

Central Southern



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After a half-decade of drought conditions, the cycle of warm, dry winters appears to have been reversed early, with many parts of the Region receiving near normal rainfall and experiencing colder than normal temperatures. Many areas had suffered through three consecutive drought years with a rain deficit of as much as 42 inches. December was the third coldest on record in north Alabama, while February was the sixth warmest. The vagaries of winter weather were probably responsible for the southward incursion of several species early and the northern movement of southern species later.

We in the Region owe a debt of gratitude to Steve Stedman for having served as the winter season editor for the past 10 years. His insightful reports were always a joy to read and his analysis of winter bird movements thought-provoking. Steve has decided to direct some of his boundless energy to other projects.

Abbreviations: F.W.B.S.F. (Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields, Okaloosa, FL), p.a. (pending acceptance by appropriate state bird records committee).

Loons Through Waterfowl

Twenty years ago, the report of a loon other than Common was an event. Fortunately, that has changed and made winter birding more exciting. Red-throated Loons were reported from Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee. Up to 3 were seen on Mobile Bay, *Baldwin* 19 Feb (BSu), while one frequented the Pace Point area, *Henry*, TN 19-25 Dec (MCT, CAS, JD). Two Pacific Loons showed up 21 Dec at Pace Point, *Henry*, TN (KL et al.), while Alabama hosted one 24 Dec near Guntersville, *Marshall* (DRC, RC) and one at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin* 31 Dec (SWM). While **Red-necked Grebe** has been reported in Florida over 40 times, an imm. photographed in Santa Rosa Sound, *Santa Rosa* 13 Dec (RAD, EC, LC) may provide the first documented state record. An imm. in Pensacola Bay, *Escambia* 28 Jan (RAD et al.) was thought to be a different bird. Three Brown Boobies at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, AL on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. (RRR) were unexpected; the species is

casual in winter there. Wintering American White Pelicans are showing up with increasing frequency inland. One was in Lake Sequoyah, *Washington*, AR 17 Dec (MM, DCh). Up to 2000 were recorded on Robco Lake, *Shelby*, TN 5 Dec (WPP). The Brown Pelican first seen 11 Nov (DPH, SP) on Millwood Lake, *Little River*, AR was relocated 30 Dec (CM). Twenty-nine Anhingas at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., *Orleans*, LA 23 Dec (PAW, CSo) was a large number for a single location in winter. Two Snowy Egrets at Millwood Lake, *Little River*, AR 16 Dec (CM) were the first recorded there in Dec, while 20 Little Blue Herons on the Lake Village C.B.C., *Chicot*, AR (RT) were unprecedented.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck populations appear to be increasing in Louisiana. Up to 200 were near Luling, *St. Charles* 14 Feb (GO, LAu). Outside of their winter stronghold in Arkansas and Louisiana, Greater White-fronted Geese are appearing with increasing regularity. They were reported from across the Region, with 222 recorded on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C., *Lake and Obion*, TN. Ross's Goose, noted as rare but regular by most observers, was reported from every state at no fewer than 17 locations. The peak number occurred at Tunica Ponds, *Tunica*, MS 17 Feb, when 50+ were recorded (JRW). Ten Canada Geese were recorded near Starkville, *Oktibbeha*, MS on 17 Jan (TS): one, a neck-colored individual, had been banded 56 km nw. of Fort Severn, Ontario 28 Jul 1999; the other 9 were of the *hutchinsii* race. The swan situation within the Region may be soon changing. A **Trumpeter Swan** was found dead 6 Jan near Bolton, *Shelby*, TN (DMo, BM, *vide* SCF). It had been banded near Larson Lake, *Cherokee*, IA in 1999 by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as part of the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project. Single Tundra Swans were reported from Wheeler N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL 22 Jan (CDC, FBI) and near Columbus, *Lowndes*, MS 6 Jan (KK, TS, m.ob.). Seven were seen on Winchester Farm, *Haywood*, TN (DHe, PS), where they had been present since early Nov (*vide* JRW). Probably the same 7 were seen just across the line in Crockett, TN 8 Feb (GS). Single male Blue-winged Teal were reported from the Judsonia Oxidation Ponds, *White*, AR (KN) 11 Dec and Donnegon Slough, *Lauderdale*, AL (DJS) 5 Jan.

