

little time to tally hawks as they counted a phenomenal 230 migrating Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (MO). A male Painted Bunting lingered at the East St. Louis breeding site until 6 Aug (DKa et al.). A late Dickcissel was at H.B.S.P. 22 Oct (LRO, VW ph.). In fall, Bobolinks often slip by undetected; consequently, the 500 (including 350 in the air at one time) observed in *Hamilton*, OH 1 Sep (PW) is most noteworthy. Also surprising was a Bobolink in *Orange*, IN 23 Nov (†LSn, ST), which provided Indiana's first Nov record. A singing Western Meadowlark was detected in *Muskingum*, OH 17 Sep (RHa, SWa). Great-tailed Grackles continued their eastward movement with 56 in *Randolph*, MO 11 Oct (BGO).

In this winter finch flight-year, both crossbills were widespread in small to modest numbers. Peak counts consisted of 42 Reds at I.B.S.P. 10 Nov (EWI) and 6 White-wingeds in both *Mahoning*, OH 2-8 Nov (LW) and *DuPage*, IL 22 Nov (ES, EWI). One overanxious imm. male White-winged that arrived in *Madison*, KY 3 Nov (GR) shaved three weeks off that state's earliest date. A modicum of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins also staged incursions. Redpolls were reported in every state except Kentucky; one pushed s. to *Macon*, MO, where it was seen 10 Nov (JHt). A late Oct wave of Pine Siskins scattered birds across all six states; the peak count was 100+ at Clin. L. 14 Nov (RTC). Evening Grosbeaks continued their boycott of the Region; a few small flocks, with a maximum of 15 birds, were reported in four states.

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Central Southern



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Unremarkable weather was the norm for the Region except for the deluge that hit western Tennessee in late November. The first

strong cold front of the season penetrated the Region 23-24 September, bringing many migrants. Observers reported early arrival dates too numerous to cite. Another strong cold front 6-7 October brought a wave of migrants filling the nets of ecstatic banders at Ft. Morgan, Alabama. To the delight of Louisiana Ornithological Society conventioners in Cameron, waves of ducks, geese, and

other migrants filled the skies of southern Louisiana following the strong cold front of 24-25 October. Temperatures were above normal along the coast in November, possibly accounting for low numbers of sparrows into the end of the period. It was a good season for vagrants in the Region: Red-billed Tropicbird, Common Gull, Flammulated Owl, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and more.

Abbreviations: b. (banded); F.M.N.H. (Florida Museum of Natural History); F.W.B.S.F. (Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa, FL); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. MS); p. a. (pending acceptance); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., n. AL); W.P. (Western Panhandle [Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa], FL). States are often identified only with the initial use of a place name.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Red-throated Loons, rare but becoming regular in *Henry*, TN, were recorded four times 21 Oct-25 Nov (ph. JRW, m. ob.). A **Pacific Loon** was in the same locale 3 Nov and a different bird 25 Nov (ph. JRW, HC). Large flocks of water birds attracted area attention: 386 Common Loons 18 Nov and 300 Horned Grebes 3 Nov in *Henry* were seasonal highs (JRW, KL, m. ob.). Over 200 Common Loons were in *St. Tammany*, LA 30 Nov (ph. MS). A surprise in *Henry* was an uncommon **Red-necked Grebe** 3 Nov (p. a., ph. JRW, LP). Tennessee's 2nd **Western Grebe** showed up in *Lake* 11 Nov (p. a. JRW, MT, DM et al.) Another was at *Caddo*, LA 11-12 Nov (p. a., ph. CL, JT, MS, RJB). Eared Grebes surfaced 1-9 Oct (LRD, RAD) and 27-29 Nov at F.W.B.S.F. (WB, DG, DW). Rare locally in Mississippi, others were in *Oktibbeha* 2 Oct and 5 Nov (TLS), 10 Nov in *Madison* (GK, SK), and 17 Nov in *Panola* (SJD).

