





This immature Roseate Spoonbill, first discovered 19 August 2003 (here 22 August) in Maury County by Damien Simbeck, is one of only a handful ever found in middle Tennessee. It delighted observers with its uncharacteristically lengthy stay, through 8 September. Photograph by Michael O'Malley.

first of Sauerheber's wintering flock of Tundra Swans were observed 25 Nov (MMn). A Mottled Duck at Ensley 4-7 Oct (ph. JRW, m. ob.) furnished a Regional first. A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was observed in w. Fulton, KY 30 Aug (MM, BP).

This fall's scoter movement was modest compared to that of 2002. Surfs were reported from four Kentucky and three Tennessee locations 21 Oct-23 Nov, with a high of 15 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 21 Oct (MA). There were only two reports of White-winged Scoter: one at S. Holston L., TN 2 & 8 Nov (WC et al.) and 2 at Britton Ford 16-18 Nov (†JRW et al.). Reports of Black Scoter included 3-5 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 7 Nov (MA, MS, BY), one on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 9 Nov (RD), and one at Paris Landing S.P., Henry, TN 16 Nov (†JRW).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES**

One of the highlights of the season in Kentucky was a Swallow-tailed Kite at Sinclair 12-31 Aug (ph. SA et al.). Single Mississippi Kites—rare in Tennessee anywhere e. of the Mississippi R. floodplain—were noted at the Soddy Mt. hawkwatch, Hamilton, TN 20 & 23 Sep (BH), new for that location. A dark-morph ad. Red-tailed Hawk of the w. race *calurus* near Morganfield, Union, KY 5 Oct (JD, BP, AC) was relatively early. Quite impressive was the sight of 5 Golden Eagles (2 ads., 3 subads.) in one field



This Swallow-tailed Kite, an extremely rare visitor to Kentucky, was present in Muhlenberg County 12-31 August (here 15 August) 2003. Photograph by David Roemer.

of view over Bernheim Forest, Nelson, KY 30 Nov (MM, BP); another soared past the Soddy Mt. hawkwatch 8 Nov (BH). It was another good fall for Merlins, with 12 reports of one to 2 birds in Kentucky and three reports of single birds in Tennessee 10 Sep-22 Nov.

Single King Rails were observed at Sauerheber 4 (BP et al.) & 18 Oct (JP) and at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN 2 & 27 Oct (KC, CB). A juv. Virginia Rail in Union, KY 1 Aug (LP, EC, BP) appeared to be less than full-grown and may represent a first nesting record for Kentucky. A Sora was still in Muhlenberg, KY 9 Nov (BP et al.). Common Moorhen was confirmed nesting at Sauerheber in early Aug (CC).

Sandhill Cranes were seen a few weeks earlier than nor-

mal, with a flock of 36 over Calloway, KY 10 Oct (KCo) and ca. 30 over s. Jefferson, KY 12 Oct (MB).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS**

It was not a great season for shorebirds, as high lake and river levels inundated some of the best habitat. There were four reports of Piping Plover from Tennessee: one to 2 at Island 13 on the Mississippi R., Lake 2-5 Aug (NM, KL), one there 1 Sep (†JRW), and one at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke 1 Sep (†RK et al.).

One to 4 American Avocets were reported from two Kentucky and two Tennessee sites 3 Aug-13 Oct; an additional 2 at S. Holston L., TN 12 Nov (BG et al.) were unusually late. One to 4 Willets were reported from only two Kentucky and two Tennessee sites 9 Aug-13 Sep. A Hudsonian Godwit in Calloway, KY 19 Sep (†HC) will represent a 4th state record if accepted by the Kentucky records committee. The lone reported Marbled Godwit (always rare in the Region) was relatively early in Union, KY 1 Aug (ph. BP, EC, LP). The only Red Knots reported, 3 at Mud 1.,

Shelby, TN 18 Oct (JRW), were late.

