Longspur in the Region; 685 in Leflore, MS 9 Feb (SJD) and 90 in Lawrence, AL 29 Jan (GDJ, DGJ) were the top counts. Again this winter, a male Indigo Bunting frequented a feeder in Anniston, Calhoun, AL early–14 Dec (DMc). Rare in winter, a Dickcissel was in Foley, AL 23 Dec (MJJ et al.).

Encouraging reports of Rusty Blackbird were of 40 at Blakeley S.P., Baldwin, AL 17 Dec (MJJ) and 600+ at Sardis Dam, MS 1 Jan (GK, SK). Good numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were reported near Leighton, Colbert, AL 17 Jan, where 100 were seen (DJS), and in Leflore, MS 9 Feb, where 143 were recorded (SID). Baltimore Orioles were widely reported in Alabama. Ad. males were in Greenville, Butler 5 Dec (AM), Montgomery 31 Dec (CHA), and at E.N.W.R. 26-31 Jan (LW). Two males were at a feeder in Montgomery 16 Feb (GM et al.). An imm. male was near Shorter, Macon 23 Jan (ECS), another was on the Ft. Morgan Pen. 17 Feb (SN), and 2 were near Peterman, Monroe 18 Feb (CHe).

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Dominating the winter scene in Arkansas was the continued diligent coverage of various reservoirs, which produced a nice variety of unusual waterfowl, loons, gulls, and other rarities. In Louisiana, records submissions more than rebounded from last winter's post-hurricane slump, thanks to restored coastal access and the return of hurricane-displaced birders, combined with increased statewide coverage associated with the inaugural season of the Louisiana Winter Bird Atlas (10 January–20 February).

Abbreviations: * = specimen deposited at Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science. County/parish names are *italicized* and indicated only for the initial mention of a specific locality; state is indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of "review list" species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee.

WATERFOWL

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Pine Bluff, Jefferson, AR 27 Dec (ph. RD, WS, DS) was an unexpected far inland winter visitor. Twentyfive Ross's Geese among 200 Snow Geese s. of Jonesboro, Poinsett 26 Feb (NA) made a good Arkansas total. Reports of Cackling Geese, also noteworthy in Arkansas, included 23 at L. Fayetteville, Washington 18 Jan, 5 at Bentonville, Benton 26 Jan (both MAM), and 3

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near Brinkley, *Monroe* 27 Jan and 18-19 Feb (LA). Arkansas hosted Trumpeter Swans for the 3rd consecutive winter, with 2 ads. at Carden Bottoms, Yell 20 Dec (ph. DS, WS), 3 (ad., 2 juvs.) at Boxley Mill Pond, *Newton* 24 Dec (Joyce & Harlan Shedell), and a possible record high of **126** at Magness L., *Cleburne* 9 Feb (DB). Tundra Swan reports included an imm. at Magness L. 5 Dec (ph. Robert Herron) and an ad. at Carden Bottoms 20 Dec (ph. DS, WS; red neck collar with white code "5H7") later relocated with 4 others at nearby Petit Jean W.M.A., Yell 6 Feb (Terry Gentry).

Eighteen Mottled Ducks nw. of Arkansas City, Desha 25 Dec (D&SB) indicates a growing resident population. A flyby male Cinnamon Teal was spared but still nicely documented by hunters s. of White L., near Pecan I., Vermilion 13 Jan (ph. Jeff Hepperman, Craig Landry, fide Toddy Guidry). A male Tufted Duck remained through the period for its 2nd consecutive winter on L. Dardanelle, Yell/Pope (K&LN, m.ob.). Lake Dardanelle also hosted a Surf Scoter in Yell/Pope 15 Dec, 2 White-winged Scoters in Yell 16-17 Feb (both K&LN), and a Long-tailed Duck in Yell/Pope 16 Dec (KN), with another Surf Scoter on L. Maumelle, Pulaski 8 Jan (DB). In Louisiana, the sea duck hotbed was L. Pontchartrain, where various Surf Scoters were seen off the New Orleans lakefront, Orleans 9 Jan-23 Feb (DPM, PAW, EW et al.), including