A pelagic trip 22 Sep that ventured 50-100 km se. of Perdido Pass in Florida waters yielded an estimated 60 Cory's Shearwaters (SPag), the 3rd record and maximum ever for the W.P., and 100+ Audubon's Shearwaters, the 6th record and maximum ever reported! Another pelagic trip 70-110 km s. of Perdido Pass in Alabama waters 18 Aug yielded 2 Wilson's and 2 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Alabama's 19th and 6th records, respectively (p. a. KK, GDJ, m. ob.). The lucky observers also recorded Alabama's 2nd **Red-billed Tropicbird** about 72 km offshore (p. a. GDJ, LFG, SM et al.).

American White Pelicans were reported in good numbers throughout the Region, with a maximum of 2600 estimated 2 Nov on three adjoining lakes on the Mississippi-Tennessee

state line (JRW). An estimated 1000 in *Santa Rosa* and *Okaloosa*, FL 12 Oct was the maximum ever for one day in the W.P. (LRD, m. ob.). A displaced Brown Pelican found on Sardis L., *Lafayette*, MS was the 3rd record there (WMD). A Regional fall high for Double-crested Cormorants was 10,000 at Sardis L., MS 10 Nov (WMD). An amazing 12 Least Bitterns 4 Aug in *Desha*, AR was high for the area (KN, LN). A Least Bittern 24 Aug at Noxubee was the latest ever for the area by eight days (TLS, MHS). Over 600 Great Egrets were tallied in *Shelby*, TN 28 Aug, and 780 were counted 1 Sep in *Dyer*, TN as they went to roost (JRW). Fourchon Beach, LA furnished 5-7 Reddish Egrets 5 Aug-22 Sep (m. ob.), and Alabama's 3rd inland record occurred in *Lowndes* 2-3 Sep (FB, PB, JC, m. ob.). Alabama's mountain region hosted its maximum ever of 365 Cattle Egrets in *Shelby* 6 Aug (GDJ, DGJ). In *Caddo*, 14,100 were counted as they went to roost 7 Sep (JT, JnT). The cold front 5 Oct produced abundant waterbirds along the Louisiana coast. Among them were an estimated 100,000 Cattle Egrets moving s. across stretches of I-10 and Hwy. 26 in *Cameron* and *Jefferson Davis* (MS, CL). Late nesting Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at Yazoo N.W.R., MS 21 Oct-19 Nov (JLL, MPS). White Ibis nested for only the 2nd year at Noxubee, producing 26 dependent young by 9 Aug (TLS). More than 10,000 White-faced Ibis at *Cameron*, LA, were considered extraordinary (JPK, JK), as was a single one at *Prairie*, AR 25 Aug (KN, LN). Alabama's 12th **White-faced Ibis** (p. a. SM) was at Bayou LaBatre, *Mobile*, AL 22 Sep and 12-13 Oct, and the 13th on Mobile Causeway 11-12 Oct (p. a. SM). At *Lafourche*, LA, 148 Roseate Spoonbills 5 Aug were a large number for that area (PW, MM, RDP). In Mississippi, 8-12 Roseate Spoonbills were at *Adams* 10 Aug, one at Noxubee 27 Aug-25 Sep, and another at *Jackson* 17 Oct (m. ob.). A **Roseate Spoonbill** at Dauphin I., AL 21 Sep was Alabama's 19th (p. a. SM). Wood Storks were reported in good numbers from every state except the W.P. Totals are as follows: Alabama 548, Arkansas 715, Tennessee 1215, Mississippi 569, and Louisiana 2155. The more than 720 counted 9 Sep in *Dyer* established a new state daily high for Tennessee (ph. JRW).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** in *White*, AR 31 Aug established a 2nd county record (p. a., ph. KN, LN). Early, 400 Greater White-fronted Geese arrived 6 Oct in *Cameron*, LA (JPK) on the strong front that also brought early ones into Mississippi 7-12 Oct (TLS, WMD). A