Small numbers of Canvasback are found annually in many locations within the Region, but the 2000 seen at Britton Ford, *Henry*, TN (MCT) 26 Jan were noteworthy. The largest number of Lesser Scaup reported was the 11,000 at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA 17 Feb (JPK, JK). The 20 Surf Scoters reported in *Walton*, FL 5 Jan (DW), where they are rare, might have been anticipated, but not so with

singles reported on the Oxford Sewage Lagoons, *Lafayette*, MS (GK, SK, m.ob.) 5-19 Dec, at Fayette, *Fayette*, AL (DMD, m.ob.) 21 Dec, and Baton Rouge University Lakes, *East Baton Rouge*, LA 27 Jan-7 Feb (DaC, MSw, JPK, MD). The only White-winged Scoter was one near Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, AL 13 Jan (LFG). Long-tailed Ducks made a small showing in the Region. Singles were observed at the F.W.B.S.F. 11 Dec (DW), Lake Dardanelle, *Pope* and *Yell*, AR 28 Dec-1 Jan (KN, LN), Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL 12 Jan (RAR, LBR), and Oktibbeha Co Lake, MS 21 Feb (TS). Two each were seen from Tiptonville Landing, *Lake*, TN 2 Dec (JRW, MCT), Mandeville, *St. Tammany*, LA 2 Dec (SS), and from Fairhope Pier, *Baldwin*, AL 13 Jan-20 Feb (BSu). Common Mergansers staged a mild invasion into the Region, with reports from every area except nw. Florida, peaking at 24 on the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. 20 Jan (JRW, m.ob.). The 1084 Ruddy Ducks near Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL 18 Feb (SWM) established a new state high count

Raptors Through Shorebirds

Inland winter records of Osprey are infrequent but appear to be increasing. One at Upper Bear Reservoir, *Marion*, AL (DJS) and Millwood Lake, *Little River*, AR (CM) were noteworthy so far north. The range of the White-tailed Kite appears to be extending eastward in Louisiana. Singles were seen at Lacassine N.W.R., *Cameron* 3 Dec (JPK, KF) and near Myrtle Grove, *Plaquemines* 7 Jan (MSw), while 9 seen mostly w of the Calcasieu R., *Cameron* 2 Jan (JPK, JW, SZ) were unprecedented. Bald Eagles were noted nesting at Heiberger, *Perry*, AL, where 3 ads were seen 15 Jan (SH, DH), at the Morganza Spillway, *Point Coupee*, LA (JPK, MSw), where a pair was seen 9 Dec, and from the White Kitchen Lookout, *Orleans*, LA (CKe), where 4 were recorded. An ad. **Harris's Hawk** near Sorrento, *Ascension*, LA 4 Jan (BMM, PAW; p.a.) is one of a handful documented in the Region. For the 2nd consecutive winter, a Broad-winged Hawk was recorded in *Plaquemines*, LA. This winter an imm. was seen on the Venice C.B.C. 30 Dec (RDP, PAW, BMM, m.ob.) Single Swainson's Hawks were seen near Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron*, LA 17 Dec (DPa, BE, MSw) and Bayou Lafourche, *Lafourche*, LA 22 Dec (RSB, JPi). Welsh, *Jefferson Davis*, LA appears to be the **White-tailed Hawk** mecca of the Region, with several convincingly described birds seen there in previous winters. This winter, a well-described ad., first seen near the Welsh Landfill 10 Dec (PAW; p.a.), was subsequently seen 23 Dec (JPK, KF, MG) and 6 Jan (*vide* JPK). However, a bird photographed near