A White-rumped Sandpiper, a rare fall migrant in the Region, was in Rowan, KY 20 Sep (SM). Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers were low; 2 at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN 5-14 Sep (RK et al.) were unusual away from w. Tennessee. Single juv. Red-necked Phalaropes were present 14 Sep in Union, KY (†BP) and at Ensley (JRW). Single juv. Red Phalaropes were present in Marshall, KY 13-17 Sep (ph. HC et al.) and at Britton Ford 1-10 Nov (KA, ph. JRW, m. ob.). Unusually late shorebirds included a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Union, KY 1 Oct (BP, JD, MM), a Semipalmated Plover in w. Fulton, KY 26 Oct (RD, SD), a Sanderling at Douglas L., TN 7 Nov (†RK), 2 Western Sandpipers at Ensley 8 Nov (JRW), and 4 Western Sandpipers in Marshall, KY to 16 Nov (HC).

Single Laughing Gulls of various ages were reported on 10 occasions on L. Barkley, KY and on Kentucky L. from the dam s. to Pace Pt., Henry, TN 2 Aug-29 Nov; in addition, 2 were observed in Lake, TN 2 Nov (JRW), and a group of 9 on S. Holston L. 27 Sep (WC, RC) represented not only a high



This Mottled Duck, discovered 4 October 2003 (here) by Jeff Wilson in the Ensley Bottoms in the southwestern corner of Memphis, furnished an expected first record for Tennessee. Last seen 7 October 2003, this bird served as a wake-up call for observers in the Region to study dabbling ducks more carefully. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

count for upper e. Tennessee but one of the highest ever for the Region. One to 15 Franklin's Gulls were observed on L. Barkley, KY and Kentucky L. from the dam s. to Britton Ford 15 Sep-22 Nov; one in Harlan 23 Sep (MM, BP) was the 2nd for se. Kentucky. A flock of ca. 70 at Britton Ford 1 Nov (MT, DMA) was noteworthy—but nothing could compare to the staggering total of 3145 Franklin's Gulls counted along the Mississippi R., Lake, TN the following day (JRW, NM); this event obliterated the Region's previous high count of 100 observed on the Ohio R. at Louisville on the same date, 2 Nov, in 1960!

Lesser Black-backed Gull is now regular in small numbers on L. Barkley, KY and Kentucky L., KY/TN; single individuals of vari-

ous ages were reported on nine occasions 15 Sep–26 Nov. **Sabine's Gulls** provided a highlight at both ends of Tennessee; a juv. was on S. Holston L. 7 Sep (RC, SC, ph. ET, m. ob.), and 2 juvs. were at Island 13, Lake 10 Sep (ph. MT, NM).

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS**

As numbers continued to increase at existing locations, Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from a handful of new locations during the season. A relatively late nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoo was flushed from a nest in Pulaski, KY 2 Aug (RD). The only Long-eared Owls reported were 2 in Muhlenberg, KY 28 Nov (BP, AC). Efforts to document Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Region continued to bear fruit. The earliest was one netted in e. Jefferson, KY 7 Nov (MM, BP), but in e. Tennessee, a remarkable 18 were banded in Blount 14–30 Nov+ (JG et al.). A very late Whip-poor-will was at Short Creek, Grayson, KY 15 Oct (JPI).

It was another banner fall for unusual hummingbirds, with no fewer than 30 individual birds present in Nov. Most that were identified were the expected Rufous Hummingbird. The highlight was a banded ad. male **Calliope Hummingbird**, Tennessee's and the Region's 4th, in Blount 28 Oct–5 Nov (JAM, ph. HH, m. ob.); the bird eluded several attempts to capture it. A detailed sum-



This photograph shows but a small sample of the staggering flight of 3145 Franklin's Gulls observed by Jeff Wilson along the Mississippi River in Lake County, Tennessee on 2 November 2003. The highest previous count in the Region was of 100 in Louisville, Kentucky—on the same date in 1960. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

mary of the Region's winter hummingbirds will appear in the winter season report.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS**

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Shelby Park, Nashville, TN 15 Aug (PC, FF) established a new early date for the area; conversely, one in Unicoi, TN 5 Oct (JM) was unusually late. Two extremely late nesting records of Eastern Wood-Pewee were documented this season: an ad. feeding 2 young birds in Pulaski, KY 25 Sep (RD) and ads. feeding young in e. Jefferson, KY 24–30 Sep (BW). A Great Crested Flycatcher in Millington, Shelby, TN 6 Oct (VH) was late, as was a Western King-

bird in Memphis, TN 30 Oct (†JRW).

