

# Central Southern

The return of normal rainfall after months of drought brought welcome relief amidst an ordinary August migration. A spate of tropical systems erupted in mid-September, bringing remarkable avian cargo ashore. Tropical Storm *Hanna* moved onto the Alabama-Mississippi coast 14–15 September. Hurricane *Isidore* came ashore near New Orleans 25–26 September, depositing pelagic species from northwestern Florida to Louisiana and backing up heavy accumulations of migrants along the coast. Hurricane *Lili* entered Louisiana 3 October and swept still more seabirds inland as far as Arkansas.

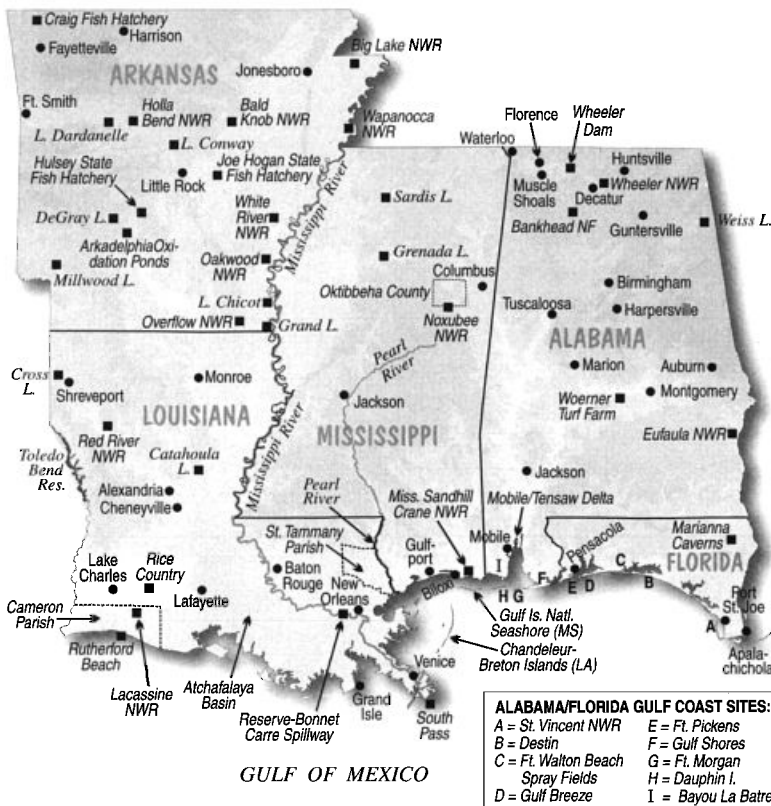
October was wetter than normal for most of the Region. A strong cold front penetrated the Region 13–14 October, and an attendant low in the Gulf caused widespread precipitation, with heavy fallouts from northwestern Florida to Louisiana. The Subtropical Jet Stream, associated with an El Niño year, produced rapid weather changes for the remainder of the period. Terry Schiefer noted many late dates into early November for Mississippi. Winter visitors appeared along the coast on schedule, with unusually high concentrations of Eastern Bluebirds, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Phoebes, and Pine and Palm Warblers.

**Abbreviations:** b. (banded); F.M.N.H. (Florida Museum of Natural History); F.W.B.S.E (Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa, FL); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. Mississippi); nw. Florida (Florida west of the Apalachicola R.); Pensacola Junior College (P.J.C.); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., n. AL). States are often identified only with the initial use of a place name.

## LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Very rare in Louisiana, a Western Grebe appeared on the lakefront in *St. Tammany* 17 Nov (p. a. BMM). Pelagic species made an outstanding showing this season. A Greater Shearwater 16 km s. of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, AL 7 Aug was very rare (JPF). Another Alabama pelagic trip 17 Aug that ventured 98 km s. of Orange Beach yielded 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and Alabama's 7th Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (p. a. CDC, SM, m. ob.). A weakened Leach's Storm-Petrel found on the beach in *Okaloosa* 30 Jul was nw. Florida's 2nd (\*F.M.N.H., P. McNichols, RAD, LRD, BT). A pelagic trip 75–91 km se. of South Pass, *Plaquemines*, LA 28 Aug yielded a high of 15 Leach's Storm-Petrels (\*L.S.U.M.N.S., DLD, SWC et al.). Presumed to be summering birds, this was an unprecedented number for the Gulf. On this same trip, observers tallied about 84 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, also remarkably high for the Gulf.

Only 7 American Bitterns were reported



for the Region. A count of 94 Great Egrets was high for *Lauderdale*, AL 8 Aug (PDK), as was a tally of 50 Black-crowned Night-Herons 23 Sep in *Lonoke*, AR (LY). An ad. White-faced Ibis in *Jefferson* 1 Oct was Alabama's 14th (p. a. HK et al.). The highest count of White-faced Ibis in the Region was 12 in *Ashley*, AR 13 Aug (JM). Roseate Spoonbills staged a virtual invasion, some probably associated with the tropical storm activity. In Arkansas, where rare, 47 were reported 10 Aug–4 Oct, with a one-day maximum of 21 on 13 Aug in *Ashley* (JM). Equally rare in Mississippi, 99 were found 26 Jul–13 Oct, with a maximum of 41 on 13 Oct in *Humphreys* (SJD). Alabama sported 6 spoonbills 4 Aug–10 Oct, while nw. Florida had its 4th in Gulf Breeze 27 Sep (PB, RAD, LRD). Wood Storks were found in encouragingly large numbers throughout Mississippi, with around 1000 in *Adams* 8–10 Aug (MS, WPI). Arkansas reported 8 for the period and Alabama 20. Very rare in nw. Florida, one was at the F.W.B.S.E on 31 Oct (BM).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Accidental in Arkansas, 5 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in *Ashley* 13 Aug were a great find (JM). Very early and rare, 2 Greater White-fronted

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Geese were seen 5 Oct in *Issaquena*, MS (SS). In Louisiana, 580+ were counted 13 Oct in *Cameron*, LA (JK, KF). In nw. Florida, 3 lingered at the F.W.B.S.E 18–29 Nov (BM, m. ob.) and another 8–19 Nov in *Santa Rosa* (BB). A rare Tundra Swan shot by a hunter 23 Nov in *Natchitoches*, LA was secured as a specimen (\*JI, PD). Very rare in Mississippi, a Trumpeter Swan was found on 29 Nov in *Oktibbeha* (JPM). Three Mottled Ducks 13 Aug in *Okaloosa*, FL (DW) established the 2nd Aug record for nw. Florida. Surf Scoters were reported from all states in the Region: between 1 and 19 Nov, Mississippi had 12, Alabama 8, Arkansas 7, Louisiana 4, and nw. Florida one. Only 2 White-winged Scoters were reported. The 21 Black Scoters found in *Caddo* 17 Nov

**SA** Three tropical cyclones from mid-Sep to early Oct produced spectacular birding through the Region, two potential state firsts, and two area firsts for nw. Florida. For more on the storm tracks and histories of *Hanna*, *Isidore*, *Lili*, see <<http://weather.unisys.com/hurricane/atlantic/2002/index.html>>.

Two **Red-billed Tropicbirds** were observed as a consequence of these storms. An ad. was found on an *Okaloosa* beach during *Hanna* 14 Sep (ph. MC), captured for rehabilitation, and later released at Tampa. Another was observed 3 Oct from Destin Pass, *Okaloosa* (p. a. DW, AK), probably pushed shoreward by *Lili*. This species is regularly encountered in small numbers in the deep water of the Gulf.

