

Central Southern



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Winter was warm and dry early and cool and wet late, continuing the trend of recent years. The first major cold front blasted through the Region during the first week of January, dropping temperatures to below 20° F in many areas. Precipitation was below normal during December and January and above normal in February. Many observers voiced the perception that populations of many common species seemed to be well below normal.

Abbreviations: F.W.B.S.F. (Fort Walton Beach Spray Facility, FL), L.S.U.M.N.H. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural History), M.C.R.A. (Mallard Creek

Recreation Area, AL), O.N.W.R. (Oakwood N.W.R., AR), Y.N.W.R. (Yazoo N.W.R., MS), W.N.W.R. (Wheeler N.W.R., AL).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loons were reported widely. In Alabama, immes. were at M.C.R.A., Lawrence 31 Dec (CDC) and Gunterville, Marshall 11 Feb (RAR, LBR). Elsewhere, singles were on Choctawhatchee Bay, Okaloosa, FL 15 Dec (JW, ST), Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa, FL 25 Jan (RAD, LD), Ft. Pickens, Escambia, FL 29 Jan (BW, DW), and Bay Springs L., Tishomingo, MS 18 Jan–3 Feb (SJD, GK, SK, m. ob.). Single Pacific Loons were at Lillian, Baldwin, AL 28 Dec (RAD, JD), M.C.R.A., AL 30 Dec (SWM), Perdido Key, Baldwin, AL 3–10 Jan (RRR, GDJ), Gunterville, AL 6–15 Feb (BMc, m. ob.), Niceville, Okaloosa, FL 15 Dec (JW, ST), Ft. Pickens, FL 7–29 Jan (AWK, LAT, JG, BW, DW), and Bay Springs L., MS 18 Jan–3 Feb (GK, SK, SJD).

The largest concentrations of Horned Grebes reported were of 343 in coastal Harrison, MS 29 Feb (SJD) and 235 at Gunterville, AL 1 Feb (DPG). An ad. Red-necked Grebe, Alabama's 14th (p.a.), was at Gunterville 30 Dec–Feb 28 (RAR, m. ob.). Eared Grebes were widely reported, with singles at Town Cr. Marsh, Colbert, AL 30

Dec (SWM), Gunterville, AL 6 Feb (BMc), F.W.B.S.F., Okaloosa, FL 2 Dec–22 Jan (JW, RAD, CB, TN, m. ob.), up to 3 at the Crescent Acres Landfill, St. Bernard, LA 27 Dec–11 Jan (TDC, JOC, CR, SW, m. ob.), and 3 on Ross Barnett Res., Madison, MS 24 Jan (SJD). Rarely encountered in the Region, single Western Grebes (p.a.) were seen at Holly Beach, Cameron, LA 20 Dec (PC, DPa) and Bay Springs L., MS 18 Jan (SJD, GK, SK), while a Western/Clark's Grebe (p.a.) was off Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA 21 Dec (BMM, CS). The usual movement of American White Pelicans into the Region in late Nov/early Dec was evident. Many lingered inland, especially in n. Alabama. Fifty were on Weiss L., Cherokee 2 Dec (LB, WB); up to 93 were at W.N.W.R., Limestone/Morgan 22 Nov–6 Jan+ (CDC, SWM, EH, FBI, m. ob.); and up to 35 were at Town Cr. Marsh 25–27 Feb (GNP).

Northwestern Arkansas's first winter record of Great Egret was at Craig Fish Hatchery, Benton, where up to 2 were seen 6 Dec–27 Feb (MMI et al.). There were several inland Cattle Egret records: one at Bald Knob N.W.R., White, AR 1 Dec (BA, RP), plus Mississippi birds at Sardis Dam, Panola 7 Jan (WMD), at the Grenada Airport, Grenada 17 Dec (2; GK, SK, JRW), and 4 near Moorhead, Sunflower 27 Jan (SJD). Green Herons lingered throughout the period in Alabama, with singles at Smith L., Cullman 21 Dec (VM) and near Blountsville, Blount, 11 Feb (HHH, EHu), plus 5 on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin 3 Jan. At least 4 White-faced Ibis and 37 unidentified *Plegadis* were at Y.N.W.R., Yazoo, MS 31 Jan (SJD, PB, KB, m. ob.). Another unidentified dark ibis was in coastal Jackson, MS 8 Feb (SJD).