there 13 Feb (MSw; p.a.) was undoubtedly an imm.! Most Rough-legged Hawk records came from w. Tennessee. Two birds were seen in *Lake* 1 Dec and in *Dyer* 31 Dec (WGC, m.ob.), while singles were noted on the Jackson C.B.C., *Madison* 30 Dec, in *Fayette* 6 Jan (MCT), in *Madison* 20 Jan (JRW). Arkansas hosted a light-morph bird near Pangburn, *Cleburne* 26 Jan (KN) and a dark-morph bird (p.a.) at Hickory Plains, *Prairie* 3 Feb (KN, LN). Mississippi's lone record was of a single bird at Yazoo N.W.R., *Washington* 17 Dec (DCi, SW). This was a Golden Eagle winter, with no fewer than 11 records across the Region. Alabama hosted an imm. near Willow Springs, *Montgomery* 10 Dec (TO) and up to 3 imm. frequented Guntersville Dam, *Marshall* 6-26 Jan (TAB, m.ob.). In Arkansas, an ad. was near Arkadelphia, *Clark* (DHA, DoHo) and a subad. at Holla Bend N.W.R., *Pope* (KN, LN) 22 Dec and 2 Feb, respectively. Up to 2 second-year birds were seen on the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN early Nov-4 Feb (JRW, MCT, RW). Up to 2 were in the *Lafayette*, MS area 11 Dec-10 Jan (VT), while an imm. was in Callicut Bottom, *Marshall*, MS 24 Feb (TH, GN, SN). The lone record in Louisiana was of an imm. at Lacassine N.W.R. 9 Dec (PAW; p.a.). **Crested Caracara** is decidedly rare in the Region. This winter Alabama recorded its first state record when one was videotaped in *Baldwin* 19 Jan (DPI, *vide* RAD, LD; p.a.). Two were along Fabacher Road, *Calcasieu*, LA 6 Jan-4 Feb (JPK, JK, DR, KA), and a single was noted at Lacassine N.W.R., *Cameron*, LA 4 Jan (DMD, RCD). One wonders if there was a general movement to the e. from Texas. Reports of inland Merlins are becoming commonplace. This winter 13 records from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee were received. The Arkabutla C.B.C., *DeSoto*, MS got its first Peregrine Falcon 23 Dec (VH, MGW), while one 135 mi s. of Morgan City, LA, in the Gulf of Mexico was unexpected (DNP). Alabama got its 3rd **Prairie Falcon** (p.a.) record 6 Jan near Guntersville Dam, *Marshall* (TAB, m.ob.), whence both previous records come. Singles were seen at Foreman, *Little River*, AR 8 Jan (DA) and Pangburn, *Cleburne*, AR 21 Jan (KN, LN).

Inland Sandhill Crane populations appear to be increasing exponentially across the Region, probably as a result of the large wintering population in e. Tennessee. Maximum numbers reported this winter were 400 at the Hop-In Refuge, *Obion*, TN (*vide* DPI), 300 at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* and *Morgan*, AL (CDC, FBI), 160 in *Calcasieu*, LA (JPK, JK), and 78 in *Tunica*, MS (JRW). The Black-bellied Plover at Everett Lake, *Dyer*, TN 1 Dec (WGC, JRW) was late as was the American Golden-Plover at Shelby

Farms, *Shelby*, TN 6-10 Dec (m.ob.). The 36 Snowy Plovers recorded during the 2001 Piping Plover Winter Census in Louisiana (*vide* SS) were encouraging, as were the 34 seen 7 Feb on Santa Rosa I., *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD, LD, EC) and the 10 on Navarre Flats, *Santa Rosa*, FL 9 Dec (PBa, m.ob.). A Semipalmated Plover at Everette Lake, *Dyer*, TN (WGC, JRW) through 11 Dec was late Louisiana appears to be the Piping Plover stronghold in the Region. The state recorded 511 on the 2001 Piping Plover Winter Census, with 19 on Fourchon/Elmer's Island, *Lafourche* 11 Feb (PAW, BMM, RDP). East-central Mississippi got its first midwinter Lesser Yellowlegs record 16 Dec with one at Noxubee N.W.R., *Winston* (TS, MSc). Pectoral Sandpipers remained late singles were seen at Craig Fish Hatchery, *Benton*, AR 9 Dec (MM) and Heloise, *Dyer*, TN 7 Dec (WGC).

