

Bollinger/Stoddard/Wayne, MO 8 Jan (BR). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was very late 21 Jan in Pocahontas, IA (†LAS). Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from three counts (Southeastern Webster County, Rathbun, and Shenandoah) in Iowa; in Missouri, there were 15 in St. Charles as late as 16 Dec (JU) and 3 in Buchanan the next day (LL, SK). The Region's most northerly wintering group, 50 Great-tailed Grackles were in Warren, IA (AJ). What could be Iowa's first Brambling was fuzzily photographed during its 1-21 Jan stay in Linn (ph. JH). Of Missouri's five reports of Purple Finch, all were in the north; Iowa had an average year. The only crossbill report was of 5 Reds at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph

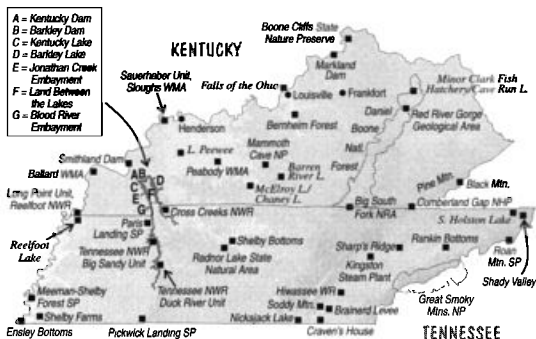
19 Dec (DW). Only 2 Common Redpolls were reported: one in Boone, MO 14 Dec (PM) and one on the Ames, IA C.B.C. 17 Dec. By far the most southerly Pine Siskins reported were 2 in Springfield, MO 2 Dec; the most by far were 40 at the Sheldon Cemetery, O'Brien 31 Dec (JB, JG).

Cited contributors: Danny Akers, Ron Bell, John Bissell, David Blevins, Bob Boesch, Aaron Brees, Charley Burwick, Jeff Cantrell, Kevin Badgley, Chris Caster, Robert Cecil (RCe), Ray Cummins, Art Daniels, Steven Dilks (SDi), Jim Dinsmore, Steve Dinsmore, Mike Doyen, Frank Durbain, Joe Eades, Chris Edwards, Gerald Von Ehwegen, Bery Enge-

bretsen, Bob Fisher, Andy Forbes, Steve Freed, Jim Fuller, Jay Gilliam, Rita Goranson, John Hauck, Paul Hertz, Bill Huser, Andrew Kinslow, Steve Kinder, Larry Lade, Bob Lewis, Kristi Mayo, Anne McCormack, Paul McKenzie, Chris Merkord, Nathaniel Miller, Diana Pesek, Wolf Oesterreich, Katy Patterson, Shane Patterson, Bill Reeves, Dean Rising (DRI), Mark Robbins, Tommie Rogers, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Bill Scheible, Scott Schuette, Lee Schonewe, Greg Swick, Dennis Thompson, Josh Uffman, Kelly Weichers, Doug Willis. 📷

Robert Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, (wewarb@aol.com)

Tennessee & Kentucky



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Yellow-billed Loon, Inca Dove, continuing Broad-tailed Hummingbird and Black-throated Sparrow, and a Region-first Golden-crowned Sparrow. Kentucky's more modest list included a Varied Thrush, a Harris's Sparrow, and two Spotted Towhees. With natural and ornamental food crops in good supply, it was a good winter for berry, cone, and mast eaters, with American Robins present in above-average numbers and Blue Jays and Red-headed Woodpeckers back to more normal numbers.

Chris Sloan | Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Like the autumn leading into it, the winter 2005–2006 season was overall warmer and drier than normal. Slightly colder-than-normal months of December and February were more than made up for by an extremely warm January. In fact, there were only two relatively short bouts of cold weather, the first immediately prior to Christmas, when the temperature dipped to 10° F at Louisville and 15° F at Nashville on the morning of 20 December, and a second in mid-February, when temperatures dipped to season lows of 7° F at Louisville and 12° F at Nashville on the morning of the 19th. Precipitation was average to below normal, with hardly any periods of snow cover and no significant snow events. In fact, at no time during the season did Louisville have more than three inches (7.6 cm) or did Nashville have more than a trace.