Mississippi's first documented Inca Doves 7-23 November 2001 (here 22 November) in Washington were among the apparent vanguard of a northward and eastward expansion. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

hundred appeared at Reelfoot L., TN 10-25 Nov (NM). Another in Gulf Breeze, FL 1 Nov was found dead 2 Nov (MR, RR, *F.M.N.H.) Two at F.W.B.S.F. 29 Oct-28 Nov were rare (DW, m. ob.). In *Iberville*, LA 7 Ross's Geese 25-26 Oct were early (VR). Rare but expected was a Ross's Goose at Wheeler 17 Nov (RRR) In *Lafayette*, MS, 235 Wood Ducks 15 Sep was high (WMD). Mottled Ducks were rare summer residents in *Desha* and *White*, AR 4 Aug-1 Sep (KN, LN, JRW), where up to 2 birds were seen. About 5200 Blue-winged Teal were counted 15 Sep in *Cameron* (JPK, MS). Rare inland scoter sightings included a White-winged 25 Nov (MP) and a Black 23 Nov in *Pope*, AR (KN, LN). A Black Scoter was at Sardis L. 17 Nov (SJD), and 4 Black Scoters 20 Nov in *Oktibbeha* were rare for the area (TLS, SJD, PhB). Tennessee recorded 3 Surf Scoters and one White-winged 3 Nov in *Benton* (JRW, LP) and one Black 4 Nov in *Henry* (JRW, LP) A Long-tailed Duck 24 Nov in *Cameron* was rare (ph. CL, MS, RJB). Another in *Davidson*, TN 9 Nov was rare but regular (EO). A high for the area, 5000+ Ruddy Ducks were at Reelfoot L., TN 17 Nov (JRW, MAG, m. ob.).

A Swallow-tailed Kite 25 Aug in *Warren*, MS was late (KR). Bald Eagles were reported in all states from 5 Aug-24 Nov, with a maximum of 49 at *Henry*, TN 24 Nov (JRW, m. ob.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk in *Harrison*, MS 8 Aug was very early (SW). A **Swainson's Hawk** 22 Sep at *Dyer*, TN was accidental (p. a. JRW) Another Swainson's 6-16 Nov at F.W.B.S.F. provided the W.P.'s 10th record (WWD, RAD, LF). In Louisiana, where they are more regular, a total of 13 birds was reported 25 Aug-14 Nov Accidental in Louisiana, a **White-tailed Hawk**

was seen 30 Nov in *Jefferson Davis* (p. a. JPK, JK). A **Ferruginous Hawk**, also accidental in Louisiana, was near Thornwell, *Jefferson Davis* 9-24 Nov (p. a., ph. DL, MS, GN, DPM, PC). In *Henry*, TN, where they are rare but regular, Golden Eagles were in evidence, with an imm. 28 Oct, an ad. 4 Nov, and 2 subad. and an imm. 18 Nov (JRW et al.). An imm. Golden Eagle was found 17 Nov (DPM, PC) in *Jefferson Davis*, and in Mississippi, another was found 14 Nov at Noxubee (TLS); both were locally rare. A Crested Caracara, local and sparse in Louisiana, was farther e. than usual 9 Nov in *Vermilion* (p. a. DL, GN). A Merlin in *Colbert*, AL 5 Aug was early (MA, GNP). Peregrine Falcon reports from coastal locations were nonexistent, possibly because sightings are now considered commonplace. In the interior, where sightings are not as numerous, reports were received from Arkansas (2), Mississippi (4), and Tennessee (10).

A tractor ride in the rice fields of *Jefferson Davis*, LA 6 Nov flushed 10 Yellow and 5 King Rails (MS). An ad. and 4 young Purple Gallinules and numbers of Common Moorhens were seen in *Arkansas*, AR 1 Sep (KN, LN, MD). Two ad. and 5 young American Coots in *Desha*, AR 26 Aug provided the first nesting record there (KN, LN). Wheeler had 91 Sandhill Cranes 23 Nov, a large number for Alabama.

SHOREBIRDS

A Snowy Plover found at Elmer's I., *Jefferson* 19 Aug was rare for se. Louisiana. Three were in *Cameron* 6 Oct (JPK) and one in *Harrison*, MS 4 Nov (SW, MC). Threatened Piping Plovers were reported from three states, Tennessee (4),



This Sabine's Gull on Cross Lake in Caddo, Louisiana 9 September 2001 was one of four to appear in the Central Southern Region 1-9 September this season. Photograph by Charlie Lyon.