Jaegers Through Swallows

The only jaeger reported was one of undetermined species on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 30 Dec (CDC, SWM, DW, PB)

Single imm. Franklin's Gulls were present at F.W.B.S.F. 5-15 Dec (RAD, DW, m.ob.), and Columbus L., *Lowndes*, MS 5-8 Dec (TS, KK), while one was at Florence, *Lauderdale*, AL 9 Dec (TMH). **Little Gull** is virtually unknown in the Region. Amazingly, three records of 4 birds were made in Arkansas this winter. Two ads. were on Millwood L., *Little River*, 16-24 Dec (CM, m.ob.), while singles were at Toadsuck Dam on the Arkansas River, *Faulkner*, 19 Dec (HR) and L. Dardanelle, *Pope* and *Yell*, 13 Jan (KN, LN, HR). A subad. **California Gull** on the New Orleans C.B.C. at Lake Ponchartrain, *Orleans*, LA 23 Dec (BMM, DPM, GG) was one of many for the state; there are only a handful of records elsewhere in the Region. Arkansas may have recorded its first **Thayer's Gull** (p.a.) with an imm. 1-14 Jan at L. Dardanelle (KN, LN, m.ob.), while single birds at Pickwick State Park and Pickwick Lake, *Hardin*, TN 27 Jan and 3 Feb, respectively, were thought to be different individuals (JRW; CAS). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** is rare but increasing in the Region. Arkansas recorded its 2nd (p.a.) when an ad. was seen at L. Dardanelle, 23 Dec-1 Jan (KN, LN, MDi) An ad. was in *Henry*, TN 22 Dec-28 Feb (RW, MCT, DM) and another near Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL 12-21 Jan (RAR, LBR, m.ob.). Singles of undetermined age were at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA 3 Jan (RCD) and Gulfport, *Harrison*, MS 5 Jan (DCi, SW). Imm. Glaucous Gulls were reported from L. Dardanelle, Jan (KN, LN), Britton Ford, *Henry*, TN, 25-26 Feb (CAS, JD, m.ob.), and Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL 19-26 Jan (RAR, m.ob.). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from Gulf Shores,

Baldwin, AL 17 Feb (SER; p.a.) and the Mermentau River Jetties, *Cameron*, LA 18 Dec (DPa, BF).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their march, with reports from nine locations in the Region. White-winged Doves continue to winter in numbers in the Region. One came to a feeder in Fayetteville, *Washington*, AR 18 Nov–5 Dec (DHo, BH). Sixteen were recorded at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL 10 Dec (RAD) and *Okaloosa*, FL 18 Dec (AK, m.ob.) and 18 on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 30 Dec. Short-eared Owls occurred throughout the Region on four C.B.C.s; they peaked at 17 in *Dyer*, TN 6 Feb (WGC, KL). One of the few **Northern Saw-whet Owls** ever recorded in the Region—and the 3rd Mississippi record—was on the Mississippi State University campus, *Okribbeha* 20 Dec (LV, JV; p.a.).

An astonishing number of hummingbird species were recorded in the Region. Many were

banded by the Hummer/Bird Study Group, Nancy Newfield and their associates. Two *Selasphorus* were in Memphis, *Shelby*, TN late Oct–30 Dec (m.ob.), while one frequented a feeder in Starkville, *Okribbeha*, MS late Nov–17 Feb (JLo, BH, TS). A Broad-billed, banded by NN 6 Jan in Thibodaux, *Terrebonne*, LA, was first seen 4 Jan (JC, NN). A Buff-bellied in Mobile, *Mobile* 27 Dec (FB, JH) was Alabama's 11th (p.a.). Calliope Hummingbirds staged a major invasion. Unknown in the area prior to 1998, single Calliopes in Niceville, *Okaloosa* 13 Dec (VK, FB) and 30 Dec–28 Feb (JM, FB) provided nw. Florida's 12th and 13th records (p.a.), while singles in Mobile, *Mobile* 27 Dec (FB, CS) and Montrose, *Baldwin* 12 Jan (FB, CSt) provided Alabama's 11th and 12th records (p.a.). A banded hatch-year female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in West Pensacola, *Escambia*, 19 Nov–17 Feb (FB, RAD, LD, AS, m.ob.; p.a.) and seen by over 100 observers is Florida's 2nd record. Amazingly, a 2nd Broad-tailed, representing Florida's 3rd was confirmed 24 Dec in Niceville, *Okaloosa*, after having been in the area for "some time" (GE, NE, CP, RLM; p. a.). A 3rd Broad-tailed, an ad. female, was banded in Diamondhead, *Hancock*, MS 17 Jan (BS, MS, DHP). Two imm. female Rufous were inland in *Lauderdale*, MS and banded 7 Dec (BS, m.ob.).