Rarity highlights during the season included a veritable smorgasbord in Tennessee:

Abbreviations: Kentucky Dam (n. end of Kentucky L., Livingston/Marshall, KY); Pace Pt. (Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

WATERFOWL

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck shot at Reelfoot L., TN 2 Jan (*vide* NM) added to the handful of Regional records and represents the first mid-winter record. The peak count of Snow Geese was 150,000 at Ballard W.M.A., KY 6 Feb (CW), a new Regional high. A bird that possessed the characters of a Greater White-fronted Goose × Snow (Blue) Goose hybrid was present at Long Point Unit,

Reelfoot N.W.R., Fulton, KY 2 Dec (BP, JD, NM). One to 46 Cackling Geese were reported at seven Kentucky and six Tennessee locales through the period. Mute Swans continue to increase in the Region, with some birds now appearing to exhibit winter site fidelity. In Kentucky, one to 25 birds were reported at 11 sites through the period. One at Bell's Bend, Davidson, TN 17 Dec (GC, PC) was the only report from Tennessee. The wintering flock of Tundra Swans at Sauerheber peaked at a new state-high count of 56 on 1 Feb (MM), with 5 still present there 27 Feb (MM). One to 2 birds were reported at two additional Kentucky locales in mid-Dec. In Tennessee, 2 imm. were at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood 24

Dec–10 Jan (ph. JRW et al.), and 3 were in Dyer 23 Feb (AW).

Overall, numbers of dabbling ducks were unimpressive. A male Mallard × Gadwall hybrid at Sauerheber 15 Dec provided a first record of this combination for Kentucky (BP, DA). There were four reports of winter Blue-winged Teal in the Region: one in Fayette, TN 17 Dec (PD); one during the Reelfoot L. C.B.C.

(*vide* MG); one in Hawkins, TN 21 Dec (SHu); and a male at Cooley's Pond, Wayne, KY 7 Jan (ph. RD).

Except for Redheads, which were present in above-average numbers towards the end of the season, divers were not represented much better than dabblers. One to 13 Surf Scoters were



This very accommodating pair of Western Grebes lingered in various parts of the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge through the end of the season (here at Pace Point, Henry County, 7 January 2006). *Aechmophorus* grebes are very rare in the Tennessee & Kentucky region. Photograph by Mike Todd.

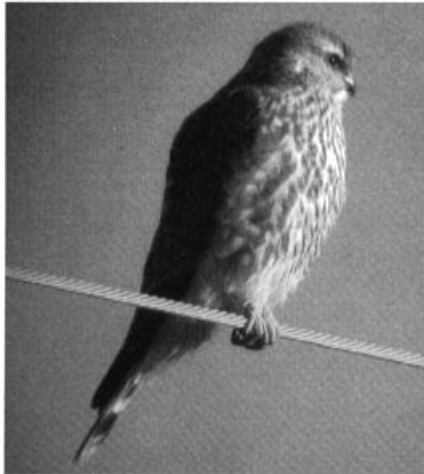
present at five Kentucky and two Tennessee locales 3–10 Dec; a female/imm. on Kentucky L. above the dam 26 Jan (BP) was more unusual during midwinter. There were two reports of Black Scoters: 5, including an ad. male, on L. Cumberland, Russell, KY 6 Dec (RD) and a female on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 22 Feb (DR, HC). Single female/imm. White-winged were at Robco L., Shelby, TN 9 Dec (JRW) and Old Hickory L., Sumner, TN 1–2 Jan (CAS et al.). A few Common Mergansers put in a showing during the season, with peak counts of 8 on the Calloway, KY C.B.C. 31 Dec (*vide* HC) and 8 on the Ohio R., Bracken, KY 20 Feb (LM et al.), and above-average numbers in e. Tennessee: 2 females at Douglas L., Sevier 26 Jan (RK), a female at Bristol, Sullivan 31 Jan–7 Feb (BS et al.), and a male with 3–4 females at Bristol, Sullivan 17–28 Feb (RK, m.ob.). Another female was in w. Tennessee at TVA L., Shelby 13 Dec (ph. JRW).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

