

## FROM THE FIELD

### AUGUST–NOVEMBER 2004

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This season was highlighted by intense storms that moved through the state in September. Hurricane Frances tore through Georgia on 7 September, depositing storm-swept birds all over the area. Many birders braved the bad weather and were rewarded with some very interesting sightings. Later in September, Hurricane Ivan blasted through with similar results. The first state record for Thayer's Gull was accepted. A McGillivray's Warbler observed in Duluth produced the second state record for that species. Multiple reports of Cave Swallow added to the excitement this fall. Most observers commented that this season's migration was good over all, with some very nice high counts of neotropical migrants at the usual locations.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, Beaton et al. 2003, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center, Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.; ENWR - Bradley Unit of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; and WPD - West Point Dam, Troup Co.

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** - This species is starting to show up sporadically around the state. Chris Borg found two birds in the Lake Seminole area on 5 September (fide Michael Bell). Michael Bell observed the birds again on 12 September at Spring Creek (CRC record 2004-15).

**BRANT** - Two birds were found on JI on 27 November. Sterling Blanchard and Earl Horn located the birds near the soccer complex, where they remained until 30 November. The birds were seen and photographed by many birders from around the state during that period (CRC records 2004-20A and 2004-20B).

**SURF SCOTER** - There were scattered reports of this species away from the coast this period. The earliest report was from Rum Creek WMA, where Michael Beohm found three birds on 5 November. Jim Flynn had two good sightings, the first of a single bird at Carter's Lake on 13 November, and the second from Walker Co. of three birds later the same day.

**BLACK SCOTER** - Many observers commented on the large number of Black



Scoters present offshore of JI this period. This species is rarely reported from inland lakes, so a report of a female at Lake Horton on 21 November was very good (Patrick Brisse).

**HOODED MERGANSER** - Patrick Brisse had an excellent count of more than 325 birds at ELHLAF, Clayton Co., on 13 November.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - This species is not usually seen in large numbers on inland lakes, so a count of 84 at Carter's Lake on 13 November was very good (Jim Flynn).

**COMMON LOON** - Terry Moore noted the importance of inland lakes for this species during migration, as evidenced by the large number of birds seen at Lake Blue Ridge and Carter's Lake this period. Jim Flynn counted 166 birds on Lake Blue Ridge, Fannin Co., on 13 November. The highest count was from Carter's Lake, where Leo Virant counted more than 300 birds on 14 November.

**EARED GREBE** - The highest count of the period was from Rum Creek WMA, where Eric Boehm counted more than 15 birds on 28 September.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** - Two pelagic trips from Tybee Island during this period resulted in very good numbers of this species. The first trip, on 19 August, produced 75 birds; the second trip, on 21 August, produced 127 birds (Russ Wigh et al.).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** - The high count was on a 10 August pelagic trip when Russ Wigh observed 25 birds. Russ reported that there was only one bird seen on the 19 August pelagic trip, and two birds seen on the 21 August trip.

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** - A single bird was seen on the 19 August pelagic trip (Russ Wigh et al.). Geoff Hill and Lorna West found a single bird on the Georgia side of Lake Walter F. George on 17 September, shortly after Hurricane Ivan passed through the area.

**MASKED BOOBY** - Russ Wigh reported finding one bird on a pelagic trip on 10 August, 43 km from shore (CRC record 2004-13).

**BROWN BOOBY** - Amazingly, three birds were seen on the 19 August pelagic trip. All the birds were seen perched on towers approximately 75 km offshore (CRC record 2004-09).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - There were numerous inland reports of this species throughout the period. Malcolm Hodges found three birds at Lake Walter F. George on 12 August. Amazingly, five birds were seen flying over Bartow County following the passage of Hurricane Ivan on 8 September (Ian Stephenson). Walt Chambers found a single bird at West Point Dam on 29 October. At MBBP, Lois Stacey found a single bird on 6 November, and again on 13 November. Back at Lake Walter F. George, Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds on 21 November.

**BROWN PELICAN** - Inland reports of this species are rare, so a bird seen in the Valdosta area on 28 September was interesting (Greg Lee).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** - Russ Wigh reported finding a single bird on the 19 August pelagic trip.