A **Say's Phoebe** found on the Venice C.B.C., *Plaquemines*, LA (PAW, BMM, m.ob.; p.a.) 30 Dec was one of a few records for the Region. Vermilion Flycatchers were reported from the F.W.B.S.F., where a male and female were seen 5 Dec (RAD, LF, PB), the female remaining through 27 Feb (AK); Lacassine N.W.R., *Cameron*, LA, with an imm. female 9 Dec (PAW); and *Hancock*, MS, where an ad. male was noted 20 Dec (DCi). Single Ash-throated Flycatchers showed up at the F.W.B.S.F. 15–20 Dec (DW, RAD, AK, DS), where a bird that appeared 28 Feb was thought, based on plumage characters, to be a different individual (DW, RAD, LD); and the Venice C.B.C., *Plaquemines*, LA 30 Dec (DPM, GO). A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was recorded on the Venice C.B.C. 30 Dec (BMM, PAW; specimen LSUMNS). Continuing the flycatcher extravaganza on the Venice C.B.C., a **Great Kiskadee** was heard only 30 Dec (DPM, GO) was seen and videotaped through 17 Feb (MSw, CL; p.a.). Western Kingbirds continued into the reporting period at coastal locations. One at the F.W.B.S.F. remained through 20 Dec (RAD, BB, DW, m.ob.). Up to 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from the F.W.B.S.F. 5–19 Dec (RAD, BC, LC).

Horned Lark numbers peaked in the Memphis area in Dec when 1354 and 1335 were reported on the Reelfoot Lake, *Lake* and *Obion*, and Memphis, *Shelby*, C.B.C.s, respectively.

Purple Martin spring arrival was about average in most areas. A single male on Baton Rouge University Lakes, *East Baton Rouge*, LA 20 Jan was early (DaC). A **Cave Swallow** found on the Sabine C.B.C., *Cameron*, LA 16 Dec (PSu, ML, p.a.) was seen the next day in the same area.

Wrens Through Sparrows

The only Bewick's Wren was near Cherokee City, *Benton*, AR 11 Dec (TJ). The 5 Sedge Wrens and one Marsh Wren near Fayetteville, *Washington*, AR 10 Dec were late (DJ, RHD, MM), as was the Marsh Wren on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C. 16 Dec. Thrushes are unusual in the Region after mid-Nov, so the Swainson's near Niceville, *Okaloosa*, FL 18 Dec (CP) and the Wood Thrush in the Holleyman-Sheely Sanctuary, *Cameron*, LA 3 Jan (RCD) were noteworthy. The **Townsend's Solitaire** observed for one-half hour along Gage Bluff, *Marion*, 28 Jan represented Arkansas's 4th record (JL, SLi; p.a.). Two Sprague's Pipits were observed in *Perry*, AR 16 Dec (HR, BV). Orange-crowned Warblers wintered n. of typical range, particularly in the Memphis area, where they were noted on four dates (VBR). A Nashville Warbler reported near Metairie, *Jefferson*, LA 3 Feb was unexpected (GO, DC). Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 30,000 on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 9 Dec (DPM, JS). Black-throated Green Warblers were reported on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL (RRR) and on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 10 Feb (CD, CL, MSw). The 4 Prairie Warblers on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, at two locations represent the 8th and 9th winter records for Alabama. Single Prairies in Louisiana were seen in New Orleans, *Orleans* 23 Dec (PAW) and Thornwell, *Jefferson* Davis 6 Jan (PAW, BBM, SWC, DLD). A Black-and-white Warbler at Wing, *Covington* 4 Jan (LAG) was the 6th winter inland record for Alabama. Rare in the Region in winter was a Prothonotary Warbler 30 Dec in Delacroix, *St Bernard*, LA (TDC). A calling Ovenbird 20 Jan on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA (DPM, PAW, BMM, RDP) was unusual. A Northern Waterthrush on the Venice C.B.C., *Plaquemines*, LA 30 Dec (DPM) was unexpected. Following on the heels of a fantastic fall for Wilson's Warbler, the species was recorded in several coastal locations. Singles were seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 4 Dec (EC), and Pensacola, *Escambia* 9–12 Dec (LG, JPF) in Florida; the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 30 Dec (PCT, BT); and Slidell, *St. Tammany*, LA 2 Dec (LB, MSw). Two were at Waveland Sewage Lagoons, *Hancock*, MS 20 Dec (DCi), while 9 were on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 9 Dec (DPM). Alabama's 11th winter record for Yellow-breasted Chat was one on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. near Perdido Pass, *Baldwin* 30 Dec (EGR).