The Region's 6th and Tennessee's 5th Yellow-billed Loon (ph. JRW), as well as a Red-throated Loon, were in Henry, TN 4 Dec (JRW). Single Pacific Loons were at S. Holston L., TN 4 Dec (†RK, m.ob.) and at Pace Pt. 31 Dec and 16 Jan (JRW). A count of 740 Horned Grebes at Boone L., Sullivan, TN 5 Dec (RK) was exceptional for the Region. There were four reports of Red-necked Grebes: one each at Lexington, KY 10 Dec (ph. JP) and S. Holston L., TN 23–25 Dec (TM, DH et al.) and 2 at Pace Pt. 31 Dec+ (ph. JRW, ph. MT, m.ob.). Two Western Grebes were discovered at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 23 Dec (ph. MT); possibly the same 2 were then present through the remainder of the period at Pace Pt. (m.ob.).

An American Bittern at Standifer Gap 17–18 Dec (DP) was only the 2nd for the Chattanooga C.B.C.; one in Muhlenberg, KY 1 Jan (MB, RD, SD) was at the same location where one has been found on two previous occasions in winter. Quite unusual for Kentucky were 3 Great Egrets on the Land Between the Lakes C.B.C. 17 Dec (*vide* CMo). In Tennessee, 3 were at Eagle Creek, Henry 4 Dec (JRW), and singles were in Blount 1 Dec+ (CMu), Reelfoot L., Obion 3 Dec (JRW, MT), and Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton 29 Jan+ (JC).

Single Ospreys in Greene, TN 1 & 26 Dec (DH, RN) and Hawkins, TN 19 Dec–18 Feb (SHu) were unusual winter visitors for the Region. There were several scattered reports of w. subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk in Kentucky, including a returning light-morph Harlan's Hawk that was present for the 5th consecutive winter in Warren (DR). Rough-legged Hawks were scarcer than usual, with



Merlins have increased as winter residents in Kentucky in recent years; this female of the prairie race (*richardsoni*) was one of six birds present in a relatively small area in southeastern Muhlenberg County 5 February 2006. This photograph provides the first documentation of the prairie race in Kentucky. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

only one to 2 reported from one Tennessee and three Kentucky locales. Up to 3 Golden Eagles were seen during Dec and Jan in their normal Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson, KY wintering location. Otherwise, the only report in Kentucky was for one in Butler 19 Jan (DR). In Tennessee, an impressive 4 (2 ads., an imm., a sub-ad.) were just s. of Pace Pt. 24 Dec (JRW); a sub-ad. was still present there 5 Jan (MT). Six Merlins were observed in Muhlenberg, KY 5 Feb (BP, AC), a new high count for the state; one was of the prairie subspecies *richardsoni* (ph. BP). Single Merlins were also reported at three additional Kentucky locales. In Tennessee, Merlins were widely reported across the state, with one to 3 reported from seven locations 16 Dec–25 Feb. A few Peregrine Falcons wintered in the Region, with one to 2 birds reported from five Kentucky and six Tennessee locations.

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Virginia Rails were reported at three Muhlenberg, KY locales between 1 and 15 Jan (BP, AC, WR), with 3 at one marsh 1 Jan (BP, AC); an impressive 13 were at Standifer Gap 17 Dec (DP). A number of normally transient shorebirds were either unusually late or wintering, including: single Lesser Yellowlegs in Knox, TN 4–10 Dec (SHo) and Crocket, TN 16 Jan (MG); a juv. Long-billed Dowitcher on L.

Cumberland, Pulaski that established a new late departure date for Kentucky by lingering until 15 Dec (ph. RD); 4 Long-billed Dowitchers at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 16–17 Dec (JRW, Reelfoot L. C.B.C.); and up to 2 Spotted Sandpipers in Kingsport, Sullivan, TN 20 Jan–20 Feb (RP et al.). A Lesser Yellowlegs in w. Henderson, KY 19 Feb (JMe) was likely a very early transient.