**TRICOLORED HERON** - There are very few reports of this species away from the coast, so a bird observed at ELHLAF from 8-10 August was a good find (Patrick Brisse). Dan Demko found two birds at Lake Horton, Fayette Co., on 15 August.



**REDDISH EGRET** - The highest count was from LSSI, where Brandon Noel counted 15 birds on 3 October, including six white morphs.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** - The Clayton Co. Water Authority property produced another rarity this season. A single bird was present at Lake Blalock from 26 August until 13 October, affording area birders ample opportunity to view and photograph this unusual inland visitor. John Swiderski reported that Brad Burner observed a single bird at Carter's Lake in Lanier Co. on 9 September, following the passage of Hurricane Frances.

**WOOD STORK** - There were several occurrences in the Atlanta area. Two birds were seen at Lake Horton, and one bird was found at ELHLAF during the period. Jeff Sewell saw the bird at ELHLAF on 14 August, and Dan Demko and Mary Provost saw the Lake Horton birds on 15 August. Tim Keyes observed one bird near Covington on 28 September, also a good find.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** - Unusual for the area, there were several reports from Bartow Co. this period, including Grant McCreary's observation of a single bird on 14 August. Sharon Winston also saw a single bird in the Newnan area on 23 August. Chuck Saleeby reported finding two birds over the Cartersville Airport on 29 August. Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz located two birds at the same location on 5 September.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** - There were many sightings by various observers during this period. Mark Davis found a single bird at ELHLAF Wetland Center on 20 August, distant from the usual areas. The highest count was 23 birds seen by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz at Fort Oglethorpe on 11 September. Sandy Pangle sighted a bird in Bartow Co. on 17 September, much more northerly than expected. Two birds seen by Chuck Saleeby near Midway on 7 October were fairly late for the area.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - Marion Dobbs had the highest count for the season, observing 106 birds in Rome on 20 September. The latest report was from KMT, where Deb Zaremba found four birds on 27 October.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** - This species has been reported more frequently lately. Away from the hacking-site in northwest Georgia, the species is believed to be a winter resident, but it is rarely seen. Ian Stephenson reported finding an adult bird at Harris Neck NWR on 22 October. Jim Flynn discovered an immature bird at Carter's Lake in Murray Co. on 13 November, and Eric Boehm reported a single bird near Griffin on 16 November.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** - Two pairs of falcons nested successfully in downtown Atlanta this season, fledging at least three chicks (fide Pierre Howard).

**PURPLE GALLINULE** - This species is rarely reported away from the coast, so a bird in the Macon area on 4 September was interesting (Ty Ivey et al.).

**COMMON MOORHEN** - Some unusual sightings away from the expected range of this species were received. Carol Lambert observed an adult with two chicks at ELHLAF on 12 August. Farther north, an immature bird was found in a Bartow Co. marsh on 4 September (Pierre Howard, Bob and Deb Zaremba).

**SANDHILL CRANE** - The earliest report of birds returning from the north was on 14 October, when Karen Osborne observed 16 birds in the Roswell area. The

peak passage of birds over the Atlanta area was on 28 November, when Noah Kahn reported between 3,000 and 4,000 birds passing over.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** - Three birds were a good find at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17 September (Ken Blankenship, Sandy Pangle).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** - The highest count was three birds observed at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 8 September by Ian Stephenson. The only other reports were all from Bartow Co. as well. Jeff Sewell found a single bird on 11 September; Jeff, Patrick Brisse, and Hugh Garrett observed two birds on 18 September; and Jim Flynn and Earl Horn observed one bird on 3 October.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** - The highest count for the period was more than 60 birds seen on LSSI by Brandon Noel on 5 November. Sterling Blanchard had a good count of 22 birds at JI on 26 November.