Arkansas (6), and Louisiana (15) between 10 Aug and 26 Oct. An American Oystercatcher in *Escambia*, FL 30 Oct established a first Oct record for the W.P. (LRD). Hundreds of Black-necked Stilts were noted in *Adams*, MS 10-11 Aug (WP, MPS). American Avocets in *Lafayette*, MS, were reported 22 Sep-26 Oct, with 6 on 14 Oct the highest ever for that county in fall. In *Oktibbeha*, MS, one found 6 Oct was the 8th area record (TLS). Avocets may be expanding their range into rice fields: a maximum of 138 was counted in this habitat in *Vermilion*, LA on 25 Aug (JPK, KF). Two were reported in *Shelby*, TN 1 Sep and 16 Oct (JRW) and 4 in *Crittenden*, AR 6 Oct (JRW).

A Willet in *Oktibbeha* 31 Aug was the area's 6th fall record (TLS). Rare in the interior, a Willet was in *Shelby*, AL 31 Aug-1 Sep (AMi, m. ob.). Alabama totalled 28 early Upland Sandpipers 5-13 Aug. Five were found in TN 11-19 Aug, 16 in LA 11-23 Aug, and 9 in Mississippi 8 Aug-2 Sep. Thirteen Whimbrels were at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 5 Aug (PW, MM, RDP). A rare migrant in Arkansas, single Marbled Godwits were observed 1-8 Sep in *Prairie* and 1 Sep in *White* (KN, LN). Rare inland Ruddy Turnstones were found in *Lowndes*, AL 30 Jul-6 Aug (SER) and *Prairie*, AR 9 Sep (KN, LN). In Tennessee, 4 turnstones were reported 3-21 Sep in *Shelby* (JRW). Five Red Knots, casual in Tennessee, were found in *Shelby* 28 Aug (JRW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper banded in Ecuador was found in *Shelby*, TN 10 Aug, where a season high of 2530 was counted 11 Aug (JRW). An estimated 2500 Western Sandpipers were in rice fields in *Acadia* and *Vermilion* 25 Aug (JPK, KF). Significant numbers of Least Sandpipers were reported: 1300 from *Lafourche* and *Jefferson*, LA 16 Sep (MM, DPM, RDP) and 2538 on 11 Aug and 4951 on 15 Sep in *Shelby*, TN, (JRW, m. ob.). Rare in fall, an early White-rumped Sandpiper was found in *Colbert*, AL 15 Aug (DJS), and another in *Shelby*, TN 25 Aug (JRW). Two more were found 5 Oct in *Shelby* (JRW).

Baird's Sandpiper, a w. Gulf migrant, made a good showing throughout the Region in all states except Arkansas. Totals were: Alabama 7, Mississippi 9, Louisiana one, Tennessee 17, and W.P. one. A Dunlin in *Vermilion*, LA 23 Aug was very early (JPK, CF, MG, JG). The rice fields of sw. Louisiana attracted 1400 Stilt Sandpipers 12 Aug (PW, MM). A maximum inland Alabama record of 60 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was noted in *Perry* 13 Aug (RRS). Other tallies of Buff-breasteds were 44 in *Jefferson Davis*, LA 23 Aug (JPK, CF, MG, JG) and 46 in *Lake* and *Shelby*, TN 7 Aug-2 Sep (JRW et al.). A Ruff in *Shelby*, TN 4-7 Aug was

the 13th for the area (p. a., ph. JRW, m. ob.) Another Ruff was seen in *Jefferson*, LA 5 Aug (p. a., ph. PW, MM, RDP). A good number (1400) of Long-billed Dowitchers was at *Vermilion* 1 Sep (MM, PW, CS). A Common Snipe was early 25 Aug in *Washington*, AR (MiM). Rare in Arkansas, one to 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were observed 31 Aug-9 Sep in *White* (KN, LN, WS, MD, m. ob.). Another was found 8 Nov in *Pulaski*, AR (EL). Accidental in Mississippi, a **Red Phalarope** was in *Oktibbeha* 1-3 Oct (p. a. TLS).

JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A maximum for Alabama's Tennessee Valley, 22 Laughing Gulls were counted at *Lauderdale* 12 Aug (MA, GNP). An astonishing **6000** Franklin's Gulls 27 Oct at Millwood L., *Hempstead* was Arkansas's highest count (CM). Also impressive were 3000 in *Caddo*, LA 2 Nov (CL). Rare and irregular in Mississippi, 16 Franklin's were in *Oktibbeha* 26 Oct (TLS), one in *Lafayette* 31 Oct (WMD), and 565 in *Grenada* and *Yalobusha* 13 Oct-17 Nov (SJD) Very rare in the W.P., one Franklin's was seen in *Okaloosa* 27 Oct (DW) and another at F.W.B.S.F. 30 Oct (RAD, DS, EC). Four others were observed 28 Oct-17 Nov in *Henry*, *Shelby*, and *Obion*, TN (JRW et al.). A possible **Common Gull** in *Cameron* 25 Nov would be a first state record for Louisiana (p. a., ph. MS, DPM, MM). Accidental, a **Black-headed Gull** was at Millwood L., *Hempstead* 25 Nov (p. a. CM). The status of Lesser-black backed Gulls has changed from "accidental" to "rare" in some states in a relatively short time. One in *Marshall*, AL 29 Oct was rare (p. a. MSG, m. ob.), while another in *Pope*, AR 17 Nov-1 Dec was considered accidental (p. a. KN, LN, MD) Casual in Tennessee, 2 were in *Henry* 21 Oct (p. a., ph. JRW). No longer reviewed in Louisiana, at least 16 individuals were reported, with 12 at Rutherford and Holly Beach 26-28 Oct (DPM et al.). A **Great Black-backed Gull** in *Henry*, TN 21 Oct-3 Nov was casual (JRW, m. ob.) Rare in Alabama, one was in *Marshall* 30 Nov (SWM), an early one was at Dauphin I. 14-25 Oct (LFG, HEH), and yet another in *Baldwin*, AL 19 Oct (KK). Accidental throughout the Region, a first-summer **Sabine's Gull** was spotted in *Dyer*, TN 1 Sep (JRW). Amazingly, Wilson found and photographed an imm Sabine's 3 Sep on Mud I. in downtown Memphis as well (p. a. JRW, MG, BJ, JN)! Another Sabine's Gull appeared in *Caddo*, LA 9 Sep (ph. CL). Not to be outdone, Mississippi had its own Sabine's in *Oktibbeha* 31 Aug-3 Sep (p. a. TLS, m. ob.) and a juv. in *Yalobusha* 6 Oct (p. a. SJD).

A first-year **Arctic Tern** 3 Aug at Navarre,

Santa Rosa, FL was a first for the W.P. (EC, RAD). A count of 150 Least Terns in *Crittenden*, AR 1 Sep was high for fall (NL, CLa). A **Bridled Tern** excited Alabama pelagic trip participants 18 Aug (p. a. GDJ, m. ob.). Another Bridled Tern was found in Florida waters 22 Sep (SPag). A **Sooty Tern** at Ft. Pickens 12 Aug was considered casual (PM, RM).

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from *Pulaski* (25), *Little River* (2), and *Columbia* (4), Arkansas, and sw. Memphis (10), confirming their rapid spread. The expected **Inca Dove** expansion e. of the Mississippi R. may be underway: 3 birds were discovered in *Washington*, w.-cen. Mississippi 7-23 Nov (p. a. CGS, TLS, ph. JRW, GK, m. ob.). These provided the state's 2nd record, the first being in *Harrison* in 1996. There were only two reports of Groove-billed Ani: 14 Oct at Dauphin I. (ES, m. ob.) and 20 Oct at *Bay*, FL (PM, RM). This species has been reported less frequently in recent years. Florida's 2nd **Flammulated Owl** was found on a condominium balcony at Navarre Beach, *Santa Rosa*, FL 9 Nov. Rehabilitated at the Wildlife Sanctuary, it was released successfully 12 Nov (p. a., ph. LRD RAD, EC). Florida's first Flammulated Owl (in *St Petersburg*, 1978) was also found coastally. Continuing the astounding saga of stray w. hummingbirds in the Region, a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was in *Rapides*, LA 7 Nov (p. a., ph. CL, RJB) and another 12 Nov in New Orleans (p. a., ph. DPM). A Calliope Hummingbird was in *St. John* 11-12 Nov (RJS) and another in *Iberville* 25 Nov (p. a., ph. VR, DL). An early Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at *Iberville* 8 Oct (VR), another at *St. John* 4-5 Nov (p. a. RJS), and another in New Orleans 18 Nov (p. a., ph. DPM). Arkansas boasted an ad. male Rufous Hummingbird 9 Sep-13 Nov in *Clark* (SE, HP, MP, banded, ph.), and an ad. male was reported 30 Oct in *Craighead*, AR (LJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Nashville 9 Oct established a new fall late date (PDC, FCF). Among the *Empidonax*, 4 Alder Flycatchers 8 Sep in *Washington*, AR were the most ever in fall (MiM). Rare Willows were in Birmingham 7 Sep (p. a. SM) and *Cameron*, LA 18 Aug (p. a. MS, CL, JT, vt.). A late Least Flycatcher was in *Faulkner*, AR 13 Oct (HR). A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** 10 Sep-9 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. was the first Sep record for the W.P. (DW, LD, RAD). Five were reported in Louisiana 14-27 Oct. Another was in *Baldwin*, AL 17 Oct (LG, SP). Now rare but regular in the W.P., an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was at F.W.B.S.F. 10-11