An ad. Laughing Gull was present at Barren River L., KY 26–30 Jan (DR). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Ensley Bottoms, Shelby, TN 19 Jan (ph. JRW). Single ad. and first-year Little Gulls continued at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN through 3 Dec (JRW, MT). Mild weather resulted in greater-than-normal numbers of wintering Bonaparte's Gulls in Kentucky. Thayer's Gulls were only reported from Kentucky L./L. Barkley, with an ad. below Barkley Dam, Lyon KY 16 & 18 Dec (ph. BP), 2 first-year birds below Kentucky Dam 17 Dec (†BLI), and a first-year bird at Pace Pt. 1 Jan (JRW). Peak counts of Herring Gulls were unimpressive and included 85 below Kentucky Dam 18 Dec (BP). The only Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Kentucky were an ad. on the Ohio R., McCracken 31 Dec (†FB) and an ad. on L. Barkley, Lyon 22 Feb (DR, HC); an ad. was at Eagle Creek, Henry, TN 16 Jan (ph. JRW). A first-year Glaucous Gull and second-year California Gull were at Paris Landing, Henry/Stewart, TN 24 Dec (JRW). A Caspian Tern at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood, TN 2 Jan (ph. MT) was an exceptional discovery for midwinter. As is the norm, a few Forster's Terns lingered on Kentucky L. as far n



This adult Harris's Sparrow was present in a southeastern Daviess County, Kentucky yard for much of the season (here in late January 2006). Photograph by Bobby Lloyd.

as Marshall, KY through the season (m.ob.); 2 were in Lake, TN 3 Dec (MT, JRW).

Ninety Eurasian Collared-Doves in w. Daviess 12 Nov (JH) made a new high count for Kentucky. Single Common Ground-Doves, very rare in the Region, were in Obion, TN 25 Jan (MG) and Murfreesboro, Rutherford, TN 28 Jan–11 Feb (TW, m.ob.). An Inca Dove frequented a yard in Fayette, TN mid-Nov–7 Dec (T&DG, ph. JRW, m.ob.), potentially a 2nd record for Tennessee after the one reported from the fall 2005. Short-eared Owls were quite scarce this winter, with one to 2 reported at five locales in Kentucky and one to 4 at two locales in Tennessee. The only Long-eared Owls reported were 2 in Muhlenberg, KY 28 Jan (BY, MY). Hummingbirds were again widespread and carefully studied across the Region (Table 1). The imm. male Broad-tailed

Table 1. Records of hummingbirds in Kentucky and Tennessee 11 September 2005–9 April 2006.

First date	Last date	Species	Age	Sex	Location	County	State
unknown	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Kingston Springs	Cheatham	TN
unknown	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Brentwood	Williamson	TN
unknown	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Chattanooga	Hamilton	TN
9/11/05	3/30/06	Rufous	SY	M	Cookeville	Putnam	TN
9/25/05	10/2/05	Rufous	HY	M	Ballardsville	Oldham	KY
9/30/05	3/28/06	Rufous	AHY	F	Clinton	Anderson	TN
10/1/05	10/15/05	Rufous	HY	M	Sewanee	Franklin	TN
10/1/05	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Elizabethton	Carter	TN
10/5/05	12/20/05	Rufous	AHY	F	Byrdstown	Pickett	TN
10/7/05	12/10/05	Rufous	HY	M	Georgetown	Scott	KY
10/15/05	1/26/06	Rufous	SY	M	Louisville	Jefferson	KY
10/20/05	3/29/06	Rufous	AHY	M	Corbin	Knox	KY
10/21/05	3/20/06	Rufous	SY	F	New Market	Jefferson	TN
10/26/05	10/26/05	Selasphorus	U	U	Elizabethton	Carter	TN
11/2/05	11/4/05	Selasphorus	U	U	Brentwood	Williamson	TN
11/5/05	unknown	Rufous	HY	F	Norris	Knox	TN
11/5/05	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Norris	Anderson	TN
11/6/05	unknown	Rufous	HY	F	Knoxville	Knox	TN
11/11/05	unknown	Rufous	HY	F	Fountain City	Knox	TN
11/15/05	unknown	Rufous	AHY	F	Loudoun	Loudoun	TN
11/17/05	11/27/05	Rufous	HY	M	Shelbyville	Shelby	KY
11/17/05	12/27/05	Rufous	HY	F	Nicholasville	Jessamine	KY
11/20/05	4/2/06	Rufous	AHY	F	Knoxville	Knox	TN
11/23/05	11/25/05	Rufous	AHY	M	Owensboro	Daviess	KY
11/24/05	12/12/05	Broad-tailed	HY	M	Signal Mountain	Hamilton	TN
12/16/05	12/16/05	Unidentified	U	U	Sevierville	Sevier	TN
12/29/05	1/28/06	Rufous	AHY	F	Loudoun	Loudoun	TN
1/7/06	3/26/06	Rufous	AHY	F	Lookout Mountain	Hamilton	TN

Hummingbird at Signal Mt., Hamilton, TN lingered through 12 Dec (DW).