Seeing a tanager during the winter is always

SA Laughing Gulls staged an unprecedented inland invasion into the Region. Most records were of ad. birds in winter plumage and usually involved multiple individuals. The incursion did not appear to be weather-related. No fewer than 20 records of between one and 20 birds were made. In Alabama, one was at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale* (TMH) 21 Dec, and up to 4 were noted near Guntersville, *Marshall* (SWM, m.ob.). Arkansas singles were recorded 25 Nov–14 Jan at Dardanelle Lock and Dam (KN, LN, MDi) and Millwood Lake, *Little River* 21 Jan (CM). Tennessee hosted one at McKellar Lake, *Shelby* 23 Dec (JRW); 3 on Pickwick Lake, *Hardin* 27 Jan–4 Feb (JRW, CAS, TW); and one at Paris Landing, *Henry* 19 Feb (MCT). In Mississippi, up to 4 were on Okribbeha County Lake 17 Dec–28 Feb+ (TS, MSc); 2 were at Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee* 17 Dec (TS, MSc); up to 7 were on Columbus Lake, *Lowndes* 19 Dec–16 Feb (TS, KK, m.ob.); Grenada Lake, *Grenada* hosted between one and 6 birds 22 Dec–14 Jan (GN, SN); up to 4 were on Ross Barnett Reservoir, *Madison* and *Rankin* 25 Dec–30 Jan (GN, SN, MSc); up to 16 were on Sardis Lake, *Panola*, 27 Dec–18 Feb (GN, SN, m.ob.); 2–5 frequented Enid Lake, *Yalobusha*, 28 Dec–14 Jan (GN, SN); and one was along Tibbee Creek, *Clay* 20 Jan (MSc, TS). Amazingly, the only two C.B.C.s to record the species were Shreveport, *Caddo*, LA, where 20 were seen 16 Dec (CL, JI) and Arkabutla, *DeSoto* and *Tate*, MS, where 7 were seen.

exciting. Summer Tanager was recorded at several locations this winter. In Florida, singles were at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 11 Dec (RAD), Pensacola, *Escambia* 12 Dec (BS, FB), and Niceville, *Okaloosa* 18 Dec (CP). One at Slidell, *St. Tammany*, LA 12 Dec (PSi) was molting, and a female in Shreveport, *Caddo*, LA (LRR, ACR) 13 Dec–21 Jan was coming to a feeder. Because of significant variation in plumages of non-breeding tanagers, winter reports should be viewed critically. A female **Western Tanager** in Slidell, *St. Tammany*, LA 21 Dec–26 Feb (PSi, RS, MSw, CL, m.ob.; p.a.) was photographed and videotaped. A female reported on the Pensacola C.B.C., *Escambia*, FL 16 Dec will need further review. Spotted Towhees continue to occur regularly in nw. Arkansas (MM, JN, RHD).