**PIPING PLOVER** - Brandon Noel has been monitoring the wintering population of this species on LSSI for several seasons. This fall, he reported excellent counts of 123 on 26 August and 130 on 3 October. This species is rarely found away from the coast, so a bird observed at a sod farm in Floyd Co. by Marion Dobbs on 11 September was an excellent find.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** - This species was widely reported from many locations around the state, especially following storm activity. The ELHLAF property was host to a single bird, first discovered by Carol Lambert on 17 September. The same, or possibly a different, bird was seen intermittently through 18 October. Two birds found at the same location on 15 November were intriguing as well (Carol Lambert). Away from that location, Steve Barlow found one bird at a Bartow Co. sod farm following Hurricane Ivan on 18 September, and it remained in the area until 20 September. Joshua Spence discovered one bird in Murray County on 19 September. This species is not known to winter in the state, so four birds found at AWMA near Darien on 29 November were very unusual (Lex Glover, Earl Horn, and Bob Zaremba).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** - Inland reports of this species are rare, so 18 birds found in Bartow Co. on 8 September was a very good report (Ian Stephenson).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** - There were few reports of this species this fall. The highest count was three birds found at a Marshallville sod farm by Walt Chambers on 15 August. Single birds were found in Bartow Co. on 13 August (Jim Flynn and Earl Horn), again on 15 August (Steve Barlow and Ian Stephenson), and finally on both 2 and 7 September by Sandy Pangle.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** - The beach at LSSI has been the best location to find this species. Brandon Noel observed three birds on 26 August and two birds on 3 October.

**MARBLED GODWIT** - The highest coastal count was 150 birds observed by Brandon Noel at LSSI on 3 October. Storm-driven birds showed up in multiple locations on 17 September following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** - Following the passage of Hurricane Frances, one bird was observed by Sandy Pangle at Lake Allatoona on 9 September. Marion Dobbs located another bird in Floyd Co. on 17 September.

RED KNOT - Away from the coast, there was a great inland record of a bird found by Joshua Spence at Carter's Lake on 8 September. The highest count from the coast was more than 7,000 birds on Wolf Island on 13 September (Brad Winn.)

SANDERLING - There were several inland reports of this species this season. Stephen Stewart observed one bird in Floyd Co. on 12 August. At ELHLAF, Carol Lambert and Walt Chambers observed a bird on 7 September, and Marion Dobbs found a single bird at a sod farm in Floyd Co. on 11 September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - One bird was a good find at ELHLAF on 3 September by Ian Stephenson. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn located another bird in Lanier Co. on 12 September. Finally, Jeff Sewell observed two birds in Bulloch Co. on 11 October.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - This species migrates through our area in the fall, but we never see large numbers. A single bird observed at ELHLAF by Carol Lambert on 2 September remained until 4 September. Jim Flynn found another bird in Forsyth Co. on 2 September. The only report from Bartow Co. was a single bird seen on 3 September (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Marion Dobbs observed one bird in Floyd Co. on 17 September. Unusual for the coast, a single bird was found at LSSI on 12 September, which remained until 18 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The most reliable location for seeing this species is Tybee Island. Steve Alver and Diana Churchill found seven birds there on 12 November, and four birds were found there on 26 November (Earl Horn et al.). A bird found by Steve Barlow at JI on 25 November was an unusual find for that location.

DUNLIN - Mark Davis and Sid Breibart observed 14 birds at ELHLAF on 15 November, for a very good inland count.

STILT SANDPIPER - There were several reports of this species following this season's storms. The highest count was 11 birds observed in Bartow Co. on 7 September (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Other reports were six birds at ELHLAF on 18 September by Tim Rose, and nine at the same location on 23 October by Georgann Schmalz.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - A very early report from the coast was a juvenile bird observed on Cumberland Island by Patrick Leary on 27 August. Many observers noted the presence of between two and four birds at the Bartow Co. sod farm from 3-18 September. The highest count was from Floyd Co., where Marion Dobbs had five birds on 11 and 17 September.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Sandy Pangle observed three birds at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17 September.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - There was an amazing number of inland reports following the passage of Hurricane Frances on 7 September. Most of the birds seen right after that date were in Bartow Co., but birds were also found in Cobb Co. and Murray Co. The highest count was at an Industrial Park in Bartow Co., where Bob and Deb Zaremba observed 11 birds. They also found four birds at a Bartow Co. sod farm and one bird in a farm pond elsewhere in Bartow Co. David Heeden located a single bird at RNP earlier in the day, for a very good Cobb Co. record. Later in the month, Ken Blankenship found a single bird at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17



September, following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

**RED PHALAROPE** - The only report was from Lake Walter F. George, where Geoff Hill and Mark Liu located a single bird on 17 September following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

**POMARINE JAEGER** - There were two reports following the storms this season. Walt Chambers discovered one bird at West Point Lake on 17 September. At Lake Walter F. George, Geoff Hill and Mark Liu also located a dark- morph bird on 17 September.