VIREOS THROUGH THRUSHES

There was an above-average number of winter reports of Blue-headed Vireo: one in Taylor 28 Dec (RD, †BP) represented only a 2nd winter record for Kentucky; in Tennessee, singles were seen in Dekalb 27 Dec (SJS), at Standifer Gap 8 Jan (DP), and at Memphis 26 & 31 Jan (RB, BI). Returning Tree Swallows were first noted 17 Feb in Blount, TN (JA). One on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C. 17 Dec (fide MG) was likely a late transient. An imm. Barn Swallow at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 3 Dec established a new late date for the Region, outside of a few isolated mid-winter records. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a modest movement into Kentucky, with one to 19 reported on 14 Kentucky C.B.C.s, but they were scarcely reported from Tennessee.

Single Sedge Wrens were seen at two different locations in w. McCracken, KY 27 Dec (BP, SR); at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 17 Dec (JE); and in Gibson, TN 7 Feb (MG). There were three reports of Marsh Wren in Kentucky: one to 2 at two Muhlenberg locales and

one in Pulaski (RD); the species was more widely reported in Tennessee, with one to 2 at six locations. Single House Wrens were reported from five Kentucky locales during the season. Exceptional numbers were reported from se. Tennessee, with 7 reported on both the Chattanooga C.B.C. 17 Dec and Nickajack Lake C.B.C. 29 Dec. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in n. Madison 17 Dec (†BM, KN) will

represent a first winter record for Kentucky if accepted. In Tennessee, singles on the Memphis (18 Dec) and Savannah (2 Jan) C.B.C.s were also very rare. Gray Catbirds are very rare in winter in the Region, so reports of 13 from one Kentucky and 10 Tennessee locations are astoundingly high numbers. A female Varied Thrush in a Louisville yard 4 Feb+ (ph. D&CP) furnished a 5th Kentucky record.

Orange-crowned Warblers were widely reported from Tennessee, with singles at eight locations, mostly in late Dec. Palm Warblers were positively abundant in Tennessee, with reports from 12 counties, including 6 on the Chattanooga C.B.C. 17 Dec. Only a few Palms were observed in Kentucky, with one to 4 reported from six locations. A male Mourning

Warbler in Marshall, KY 17 Dec was an unprecedented winter find (†CMo). Three Common Yellowthroats were seen on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C. 17 Dec (fide MG).

Kentucky hosted two male Spotted Towhees, one that returned to the same thicket in w. McCracken for the 3rd straight winter and another in ne. Hart from the last week of Dec into Mar (CF, BB, †SK, †BP et al.). American Tree Sparrows are very rare in e. Tennessee, so one in Sullivan 8 Dec (JMo) was noteworthy. Chipping Sparrows continue to increase in Kentucky as a winter bird: one to 40 were reported on 10 C.B.C.s, and additional reports of one to 7 came from other scattered locales. In se. Tennessee, the Chattanooga and Hiwassee C.B.C.s reported their highest counts ever—168 and 311, respectively. A Vesper Sparrow in Hamilton, TN 9 Jan (DJ) was unusual for midwinter. The Region's first Black-throated Sparrow lingered in Lincoln, TN through 27 Feb (MW, m.ob.). One to 6 Le Conte's Sparrows were found at four Kentucky and three Tennessee locales. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Muhlenberg 1 Jan (†BP, AC) represented one of only a few winter records for Kentucky. Lincoln's Sparrows are Regionally rare in winter, so reports from Celina, Clay, TN 14 Dec (BHS) and Obion, TN 25 Jan (MG) were noteworthy. An ad. Harris's Sparrow was present in a se. Daviess, KY yard late Dec–Mar (ph. BLo et al.); one was in Collierville, Shelby, TN 15–22 Jan (JW et al.). The Region's first Golden-crowned Sparrow was in Covington, Tipton, TN 4 Dec–16 Jan (K&PK, ph. MT, ph. JRW, m.ob.).