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Alabama, nw. Florida, and Mississippi. Singles were at the F.W.B.S.F. 5 Dec (RAD, DW, EC, m.ob.)—the 2nd Dec record for the area—Fort Pickens, *Escambia*, FL 9 Jan (RAD), the Perdido Bay C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 23 Dec (RAD, LD), the Gulf Shores C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 30 Dec (RAD, LD), and Columbus Lake, *Lowndes* MS 7 Feb (TS, m.ob.), the latter a 2nd area record. Two were at the Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, 1 Jan–23 Feb (LFG) for Alabama's 2nd inland winter record. Six Lark Sparrows were recorded on the Lake Village C.B.C., *Chicot*, AR 20 Dec (SL), where they are very rare in winter. Two were at Fort Morgan, *Baldwin*, AL 2 Jan (RDL, LAF), while an imm. was on the e. end of Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL 5 Feb (GB). Casual in winter in the Tennessee R. Valley of Alabama, a Grasshopper Sparrow was at Key Cave N.W.R., *Lauderdale* 3–18 Feb (PDK, GNP, MA). One was near Robinson, *Lowndes*, AL 18 Feb (LFG, PJ), while 2–15 were recorded at the Ashe Tree Nursery in DeSoto N.F., *Forrest*, MS 10 Dec–28 Jan (SWo,

MC, DCi). The interest in grassland birds has resulted in a tremendous increase in Henslow's and Le Conte's Sparrow records in the Region. In Louisiana, between one and 3 Henslow's Sparrows were recorded at the Almonaster Landfill near New Orleans, *Orleans* 13–28 Jan; 4 were seen at the Arabi Landfill, *St. Bernard* 23 Dec–17 Jan (JOC, TDC, m.ob.). Six were at the Ashe Tree Nursery, *Forrest* 18 Jan (SWo), and one was seen near Wiggins, *Stone* 28 Jan (DCi) in Mississippi. One seen on Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee*, MS 10 Feb (JBe, MCo, JP, DP, m.ob.) was in an area where the species was seen last year.

In Tennessee, Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C. 16 Dec (12 birds; JRW, MAG, m.ob.), with 5 on the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. 20 Dec (MCT, RW), 4 on the Savannah C.B.C., *Hardin* 28 Dec, and 2 at Britton Ford, *Henry* 20 Jan–4 Feb (JRW). In Alabama, singles were at Speigner, *Lowndes* 2 Dec–15 Jan (LFG, m.ob.), Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes* 8 Dec (PJ, m.ob.), and Seven Mile I. W.M.A., *Lauderdale* 3 Jan (*vide* BR). In Louisiana, 22–27 were at Almonaster Landfill near New Orleans, *Orleans* 13–28 Jan while 44–59 were seen at the Arabi Landfill, *St. Bernard* 23 Dec–17 Jan (JOC, TDC, m.ob.). Up to 30 were at the Ashe Tree Nursery in DeSoto N.F., *Forrest*, MS 10 Dec–28 Jan (SWo, MC, DCi), while a single was at Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee*, MS 16 Dec (TS, MSc), and 3 were at the Oxford Sewage Lagoons, *Lafayette*, MS 3 Feb (GK, SK). Harris's Sparrow was much more common in Arkansas this winter. In Tennessee, one was along Island 13 Road, *Lake* 3 Dec (JRW). In Louisiana, 2 were seen near Breaux Bridge, *Lafayette* 8 Jan (GBr, MSw), while up to 4 were near Lake Claiborne, *Claiborne* 15–16 Jan (PAW, BMM, CSO).

Longspurs Through Evening Grosbeak

Lapland Longspur numbers were up this year. Several thousand were near Jonesboro, *Craighead*, AR during Dec and Jan (KN, LN, HP, MP), and 1000 were at Lollie, *Faulkner*, AR 24 Dec (HR). In Tennessee, 1675 on the Savannah C.B.C., *Hardin* was an impressive count, while 800 along Gray's Camp Road were a *Lake* high count (JRW). The 200+ at Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, AL 3 Dec (LFG, PJ) made for an excellent number for the inland coastal plain. In Louisiana, 700 at the LSU experiment Station, *Acadia* 6 Jan (PAW, BMM, SWC, DLD) was a large number for the location. **Smith's Longspurs** were recorded in Arkansas and Tennessee. Four were at Pinebluff, *Jefferson*, AR 23 Dec (GL, JLu, DL, RH). Up to 325 were at the Newport Airport, *Jackson*, AR 30 Dec–28 Jan (KN, LN), and 30 were at the Stuttgart Airport, *Prairie*, AR 17 Feb (DPH, SP, m.ob.). In

Tennessee, 10 were at the usual location at Cates Casting Field, *Lake* throughout the period (JRW, MCT, m.ob.). Up to 2 **Snow Buntings** were at Jonesboro, *Craighead*, AR 25–26 Dec (MB, KN, LN).