Three **Red-footed Boobies**, new for nw. Florida and rare even where almost regular (at the Dry Tortugas), were recovered. The first was Tropical Storm *Hanna*-related, a juv. found on the beach in *Walton* 16 Sep (LF, RAD, P.J.C.). A dark-morph ad. was found in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 28 Sep, on the heels of Hurricane *Isidore* (TW, TH, D. Kaufmann, F.M.N.H.). The last was found in *Gulf* right after *Isidore* 26 Sep (TL). A Brown Booby was also recovered in *Gulf* 29 Sep, also a refugee from *Isidore* (\*TL).

Magnificent Frigatebirds made their usual appearances after the tropical storm activity, with maxima of 26 in *Jackson* and *Harrison*, MS 26 Sep (MSW, LDY), "hundreds" in the Gulfport, MS area the same day (B. Doe), 200+ in New Orleans, LA, also on the 26th (B. L. Sullivan, A. Farnsworth et al.), and 25 on 25 Sep in *St. James*, LA (CW, m. ob.), both related to *Isidore*. Inland records included a juv. at Columbus L., *Lowndes/Clay*, MS 4 Oct after *Lili* (Keith Kimberle). Interestingly, large movements of American White Pelicans were also noted following Hurricane *Lili*, with 7500 estimated 4 Oct in *Pointe Coupee*, LA (RCD) and a mind-boggling **12,000** on 5 Oct in *Issaquena*, MS (SS).

*Isidore* brought several terns of note to shore. Louisiana had an ad. **Arctic Tern**, rare in the state, fly by the Aquarium in New Orleans, among uncountable Royal and Common Terns (†B. L. Sullivan, A. Farnsworth, m. ob.). Alabama's first **Brown Noddy** was found 26 Sep (p. a.; ph. W. Jess) perched on a dock in Bon Secour, *Baldwin*. Another was spotted over L. Pontchartrain, *St. Tammany*, 26 Sep (p. a. JC, m. ob.) and yet another just e. of the Gulfport, MS harbor 26 Sep (B. Doe). *Isidore* produced a tidal

wave of reports of **Sooty** and **Bridled Terns** too numerous to cite, including an all-day spectacle in Pensacola Bay, *Escambia* 26 Sep as se. and s. gales blew (RAD, LRD). Wheeler Dam in n. Alabama was the site of an inland **Sooty Tern** 27 Sep (DJS et al.), as were the counties of *Issaquena* and *Washington*, MS 4 Oct (SS; SJD). More than 25 Bridled Terns were in Pensacola Bay during Hurricane *Isidore* (RAD, LRD, m. ob.). Gulfport, MS and vicinity held at least 50 tropical terns, mostly Sooty but at least 3 Bridled (B. Doe).

The unprecedented appearance of Red-footed Boobies and numbers of Sooty and Bridled Terns may be explained by Hurricane *Isidore*'s history. Hurricane *Isidore* tracked through the w. Caribbean, passing near the Cayman Is., the Isle of Youth, then across the n. Yucatan, where it lost strength, broadened, then moved ashore near New Orleans 25–26 Sep with winds of about 60 knots. Tracking through the nw. Caribbean, the storm passed through breeding areas of the boobies and terns while still at maximum strength (at one point, a Category 5 cyclone). Caught in its eye and fringes, they would have been transported into the s. Gulf where they were "released" as the storm lost strength and broadened. Birds then would have continued northward (downwind) with strong tail winds, explaining their presence in such great numbers in the Region.

As if Hurricane *Isidore* didn't create enough excitement, a week later, Hurricane *Lili* struck the Louisiana coast 3 Oct, a Category 2 storm, depositing more pelagic species. A Sooty Tern was seen in downtown Baton Rouge 3–4 Oct (m. ob.), and another turned up well inland in Starkville, MS 4–5 Oct (p. a. RR). Arkansas's 3rd **Sooty Tern** was an ad. found 4 Oct (p. a. SJD) along the Mississippi R. in *Chicot*. Bridled Terns entrained included a Hurricane *Lili*-related bird 3 Oct in New Orleans (BMM) and another in *Hancock* 1 Oct (p. a. NB). Were some of these birds "left-overs" from Hurricane *Isidore*, or newcomers from Hurricane *Lili*? However these birds were transported, the storms of this season resulted in an unprecedented grand slam: Sooty Terns were reported from all five states: Alabama (5), Arkansas (1), Mississippi (±14), Louisiana (93), and nw. Florida (20+), though these numbers are essentially estimates, and many terns were seen that did not reach reporting networks. The full history of these storms is yet to be settled.