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Its presence kept confidential by wildlife agencies, this Whooping Crane was tracked by satellite from an introduced breeding population at Necedah, Wisconsin to Louisiana, where it wintered with a small flock of Sandhills near Loranger, Tangipahoa Parish 3 January–4 March 2007. The bird strayed off course while being led by ultralight aircraft to a new wintering site in Florida where, in a strange twist of fate, the rest of its flock mates were later killed by tornados on 2 February, the same date of this photograph. *Photograph by Randy Myers*.

an impressive count of 21 on 7 Feb (DBo, ph. JB). Also from the New Orleans lakefront were a male White-winged Scoter 7-14 Feb (DBo, ph. JB, DPM), 3 Black Scoters 3 Feb (PAW), and a Long-tailed Duck 23 Feb (PAW). A more dependable imm. male Long-tailed Duck was at the Tchefuncte R. mouth, St. Tammany 28 Dec-20 Feb (CGB, DBo, ph. JB et al.). At Cameron, Cameron, a Surf Scoter was present 6 Dec (JWB, MJM, JR), a female White-winged Scoter 18 Feb (ph. DLD, SWC), and a female Black Scoter 28 Jan (DBo, JB). There were three Arkansas reports of the rare Common Merganser: 7 at L. Pine Bluff, Jefferson 26 Dec (RD), 10 at Big Lake N.W.R., Mississippi 29 Dec (DB), and 3 at L. Dardanelle, Pope 1 Feb (K&LN). An ad. male Red-breasted Merganser on Kincaid L., Rapides 25 Jan (Steve Shively, Daniel Jordan) and a pair at L. Dardanelle, Yell 3 Feb (DS) were unusual inland.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

An amazing 5 Red-throated Loons at L. Maumelle 21 Jan+ (DBr, WS, DS, Delos Mc-Cauley, Patricia Braddy, ph.) appears to be a record number for Arkansas. Fifty-three Piedbilled Grebes at L. Elmdale, Washington 27 Jan (MAM) and 500 at L. Dardanelle, Yell 16 Feb (KN) were impressive inland winter concentrations. American Bitterns nw. of Arkansas City 25 Dec (D&SB) and near Waldron, Scott 9 Jan (Ron Goddard et al.), and an imm. Blackcrowned Night-Heron at L. Ashbaugh, Greene 18 Jan (George Hoover), added to the relatively few Arkansas winter records for those species. Out of place was an ad. Brown Pelican at Baton Rouge 11 Feb (BJO). A Least Bittern flushed by a rice harvester near Thornwell, Jefferson Davis 5 Dec (SWC, DLD) was late or possibly wintering. A very early Swallow-tailed Kite was at River Ridge, Jefferson 28 Feb (Craig Mineo). Up to 18 White-tailed Kites at the Lacassine N.W.R. Pool Unit, *Cameron* 12 Dec-23 Jan (Becky Hariu, SWC, DLD, BMM, ph. DP et al.) were associating with a spectacular communal roost of Northern Harriers estimated at 200 on 14 Dec (SWC, DLD). Another harrier roost involving 28 individuals was found in *Poinsett*, AR 22 Jan (DB).

Although a few typically winter in lower Plaquemines, LA, a minimum of 12 Broadwinged Hawks there 28 Jan-19 Feb (vt. PAW, ph. DPM, ph. RDP, vt. DBo, JB) was above average. An imm. Swainson's Hawk at Cameron 3 Dec (JB, DBo) was likely a late migrant, but 4 in Plaquemines 30 Dec-19 Feb (vt. PAW, CR, ph. DPM, ph. RDP, JB, vt. DBo et al.) were clearly wintering. A second-year White-tailed Hawk e. of Holmwood, Calcasieu 10 Dec (ph. BMM, ph. DP, vt. PEC) and an ad. the same day just s. in Cameron (PEC) were only the 4th and 5th well-documented individuals for Louisiana. Despite the species' popularity with falconers, an ad. Harris's Hawk near Holmwood 3-18 Dec (Gay Gomez, ph. DLD, SWC, ph. JWB, JR et al.) was thought to be a legitimate vagrant and would represent only the 3rd accepted Louisiana record; another in Orleans 1 Jan (vt. PAW) is more likely to be labeled by some as a possible escapee. Somewhat regular in Arkansas but always of interest, Golden Eagles (all imms.) were found at Erbie, Newton 3 Dec (Jack & Pam Stewart), on the Bayou De-View C.B.C., Monroe 22 Dec (WS, Jason Phillips, Katie Jacques), and at Wattensaw Bayou, Prairie 5 Jan (Brad Alexander).