**LAUGHING GULL** - Geoff Hill and Mark Liu had a very high inland count of this species following Hurricane Ivan, counting more than 150 birds at Lake Walter F. George on 17 September.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** - The earliest report was of a bird observed at Skidaway Island on 5 August by Peter Range (fide Russ Wigh). This species is a rare migrant below the Fall Line, so four reports this season is a pretty good showing. Michael Beohm found one bird at JI on 21 October. The highest count of the season was from WPD, where Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found three birds on 31 October, one of which remained for at least another day (v.ob.). Paul Sykes observed an adult bird on Tybee Island on 13 November. Back at WPD, Michael Beohm located another bird in late November (fide Eric Beohm).

**THAYER'S GULL** - The CRC accepted the first state record of this species this season. Michael and Eric Beohm first discovered the bird at WPD on 12 November, but it was not relocated until later in the month. The bird became fairly reliable below the dam for several days, and became one of the most photographed birds this year. The bird was last seen on 30 November (m.ob.; CRC record 2004-18).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - Steve Calver and Peter Range had an excellent count of 27 birds on Wassaw Island on 17 September.

**GULL-BILLED TERN** - There were two storm-driven birds at WPD on 17 September (Walt Chambers). One bird was still present the following day (Malcolm Hodges).

**CASPIAN TERN** - The 22 birds seen at Carter's Lake by Joshua Spence on 8 September were likely another result of Hurricane Frances passing through the area.

**COMMON TERN** - Joshua Spence observed 16 birds at Carter's Lake on 8 September following the storm.

**LEAST TERN** - This species rarely turns up at inland locations, so a bird found at ELHLAF on 1 August by Steve Barlow was a good find.

**BRIDLED TERN** - The two birds seen on Tybee Island by Deb Barrierio on 6 September were probably influenced by the recent passage of Hurricane Frances. The two pelagic trips on 19 and 21 August produced 14 and five birds, respectively (Russ Wigh et al).

**SOOTY TERN** - The most interesting result of the passage of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan on 7 and 17 September, respectively, was the large number of this species that was deposited on area lakes. Many reports were received across the state of birds found inland. On 7 September, Carol Lambert found one bird on Lake Blalock;



Tim Keyes found three birds at Lake Jackson; Jim Flynn found seven birds at Lake Lanier; and Earl Horn found four birds at Lake Oconee. The following day, 8 September, Joshua Spence found one bird at Carter's Lake; Chuck Saleeby found one bird at Lake Allatoona; Earl Horn found two birds still at Lake Lanier; and Bob Zaremba and Lorna West found five birds at WPD. On 9 September, Paul Johnson and Jerry and Marie Amerson found four birds on Lake Tobesofkee. Finally, on 10 September, Terry Johnson et al. found two birds at the Plant Scherer ash ponds. Once Hurricane Ivan passed through on 17 September, Walt Chambers found six birds at WPD and Earl Horn found two birds at Lake Lanier. The following day, one bird was still at WPD (Malcolm Hodges). What an incredible number of reports!

**BLACK TERN** - Brandon Noel had a very good count of more than 500 birds at LSSI on 26 August.

**BLACK SKIMMER** - There were several inland reports during the week following the passage of Hurricane Ivan on 17 September. The bird found by Carol Lambert at ELHLAF remained in that area until 24 September. Geoff Hill and Mark Liu found five birds at Lake Walter F. George. Joshua Spence found one bird on Carter's Lake. Michael and Richard Boehm found one bird at WPD. Perhaps the most unexpected location was a bird found at the Bostwick sod farm in Morgan Co. by David Galewski (fide Mark Freeman).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** - This species is being reported more frequently, but has not yet become established in the state, to our knowledge. There were several reports of one or two birds that were visiting a feeder on JI between 20 October and 29 November (Marjorie Clark). Several birds were found on Tybee Island on 6 November (Earl Horn, Jim Flynn, Bob and Deb Zaremba). Betty Belanger reported that another bird was seen briefly at a feeder in Brunswick on 29 November. A Merlin took the bird while the homeowner watched. Away from the coast, the only report was of a bird found by Clive Rainey near Americus on 7 November.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** - This species seems to be spreading north, but a bird found by Karen Theodorou in Duluth on 6 November was highly unusual for that location.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** - This species is infrequently reported, so three reports this season was very good. Pierre Howard found a bird at the CRNRA on 19 September, and Ian Stephenson located a bird at the same location on 25 September. Noah Kahn found one bird at KMT on 28 September.