Specimens discovered as a result of tropical storms have great value for the ornithological record. Wildlife rehabilitation and sanctuary facilities can play an important role in identifying and preserving avian specimens for educational institutions. Among the records established through these facilities in the Central Southern Region alone in the last few years have been pelagic species including Red-billed Tropicbird, Red-footed Booby, Sooty and Bridled Terns, three species of storm-petrels—not to mention Flammulated and Northern Saw-whet Owls! A working relationship between the operators of these valuable facilities, regional editors, and collection managers can produce valuable information and study skins, especially if a protocol for data collection is maintained by the facility. Potential contributors of specimen material should consult their local museum or bird rehabilitation facility to learn more about regulations governing the salvage of bird specimens.



One of three Red-footed Boobies discovered in northwest Florida, this bird was found in Gulf Breeze 28 September 2002 on the heels of Hurricane *Isidore*. Photograph by Lucy R. Duncan.

were unprecedented for n. Louisiana. (CL et al.). The earliest ever for the area by two days was another Black Scoter in *Oktibbeha* 31 Oct (TS, SJD). Only 3 Long-tailed Ducks were reported in the Region.

Swallow-tailed Kites, rare in n. Mississippi,

were seen in *Clay* 5–12 Aug (TS) and in *Lee* 25 Aug (AJ, WP). From coastal Gulf Breeze, RAD observed a kettle of 42 Swallow-taileds on 7 Aug, a maximum ever for the area! Another on 8 Oct at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* established a new late date for Alabama (AM,

RAD). A White-tailed Kite 23 Oct in *Plaquemines* was unusual that far east (DLD, SWC). Rare in nw. Arkansas, a Mississippi Kite 17 Aug in *Benton* was surprising (JN, MMI). The 80 Mississippi Kites on 5 Aug in *Clay*, MS (TS) were the most ever for the area. Only

four reports of Bald Eagles were received from Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi; however, there were 17 sightings in nw. Florida. Hopefully, they're becoming too common to report! Northern Harriers showed up in numbers in *Lauderdale*, AL with 17 on 8 Oct and 26 on 25 Oct (PDK). Late-departing Broad-winged Hawks included one each at *Washington*, AR 12 Oct (MMI) and *Lee*, AL 1 Nov (BFF, PMi). Swainson's Hawk reports came from Arkansas (5), Louisiana (8), and Mississippi, where one was seen 14 Oct in *Hancock* (p. a. NB). Rare in the Region, 4 Golden Eagles were reported from Arkansas, Alabama, and Louisiana. A Crested Caracara in *Jefferson Davis*, LA on 25 Oct was farther e. than usual (p. a. DLD, SWC). Five Yellow Rails were found in rice fields in *White*, AR 26 Oct (KN, LN).

