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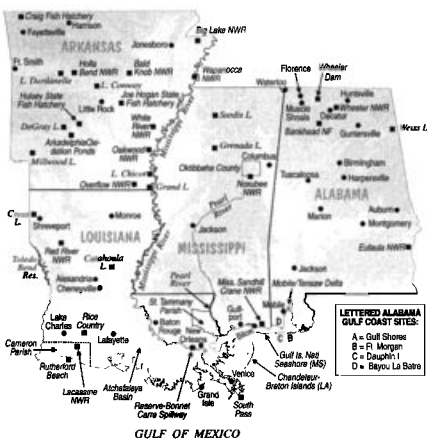
Monroe (MMn), Nancy Moore, Ann Morgan, Eveyn Morgan, Charlie Muise, Mike Murdock (MMu), Michael O'Rourke, David & Clara Ann Pallares, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Charlie Parker, David Patterson (DPa), W. Rob Peeples (w. Tennessee), June Ann & Michael Perkins, Rick Phillips, David Pitts (DPi), Dick Preston (DPr), Frank Renfrow, Veronica Renfrow (VeR), Virginia Reynolds (ViR), Gerald Robe, David Roemer, Rebecca Sawyell, Steve & Rebecca Satterfield, Chris Sloan, Brian Smith (BSm), Bob Snow (BSn), Barbara Stedman (BSl), Stephen J. Stedman, Gary Thompson, Mike Todd, Anna Varney, Christopher

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Central Southern



Phillip A. Wallace

Greg Jackson reported that Alabama had a dry spring with few fronts, resulting in a slow season for birding. In Louisiana, by contrast, the fronts coincided with weekends, so birders viewed the spring migration along the coast as better than usual. One very late front in southwestern Louisiana 29 May provided Patton the opportunity to establish some late dates for migrants in that state. With no pelagic trips out of Louisiana because of the destruction of the ports by Hurricane Katrina (and western Florida reports now submitted to the Florida Region), there were no reports of true pelagic species for the first time in years.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

A count of 2500 Northern Shovelers, an excellent number, was tallied at Lacassine N.W.R., LA 4 Mar (JPK, JK, KF). Late water-

fowl included 2 Greater Scaup 16 May in Jefferson Davis, LA (JVR, REG, EJ) and a Surf Scoter 13 May Oktibbeha, MS (TS, MS). A single White-winged, rarest of the three scoter species in the Region, was seen 25 Mar at L. Dardenelle, AR (K&LN), which also hosted a Pacific Loon 3–17 Mar (ph. DS, DB, K&LN). Another Pacific Loon was in Tishomingo, MS 24 Mar (ph. WRP). American White Pelicans are rare in the mt. region of Alabama, so a report of 175 at L. Martin 12 May (ph. MMi) was noteworthy. Inland Brown Pelicans included an imm. at Millwood L., AR 15–22 Apr (ph. CM) and 6 at L. Logan Martin, AL 27 May (JHI, WR). A report of 6 Magnificent Frigatebirds at L. Pontchartrain, LA 30 Apr (REG, SCL, PB) was unusual in the absence of tropical weather. A Wood Stork was early at Noxubee N.W.R., MS 6 May (TS, MS); the species normally arrives in the area no earlier than mid-Jun.

There were two reports of White-tailed Kite, one from Baton Rouge 15 Apr (DL) and one from Monroe, AR 16 Mar (WHH). An early Mississippi Kite was at St. Gabriel, LA 11 Mar (DLD), and a late Northern Harrier was in Jackson, AR 15 May (DB, MA). Of three reports of Swainson's Hawk from Louisiana, the earliest was from Vermilion 25 Mar (REG, JVR, BJO, CL). A count of 54 Red-tailed Hawks in the rice fields of sw. Louisiana 4 Mar provided a good number (JPK, JK, KF). Another late raptor was a Peregrine Falcon 16 May in Calcasieu, LA (JVR, REG). A count of 70+ Purple Gallinules 3 May at Lacassine N.W.R. was noteworthy for Louisiana (JH, MJM).