Waterfowl numbers in the Region continue to be lower than one would expect, given the effort expended over the past 20 years to conserve nesting and wintering habitat. Good counts of Greater White-fronted Geese came from usual haunts at W.N.W.R. (up to 100 through early Jan; CDC, SS, SWM, m. ob.), Noxubee N.W.R., Noxubee, MS (69 on 22 Dec; TLS), the Mississippi R. Delta (2500 near Little Texas, Tunica, MS 5 Dec; RBr, WMD), and O.N.W.R., Desha, AR (1000 on 24 Dec; JC). Elsewhere in Alabama, where rarer, there were 3 near Montgomery 17 Dec (LFG), 2 near Russellville, Franklin 15 Jan (DJS), 3 near Magnolia Springs, Baldwin 27 Dec (AWK), one near Linden, Marengo 21 Feb (DS, JS), and 5 near Florence, Lauderdale 22 Feb (JJ, JCa, GNP). The largest number of Snow Geese reported was of 100,000± near Little Texas, MS 5 Dec (RBr, WMD). Ross's Geese were reported from 13 locations, with a maximum of 1000 in Humphreys, MS 22 Feb (SJD). Trumpeter Swan was again found in the Region, this time at Ross Barnett Res., MS 24 Jan (ph.

SJD). The only Tundra Swan reported was one at L. Magness, Cleburne, AR 13 Dec (KN, LDN).

Greater Scaup continue to be reported in increasing numbers. Fifteen were at Mills Dam, Arkansas, AR 24 Dec (JC). In Mississippi, there were 97 on Ross Barnett Res. and 51 on L. Caroline, Madison 24 Jan, while 3 were on Dalewood Shores L., Lauderdale 6 Feb and one was off Pascagoula, Jackson 26 Feb (all SJD). An ad. male was in Jefferson Davis, LA 14 Dec (RB, WW), where decidedly rare. Alabama's 5th **Harlequin Duck**, and the first since 1979, was an imm. male seen and photographed near the e. end of Dauphin I., Mobile 8 Feb (p.a., GEH et al.).

Surf Scoter reports, all from Mississippi, included 2 imms. each at Browning Cr. L., Oktibbeha 4 Dec (RW, LW, TLS) and L. Caroline 29 Jan (GK,SK). A female-type was at Dalewood Shores L. 6 Feb (SJD), and up to 94 were present off coastal Harrison, 8–29 Feb (SJD, DM, WMD). White-winged Scoters were reported from Little Bear Cr. Res., Franklin, AL 15 Jan (DJS) and L. Dardanelle, Pope/Yell, AR 21 Feb (KN, LDN). Five Black Scoters were off Gulf Shores, AL 31 Jan–10 Feb (SWM, ECS) and one off coastal Harrison, MS 8 Feb (SJD). Single Long-tailed Ducks were reported from Dauphin I., AL 20 Dec, the Montgomery Zoo, AL 31 Jan–29 Feb+ (LFG, LWi), near Des Arc, Prairie, AR 2 Feb (KN), and at L. Caroline, MS 24 Jan (SJD). Up to 7 were at Guntersville, AL 11 Jan–29 Feb+ (BM, LBR, m. ob.) and up to 3 on L. Dardanelle, AR 11 Jan–29 Feb+ (KN, LDN). Common Mergansers, erratic visitors to the Region, appeared in Arkansas, where up to 5 were present on L. Sequoyah, Washington 14 Dec–7 Feb (MML, JN, DP), and in Mississippi, where singles were at both Enid L. 31 Dec (SJD) and Cossar S.P., Yalobusha 2–3 Jan (GK, SK, DM), plus 4 at Arkabutla Dam, DeSoto 19 Jan (SJD, GK).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An Osprey at Mountain Home, Baxter, AR 15 Dec (MM, MW, NB) was late. Early Swallow-tailed Kites in Alabama were singles near Magnolia Springs (DL) and Dauphin I. (PM), both 24 Feb. Broad-winged Hawks are consistently reported from se. Louisiana in winter; single imms. were at Fort Jackson, Plaquemines 2 Jan (PAW, CR), Grand Isle, Jefferson 22 Jan (DPM, BMM), and New Orleans 1 Feb (PAW, DPM). An ad. Swainson's Hawk was near Thornwell, LA 13 Dec (BMM, PAW). The only Rough-legged Hawk report was of one in Lonoke, AR 14 Dec