Crested Caracaras continue to be reported with increasing frequency in sw. Louisiana, with at least 15 individuals reported 5 Dec-3 Feb from at least seven locations in *Calcasieu*, *Cameron*, *Jefferson Davis* (ph. DLD, SWC, ph. MJM, ph. JWB, ph. JR, BMM, DBo, JB, vt. PAW, DPM, Jeff Pittman, John Whittle), and, farther e. than normal, a pair in *Vermilion* at White Lake W.M.A. (RPR et al.). Merlins at Chesney Prairie Natural Area, Benton 24 Dec (JN, MAM, JW, Scott Woolbright) and Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope 27 Jan (K&LN) were good winter birds for nw. Arkansas. Two Prairie Falcons seen together in the Maysville area, Benton 25 Dec (IN, MAM) apparently represented the first Arkansas occurrence involving multiple individuals; 2 were also suspected there 6 Jan (JN, MAM, JW), and another was at Holla Bend N.W.R. 27 Dec (LA, ph. Ben Meadors). Peregrine Falcons found unusually far inland in Louisiana included singles at Cotile L., Rapides 18 Dec and at Kateland Gin, Grant 23 Dec (both JVH), and another intermittently through the period in Bossier/Caddo (TD et al.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Late rice harvesting near Thornwell 5 & 7 Dec produced 10+ Yellow Rails each day and a nice count of 81 Soras on 5 Dec (SWC, DLD, BMM). Both irregular in Arkansas in winter, a Virginia Rail was near Sanders lock and dam, Jefferson 27 Dec (RD, DS, WS), and a Sora was nw. of Arkansas City 25 Dec (D&SB). Arkansas reports of Sandhill Cranes included 19 in Mississippi 24 Jan (DB), 2 in Faulkner 20 Feb (Sharen Carter), and 2 in Lawrence/Greene 27 Feb (Corinne Fletcher). In Louisiana, the Holmwood area Sandhill Crane flock continues to increase, with a record 450 counted 10 Dec (BMM, ph. DP, PEC); elsewhere, 8 were in Lafayette 28 Dec (ph. DP, SS), 12 were near Maurice, Vermilion 3 Feb (ph. EIJ), and 9 were near Loranger, Tangipahoa 3 Jan+ (ph. RM). Shockingly, the latter flock was accompanied by a wayward Whooping Crane sporting a satellite transmitter; the bird had originated from an introduced flock at Necedah N.W.R., Wisconsin and remained at the Louisiana site through 4 Mar (fide RPR, Richard Urbanek, ph. RM).

An American Golden-Plover near L. Arthur, Jefferson Davis 13 Dec (SWC, ph. DLD) was exceptionally late and, suspiciously, at a location where one was found mid-Oct. Seldom reported in winter, American Oystercatchers were detected at five barrier island locations from Belle Pass, Lafourche e. to Grand Terre East, Plaquemines 20 Dec (CGB, RS) and 5-11 Feb (DPM, BMM, SWC, ph. DLD, RDe), with 2-5 per site except for an exceptionally large flock of 25 at Grand Isle, Jefferson 11 Feb (DPM). Unusual in winter away from the immediate coast, Semipalmated Plovers were noted near Thornwell 7 Dec (SWC, ph. DLD, BMM) and near Crowley, Acadia 25 Feb (ph. PEC, DP). During intensive plover surveys on Louisiana's barrier islands, 37 Wilson's Plovers were found from Timbalier I., Terrebonne e. to Grand Terre East 5-7 Feb (SWC, ph. DLD, DPM et al.), a much larger-than-expected winter presence; in *Cameron*, one was present at Rutherford Beach 7 Dec (vt. JWB, CJ), and one and 3 were at East Jetty on 28 Jan (DBo, JB) and 19 Feb (SWC, ph. DLD), respectively.