### SHOREBIRDS

While shorebird numbers were low in nw. Florida, 575 Black-bellied Plovers in s. Louisiana 8–10 Sep were noteworthy (JPK, JK, BMM, DPM). Only 24 American Golden-Plovers were reported for the Region. Mississippi's first inland Snowy Plover occurred in *Oktibbeha* 14–16 Sep (TS, m. ob.). Snowy Plovers were noted in Louisiana, with a maximum of 23 on 2 Nov in *Cameron* (BMM, DPM, RDP). Piping Plovers were found in Louisiana (27), Arkansas (5), Mississippi (one), and nw. Florida (4). Three states reported Upland Sandpipers: Louisiana (58), Mississippi (3), and Alabama (30+). High numbers of Western Sandpipers were observed on 10 Sep (1200) and 19 Sep (1100) in s. Louisiana rice fields (JPK, JK, KF). Rare fall migrants in Alabama, 6 White-rumped Sandpipers were found 4 Sep in *Marshall* (RAR) and one on 11 Aug in *Mobile* (PMi). The maximum ever for Alabama's intercoastal plain, over 400 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted 3 Aug in *Lowndes* (LFG).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely reported 3 Aug–22 Sep from Arkansas (one), Mississippi (56), Alabama (17) and Louisiana (30). An earliest-ever Wilson's Snipe was in *White*, AR 2 Aug (KN, LN). A Wilson's Phalarope 13 Nov in *Mobile* was the latest ever by one month for Alabama's Gulf Coast (LRD, RAD, m. ob.). The catfish ponds in *Humphreys*, MS yielded a record count of 223 Wilson's Phalaropes 24 Aug (SJD); large numbers were present there from mid-Aug to mid-Sep. Red-necked Phalaropes made appearances in four states, possibly storm-related. Only the 3rd for nw. Florida, one bird found in *Walton* 20 Sep died (RAD, LF, \*PJ.C.). Arkansas had two records, one juv. 14 Sep in *Clark* (p. a. DoH, DH) and another 6–8 Sep in *White* (p. a. KN, LN). Two more were seen 67 km se. of South Pass, LA on 18 Sep (p. a. \*L.S.U.M.N.S., LW, m. ob.). In Mississippi, where casual, a minimum of 5 (one

ad., 4 juvs.) was noted in *Humphreys* 24 Aug–12 Oct (SJD, m. ob.), one juv. in *Leflore* 7 Sep (SJD), one in *Oktibbeha* 28 Sep (TS et al.), another in *Hancock* 1 Oct (NB), and 4 there on 2 Nov (NB, JTo et al.).

### GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

In Louisiana, an estimated 3600 Franklin's Gulls 11 Nov were at Cross Lake, *Caddo* (CL and JC), possibly the highest daily state count. A first-year Little Gull observed 27 Oct–2 Nov at Ft. Morgan was Alabama's 7th (p. a. BCG, BS, AMi, AM). A first-winter Black-headed Gull, accidental in Arkansas, was found at L. Dardanelle, *Pope/Yell* 15 Nov (p. a. LA). About 40 hybrid *Larus* (presumably all Herring x Kelp Gulls) continue to breed on the Chandeleur Is. A trip there 1 Aug (DLD, SWC) yielded no pure Kelp Gulls. A Thayer's Gull 24 Nov in *Cameron* was Louisiana's first fall-period record (p. a. BMM, DPM, \*L.S.U.M.N.S.). Increasingly regular fall migrants in Louisiana, 11 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted 25 Oct–24 Nov (DLD et al.). A winter ad. at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 4 Nov was the 4th for the area (RAD, JFr), and a first-winter bird 6–8 Nov in *Pensacola* (LRD, AK, DW) was the 5th. Still scarce in Louisiana, a Great Black-backed Gull was in *Cameron* 14 Oct (p. a., ph. BMM, DPM, CCS).

Good numbers of Gull-billed Terns were counted in *Cameron*, with 72 on 26 Aug (JPK, JW, BO) and 35 on 28 Sep (CCS, PAW, BMM). Caspian Terns reported in the Region 20 Sep–19 Nov numbered 33 in Mississippi, 106 in Arkansas, and 273 in Louisiana. Three ad. Royal Terns spotted in *Miller*, AR 13 Aug (p. a. CM) provided the 2nd ever report for Arkansas and were not storm-related. Approximately 250 Forster's Terns 4 Oct in *Chicot* were the largest number ever for Arkansas (SJD). Louisiana (L. S. U.) pelagic trips venturing 32–96 km se. of South Pass 28 Aug and 18 Sep yielded 20 and 26 Bridled Terns, respectively. The Alabama pelagic trip 17 Aug found 3 Bridleds.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their expansion into Arkansas and Mississippi. Groove-billed Anis appeared in *St. Martin*, LA 15 Sep (JD) and *Cameron* 2 Nov (CW, BO). In nw. Florida where rare, one was reported on Okaloosa I., *Okaloosa* 15 Oct (BM), at the FW.B.S.F. 14 Oct–9 Nov (LF, BM, m. ob.), and *Escambia* 26 Nov (RAD). Nine Common Nighthawks in *Caddo* 20 Nov were very late (CL, RS). A count of 1600 Chimney Swifts over Shreveport 7 Oct was very high for Louisiana (RS, VL). *Oktibbeha* had 300 on 29 Oct, late by eight days (TS).