Nov (LE, PCT, BT et al.). Ash-throated Flycatchers were at opposite ends of Dauphin I., AL 14 Oct (ECS, CDC, m. ob.), rare in Alabama. Alabama's 3rd **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, a hatch-year bird, was banded near Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* 15 Sep (p. a., ph. JF). A silent **Myiodynastes flycatcher** at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL was the 2nd occurrence of this genus for the W.P. (RAD). A **Tropical/Couch's Kingbird** 22-25 Sep at Dauphin I., AL was the state's 5th (p. a. PCT, BT, LRD, RAD, m. ob.). At *Perry*, AL, 250 Eastern Kingbirds established the highest fall count for the state 13 Aug (RAS). One in *Dyer*, TN 14 Oct was late (KL, BL). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers bred in Montgomery, AL, at a new site where an ad. and 2 imms. were found 4 Aug (SH, DH). The 200 Scissor-taileds counted in *Caddo*, LA 5 Sep must have been eye-popping (JT, JnT). Four were spotted 7 Oct-6 Nov in the W.P., where they are rare.

A Bell's Vireo was singing in *Hot Spring*, AR 17 Aug (AF). Two were banded in *Baldwin*, AL 15 Oct, where they are rare but regular (JF et al.). Early dates for Blue-headed Vireos were 5 Sep in *Washington*, AR (MiM), 7 Sep in *Caddo*, LA (JT), and by eight days, 15 Sep in *Oktibbeha*, MS (DP, JP). Warbling Vireos, rare in coastal Alabama, were at Dauphin I. 11 Sep (one; HEH) and *Baldwin* 14 & 15 Oct (2 banded; JF). A late Philadelphia Vireo in *Faulkner*, AR 20 Oct (HR) was a lucky find, as was a Red-eyed Vireo in *Washington* 13 Oct (MiM).

High numbers of Fish Crows (74) were noted at *Pope*, AR 7 Oct (LA). An overwhelming 500,000+ Tree Swallows 7 Nov at *St. James*, LA must have been impressive (JPK, JK). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged an invasion in Tennessee (WRP), as well as in Mississippi and Louisiana. A **Rock Wren** found in *Sabine*, LA 28 Oct was accidental (p. a. RJS, MW). Casual in the W.P., a **Bewick's Wren** 29 Oct was at Ft. Pickens (p. a. DS, LRD, RAD). Where they are more common, 2 were reported in *Scott*, AR 20 & 26 Sep (LA). Louisiana's 7th **Northern Wheatear** was at *Lafourche* 14 Oct (p. a. BMM, DPM, ph. CL, TD). With fewer than 10 records for Louisiana, a **Sage Thrasher** delighted the L.O.S. Convention in *Cameron* 27-28 Oct (p. a. BW, LW, ph. MS, LR, m. ob.). A **Sprague's Pipit** in *Baldwin* 11-30 Nov was Alabama's 18th (p. a. BS, ph. SM, m. ob.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Five Golden-winged Warblers were reported for the Region. One 14 Aug at Noxubee was the earliest area record by five days (TLS).