Scarce-in-winter Arkansas shorebirds included 20 Lesser Yellowlegs in *Poinsett* 2 Dec (NA, DB), 3 Spotted Sandpipers at Pine Bluff 27 Dec (DS, RD, WS), 250 Least Sandpipers nw. of Arkansas City 25 Dec (D&SB), and approximately 75 Dunlins near Cash, *Craighead* 2 Dec (NA, DB). Sixteen American Woodcocks (flushed using dogs in 1.5 hours) in Yell 17 Feb (Jack Davis) was a relatively high count for Arkansas and thought to involve a buildup of northbound migrants.

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A wintering Laughing Gull at L. Dardanelle remained through 25 Feb (K&LN). An imm. Franklin's Gull near Cameron 1 Feb (SWC, ph. DLD) was the only report. A second-cycle Thaver's Gull at L. Dardanelle dam, Yell/Pope 28 Jan+ (ph. K&LN, Cameron Cox et al.) was about the 3rd for Arkansas, and a first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull there 10 Dec (ph. KN. David Arbour. Berlin Heck) furnished about the 6th state record. Although gradually becoming more regular in winter on the coast, more noteworthy slightly inland Louisiana Lesser Black-backed Gulls included sightings of single ads. (some possibly involving the same bird) at flooded fields in Lafayette 28 Dec (MJM), Vermilion 20 Jan (JB, DBo), and Acadia 31 Jan (DLD, SWC), 3 different individuals at a landfill near Abbeville, Vermilion 17 Jan-25 Feb (ph. PEC), and one near Morgan City, St. Mary 8 Feb (ph. M]M). Southeast Louisiana produces the vast majority of the state's Great Black-backed Gull records, and possibly up to 7 were encountered this winter in the Grand Isle region, including a near-ad, at Port Fourchon 20 Dec (MW), 2 ads. or near-ads. and a first-cycle imm. on the Timbalier Is. 6 Feb (ph. BMM, RDe, SWC, DLD), 2 first-cycle imms. on Grand Terre 7 Feb (SWC, vt. DLD), and a firstcycle imm. on Grand Isle 24 Feb (ph. JB, vt. DBo). Rare anywhere in the Region, Blacklegged Kittiwakes (all imms.) were noted in Arkansas at Murray lock and dam, Pulaski 29 Dec (ph. RD) and at L. Chicot, Chicot 6-7 Jan (ph. DB, DS); one in the Gulf of Mexico at Green Canyon block 610 on 24 Dec (ph. Brad Martin) provided one of relatively few offshore records.

Although continuing to expand northward in the Region, 2 White-winged Doves w. of Fayetteville, *Washington* 17 Feb (Kelly Chitwood) and one in *Bossier* 27 Feb (TD) provided the only reports outside s. Louisiana. One

or 2 Inca Doves at several locations in Pointe Coupee, e. Iberville, and St. Tammany 21 Dec-27 Feb (HLP, SWC, DLD, JB, DBo, RPR) were indicative that the species continues to spread eastward beyond sw. Louisiana. Increasingly erratic and possibly declining, 3 Common Ground-Doves in Orleans 23 Dec (PAW), 2 more on 2 Jan, and 2 in Plaquemines 15 Jan (both PAW, DPM) were the only reports. The bird of the season was Louisiana's first Mangrove Cuckoo along the Mississippi R. at Meraux, near Chalmette, St. Bernard 23-24 Dec (ph. GO, vt. DPM, vt. PAW, ph. IPS, ph. DP et al.). Declining and now a review list bird in Louisiana, 2-3 Burrowing Owls were seen intermittently at Grand Isle 19 Dec-24 Feb (CGB, Ell, DPM, vt. PAW, vt. DBo, ph. JB et al.). It was a relatively good winter for



Representing one of few well-documented North American winter records, and only the second for Louisiana, was this Bobolink in St. Martin Parish 20 January 2007. *Photograph* by Danny Dobbs.