Western hummingbirds, especially Black-

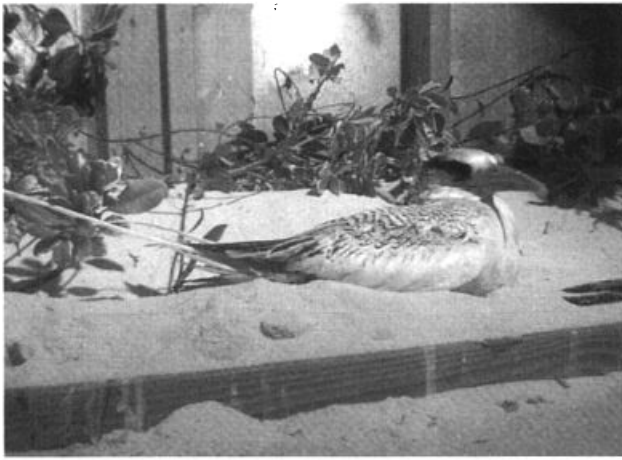


One of many Roseate Spoonbills reported from the Region, this one was found 24 August 2002 in southern Mobile County, Alabama. Photograph by David Dortch.

chinneds and Rufous, started their Regional invasion 3 Aug. Notable accidentals included Alabama's 12th Buff-bellied (b. FB) on 6 Nov in *Escambia*, an ad. male Anna's Hummingbird in E. *Baton Rouge*, LA 3 Aug–14 Oct (p. a., ph. SD, BD), and Alabama's 15th Calliope, an ad. female, in *Calhoun* on 27 Nov (p. a., ph., b. RRS, TM).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Ft. Morgan 14 Sep (Tmc) and another in *Jefferson*, AL 23 Sep (GDJ, DGJ). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were widely reported throughout. A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher ("Western Flycatcher") on Dauphin I., *Mobile* 25–27 Sep (p. a., ph. JLD, HEH, JFP) provided the first Alabama record for the complex. Along with 8 rare Vermilion Flycatchers in the Region, Ash-throateds appeared in *Cameron* 2 Nov (DPM, BMM, RDP et al.) and FW.B.S.F. 4 Oct–16 Nov (LF, m. ob.). Early Oct also began an incursion of Western Kingbirds, with 2 in Arkansas, 6 in Louisiana, 3 in Mississippi, 9 in Alabama, and 6 in nw. Florida. Many continued beyond the period. An unusually high number of Eastern Kingbirds (320) congregated in *Red River*, LA 8 Sep (JT, JnT). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers showed up in significant numbers, but none topped by 46 along the Arkansas R., *Crawford*, AR on 10 Oct (SB)!



This adult Red-billed Tropicbird found on the beach during Tropical Storm Hanna 14 September 2002 near Destin, Okaloosa County, Florida was the first for the northwestern part of the state. Photograph by Mary Coerver.