Nashville Warblers arrived early in Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana, with 2 Sep the earliest ever for nw. Louisiana (JT). Likewise earliest ever was a Magnolia Warbler 28 Aug in *Washington*, nw. Arkansas (MiM), and earliest by three days was one at Noxubee 24 Aug (TLS). Rare fall migrants in Tennessee, Cape May Warblers were reported 14 Sep-3 Oct in *Davidson* and *Putnam*. A very late Black-throated Blue Warbler was in *Faulkner*, AR 9 Nov (SC), while very late Black-throated Green Warbler was in *St. Martin*, LA 29 Nov (RCD). A Palm Warbler in *Jefferson* 9 Sep was very early (LLE). Only 3 of the declining Cerulean Warblers were reported for the Region. Rare but regular, a Mourning Warbler was banded 7 Sep in *Baldwin*, AL (JF). Rare in Tennessee, one was found dead 3 Sep in Memphis (DB) and another seen in *Munford* 16 Sep (DDP). An amazing 500+ Common Yellowthroats were in *Ascension*, LA 29 Sep (JVH). Thirteen Wilson's Warblers were banded 26 Sep-16 Oct in *Baldwin*, AL (JF et al.). Rare away from the coast, Clay-colored Sparrows were at *Lawrence*, AL 20 Sep (DJS) and *Oktibbeha*, MS 12 Oct (TLS). Coastal birds were at Dauphin I. 14 Oct (DW, m. ob.), Ft. Pickens 3 Oct (LRD, m. ob.), and F.W.B.S.F. 6 Sep (DW). A **Spotted Towhee** at Peveto Sanctuary, *Cameron*, LA 24 Nov-23 Dec was a great find (p. a. DB, vt. MS, MW, RB). A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at *Shelby*, TN 16 Oct (JRW) was casual for the state. Rare and early in coastal Alabama, Lapland Longspurs were in *Baldwin* 28 Oct+ (BS, m. ob.). In Tennessee, where they are more common, 300 were counted 17 Nov in *Lake* (MAG, JRW). A **Chestnut-collared Longspur**



One of fewer than 10 records for the state, this Sage Thrasher timed its visit to coincide with the convention of the Louisiana Ornithological Society in Cameron Parish 27 (here) & 28 October 2001. Photograph by Mark Swan.

in *Baldwin*, AL 16-18 Nov was a state first (p. a, ph. SM, BS, m. ob.). **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were in *Lafayette*, LA 16 Nov (p. a. KD, vt. MS), and *St. Martin* 30 Nov (p. a. RCD). Rusty Blackbirds in *Marshall*, AL 16 Aug were early by two months (D&LR). A **Bronzed Cowbird** in *Santa Rosa*, FL 5-7 Nov (SD, RAD) and another at Ft. Pickens 18 Nov (DS, AK) were the 5th and 6th for the W.P. In New Orleans, 500 on 17 Nov was a discouraging tally (PW). A pair of American Goldfinches in *Bolivar*, MS 14 Aug was surprisingly early (NH, JCH).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Moez Ali, Leif Anderson, Robbie Bacon, Peggy Baker, Philip Barbour (PhB), Fred Bassett, Wes Biggs, Roger J. Breedlove, Debbie Bruce, Sharon Carter, Ed Case, Mollie Cashner, **Phillip D. Casteel (middle Tennessee)**, Hap Chambers, Paul Conover, C. Dwight Cooley,

Jane Crittenden, Terry Davis, W. Marvin Davis, Mike Dillon, Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), R. C. Dobbs, Lydia Dougherty, Kay Drouant, Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan (nw. Florida)**, William W. Duncan, Jeffrey Farrington, Karen Fay, Francis C. Fekel, Lenny Fenimore, Anthony Floyd, Carol Foil, Sarah Franklin, Larry F. Gardella, Lex Glover, Dave Goodwin, M. Scott Gravette, Mark A. Greene, Margie Griffith, J. Guillory, Dana Hamilton, Stan Hamilton, J. C. Herbert, Nona Herbert, Howard E. Horne, Debra G. & **Greg D. Jackson (Alabama)**, Bonnie J. Johnson, Lou Johnson, Keith Kamper, Joanne & **Joseph P. Kleiman (Louisiana)**, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Alan Knothe, Daniel Lane, Ed Laster, Cheryl (CLa) & Norman Lavers, Betty Leggett, Ken Leggett, Jerry L. Litton, Charlie Lyon, Don Manning, Steve McConnell, Powers & Rosann McLeod, Ann Miller (AMi), Charles Mills, Mike Mlodinow (MiM), Nancy Moore, David