Short-eared Owls in Arkansas, with at least five reports from across the state, including counts of 8 individuals each in *Poinsett* 22 Jan (DB) and *Arkansas* 10 Feb (DS); in Louisiana, in addition to several expected sw. reports, one at Grand Terre East 7 Feb (DPM, BMM, RDe) was a good find on the se. coast. The only nightjar reports were of a Whip-poor-will at Grand Isle 20 Dec (EIJ, CGB), a Chuckwill's-widow there 20 Dec and 3 Jan (RS, Vicki LeFevers, DPM, CR), and another "Chuck" at Oak Grove, *Cameron* 16 Dec (MW).

SWIFTS THROUGH VIREOS

The report of 2 Vaux's Swifts at University L., Baton Rouge 19 Jan (DBo, JB, ph. EIJ et al.) was consistent with the mid/late-winter appearances of a few there for the past several years. It was another exciting season for fall/winter hummingbirds in Louisiana, with approximately 750 individuals reported from late summer through winter, not including Ruby-throateds (primarily fide Tom Sylvest's Western Winter Hummer Summaries), and included at least 45 Buff-bellieds, an unprecedented 53 Calliopes, 9 Broadtaileds, and 7 confirmed Allen's. Highlights included an ad. male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Hammond, Tangipahoa 5 Jan-25 Feb (ph. Rusty & DeeDee Mahoney, ph. Walter Clifton, b. LB et al.) and a banded ad. male Anna's at River Ridge through 20 Jan (Mike & Sue Roberts, Nancy L. Newfield), the first Louisiana "returnee" of that species. An ad. female Anna's Hummingbird in Little Rock, Pulaski through the period (ph. Debby Haines, b. MP on 19 Feb, HP, Perk Floyd et al.) and an imm. male Rufous Hummingbird at Stuttgart, AR 7 Dec (b. H&MP) were the only non-Louisiana hummers reported.

Completely unexpected were up to 3 Least Flycatchers at Cane's Landing, Red R., Bossier lingering from late fall through 10 Jan (TD et al.); somewhat more typical were a few wintering in s. Louisiana, including near Ft. Jackson, Plaquemines 30 Dec (vt. PAW, CR), near Kaplan, Vermilion 2 Jan (vt. Jane Patterson et al.). and near Thornwell 20-21 Feb (ph. DLD, SWC). A Say's Phoebe in Greene, AR 18 Jan (ph. DB, NA) provided one of very few Arkansas winter records. Four Ash-throated Flycatchers in coastal Louisiana was about normal and included birds at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., Orleans 23 Dec (RS), New Orleans 13-14 Jan (vt. PAW, DPM et al.), s. of Guevdan, Vermilion 28 Jan (PEC, ph. DP, BMM), and W. Pointe a la Hache, Plaquemines 19 Feb (DPM, PAW). A relatively cooperative Great Kiskadee at Slidell, St. Tammany 31 Jan-20 Feb (Craig Lucker, vt. DBo, ph. JB, CGB, LB et al.) was about the 10th for Louisiana. Always exciting, a probable Couch's Kingbird was near Andrew, Vermilion 20-28 Jan (JB, vt. DBo, vt. PEC, ph. DP, BMM). At least 22 Western Kingbirds reported across s. Louisiana 13 Dec-19 Feb (SWC, vt. DLD, JVH, ph. Jim Johnson, ph. CGB, MW, ph. DPM, JWB, vt. PAW, vt. DBo, [B) was phenomenal. About 10 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in s. Louisiana (mainly Plaquemines) was fairly typical, but one in Faulkner, AR 20 Dec (Gail Miller) was quite a surprise. A Bell's Vireo located near Crowley 2 Jan (ph. DP, BF, SS) was the only report.