Accidental in the southeast, a Bell's Vireo in *Hancock*, MS 13 Oct was exciting (p. a. NB). Very rare in Alabama, another was discovered in *Shelby* 28 Sep (HHW, DaH, SH). A rare find was the Warbling Vireo on Dauphin I. 7 Sep (HEH, BS), while another, both rare and late, was in *Cameron* 20 Oct (RCD). At Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, 85 Red-eyed Vireos 2 Sep was quite a high count (BMM, RDP, PAW). Astonishingly, at least 100,000 Purple Martins staging for migration roosted 1–11 Aug in Shreveport (CL). On 13 Oct, JPK and KF estimated over 3600 Northern Rough-winged Swallows migrating w. in *Cameron*. Another, the latest ever for nw. Arkansas, tarried in *Washington* 2 Nov (MMI, JN, RB). Normally uncommon, 30–40 Bank Swallows were noted in *Jackson*, MS 29 Aug (SW et al.), and 300 were near Mobile 3 Sep (BCG). Unusual offshore, a Bank Swallow was found 28 Aug 88 km se. of South Pass (DLD, SWC et al.). A Cave Swallow 9 Nov at the F.W.B.S.F. was nw. Florida's 7th (RAD, LRD, MMC, m. ob.).

A very rare Rock Wren was discovered in *Howard*, AR 16 Nov (MD, CM). On 2–3 Nov, 75 House Wrens were counted in *Cameron* (m. ob.). Unusual in *Jackson*, MS were 4 Winter Wrens 1 Nov (MSW). Large numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared 2–3 Nov from nw. Florida to Louisiana, with a high count of 137 in *Cameron* (BMM, DPM, RDP). The same observers also counted 190 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 105 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in the same time span. The vagrant jewel for the Region was the discovery of a Townsend's Solitaire at Sabine N.W.R., *Cameron* 16 Nov, a first state record (p. a., vt. RCD, ph. MS, m. ob.). An exceptional 185 Hermit Thrushes were reported 2–3 Nov in coastal *Cameron* (CW, DPM et al.). A window-killed Varied Thrush at Panama City, Bay 16 Nov provided the 3rd or 4th Florida

record (RI; \*Archbold Biological Station).

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Too numerous to cite, many late departure dates for warblers were shattered this season. The declining Golden-winged Warbler made a notable showing 14 Sep–12 Oct, with 22 sightings in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. A Blackpoll in *Vermilion*, LA 21 Oct (RCD) was both very late and rare. The declining Cerulean was reported from four states: Louisiana (2), Mississippi

(4), Arkansas (2), and nw. Florida (2). A count of 20 Northern Waterthrushes 19 Sep in *Jackson*, MS was high (SW), as were 17 Kentucky Warblers at Grand Isle 25 Aug (BMM, PAW). A Mourning Warbler in *St. Martin*, LA 16 Aug (JH) was quite early. Other early Mournings were in *Washington*, AR 25 Aug (MMI) and *Fayetteville*, AR 31 Aug (RD).

All-time early and late dates for Scarlet Tanagers were established for Louisiana with a bird in *Iberville* 27 Aug (\*L.S.U.M.N.S., SWC, DLD) and another there 21 Nov (DC, CFr). Accidental in Louisiana, a Western Tanager was in *Cameron* 20 Oct (p. a. RCD). A Spotted Towhee, very rare in Arkansas, was found in *Washington* 12 Oct (RD). A good find in *Logan*, AR was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow 9 Aug (CT, GH), and very rare Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Washington*, AR 21 Sep–20 Oct (MMI, JN) and *Newton* 5 Oct (JS, TB). Rare but regular in Alabama, another was at Ft. Morgan 28 Sep (HEH, m. ob.). A Le Conte's Sparrow 8 Oct in *Washington* was the earliest find ever for nw. Arkansas (MMI). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare in interior Mississippi, but 4 were found in *Lowndes* 5 Oct (SJD, CGS, GK, SK, m. ob.). Considered a high tally, 22 Lincoln's Sparrows were in *Washington*, AR 8 Oct (MMI). A staging of over 100 Blue Grosbeaks was noted in *St. Martin* 2 Oct (JH). An Indigo Bunting in *Craighead*, AR 25 Nov was very late (CLa, NL). Casual in fall, several Painted Buntings appeared in nw. Florida 19 Aug (RAD). Others were in *Warren*, MS 21 Sep (SS), *Washington*, MS 23 Oct (RN, \*Mississippi Museum of Natural Science), and late in *Iberville*, LA 21 Nov (CFr, DC).