Feeding stations continue to hold remarkable birds during the winter. An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL 13 Jan–3 Feb (PT, FB) was unusual, as were ad. males in Raceland, *Lafourche*, LA 6 Jan (LR) and at Browning Creek Lake, *Oktibbeha*, MS 12 Jan, the latter a first area winter record (TS). An ad. female Black-headed Grosbeak at Fort Pickens, *Escambia* 3–11 Dec (PBa) provided nw. Florida's 15th area record, while one at the F.W.B.S.F. 20 Dec (AK, DS) provided the 16th area record. An imm. male on the New Orleans C.B.C., *Orleans*, LA 23 Dec was unusual (DPM, JB; p.a.). A male **Lazuli Bunting** at Luling, *St. Charles*, LA 16 Jan (MT, MSw) was videotaped. Single female Painted Buntings were at Foley, *Baldwin*, AL (EB), Belle Fontaine, *Mobile*, AL 26 Jan (JHR), and Petal, *Forrest*, MS 6 Feb (DCi). Three females were at Luling, *St. Charles*, LA 28 Jan (MT, MSw). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Navarre, *Santa Rosa* 28 Feb (DMA, AK) provided the first Feb record for nw. Florida. The 3000 Rusty Blackbirds and 3500 Brewer's Blackbirds on the Jackson C.B.C., *Madison*, TN (MAG) were Regional maxima. An imm. male Baltimore Oriole on the Pensacola C.B.C., *Escambia*, FL (AF, DF, AS) 16 Dec was unusual. An ad. male in Baton Rouge, *East Baton Rouge*, LA 3 Jan (MSw) was a highlight, as were the 6–7 at St. Rose, *St. Charles*, LA 17 Feb (MSt, PSt, CL, MSw). The first documented **Bullock's Oriole** record for Florida (p.a.) was of an imm. male videotaped at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 22 Nov–30 Dec (CK, BK, m.ob.). In Louisiana, a male was at Cypress I. Preserve 11 Feb (MSw), while an imm. male and possibly 2 females were at St. Rose, *St. Charles* (MSt, PSt, CL, MSw). Seven Red Crossbills were on the North Fork of Illinois Bayou C.B.C., *Pope*, AR 17 Dec, while 7 were recorded on Ozark N.F., *Pope* 23 Jan (LA). A female was on the Savannah C.B.C., *Hardin*, TN 28 Dec (CDC). Nesting was again documented in the Talladege N.F., *Cleburne*, AL along the Pinhoti Trail (BSu). Eleven were seen along the trail 18 Feb (SWM). The only Evening Grosbeak reported was one on the Lake Village C.B.C., *Chicot*, AR 20 Dec (JM).

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SA Not since the invasion of 1978 has **American Tree Sparrow** put in such a good showing as this past winter. The nw. portion of the Region was the center of the invasion, with a few individuals spilling over into n. Alabama and Mississippi. Consider these unprecedented numbers, all in Tennessee: 50 on the Hickory Priest C.B.C., *Davidson* 1 Jan; 50 in *Dyer* 10 Feb (WGC); 45 at Cates, *Lake* 18 Feb (KL, BL); 10 in *Benton* 25 Feb (CAS, JD); and 124 in *Lake* (JRW). Away from Tennessee and Arkansas, one seen near Florence, *Lauderdale* 25 Dec (TAH, m.ob.) provided the 16th Alabama record (p.a.), while one near Woodland Lake, *DeSoto*, MS 23 Dec (VH, MGW) provided the 2nd Arkabutla C.B.C. record.

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