A Bell's Vireo at Shiloh N.P., Hardin, TN 16 Sep (†BS) was an unusual find; an extraordinarily late individual was heard singing at Sinclair 19 Oct (HC, RD). Also late was a singing Blue-headed Vireo in Hamilton, TN 21 Nov (KC). A very late nesting record for Red-eyed Vireo was established by an ad. feeding 2 young in Pulaski, KY 10–11 Sep (RD). First indications of a modest Red-breasted Nuthatch movement were singles in Hamilton, TN 6 Sep (DA) and in e. Putnam, TN 20 Sep (BS); by the end of the period, small numbers of birds were fairly well distributed across the Region.

Nesting Sedge Wrens were documented in Muhlenberg, KY (MM, BP), Henderson, KY (BP), and Montgomery, TN (DM), the latter representing the first confirmed record for Tennessee. There are no nest records for Marsh Wrens in the Region, but single birds in Union, KY 17 & 23 Aug (BP) and Muhlenberg, KY 30 Aug (BP, MM) seemed to be potentially of local origin. A Sage Thrasher in Knox, TN 8–30 Nov+ (SH, ph. RHO, m. ob.) furnished an unexpected first record for the Region.

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

It was a good season for warbler fallouts; observers noted good numbers of Golden-wingeds, Blackpolls, and Cape Mays (the latter two usually

present in numbers only in the e. mts.), as well as an unusual showing of Ceruleans in e. Tennessee. One of the highlights of the season was the presence of a the Region's first **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Radnor 25 Oct–19 Nov (vt. JS, m. ob.). Single Connecticut Warblers, rare in the Region in fall, were reported in Davidson, TN 19 Sep (ShM) and at Roan Mt., Carter, TN 25 Sep (RK). Unusually early warblers included a Black-throated Green in Warren, KY 10 Aug (JE), a Chestnut-sided in Pulaski, KY 19 Aug (RD), a Palm in Lake, TN 24 Aug (KL), and single Orange-crowneds at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 2 Sep (SHY) and in Bar-



Red Phalarope is the rarest of its tribe in Tennessee, and migrants rarely stay for more than a day or two. This bird, discovered by Ken Allen at Britton Ford in the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge in Henry County 1 November 2003 (here date unknown), lingered for ten days. Photograph by Mike Todd.

ren, KY 5 Sep (MM). Probably due at least in part to mild late-fall temperatures, there were numerous late records of warblers, including a Mourning at Radnor 31 Oct (SHy), an Ovenbird at Radnor 1 Nov (JS) and another in Hamilton, TN 2 Nov (LW), a Black-and-white at Radnor 2 Nov (CWk), a Northern Waterthrush in e. Jefferson, KY 4 Nov (JB, PB), and a Hooded in Boyd, KY 3 Nov (LT). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler found dead in Memphis, TN 4 Nov (ph. MJ) was not only exceptionally late but a rare find for w. Tennessee, while one in Marshall 13 Sep (HC, EC, RL, MW) likely represents a first fall record for w. Kentucky.

There were three reports of Clay-colored Sparrow, which remains a poorly known and/or very rare migrant in the Region: one in e. Jefferson, KY on the early date of 24 Aug (†JB, PB), one in Blount, TN 10 Oct (†DT),



Sabine's Gulls are extremely rare in Tennessee, so sightings of singles at both ends of the state were remarkable. This juvenile was a one-day wonder at South Holston Reservoir on the Tennessee-Virginia border 7 September 2003. Photograph by Ed Talbot.