SHOREBIRDS

Two ad. male Snowy Plovers behaving in a

territorial manner were found 21 Apr w. of Holly Beach, LA, near where a nest was found in 2005 (SWC, DLD, PEC), and an ad. male 28 Mar in Prairie, AR (KN, DB) provided the 4th state record. There were several reports of Hudsonian Godwit farther e. than usual in Arkansas, including a report of 20 in Prairie 17 May (DB, MA). In Louisiana, a Hudsonian on Grand I. 30 Apr (ph. DLD, SWC) was extremely unusual, and a count of 89 in Calcasieu 13 May (PEC, RDP, PAW, DPM) was noteworthy. White-rumped Sandpipers maxed out at 150 in sw. Louisiana 13 May (RDP, PEC, PAW, DPM) and 300 at Craig Fish Hatchery, AR 19 May (MM et al.). Farther e., 14 White-rumpeds 8 May (DJS) near Florence tied the maximum for the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama. A count of 275 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 1 Apr in Vermilion, LA (JB, DBo, JS) provided the 2nd highest count ever for the state, and one at Craig Fish Hatchery 27 May (JN, MM) provided the latest ever spring record for Arkansas. A report of a Ruff, rare in the Region, came from Jefferson Davis, LA 20 Apr (†JPK, JG). A significant grounding of shorebirds at Grand I., LA 30 Apr (SWC, DLD) included 2000 Short-billed Dowitchers. Not to be outdone, 2000 Long-billed Dowitchers showed up at Lacassine N.W.R., LA 4 Mar (JPK, JK, KF). A very early, or possibly wintering, Wilson's Phalarope was also at Lacassine N.W.R. 12 Mar (DLD, SWC, BMM et al.).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Franklin's Gulls were a little farther e. than usual, with two reports from e. Arkansas and one from Guntersville, AL 17 Apr (LBR). An imm. Great Black-backed Gull at Dauphin I.

15 Apr (JRW, SWM, m.ob.) was a good find. Alabama got a new inland spring maximum for Forster's Tern when 95 were tallied 14 May at Decatur (GDJ, DGJ). Two Least Terns at Grand I. 12 Mar (DBo, JB) were very early, as were 5 Black Terns on the same day in Cameron (SWC, PAW, PEC et al.).

The bird of the season was a **White-crowned Pigeon** discovered and identified by Lillie Easterling at her feeder in coastal Gautier, MS 29 Apr. This is the first for the state, and the Region, although there are records from the panhandle of Florida. After delighting many birders, this well-documented bird was last seen 10 May. A more quotidian White-winged Dove at Guin 4–5 Apr (DW, *vide* JJ) provided only the 3rd record for the mt. region of Alabama. Good counts of Common Nighthawks were 110+ at Baton Rouge 11 May (REG) and 75–100 at Magnolia, AR 23–25 May (SC). Neal reported 32 nesting attempts by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Ouachita N.F., AR this spring, the most since records have been maintained at the location.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Late Eastern Wood-Pewees included 6 from coastal Cameron 29 May (DP). There were numerous reports of Western Kingbirds from Arkansas and from the coast, including 2 at Ft. Morgan, AL 11 May in the extreme e. edge of the Region (RAD, LRD, BT, BMM). Lacassine N.W.R., LA hosted 3 early Eastern Kingbirds 12 Mar (DLD, SWC, BMM et al.), and a count of 1000 Easterns in Yell, AR 14 May (K&LN) was astounding! There were up to 2 Gray Kingbirds at Grand I. 22 Apr–6 May (vt. PAW, BMM, DPM, CCS et al.) and 3 at Ft. Morgan, AL, where the species has been rare since 1997, 6–11 May (RAD et al.).