(DPh, SP). Golden Eagle singles were at Dugger Mt./Talladega N.F., Cleburne, AL 6 Feb (RyS), Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope, AR 16 Dec (LA), and near Collins, Drew, AR 27 Dec (WB), while 2 were at Mollicy W.M.A., Morehouse, LA 23–24 Jan (m. ob.). Crested Caracara is found consistently in the Region only in sw. Louisiana; 2 were in Jefferson Davis 14 Dec (m. ob.), an imm. was n. of Avery I., Iberia 22 Dec (DPa, PC), and one was in Calcasieu 25 Feb (JK). Merlins were widely reported, with 3 in Alabama and 8 in Mis-



Casual in Mississippi, and particularly rare inland, this adult Red-throated Loon was photographed 4 February 2004 at Bay Springs Lake, Tishomingo County. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

issippi. Alabama's 4th **Prairie Falcon** (p.a.) was at Guntersville Dam, Marshall 19 Feb (RAR, LBR). Another was near Arkadelphia, AR 20 Dec (DH, JMi), where it is a rare winter visitor.

Arkansas's first winter record for Virginia Rail was of one near Fayetteville, Washington 8 Jan (MML). Two ad. Purple Gallinules at Lacassine Pool, Cameron, LA 7–14 Dec (JK, KF, MG) were late, and 2 Common Moorhens at Y.N.W.R., MS 31 Jan (SJD, PS, KB, m. ob.) were likewise unexpected at this inland location. Wintering Sandhill Crane numbers continue to increase throughout the Region; winter maxima were 446 at W.N.W.R., AL 28 Jan (m. ob.), 196 in Calcasieu, LA 28 Feb (JK, JG, JM), and 85 in Tunica, MS 8 Feb (m. ob.).

A Black-bellied Plover in *Humphreys*, MS 9 Dec and 22 Feb (SJD) probably overwintered. American Golden-Plovers returned early: 2 at Broussard Beach, Cameron, LA 23 Feb (DFL, JMa, TP) tied the earliest arrival date for the state, while one at FW.B.S.F. was

the first Feb record for nw. Florida. Numbers of wintering Snowy Plovers in the Region continue to be low: 2 at E. Jetty Beach, Cameron, LA 20 Dec, 2 at Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, LA 8 Feb (PAW et al.), and 4 on Horn I., Jackson, MS 27 Feb (SJD, PB, KB, DM) were representative numbers. The 8 Wilson's Plovers at E. Jetty Beach, LA 20 Dec (PAW, DPM, CR) may have overwintered, whereas 2 at Fourchon Beach 8 Feb (PAW et al.) may have been early migrants. The report of 31 Piping Plovers on Horn I., MS 27 Feb (SJD, PB, KB, DM) was encouraging.

Greater Yellowlegs appeared to linger farther inland than usual. One at the Craig Fish Hatchery, AR 26–27 Dec (MML et al.) was only the 2nd winter record for nw. Arkansas. The 148 in *Prairie* 2 Feb (KN) represented a winter high for Arkansas. Eight Marbled Godwits in Harrison, MS 8 Feb (SJD, DM, WMD) was a good count for the season. Two Sanderlings were far inland near Y.N.W.R., MS 22 Feb (SJD). The only inland Western Sandpipers were 105 in *Humphreys*, MS 9 Dec (SJD). Least Sandpipers were in good numbers in the Mississippi R. Delta. In Arkansas, 400 were in

Prairie 2 Feb (KN). In Mississippi, 516 were in *Humphreys* 9 Dec and 237 in *Sunflower* 22 Feb (SJD). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at White River N.W.R., Arkansas, AR 3 Jan (JRW) was unprecedented. Pectoral Sandpipers arrived back a few days early. Three were in *Humphreys*, MS 22 Feb (SJD), while singles were in *Orleans*, LA (DPM) and at Catalpa Cr. Bottoms, *Lowndes*, MS (TLS), both 26 Feb. In Mississippi, Long-billed Dowitchers peaked at 7000 near Cleveland, Bolivar 5 Dec (RBr, WMD), and up to 82 were in *Leflore* 31 Jan–22 Feb (SJD, PB, KB, m. ob.) and 51 in *Humphreys* 22 Feb (SJD).

JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An ad. Pomarine Jaeger from the Dauphin I./Ft. Morgan Ferry, Baldwin, AL 8 Feb (GDJ) was the only jaeger reported. Laughing Gulls continue to winter inland in the Region, with five reports totaling 6 birds in Arkansas and Mississippi. A second-winter Franklin's Gull near Hickory Plains, *Prairie*, AR 17 Jan (KN, LDN) was an excellent find.

SA An itinerant flock, estimated to contain 5000+ gulls at times, roamed s. Baldwin, AL for most of Jan. Greg Jackson estimated that the flock was 75% Ring-billed and 25% Herring Gulls, with a few "others" thrown in. Those "others" would captivate birders for most of the month. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded 2 Jan (SWM), and by month's end, the number grew to 6 of various ages. On 12 Jan, a first-year **California Gull**—Alabama's 5th—was found (p.a., GDJ). The California was seen through 25 Jan, and Alabama's 3rd **Iceland Gull** (p.a.), a first-winter bird, was found that day as well, along with an apparent first-winter **Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull**, a first for the state (BSu, ALM).



Red-necked Grebes that turn up in the Central Southern Region are almost invariably immatures. This adult near Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama 31 December 2003 (here) through at least 28 February 2004 was seen by hundreds of birders. Digiscoped photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

An ad. winter **Little Gull** at M.C.R.A. 28–30 Dec (p.a., JRW, m. ob.) was Alabama's 8th. An imm. flying over the Arkansas R. near Van Buren, *Crawford*, AR 3 Jan (SB, KM) is one of handful of records for the state.

A second-winter **California Gull** on L. Dardanelle 10 Jan (KN, LDN, CM, MP, HP) afforded Arkansas its first winter record, while a first-winter bird at Guntersville 20 Jan (p.a., RAR, LWe) was potentially Alabama's 6th. Alabama's 3rd **Thayer's Gull**, a first-winter bird, was at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert* 9 Feb (p.a., DJS). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were widely reported coastally, with birds at Gulf Breeze, FL 20 Dec (BB et al.), *Jefferson Davis*, LA 14 Dec (PAW, DPu), the Buras Marina, *Plaquemines*, LA 2 Jan (EW, DPu, BiM, LM), in *Harrison*, MS 7 Feb (SJD, DM, WMD), on L. Pontchartrain, *Orleans*, LA 21 Feb (PAW, DPM), and in *Orleans*, LA 22 Feb (DPM). **Glaucous Gulls** in Alabama, where rare, were at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence* 28 Dec–9 Feb (JRW, DJS) and Guntersville 19 Jan (JNe, DJ, JH). A first-winter **Black-legged Kittiwake** on L. Dardanelle, AR 31 Jan (KN, LDN) was a nice find.

White-winged Doves appear to have extended their range along the n. Gulf Coast: an amazing 160 were near Foley, *Baldwin*, AL 3 Jan (HEH) and up to 22 at Gulf Breeze, FL 6 Dec (RAD). In Louisiana, **Inca Doves** were at the Zoo of Acadiana, *Broussard, Lafayette* 21 Dec (JWB, EV), where a fledgling represented an extremely late nesting, and near *Thibodaux, Lafourche* 28 Dec (JP, LP). Greater **Roadrunners** were found in their usual haunts in w. Arkansas 1 Dec–8 Feb (m. ob.). A **Burrowing Owl** was near *Hollandale, Washington*, MS 22–24 Feb (SJD, GK, SK, m. ob.). Alabama's 7th **Northern**

Saw-whet Owl was heard in *Little River Canyon N.P., Cherokee* 30 Dec (p.a., BHS). Up to 6 **Vaux's Swifts** were at City Park L., *East Baton Rouge, LA* 8–29 Feb+ (p.a., CCW, GG, RS, VAL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Vermilion Flycatchers certainly warm a cold winter day. In Alabama, where rare, an ad. male and an imm. male were near *Foley* 28 Dec–4 Feb (CH, EB, m. ob.) and 3 Jan–4 Feb (BSu, m. ob.), re-