**LONG-EARED OWL** - A very unexpected discovery was a bird found on Tybee Island on 5 November by Steve Wagner. Steve was able to photograph the bird before it flushed, but was unable to relocate it after it flushed (CRC record 2005-05).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** - The latest report was from Connie Madia, who had a bird at her feeder on 9 November in Woodbine, Camden Co.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** - Steve Calver reported that a male arrived at his feeder again this fall on 5 October.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** - An adult male, probably the same bird that spent the winter last year, arrived at Pat White's Decatur feeder on 6 November and remained through the end of the period (CRC record 2004-21).



**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** - Russ Wigh provided a rare report of a single bird from Skidaway Island on 12 October, tying the late date for that region. Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz observed a bird at CRNRA fairly late in the season on 17 October.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** - Russ Wigh provided two reports from Skidaway Island. The first was a bird seen and heard from 11-13 October. Another bird reported on 28 October in the same location would be a new late date for the region.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** - An adult male was found near Albany in Lee Co. on 15 November (Alan Ashley).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** - A bird seen on Skidaway Island on 31 October would be a new late date for this species (fide Russ Wigh).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** - Several reports were received of single birds, mostly from the coastal region. The first report was from Lake Pamona near Midway, where Earl Horn and Jim Flynn discovered a bird in a pasture on 6 November. Bryan Wyatt observed a bird on the JI causeway on 19 November. Michael Beohm reported finding a bird at JI on 30 November.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** - This species is usually gone by the end of October, so two reports from the Coastal Plain may be new late dates for that region. Wendy Ealding observed a bird at Birdsong Plantation Nature Center on 12 November. Even later in the month, Annette Bittaker found one bird in Coffee Co. on 19 November.

**GRAY KINGBIRD** - Any report of this species away from JI is unusual, so a report of two birds seen in Savannah on 10 September was very interesting. The highest count was eight birds seen on LSSI by Brandon Noel from 12-19 September.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** - Debbie Grimes reported finding a single bird in Brooks Co. on 5 November, for the only report of the season.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** - There were numerous reports from around the state during this period. The highest counts were from Chamblee, where Walt Chambers found three birds on 24 September, and from Carter's Lake, where Joshua Spence found three birds on 2 October. The species is rarely seen on the coast, so a report from Skidaway Island on 15 October is very good (Russ Wigh).

**RED-EYED VIREO** - Michael Bell reported a late migrating bird at Birdsong Nature Center, Grady Co., on 31 October, seen by Fran Rutovsky, but the latest report was from Cumberland Island, where Russ Wigh observed one bird on 3 November.

**HORNED LARK** - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported a high count of 100 birds from Macon Co. on 12 September.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** - There were several reports of late sightings around the state. Stacy Zarpentine and Zeile Lebeau observed one bird at Chattahoochee Nature Center on 13 and 14 November. Eric Beohm observed one bird at ELHLAF on 24 November, and he and Michael Beohm saw three birds at MBBP on 27 November. Steve Barlow observed one bird at AWMA on 29 November.

**CAVE SWALLOW** - There were several reports of this species during the period. The earliest report was 24-26 October at Phinizy Nature Park near Augusta by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz (CRC record 2004-12A through 2004-12E). Jim Flynn and Earl Horn observed one bird at Lake Pamona on 6 November (CRC record 2004-17), but







it was not seen again. The third report was from JI, where Paul Sykes found two birds on 14 November (CRC record 2004-16).

BARN SWALLOW - Steve Barlow set a new late date record for the coastal region when he observed a bird at AWMA on 26 November.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Marion Dobbs, Giff Beaton, and Noah Kahn observed a bird in Rabun Co. on 18 August that could be a part of the breeding population in that area. There were numerous reports of birds seen later in the season. Steve Calver observed a bird on Tybee Island on 12 November, which was unusual for the coast.

SEDGE WREN - Michael Bell had a very good count of nine birds at Birdsong Nature Center on 30 October.