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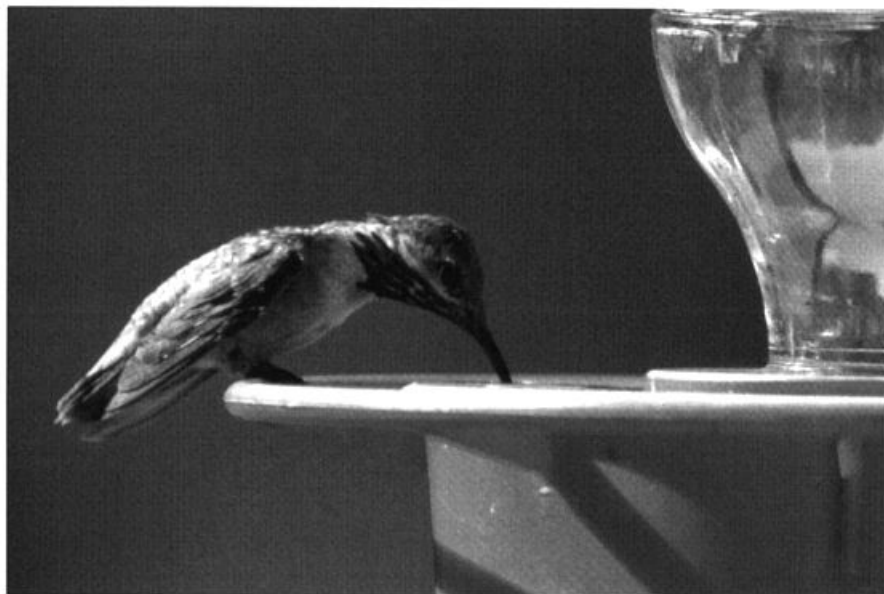
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This banded adult male Calliope Hummingbird, Tennessee's fourth overall, showed up at the home of Jo Ann McMillen in Maryville, Tennessee on 28 October 2003 (here 30 October). The bird departed on 5 November, after frustrating several attempts to capture it to read its band. Photograph by Harold Howell.

and one in Pulaski, KY 10 Nov (†RD); all are subject to records committee review. An unusually high number of reports of migrant Lark Sparrows included one at Sinclair 30 Aug (MM, BP), one in Pulaski, KY 9–10 Sep (RD), one at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 16 Sep (MS), 2 at Ensley 20–21 Sep (JRW et al.), and one very late bird (and unusual any time of year for e. Tennessee) in Washington, TN 25 Nov (DE).

Lingering Henslow's Sparrows remained at Sinclair well into fall, with a juv. (not fully grown) and a nearby ad. with food observed 21 Sep (BP, MS, BY) and at least 2 still there 9 Nov (MM et al.). Presumed migrant Henslow's were observed in Blount, TN 25 Oct (DT) and at the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. 31 Oct (MT). Le Conte's Sparrows were present at a few usual haunts in the Region, but they were also noticeably absent from others due to habitat conversion. Four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported: one in Knox, TN 28 Sep (CN et al.), 2 at Eagle Lake W.M.A., Shelby, TN 18 Oct (JRW), and one at Sinclair 19 Oct (HC, RD). A Snow Bunting, casual in Tennessee, was in Scott, TN 29 Nov (†NeM, SJS).

For the 3rd year in a row, at least one Yellow-headed Blackbird was detected in a blackbird roost in Union, KY 27 Sep–29 Oct (BP et al.); another was at Shelby Farms, Shelby, TN 23 Sep (G&JP). A very tardy Orchard Oriole was observed in Lyon, KY 21 Sep (MS, BY, BP). A few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins began showing up in early Nov, but by the end of the period, only small numbers were still being reported. The only report of an Evening Grosbeak was of one heard in Warren, KY 8 Oct (DR).

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