P. Muth, Mac Myers, Judy Newsome, Kenny & LaDonna Nichols, George Nixon, Elizabeth O'Connor, Steve Pagliughi (SPag), **Helen & Max Parker (Arkansas)**, Diane Patterson, Jimmy Patterson, Steve Patterson, Larry Peavler, **W. Robert Peebles (w. Tennessee)**, Wilma Pickett, G. Ned Piper, Dick D. Preston, R. Dan Purrington, Herschel Raney, Shawn E. Reed, Robert R. Reid, Ken Reineke, Van Rensen, Dick & Linda Reynolds, Lois Rodgers, Robert R. Sargent, Marion H. & **Terence L. Scheifer (Mississippi)**, William Shepherd, Damian J. Simbeck, David Simpson, Carl G. Smith, Eric C. Soehren, Curt Sorrells, Ronald J. Stein, Mary P. Stevens, Bill Summerour, Mark Swan, Betsy Tetlow, Philip C. Tetlow, Jean (JnT) & Jeff Trahan, Phillip Wallace, Don Ware, Melvin Weber, Beth Willis, Lyndel Willis, Jeff R. Wilson, Stefan Wolfmann.



M. A., MB); S. R. V. (Sheep R. Valley hawkwatch, AB); Ww. L. (Whitewater Lake, MB).

Prairie Provinces



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The season was generally dry and mild Regionwide; the odd early snowstorm aside, winter did not really arrive until late November. The placid conditions allowed a gradual retreat of

most migrants, while giving lingerers little trouble surviving into December. Numbers of "eastern" warblers moved west, particularly to Alberta.

Sadly, we have to report the untimely passing of Robert Kreba, our long-time provincial compiler from Saskatchewan. His thorough reports will be greatly missed; indeed, the Prairie Provinces' birding community is the poorer for his loss.

Abbreviations: I. B. S. (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB); L. M. L. (Last Mountain Lake, SK); O. H. M. (Oak Hammock Marsh W.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Highlighting a good loon migration in Alberta, one Red-throated, 4 Pacific, and 65 Common Loons passed Mt. Lorette, AB in a nine-minute period ahead of an advancing snowstorm 17 Oct (PS). Also noteworthy were up to 5 Pacific Loons at L. M. L. 31 Oct (RKr), and single Yellow-billed Loons at Bassano, AB 21 Oct (ASl), S. R. V. 1 Nov (WS), and L. M. L. 16 Oct-2 Nov (BL, m. ob.). A Double-crested Cormorant at Churchill, MB 17 Aug was a local rarity (BC).

A Great Egret at Lethbridge, AB 6 Aug was a good find (GG); more expected were lone birds at St. Ambrose, MB 23 Aug (PT, GT) and Minnedosa, MB 9 Sep (CC). A Snowy Egret at Riding Mountain N.P., MB about 7 Oct (PSu, DR) and a Little Blue Heron at Elie, MB 27 Aug (DS) were reported without details. Lone Cattle Egrets lingered at cattle feedlots near Riverton, MB 2 Nov (BT) and near Minnedosa 16 Nov (BF), while other singles were near Hodgeville, SK 14 Nov (M&JP) and Churchill 15 Oct (JD, MG). A White-faced Ibis obliged many observers at O.H.M. 4-21 Sep (PVI, m. ob.).

Snow Geese were scarce in se. Manitoba, but in the sw. up to 250,000 were in the Ww. L. area 20 Oct (RK), and in Saskatchewan they peaked at 100,000 at Good Spirit L. (B&JA). Ross's Geese lingered until about 20 Nov in all three provinces. A Brant near Outlook, SK 6 Oct was seen by many (BCa et al.). High swan counts included 500 Trumpeters and 4500 Tundras at Frank L., AB 4 Nov (ASl) and thousands of Tundras at Ww L. 20 Oct-10 Nov (RK, AW). An American Black Duck at Cold L., AB 22 Oct was w. of its usual