VEERY - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn counted 125 birds on a pre-dawn count on 12 September.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - There was a very good count of 16 birds at KMT on 29 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 46 birds seen at KMT on 30 September.

WOOD THRUSH - A new high count of 27 birds was set at KMT on 29 September (Giff Beaton et al.). Rich Krause reported finding a late migrating bird in the Lilburn area on 1 November. The latest report was a bird observed in Atlanta on 3 November by Pierre Howard.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - A high count was six birds, reported from KMT on 19 and 29 September (Pierre Howard and Giff Beaton). Pierre Howard and Noah Kahn also reported seeing six birds at CRNRA on 1 October.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported the high count of 51 birds at KMT on 15 October. Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, and Dan Vickers found a late migrating bird at CRNRA on 13 November.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - There were numerous reports of this species from all around the state. The earliest report was from Ian Stephenson on 12 September from the Robinson Nature Preserve.

YELLOW WARBLER - Eric and Michael Beohm reported finding a late migrating bird at Phinizy Swamp on 27 November.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported a high count of 12 birds at KMT on 20 September.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - The highest count came from KMT on 5 October where Giff Beaton reported seeing 14 birds. The latest report was from Carol Lambert, who found a single bird at the ELHLAF Wetland Center on 10 November.

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Lingering birds were found by Russ Wigh at Cumberland Island on 1 November, and by Anne Waters at MBBP on 13 November.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER - Michael and Eric Beohm reported a bird from the Lake Seminole area on 14 November.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The highest count was from KMT on 6 October, where 27 birds were reported (Giff Beaton et al.). Marion Dobbs found a late migrating bird on 30 October at Berry College, Floyd Co. The latest



report was from Emily Koumans, who found a single bird in DeKalb Co. on 4 November. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - The high count was on 12 September from KMT, where birders found 11 birds (Bob Zaremba et al.). Leslie Curan found a late migrating bird on 1 November at the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - The only report of this species was from KMT on 14 October, where a single bird was discovered (Giff Beaton et al.).

CERULEAN WARBLER - This species migrates through our area early, so a high count of nine birds seen at KMT on 5 September was a very good late-season count (Pierre Howard et al.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - There was a large movement of birds on 5 September, as was evidenced by the high count of migrants at KMT that morning. Birders at this location found 20 species of warblers, including a high count of 16 Black-and-White Warblers (Pierre Howard et al.).

AMERICAN REDSTART - The highest count was 14 birds seen at KMT on 13 September (Deb Zaremba et al.) Russ Wigh reported finding a late migrating bird on Cumberland Island on 3 November.

OVENBIRD - A very late migrating bird, found by Pat Michaelson in midtown Atlanta, was last seen on 18 November.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Ian Stephenson reported finding a bird at KMT on 22 August. This species is rarely seen in the fall in the state, and this would be an extremely early date.

MOURNING WARBLER - This species is difficult to find in the state, so three reports this season are very good. Giff Beaton reported finding two individual birds at KMT this season. The first report was on 16 September and the second was on 6 October. Ian Stephenson found a bird at CRNRA on 25 September.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER - Karen Theodorou established only the second accepted record for the state by finding a bird in Duluth. The bird was present for two days, 28-29 September. The bird was photographed by Earl Horn and seen by several observers during its brief visit (CRC record 2004-08).

WILSON'S WARBLER - There were multiple reports of this species in September. The earliest report was on 4 September by Earl Horn from Suwanee Creek. Russ Wigh reported finding a late migrating bird on Skidaway Island on 15 October. The highest count was on 5 September from KMT, where two birds were found (Pierre Howard et al.).

CANADA WARBLER - The highest count was five birds from KMT on 31 August (Deb Zaremba et al.).

SUMMER TANAGER - The highest count of the season was 10 birds seen at KMT on 5 September (Pierre Howard et al.).

SCARLET TANAGER - The highest count was 24 birds seen at KMT on 22 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - There was a very high number of reports of this species. The earliest report, a very good one of an early migrant for that region, was on 18 September from Carter's Lake, where Steve Barlow found a single bird. Later in the month, on 28 September, Joshua Spence found two birds at Carter's

Lake. There were several reports of birds seen along the dikes at the AWMA during October. At Carter's Lake, Joshua Spence found another bird on 9 November. Eric and Michael Beohm reported an incredible count of eight birds seen near Lake Seminole on 14 November.