Very rare in fall migration, a Bobolink was in *Lowndes*, MS 5 Oct (SJD, SK, GK). Western Meadowlarks were found in *Benton*, AR 10 Oct (LA). Two male Yellow-headed Blackbirds lingered in *Hancock*, MS 26 Oct–15 Nov (NB). In Louisiana, where they are

uncommon, a first-year male was in *Lafourche* 14 Oct (BMM, DPM, CCS) and an imm. male in *Cameron* 25 Oct (DLD, SWC). A new breeding location was discovered for Great-tailed Grackle with a female and 3 fledglings 3 Aug near Texarkana, *Miller*, AR (CM). Florida's first Hooded Oriole was an ad. male frequenting a feeder 22–26 Oct in Gulf Breeze (p. a., ph. BAS, WS). A very late ad. male Baltimore Oriole frequented a hummingbird feeder in *Jefferson*, Louisiana 9 Nov–13 Dec (CCS). The rarer Bullock's Oriole was in *E. Baton Rouge* 22 Sep (DL). A Purple Finch in *Lowndes*, MS 16 Oct (PhB) was early by 22 days. An ad. male American Goldfinch at a feeder in *Washington*, MS 8–23 Aug provided a very rare summer record (EA).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Edward Alexander, Leif Anderson, Peggy Baker, Phillip Barbour (PhB), Roseann Barnhill, Timon Barr, Fred Bassett, Sandy Berger, Ned Boyajian, Bill Bremser, Dave Cagnolatti, Steven W. Cardiff, Jim Ciarauella, Morris M. Clark, C. Dwight Cooley, Jim Delahousie, Paul Dickson, Mike Dillon, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Donna L. Dittman, Robert C. Dobbs, Rob Doster, Butch Drewes, Shirley Drewes, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan (nw. Florida), Jon L. Dunn, Karen Fay, Lenny Fenimore, Barry F. Fleming, Charlie Franks (CFr), Jere French (JFr), Larry F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Dana Hamilton (DaH), Stan Hamilton, Grace Hancock, Dolores Harrington, Don Harrington (DoH), Howard E. Horne, Tom Hughes, Jay Huner, James Ingold, Richard Ingram, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Allen Jolley, Helen Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Joanne Kleiman, Joe P. Kleiman (Louisiana), Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Alan Knothe, Daniel Lane, Cheryl Lavers (CLa), Norman Lavers, Vicki LeFevers, Thom Lewis, Charles Lyon, Steve McConnell, Joe P. McGee, Tasha McLain (TMc), Al Miller, Ann Miller (AMi), Charles Mills, Paul Milotes (PMi), Mike Mlodinow (MMI), Brian Monk, Tom Morgan, John Morrow, B. Mac Myers, Joe Neal, Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, Ruth Nunnery, Brian O'Shea, Helen & Max Parker (Arkansas), Wayne Patterson, James Pfeiffer (JPf), Wilma Pickett (WPi), John F. Porter, R. Dan Purrington, Richard A. Reynolds, Robin Rice, Terence Schiefer (Mississippi), Rosemary Seidler, Michael Seymour, Damian J. Simbeck, Carl G. Smith, Betty Ann Smith, William Smith, Scott Somershoe, Curt C. Sorrells, Mary Steven, Jack Stewart, Bill Summerour, Betsy Tetlow, Carolyn Theis, Judy Toups (JTo), Jean Trahan (JnT), Jeff Trahan, Lance Walker, Phillip A. Wallace, Don Ware, Jason Weckstein, Tom Wickes, Chris Witt, Stefan Wolfmann, Mark S. Woodrey, Harriett H. Wright, Lorie D. Yates, Lyndal York. ☉