spectively. An ad. male was at *FWB.S.F* 16 Dec (LF et al.), while in Louisiana, 4 were at *Lacassine Pool* 7 Dec–28 Feb (JK, KF, MG, m. ob.), an imm. male was near *Thornwell* 13 Dec (PAW, BMM), an ad. male was on *Avery I.* 22 Dec (DPa, PC, EL), and another ad. male was near *New Orleans* 1–21 Feb (PAW, DPM). **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were at *Lacassine Pool* 14 Dec (JK, MG, MSe), *Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., Orleans* 27 Dec–7 Feb (RS, VAL, m. ob.), near *Duson, Lafayette* 28 Dec (PC), *Triumph, Plaquemines* 2 Jan (DPu, EW), and *Chalmette Battlefield, St. Bernard* 27 Jan (PAW), all in Louisiana. In nw. Florida, one was at *FWB.S.F* 15 Dec (DWa). As in the past few years, **Brown-crested Flycatchers** (p.a.) were reported only from Louisiana, with 2 at *Ft. Jackson* 2 Jan (PAW, CR) and one in *Orleans* 24 Jan (PAW). Unusual in the Region, a **Couch's/Tropical Kingbird** was in *St. Martin*, LA 3 Jan (MJM). A **Great Kiskadee** was an exciting find near *Bayou Sauvage N.W.R.*, LA 27 Dec–29 Feb+ (p.a., RS, VAL, m. ob.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were widely reported, with a maximum of 43 at a *Boothville, Plaquemines*, LA

roost 2 Jan (DPM, PAW).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** in *Niceville* 15 Dec (JW, ST) provided nw. Florida's 3rd Dec record. Rare in winter, a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was in *Terrebonne, LA* 28 Dec (JCo). Mississippi's first fully documented **Cave Swallow** was at the *Seaman Road Sewage Lagoons, Jackson* 28 Feb (GK, SK, SJD). A **Rock Wren** was at *Dardanelle Lock and Dam, Pope, AR* 15 Feb (KN, LDN). The only **Bewick's Wren** reported was from *O.N.W.R.*, AR 24 Dec (JC). **Sedge Wrens** wintered inland at several locations. One was at *W.N.W.R.* 20 Dec (CDC, SG, DZ). In Arkansas, up to 3 were at *Fayetteville*, 11 Dec–31 Jan (MMI, RSh), one was at *O.N.W.R.* 24 Dec (JC), and one was at the *Stuttgart Airport* 8 Jan (WS, WB). One was in *Lefflore, MS* 22 Feb (SJD). The only **Marsh Wren** reported was at *O.N.W.R.* 24 Dec (JC). Rarely encountered in the Region, a **Sage Thrasher** was near *Mansfield, DeSoto, LA* 14–15 Feb (p.a., RS, VAL, VN, JI).

Exceedingly rare in the Region in winter, single **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from *Hollins, Clay, AL* (b., MW) throughout Feb, at the *University of Arkansas Farm, Washington, AR* 17 Dec–3 Jan (MMI), and at *Pensacola, FL* 6 Jan (JAt, JG). Alabama's 4th winter record of **Nashville Warbler** was one on *Ono I., Baldwin, AL* 3 Jan (RRR), while another was near *Boothville, LA* 2 Jan (DPM, RS). **Northwestern Florida's** 2nd Dec **Yellow Warbler** was at *Valparaiso, Okaloosa* 15 Dec (CG, PG), its 3rd winter record came from *Pensacola* 20 Dec (CB), and its first Jan record was at *FWB.S.F* 24 Jan (BCM et al.). Two were near *Venice, LA* 2 Jan (DPM) and one at the *Zoo of Acadiana, LA* 22 Feb (JWB). **Northwestern Florida's** 2nd winter **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at *Pensacola* 6 Dec (MC). An ad. male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at *Couterie Arboretum, Orleans, LA* 8–25 Feb (p.a., EW, PAW), while a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was in *Orleans, LA* 28–29 Feb (p.a., DPM, PAW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female-type **Western Tanager** was at a feeder in *Ocean Springs, Jackson, MS* 19