A male Indigo Bunting in basic plumage in e. Pulaski, KY 31 Dec and 12 Jan (†CN, WN) provided one of only a few winter records for the state. Two different male Baltimore Orioles



Blue-winged Teal are very rare in Kentucky in winter; one to a few are reported nearly every winter, but few are documented as well as this male present in Wayne County 7 January 2006. Photograph by Roseanna Denton.



This Yellow-billed Loon on Kentucky Lake, Henry County, Tennessee 4 December 2005 provided the Tennessee & Kentucky region's sixth record; all records come from recent years. Photograph by Jeff Wilson.

were reported in Tennessee: one in Hamilton 17 Dec (ph. KC) and one in Nashville 12–15 Dec (JK et al.). Purple Finches staged one of the better flights in recent years, with 2–61 reported on 17 Kentucky C.B.C.s and peak counts of 47–72 at four locales during the season. Numbers in Tennessee were smaller. Pine

Siskins staged a modest flight, with one to 4 on only four Kentucky C.B.C.s; the only sizable flock in Kentucky all winter was 50+ in Elliott 11 Feb (EM, et al.). Siskins were barely reported in Tennessee. The only Evening Grosbeak reported was a female in Morgan, KY 4–5 Jan (ME).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Jean Alexander, David Ayer, Bruce Bardin, Roger Beebe, Frank Bennett, Mark Bennett, Kevin Calhoun (se. Tennessee), Gary Casey, Phillip Casteel (middle Tennessee), Janice Chadwell, Hap Chambers, Amy Covert, Phyllis Deal, Roseanna Denton,

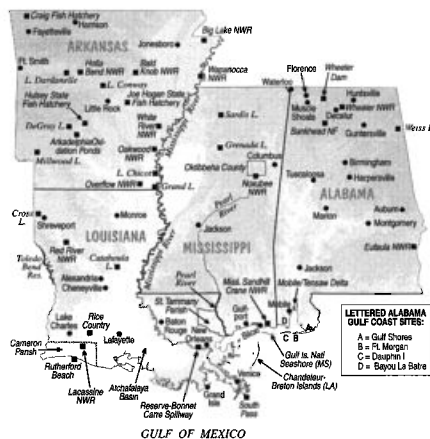
Steve Denton, Jon Dunn, Jim Eager, Mary Elam, Carol Friedman, Theresa & Danny Graham, Mark Greene, Don Holt, Janet Howard, Susan Hoyle (SHo), Susan Hubley (SHu), Bob Ilardi, Daniel Jacobson, Steve Kistler, Rick Knight (e. Tennessee), Julie Korman, Keith & Peggy Kunkel, Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Bobby Lloyd (BLo), Betty Maxson, Lee McNeely, Tom McNeil, John Meredig (JMe), Nancy Moore, Evelyn Morgan, Mike Morton, Carl Mowery (CMo), John Moyle (JMo), Charlie Muise (CMu), Connie Neeley, Wendell Neeley, Kay Neikirk, Richard Nevius, David & Clara Ann Pallares, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., David Patterson, Rick Phillips, Joe

Pulliam, Scott Record, David Roemer, Wayne Rosso, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Bryan Stevens, Mike Todd, Jay Walko, Anthony Whitted, Charlie Wilkins, Dan Williams, Morris Williams, Jeff R. Wilson, Terry Witt, Ben Yandell, Mary Yandell. Many thanks go to the numerous additional individuals who contributed information that was used in this report. ☺

Chris Sloan, 224 Hicks Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37221, (chris.sloan@comcast.net);

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, (brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov)

Central Southern



C. Dwight Cooley

In winter 2005–2006, the southeastern United States continued to assess, and suffer through, the effects of the terrible 2005 hurricane season. Those familiar with bird distribution in the Region will note the significant decline in records from traditional coastal sites such as Cameron, Hackberry, Grand Isle, Gulfport, Dauphin Island, and Gulf Shores, resulting not only from habitat loss but also coastal residents trying to pull their lives back together.