SWALLOWS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Grand Isle 20 Dec (Phil Stouffer) could have been a late migrant; singles at Baton Rouge 30 Jan (SWC, DLD) and in Assumption, LA 2 Feb (JVH) could have been wintering or very early spring migrants. A Cave Swallow near Madisonville, St. Tammany 17 Feb (CGB, vt. DBo, JB) was Louisiana's first well-documented winter record. Barn Swallows near Alexandria, Rapides 1 Jan (JVH) and in Plaquemines 28 Jan were probably wintering; individuals on 27 Feb in Concordia (RPR) and Bossier (TD) were considered early migrants. Redbreasted Nuthatch went completely unreported, but Brown Creepers persisted in good numbers after the fall influx, e.g., 24 at the Lake D'Arbonne S.P. area 19 Feb (DB, JB). Of 3 Rock Wrens that arrived at Arkansas's Millwood L. during the fall, one in Howard was last observed 3 Feb, and 2 in Hempstead/Little *River* stayed through the winter (all CM et al.). An estimated 400 Marsh Wrens flushed during a few hours of rice harvesting near Thornwell 5 Dec (SWC, DLD) attested to the incredible concentrations present in some fields during late fall and early winter. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Holla Bend N.W.R. 27 Dec (LA) and 2 at Stuttgart 9 Jan (WS, DS) were very late or rare wintering birds for Arkansas. A late Wood Thrush was near Cameron 13 Dec (SWC, DLD); another in Plaquemines 6 Jan (vt. PAW) was probably wintering.

Leading off a fair assortment of rare winter parulids were a Tennessee Warbler at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. 2 Jan (DPM, vt. PAW et al.) and a Northern Parula at Little Chenier, Cameron 16 Dec (ph. DP). A Yellow Warbler present at Lacassine N.W.R. since 1 Nov remained through at least 31 Jan (SWC, DLD, ph. JWB, MJM, BMM, DP); others were at Gibbstown, Cameron 16 Dec (ph. DP), near La Branche, St. Charles 29 Dec (Mahlon Ayme), and 8 km s. of Phoenix, Plaquemines 25 Jan (vt. GO). Surprisingly infrequent in Louisiana, an Audubon's Warbler was in New Orleans 25 Jan+ (Peter H. Yaukey, vt. PAW). Only one Black-throated Green Warbler, near Ft. Jackson 30 Dec (PAW, CR), was interesting, considering the relatively high numbers reported for some other rare-but-regular winter species, e.g., at least 10 Yellow-throated Warblers found in se. Louisiana 30 Dec-28 Jan (DPM, vt. PAW, RDP, J. T. Sylvest, LB et al). In Arkansas, a Palm Warbler at Holla Bend N.W.R. 20 Jan (K&LN) and 2 male Common Yellowthroats at Wapanacca N.W.R., Crittenden 24 Jan (DB) were good mid-winter discoveries, as were 3 Prairie Warblers, 5 Black-and-white Warblers, an American Redstart, 4 Ovenbirds, 4 Northern Waterthrushes, and 3 Yellow-breasted Chats in s. Louisiana.

Putting in an appearance for its 5th winter was a male Summer Tanager at Fayetteville 16 Feb (ph. Sara Caulk); one in Pearl River, *St. Tammany* 26 Dec (Jeanne & John Wilson) was, surprisingly, the only Louisiana report. A female Western Tanager visited a feeder in Baton Rouge 23 Feb+ (ph. Kevin Morgan et al.), and an ad. male did likewise in New Orleans 25 Feb (Nancy Dickson, ph. EW). Above-average numbers of American Tree Sparrows were detected in nw. Arkansas (MAM), including a high of 23 at Chesney Prairie Natural Area 26 Jan (JN, JW). A Clay-colored Sparrow in Metairie, Jefferson 14 Jan+ (ph. Beth Wiggins) provided one of few Louisiana late-winter records. A Henslow's Sparrow near Indian Bayou, Vermilion 20 Jan (vt. DBo, JB) added to mounting evidence of modest numbers wintering in "atypical" (non-pine) habitats. Other noteworthy sparrow concentrations included up to 8-10 Le Conte's in the Fayetteville area 4-10 Feb (JN) and 41 Harris's ("highest numbers since the 1960s") and 339 White-crowneds ("all-time high") on the Fayetteville C.B.C. 17 Dec (JN et al.). A Harris's Sparrow was farther s. than normal in extreme sw. East Baton Rouge 14 Jan (J. V. Remsen, D. Cagnolatti). Concentrations of Lapland Longspurs included 170 in the Maysville area 20 Jan (JN, MAM) and an estimated 1000 in Craighead 2 Dec (NA, DB). Good numbers of Smith's Longspurs were reported in n. Arkansas, with 4 transients at Fayetteville 2 Dec (MAM), 198 at Newport, Jackson 14 Feb (KN, BH), and 125 at Stuttgart 23 Feb (BH, Theo Whitsell).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Cameron 17 Dec (MW, ph. EIJ), another imm. male near L. Arthur 23-24 Jan (found moribund and died, *Dale & Zan Hollister), and a Black-headed Grosbeak at Bonnet Carre Spillway, St. Charles 1 Jan (RJS, MW) were casual winter visitors. It was a relatively good winter for Blue Grosbeak in Louisiana, with singles near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron (Don Jeane, Ken Sztraky) and at Cameron 17 Dec (MW, EIJ), at Bonnet Carre Spillway 13 Jan (RJS), at E. Pointe a la Hache, Plaquemines 15 Jan (PAW, DPM), and an ad. male at L. Martin, St. Martin 28 Jan (ph. DMD). An ad. male Lazuli Bunting at Luling, St. Charles 9 Dec (ph. RS) may have been the same wintering bird documented there sporadically since winter 2000-2001; amazingly, another ad. male appeared at a New Iberia, Iberia, feeder 9 Jan (ph. MJM), only the 5th ever (and only the 2nd from winter) welldocumented individual for Louisiana. No fewer than 25 Indigo Buntings were found on or near the Louisiana coast 2 Dec-4 Feb (DPM, vt. PAW, PEC, BMM, DP, vt. JWB, JB, DBo et al.); 16 were in Plaquemines, including a flock of 9 near Triumph 28 Jan (DPM, RDP, PAW). Even more astounding were at least 26 Painted Buntings across s. Louisiana 19 Dec-19 Feb (CGB, RJS, DPM, PAW, EW, Elias Landry, SWC, Cheryl Eberhardt, RDP, Tracey W. Sherry, JB, DBo, DP, Frank Rohwer, BF et al.). Two Dickcissels in Stuttgart 16 Dec (Gail Northcutt) were casual so far north; more expected were 4 in Louisiana: at Cameron 17 Dec (MW, ph. EIJ), near Duson, Lafayette 18 Jan (JWB, CJ), at Baton Rouge 31 Jan (SWC, DLD), and at L. Martin 24 Feb (ph. DMD).

Representing one of very few well-documented North American winter records and only the 2nd for Louisiana was a Bobolink at L. Martin 20 Jan (ph. DMD). Western Meadowlarks, infrequently detected in s Louisiana, were singing near Cameron 28 Jan (DBo, JB) and near Thornwell 21 Feb (SWC, DLD). An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Madisonville 28 Dec (Heydi Lopes, Pam Morgan, CGB) and 2 near Chloe, Calcasieu 20 Feb (PEC) were the only reports. One of the rarer winter orioles, an Orchard Oriole was even more extraordinary visiting suet at Fairfield Bay, Van Buren, AR 15 Jan-20 Feb (ph Jerry Goodman); 3 imm. males were also located in Plaquemines: E. Pointe a la Hache 15 Jan, Buras 28 Jan, and W. Pointe a la Hache 19 Feb (vt. PAW, DPM, RDP). Sixteen Baltimore Orioles in s. Louisiana 26 Dec-19 Feb (JVH, ph. BF, SWC, DLD, DPM, vt. PAW et al.) was above average and included 7 in St. Tammany 26-28 Dec (Renee Sawyer, LB, Joelle Finley, HLP et al.) and 5 wintering at one Baton Rouge residence (CF, vt. DBo, JB); more unusual was an ad. male at Hot Springs Village, Garland, AR late Jan-25 Feb (ph. Lu Otto) An ad. male Bullock's Oriole was an exciting yard visitor in Marrero, Jefferson 31 Dec-1 Jan (ph. Paul Wolf). Still unusual away from sw Louisiana, 6 Great-tailed Grackles were in Red River, Louisiana 1 Jan (ph. Jeff & Jean Trahan); a whopping 200 at Craig Fish Hatchery, Benton 20 Jan (JN, MAM) was impressive but not unprecedented in nw. Arkansas. Rusty Blackbirds at Cameron 28 Jan (DB, JB) and at Oak Grove 31 Jan (SWC, DLD) were unusual on the immediate coast.

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