Red-eyed Vireos made a good showing at Grand I., with 150 tallied 22 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM), and a single Black-whiskered Vireo was there 29 Apr (†JB). Cliff Swallows were early, with 6 in Tishomingo, MS 10 Mar (WRP) and one at Dauphin I. 11 Mar (RAD, LRD, BT). The Sargents had the luxury of viewing a **Cave Swallow** in hand when they banded one at Ft. Morgan 8 Apr (RRS, ph. MBS, DBe, FB, m.ob.). Expert opinion will be solicited to determine the subspecies, but measurements indicate that the bird is one of the smaller Caribbean-basin subspecies rather than *pelodoma*. Another Cave Swallow was seen just across Mobile Bay at Dauphin I. 28 Apr (JFP). A **Rock Wren** from the winter season was last seen at Millwood L., AR 26 Mar (CM). Gray Catbirds must have been crossing the Gulf in large numbers at the end of Apr, with counts of 240 and 308 on Grand

I. 26 Apr (DPM) and 30 Apr (SWC, DLD), respectively.

WARBLERS

Up to 2 Golden-winged Warblers were in Craighead, AR 30 Apr–2 May (DB et al.), and one was seen in Oktibbeha, MS 13 May (TS). Two Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids were reported from Caddo, LA 23 Apr (TD). A Nashville Warbler at Ft. Morgan 31 Mar (RRS, MBS) was early and unusual on the coast for this circum-Gulf migrant, while one at Mt. Sequoyah, AR 18 May (MM) was late. In addition, 5 Nashvilles 3 May at Monte Sano S.P. (JMH) provided a new spring maximum for Alabama. There were three reports of the normally more easterly Cape May Warbler from Arkansas, with the westernmost from Millwood L. 30 Apr (CM). From extreme nw. Louisiana came reports of a late Yellow-rumped Warbler and a late Black-throated Green 31 May (TD). Alabama's first **Townsend's Warbler**, pending acceptance, was reported from Dauphin I. 8 Apr (HEH, SW, CMc). After the initial five-minute observation, the bird could not be relocated. Prairie Warblers, rare on the coast in spring, were reported from Grand I. 22 Apr (CCS) and 30 Apr (DLD, SWC). A Blackpoll Warbler at Dauphin I. 8 Apr (BM) was early. Cerulean Warbler, a species of concern, was more widely reported than usual this spring. Most reports were of single birds, but a report of 11 from Craighead Forest Park, AR 29 Apr (DB) was amazing for recent years. Three late American Redstarts were grounded by a storm in coastal Cameron 29 May (DP). Schiefer's survey of the seven-county area around Starkville during the season produced 15 territorial Swainson's Warblers, another species of concern. A late Ovenbird was singing in Lafayette, LA 30 May (DP), and a report of 30 Northern Waterthrushes 26 Apr at Grand I. (DPM) provided a noteworthy number. There were three reports of Mourning Warbler 15–21 May in Jackson, AL (BH, ECS et al.), where the species is rare but regular. Another late migrant was a Canada Warbler in Caddo, LA 31 May (TD).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers put in a good showing at Grand I. this spring: 125 were reported 22 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM) and 83 on 26 Apr (DPM); an orange variant was at the same location 29 Apr (vt. PAW, BMM, CCS). A Western Tanager, rare in the Region, was reported from Cameron 3 May (†GJP, ph. MTP). There was one report of Clay-colored Sparrow from Louisiana in Bossier 26 Apr (TD) and several from Arkansas, with a maximum of 9 in Washington 14 May (JN et al.). The species is

a rare spring migrant in the Region. Henslow's Sparrow, a rare and local breeder in Arkansas, was represented by up to 6 singing males in Fulton 22 May+ (DB). An extremely late Dark-eyed Junco was in Cameron 13 May (DPM) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed up in good numbers at Grand I. this spring, with counts of 150 on 22 Apr, 143 on 26 Apr, and 90 on 30 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM, BMM). Another was very late in Cameron 29 May (DP).

A brief single-observer sighting of a **Lazuli Bunting** in Caddo 28 Apr (†TD) was exciting, and another in Newton, AR 15–17 May (LM, JSt, ph. SJG) provided about the 6th state record. Up to 200 Indigo Buntings at Grand I. 22 Apr (CCS, DPM, PAW) were noteworthy. There were two reports of Shiny Cowbird, one from Grand I. 30 Apr (†DBo) and one from Ft. Morgan 7 May (RAD et al.). Last but not least was a report of a **Lesser Goldfinch** at Rogers, AR 17 May (ph. AB); it furnished the 2nd record for the state and the first of the black-backed subspecies.

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