LARK SPARROW - Bill Blakeslee found three birds in the coastal region on 20 August. The first was at Harris Neck NWR, and the other two birds were on JI. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a single bird in Clinch Co. on 12 September. Giff Beaton found a bird on LSSI on 12 September, which was last seen on 18 September.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Michael Bell reported a very good count of five birds late in the season. He located the birds at the Birdsong Nature Preserve in Grady Co. on 30 October.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Pierre Howard found a single bird at the CRNRA on 26 October. At Birdsong Nature Preserve, Michael Bell saw a single bird on 30 October.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - There were widespread reports of this species this season. The earliest report was a bird found by Grant McCreary on 30 September in Cumming. There were several reports from CRNRA between 5-26 October (Pierre Howard et al.). Marion Dobbs found a single bird in Floyd Co. on 22 October. Walt Chambers found a single bird at the Bradley Unit of ENWR on 6 November, and Noah Kahn found a bird at the ELHLAF Wetlands Center on 9 November.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Giff Beaton located only the fourth state record of the *gambelii* subspecies on LSSI on 10 October. Pierre Howard was able to document the record with photographs.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - The highest count was on 30 September at KMT, where Giff Beaton saw 49 birds. The latest report came from Coffee Co., where Annette Bittaker saw a late migrating bird on 8 November.

BLUE GROSBEAK - Walt Chambers found a late migrating bird at Sandy Creek Campground south of Columbus on 6 November.

INDIGO BUNTING - There were two reports of late migrating birds. On 1 November, Leslie Curran found a bird at the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta. Karen Theodorou found another bird on 4 November in Gwinnett Co.

DICKCISSEL - There were several reports from around the Atlanta area. Mark Davis found a single bird in Bartow Co. on 1 August. Giff Beaton found a single bird flying over KMT on 30 September for a rare report from that location. The latest report was from Georgann Schmalz, who had a single bird at the ELHLAF on 23 October.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - Several reports from around the state were received. The earliest report was a bird seen on St. Simons Island on 23 August by Lydia Thompson. Eric and Michael Beohm found a male bird near Lake Seminole on 14 November. The last report was from JI, where Ellery McClintock found a bird on the causeway on 26 November.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Joshua Spence found a large flock in Gordon Co. on 15 November.

PURPLE FINCH - Rarely reported from the coast, this species was documented on



Skidaway Island for the first time since the 1931 CBC. Russ Wigh documented the sighting with photographs on 26 October. Steve Calver observed one bird at a feeder in Savannah on 11 November, for another unusual coastal report.

PINE SISKIN - Fannin Co. hosted birds on and off during the summer, so a bird noted on 29 August was likely one of the birds that had been seen by Tom Striker. The highest count was 20 birds seen on 29 November by Lynn Schlup in Oconee. Beth Roth observed two birds on Skidaway Island on 14 November, for an early date in the coastal region (fide Russ Wigh).

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## FROM THE FIELD

DECEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005

*Note:* The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

It was a very good season for rarities, as the mild weather and several offshore excursions combined to provide some very interesting sightings. It was probably a slightly better than average year for the winter eruptive species. The finches showed up in fairly good numbers during the early part of the winter, as did the nuthatches. A Snowy Owl was discovered in the state, but was injured and the Raptor Center in Auburn could not rehabilitate the bird. There were numerous reports of rare birds this season, including Brown Booby, Manx Shearwater, Razorbill, and Glaucous Gull. It was also a good season for some western species, including hummingbirds, as the hummingbird banders reported a slightly higher than average number of birds this winter. A total of 115 hummingbirds was reported representing five species. There were several sightings reported of Western Tanager, Vermilion Flycatcher, and a single Harris's Sparrow to round out the western winter vagrants. The ducks made a good showing as well, with high counts for many species, and several reports of some of the less common ducks like Long-tailed Duck. The other water birds of note were the Pacific Loon and Brant, and both species remained in the area long enough for birders to relocate them. It seems like we have also been experiencing an increase in the number of Snow Goose and White-fronted Goose reports over the past few winters. This could be partly due to the excellent winter birding coverage we are now experiencing all over the state. Please keep taking good field notes and submitting your reports.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF -

