 9 July (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton); five+ south of Newburn and 12+ at Prairie Eden, 16 July (Greg Harber, Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller); 11 south of Newburn, 28 July (Larry Gardella); and 55+ (good number so far north) south of Newburn, 30 July (Greg Harber, BAS).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – Rare but increasing in the Mountain Region, three (two adults and one immature) were seen at a new site north of Shelby, *Shelby*, 26 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

PEREGRINE FALCON – This species is rare in summer in Alabama, but three records (all singles) were received: Florence, *Lauderdale*, 11 June (Damien Simbeck); Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 19 July (Ben Garmon); and Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, 23 July (BJ Stacey).

COMMON GALLINULE – Twenty+ (including adults and young) was a good number at Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 19 July (Ben Garmon).

AMERICAN COOT – This species is rare but regular in summer in Alabama, and numerous reports were received this season. At a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, one was present on 2 June (Damien Simbeck) and a pair was there 5 June (Greg Jackson). Two were spotted at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch Tract, Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 June (Eric Soehren). Dean Cutten reported three from Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 13 June. A single was at a sinkhole pond near Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 18 June (Paul Kittle, Donna Kittle). At Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, three were present on 3 June and two were there on 22 June (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell *et al.*). One was noted south of Montgomery, *Montgomery*, 4 July and 10 July (Larry Gardella). Ken Wills reported one from Birmingham, *Jefferson*, 19 July.

WILSON'S PLOVER – At Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 49 was a good number on 25 July (Bob Duncan, Cecil Brown).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER – Fifteen counted at a sinkhole pond near Leighton, *Colbert*, 5 June (Greg Jackson), marked a summer maximum for inland Alabama. Good numbers, six on 11 June and seven on 25 June, were seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile* (Howard Horne *et al.*) (uncommon-rare in summer on the Gulf Coast).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – Up to two were reported from Fort Morgan,

Baldwin, 5 June – 2 July (Michael Jordan, Lisa Comer; ph.) (locally rare).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – A single was seen northwest of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (rare in the Tennessee Valley).

AMERICAN AVOCET – Three were reported from Blakeley Island, *Mobile*, 18 June (Karen Chiasson, D. Gardner) (rare in June on the Gulf Coast).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – An early arrival was at High Falls Park on Town Creek, west of South Hill, *Dekalb*, 17 July (Jerry Green; videotaped).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – Eight was a good number so early near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3 July (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters).

WHIMBREL – Two birds on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 June – 9 July (Howard Horne *et al.*; ph.) marked only the third June record for Alabama.

MARBLED GODWIT – Two birds on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11-25 June (Howard Horne *et al.*) marked only the fourth June record for Alabama.

RUDDY TURNSTONE – Three birds were on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 June – 13 July (Howard Horne *et al.*) (rare but regular in summer on the Gulf Coast).

RED KNOT – A single was at Opal Beach, GINS, *Escambia*, 9 June (Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan) (rare in June in the WP).

SANDERLING – Good numbers for summer were provided by the six near the pier on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 June (Kelsey Blum, Erik Johnson, Chazz Hesselein), and by the 10 on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 22 June (Jennifer Wang *et al.*).

WESTERN SANDPIPER – A late bird was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 2 June (Damien Simbeck). Three early birds were on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 9 July (Howard Horne).

LEAST SANDPIPER – Four birds were early arrivals near Leighton, 3 July (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Near Leighton, *Colbert*, two were noted 2 June and a single was spotted 3 June (Damien Simbeck, Steve McConnell) (rare but regular in northwest Alabama and late).

DUNLIN – A single was reported from Pelican Island, *Mobile*, 20 June (Jennifer Wang), and another single was seen on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 June (Howard Horne) and 24 June (Jennifer Wang) (occasional in June).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – Howard Horne reported birds from the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, a single on 11 June and seven on 25 June (rare in June). An early bird was near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3 July (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – A single male was sighted near Leighton, *Colbert*, 3-5 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck *et al.*; ph.) (rare inland).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – The first June record for Alabama was provided by a second-cycle single on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 1 June (Ben Garmon; ph.), while a different second-cycle bird on Dauphin Island, 23 July provided the



Lesser Black-backed Gull (foreground); 23 July 2011; Mobile Co.; B.J. Stacy.

first July record for Alabama (BJ Stacey; ph.).

CASPIAN TERN – Paul Kittle found a single at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, 12 June (rare in June for inland Alabama).

COMMON TERN – This species was observed on the west end of Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 11 June – 9 July, with a maximum of 442 on 25 June (new high for summer in Alabama) (Howard Horne).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – Lorna West reported two from Tuckersburg, *Chambers*, 1 July, to provide the seventh record for the Mountain Region. Larry Gardella found a single at a new site in Chickasaw, *Mobile*, 12 July (rare but increasing breeder on the Gulf Coast).

BURROWING OWL – Thirteen were counted at Site B-70, Eglin Air Force Base, *Okaloosa*, 18 June (Lenny Fenimore *et al.*).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – The *Cherokee* SBC on 12 June produced counts of 10 in the Gaylesville quad (James Flynn) and 10 in the Weisner Mountain quad (Andrew Haffenden) (maximum summer count for the Mountain Region).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – This species is an occasional breeder and slowly increasing in Alabama. Two singing males were detected at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch Tract Cedarville, *Hale*, 9 June (Eric Soehren) (return to site, the only one known south of the Tennessee Valley). Dean Cutten had a singing bird at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 13 June (same site as in 2004).

LEAST FLYCATCHER – One in the Pleasant Site quad, *Franklin*, 11 June (Damien Simbeck), sang in response to a recording (second June record for Alabama).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – This species is a rare but gradually increasing breeder in Alabama. A single was in Berry Springs, *Cherokee*, 12 June (Greg Harber, Jessica Germany) (rare in Mountain Region and second local record). A female was found west of Cherokee, *Colbert*, 24 June (Damien Simbeck; ph.) (locally rare). Another single was spotted near Uniontown, *Perry*, 9 July (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (return to site). Two (an adult and an immature) were north of Uniontown, *Perry*, 16 July (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller). One was nesting south of Newburn, *Hale*, 16 July (Greg Harber). A male was noted east of Casemore, *Hale*, 16 July (Greg Harber).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE – A pair and two young were west of Florence, *Lauderdale*, 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck) (now rare breeder in northwest Alabama).

WARBLING VIREO – At Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, one was found singing on 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck), and two provided evidence of nesting on 25 June (Damien Simbeck, Clyde Blum) (rare breeder in northwest Alabama; return to site)

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO – One at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia*, 9-11 June (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan, Alex Harper, Patrick James *et al.*) was the sixth record for the WP (ph. to Field Observations Committee and Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee)

BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO – A single was seen at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 19 July (Ben Garmon, Patsy Russo) to mark the first summer record

for Alabama.

FISH CROW – Rare but increasing in the Tennessee Valley, two were reported from Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 2 June (John Trent) and six were found there 25 June (Damien Simbeck). At Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence*, Damien Simbeck observed a single on 2 June and three on 3 June. Five were at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, 18 July (Damien Simbeck). During the *Cherokee* SBC, a total of 14 (good number this far north) was reported from three quads, 10-12 June (James Flynn, Greg Jackson, Maureen Shaffer *et al.*).

HORNED LARK – During the *Cherokee* SBC, a total of five was reported from two quads, 4-19 June (David George, Owen Kinney) (rare breeder in the Mountain Region).

TREE SWALLOW – This species is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama. Two were noted on the Muscle Shoals TVA Reservation, *Colbert*, 3 June – 3 July (Damien Simbeck *et al.*) (return to site). Breeding at Madison, *Madison*, was documented by the observation of two pairs, two nests, and three young 5-12 June (Dean Cutten).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – A count in the Centre quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 4 June, produced 324, a maximum for the Mountain Region (David George). A route from Greensboro to Marion, *Hale/Perry*, produced a total of 400 on 16 July (Maureen Shaffer, Anne Miller) (maximum summer count for Alabama).

CLIFF SWALLOW – A count in the Cedar Bluff quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 17 June, produced 770, a good number for the Mountain Region (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton).

HOUSE WREN – This species is a rare breeder in Alabama, so two records were noteworthy. One was heard singing on 10 May and 21 June in Vestavia Hills, *Jefferson* (Ann Miller). Another singing bird was in Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, 25 June (Clyde Blum, Damien Simbeck).

GRAY CATBIRD – A count of 10 in the Ainsley quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 19 June (Alan Tubbs, Priscilla Tubbs), was a good number this far south. An early fall arrival was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 10 July (Eugenia Carey).

CEDAR WAXWING – A single was reported at Wilson Dam, Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, 22 July (Greg Jackson) (rare breeder in the Tennessee Valley).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – Four were found at two sites in the Saco quad during the *Pike* SBC, 5 June (John Trent) (good number this far south on the Inland Coastal Plain).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – The *Cherokee* SBC provided two records: a single in the Ellisville quad, 11 June (Pelham Rowan), and two in the Gaylesville quad, 12 June (James Flynn) (rare breeder this far northeast). This species is a rare breeder in the Tennessee Valley, but records were received from three different sites. A single was near Belgreen, *Franklin*, 15 June (Paul Kittle), and another single was reported from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 18



Swainson's Warbler, 9 July 2011, Colbert Co., B. Chennupati.

June (Dean Cutten). A regular site on the Muscle Shoals TVA Reservation, *Colbert*, produced two on 5 July (Damien Simbeck, Ashley Peters) and three on 9 July (Bala Chennupati; ph.).

CERULEAN WARBLER – Larkin Fork, *Jackson*, is a regular site for this rare breeder, and Dean Cutten *et al.* reported a single there 7 June+.

YELLOW WARBLER – This species is a rare breeder in Alabama. Reports of singing singles came from Oakland Marsh, *Lauderdale*, 3 June (Steve McConnell, Damien Simbeck), and Larkin Fork, *Jackson*, 7 June (Dean Cutten *et al.*).

LARK SPARROW – This sparrow is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama. At a regular site south of Forester, *Autauga*, two were noted 4 June (John Trent, Ashley Peters), and three were there 19 June (Eric Soehren). Three were detected in the Cedar Bluff quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 17 June (Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton) (occasional in summer in the Mountain Region; first county record).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – One at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 7 June (Lucy Duncan, Bob Duncan) was the latest departure for the WP by 17 days.

SCARLET TANAGER – Seventeen were counted in the Leesburg quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 10 June (Greg Jackson) (good number). A maximum summer count (22) for Alabama was established on the Youngtown Breeding Bird Survey, *Lawrence/Winston*, 12 June (Paul Kittle).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A male at Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 June (Ann Forster, Dan Forster) provided the second June record for the WP.

INDIGO BUNTING – The *Cherokee* SBC on 12 June produced counts of 80 in the Gaylesville quad (James Flynn) and 22 in the Weisner Mountain quad (Andrew Haffenden) (maximum summer count for the Mountain Region)

PAINTED BUNTING – This species is a rare breeder inland. A singing male returned to a regular site south of Forester, *Autauga*, 4-19 June (John Trent, Ashley Peters *et al.*).

DICKCISSEL – Eleven were counted in the Weisner Mountain quad during the *Cherokee* SBC, 12 June (Andrew Haffenden) (maximum summer count for the Mountain Region).

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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Effects of Breeding Stage and Behavioral Context on Singing Behavior of Male Indigo Buntings. M.D. Beckett and G. Ritchison. 2010. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 122:655-665.

Male perching birds or passerines may vary their songs in response to interactions with other males and with females. This study focused on the singing behavior of the Indigo Bunting in Madison County, Kentucky, during the breeding seasons of 2004 and 2005.

In 2004, variation in the characteristics of the single-song repertoire of the Indigo Bunting was noted during different stages of the breeding cycle. Male songs were recorded, and the breeding stage and the age of the male were noted. The breeding season was divided into six stages: 1) pre-pairing (no female on territory), 2) nest building, 3) egg-laying, 4) incubation, 5) nestling period, and 6) post-fledging. The behavioral context of a song was also categorized by as being 1) spontaneous (no other male singing), 2) long-range interaction (response to another male singing ≥ 50 m away), and 3) short-range interaction (other males singing < 50 m away).

In 2005, playback experiments were conducted on territories to examine the possible effect of male-male interactions on singing behavior. Male song recordings were made before song playbacks (i.e., a commercial recording of an Indigo Bunting singing), during playbacks, and after playbacks. The duration, number of figures or notes, phrases, and volume of 10,919 songs of 15 males were analyzed.

Results showed that song characteristics did not differ between first year males and older males. Singing rates (songs/min) varied among the breeding cycle stages with the highest rate occurring before egg-laying began. No other statistical differences in the song characteristics among the other breeding stages were found. The playback experiments found that singing rates were higher during playback and post-playback periods than during the pre-playback periods. The songs recorded during playback and post-playback were also longer, louder, and contained more figures and phrases than those recordings made prior to the playback. These results suggest that singing has a role in mate attraction and in territorial defense. Male Indigo Buntings may use shorter songs that are given at high rates to attract mates and use longer songs to communicate aggression during male-male interactions. — TMH

Avian Community and Microhabitat Associations of Cerulean Warblers in Alabama. J. P. Carpenter, Y. Wang, C. Schweitzer, and P. B. Hamel. 2011. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123: 206-217.

Cerulean Warbler populations have decreased by nearly 70% since 1966. The species' dependence on extensive tracts of large deciduous trees and anthropogenic modifications

of its breeding, migratory, and wintering habitats have led to its decline. The breeding range of the warbler extends southward into northern Alabama and is now considered a species of “highest conservation concern” by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The objectives of this research were to 1) study avian community structure and habitat use in Cerulean Warbler breeding areas, and 2) identify microhabitat features of breeding sites in the southern portion of its range. The study was conducted during the 2005 and 2006 breeding seasons and focused on three sites in Alabama. Two sites were in Jackson County: the Walls of Jericho tract of Skyline Wildlife Management Area and a private property site along Larkin Fork. The third population was located in Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence County in a floodplain forest of the 4,200-ha Sipsey Wilderness Area.

Point counts and habitat assessments were conducted in areas that were used and unused on the three sites to examine avian associations and to identify microhabitat features that best explained the occurrence of Cerulean Warblers. Approximately 50 males were located, with the highest count at Walls of Jericho (20) and 15 observed at both Bankhead National Forest and Larkin Fork. Cerulean Warbler habitat communities had a greater number of avian species (i.e., richness), diversity, and abundance compared to unused areas. Species most closely associated with Cerulean Warblers were those typically associated with riparian habitats (e.g., Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Belted Kingfisher) and moist deciduous, bottomland forests (e.g., Kentucky Warbler, American Redstart, Acadian Flycatcher). Two species common in shrub and edge habitats, Indigo Buntings and Blue-winged Warblers, were also closely associated with Cerulean Warblers. This suggests that Cerulean Warblers may be tolerant of small-scale disturbances within their habitat. Microhabitat analyses of used vs. unused sites indicated that Cerulean Warblers preferred flat bottomland forests containing large, well-spaced deciduous trees, a moderately complex canopy cover, closer canopy gaps, and many smaller snags. The authors suggest that the canopy gaps may provide important foraging sites and allow for better communication with neighboring conspecifics. They also speculate that the use of flat bottomland forests in Alabama and in other locations, instead of ridge tops, as seen in Appalachia, may be in response to extensive logging practices of the early 20th century in the Cumberland Mountains. — TMH

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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