Abbreviations: B.S.N.W.R. (Bayou Sauvage N.W.R.), N.N.W.R. (Noxubee N.W.R.), W.N.W.R. (Wheeler N.W.R.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

The eastward surge of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks advanced strongly into se. Louisiana, where a peak of 1160 (plus 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks) was recorded in

Audubon Park, New Orleans, Orleans on 30 Jan (RDP). One wonders when coastal Mississippi and Alabama will begin seeing such numbers. Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on Lacassine Pool, Cameron, LA, 28 Feb (SWC, DLD) were either wintering or early migrants. The largest reported concentration of Greater White-fronted Geese was of 70 at N.N.W.R., Noxubee MS 4 Jan (TLS). Ross's Goose continues to be widely reported, with 50 in Tunica, MS 1 Jan (GK, SK) the largest number reported. Only two Cackling Goose records were received, down from 15 last winter. In Arkansas, 52 were on the Univ. of Arkansas Farm, Washington 17 Dec (MM), while in Mississippi, 3 were seen 25 Jan on Lower L. Sardis (GK, SK). The number of Trumpeter Swan reports continues to increase, with some question as to their provenance. In Alabama, 2 imms. were near Marvyn, Lee 17 Feb+ (p.a., GEH, m.ob.). In Arkansas, 3 ads. were at Bald Knob N.W.R., White 1 Dec (KN, BA); 98 were on Magness L., Cleburne 2 Dec (RH); 2 were on Mill Pond, Newton, 15 Dec–4 Feb (JSt, TB, SC, m.ob.); and an ad. was in Pulaski 27 Dec (RH). Two ad. Tundra Swans were near Hope Hull, Montgomery, AL 30–31 Dec (CTS, PSn, LFG). In Arkansas, an imm. was on Magness L. 2 Dec and 3 Jan (RH, KN, LDN), and 5 ads. and an imm. were at Big Lake N.W.R., Mississippi 19 Dec (DB).

Mottled Ducks continued their expansion up the Mississippi R.: up to 13 were near Arkansas City, Desha, AR 23 Dec–25 Feb (DB, SDe). Cinnamon Teal is a rare winter visitor to the Region. In Louisiana, ad. males were recorded in Rapides, where 2 were seen 29 Jan (DLD, SWC), and at Lacassine N.W.R., where one was reported 12 Feb (JBo, DBo, JS). The bird of the season had to be Arkansas's 2nd

Tufted Duck, an ad. male on L. Dardanelle, Yell 20 Feb+ (p.a., KN, LDN, m.ob.). Inland scoter records are always of interest. Two female-type White-winged Scoters were on Oktibbeha County L., Oktibbeha, MS 14–15 Dec (TLS), while up to 2 female-type Black Scoters were at Guntersville, Marshall, AL 1–27 Dec (LBR, RAR, LW, m.ob.). In Arkansas, L. Dardanelle hosted a scoter triecta, with imm. Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters 17–18 Dec, 29 Dec+, and 10 Dec+, respectively (KN, LDN, m.ob.). The only Long-tailed Duck reported was a first-year male at Avery I., Iberia, LA 7–25 Jan (EL, m.ob.). Common Mergansers, somewhat rare in the Region, were reported with some regularity. In Arkansas, 3 were on L. Sequoyah, Washington 11 Dec (MM, DC); 4 were seen on Mallard L., Mississippi 19 Dec (DB, JB, TJB); an ad. female was in Millwood S.P., Little River 25 Dec (DS); and up to 5 were on L. Dardanelle 26 Dec–25 Feb (KN, LDN). In Mississippi, a female was on Lower L. Sardis, Panola 17–25 Jan (GK, SK) Ruffed Grouse reaches the s. limits of its distribution along the Cumberland Plateau in ne. Alabama, where records are usually of drumming birds. One seen at Skyline W.M.A., Jackson, AL 26 Feb (AS) was noteworthy.

Traditional loon wintering sites continue to produce. As many as 4 Red-throated Loons were at Guntersville, AL 26 Dec–21 Jan (LBR, RAR, SH, DH, m.ob.), while one was noted 29 Jan on Bay Springs L., Tishomingo, MS (WP) Up to 2 Pacific Loons were recorded at Guntersville, AL 25 Dec–21 Jan (SWM, m.ob.), and one was at Bay Springs L., MS 26 Dec (WP). Always rare in the Region, single Red-necked Grebes were reported from Limestone Bay, W.N.W.R., Limestone, AL 19 Nov–10 Jan (DBo, m.ob.); from W.F. George Dam, Henry,