SA The number of hummingbirds reported in the Region continues to grow each year, a sign of the ever-increasing number of hummingbird gardeners, feeders, and banders. Though certainly not an exhaustive tally, the following 904 hummingbirds of eight species were reported to this editor: **Broad-billed** (4); **Buff-bellied** (73); **Ruby-throated** (41); **Black-chinned** (136); **Calliope** (45); **Broad-tailed** (11); **Rufous** (381); **Allen's** (19); and **Selasphorus** (194). Details on some of the more unusual species follow. Alabama's 3rd and 4th **Broad-billed Hummingbirds** (p.a.) were an ad. female near *Frisco, Monroe* 20 Dec (b., FB, SBy) and an ad. male in *Mobile*, present from early fall through 6 Jan+ (b., FB, CW). In Louisiana, a nearly ad. male (p.a.) was in *Reserve, St. John*, 23 Oct–29 Feb+ (b., RSt, NN et al.) and a second-year male (p.a.) was in *Pearl City, St. Tammany* 30 Jan (b., MMy, JB). At least 2, perhaps 4 **Calliope Hummingbirds** were in *St. Gabriel, Iberville, LA* throughout the period (DLD, SWC, DPa, PBe), while in Mississippi, an imm. male was near *Canton, Madison* 27 Dec (b., BS, MS) and an ad. male in *Cleveland, Bolivar* 31 Jan (KBo, NS, BDD). Florida's first ad. male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was in *Pensacola* 30 Dec–30 Jan (b. GB, FB). A single **Allen's Hummingbird** well inland near *Shreveport, LA* 6 Feb (b. RS, BWo, SH) was the first *Caddo* record.



This apparent first-winter Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid in southern Baldwin County, Alabama 25 January through 7 February (here 1 February) 2004 was a first for Alabama and the Central Southern region. Digiscoped photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

Jan–27 Feb (AD, m. ob.). Wintering Clay-colored Sparrows were at Ft. Pickens, FL 4 Dec–6 Feb (RAD, CB, TN, m. ob.) and Plainview, Sabine, LA 7 Jan–29 Feb+ (KE). An interesting sparrow at Ft. Pickens, present since 24 Sep and seen again 26 Dec (RAD, LD, m. ob.), was thought to be a Brewer's Sparrow; if accepted, this bird would be the first for Florida and one of few e. of the Mississippi R.; as of this writing, however, no photographs of the bird have circulated. Alabama's 7th Lark Bunting was near Foley 13 Jan (p.a., JDi). Nine Henslow's Sparrows at Mississippi Sandhill Crane N.W.R., Jackson, MS 27 Feb (SJD, PB, KB, GK, SK) was a good number. Le Conte's Sparrow was widely reported, with a maximum of 13 at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge, Lafayette, MS 20 Dec (GK, SK, VT). First-winter Harris's Sparrows were near Jonesboro, Craighead, AR 7–29 Feb+ (NL, CL) and L. Washington, MS 22 Feb (SJD), while in Louisiana, single ads. were in New Orleans 27 Dec–4 Jan (PAW, DPM, DPu) and Vermilion 28 Dec (MB, LBr).

Sixty Smith's Longspurs were at the Stuttgart Airport, AR 8 Jan (WS, WB). A male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeak were near Lillian, AL 28 Dec (JD), while a female frequented a feeder in Underwood, Lauderdale, AL 11–15 Feb (PDK, DEK). Single female Black-headed Grosbeaks were in Pensacola, FL, 20 Dec–7 Feb (BB, BF, m. ob.) and in New Orleans, LA 11 Jan and 1–3 Feb (DPM, PAW). A Lazuli Bunting frequented a feeder in Luling, St. Charles, LA for at least the 4th winter mid-Jan–7 Feb (MT, BMM, GO, DC). An unprecedented Bobolink was collected in severely emaciated condition (*LSUMNH) along the Mississippi R. levee, West Baton Rouge, LA 4–12 Jan (CCW, SWC, DLD). Alabama's 7th through 10th records of Bronzed Cowbird were in s. Baldwin 8 Jan–8 Feb (p.a., GDJ, DGJ, AWK, m. ob.),

while one was at FWB.S.F 30 Jan (AWK), and up to 25 were in New Orleans, LA 5 Jan–16 Feb (PAW). A Scott's Oriole (p.a.) was near Rutherford Beach, LA 21–26 Dec (CR, PAW, m. ob.). Purple Finches were reported in good numbers throughout the Region. The only report of Red Crossbill was one male near Arkadelphia, Clark, AR 10 Dec (DHa). A female Common Redpoll, one of a few Regional records, was near Corning, Clay, AR 20–29 Jan (GH).

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Bronzed Cowbirds made quite a showing in coastal Alabama in winter 2003–2004. This adult male photographed at Orange Beach on 8 January 2004 provided Alabama's seventh record. Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.

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