



birds coming to his Fannin Co. feeder, for one day only, on 22 January. This was the only report of the season.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD MARCH–MAY 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

Once again, the spring season was highlighted by lingering rare birds discovered during the winter, and by some unexpected rare migrants. In general, sightings reported from the migration of neotropical songbirds were about average. I received few reports outside of the normal migration hot spots, and nothing out of the ordinary was reported from those spots. The highlight of the season was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird, which visited a feeder in the southern part of the state for several days in April. Luckily, the property owner was able to take photographs so that the record could be submitted and documented, making it the first state record for this species. Late departing birds in March included the Pacific Loon, Harris's Sparrow and Western Tanager. There was a higher than average number of reports of Black-billed Cuckoo and Connecticut Warbler, two birds that are notoriously difficult to find some years. A fortuitous fishing trip offshore turned up a rarely reported Sooty Shearwater, along with expected species. Several birders noted that breeding ranges seem to be extending for some species like Song Sparrow and Dickcissel, as evidenced by territorial birds being seen.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP- Sweetwater Creek State Park; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - Four birds were observed in Camilla, Mitchell Co., on 29 May by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn. The birds had been present



for several weeks and were first noticed by the property owner.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Four birds were still present on a farm pond near the town of Magruder on 5 March (Bob and Deb Zaremba). The seven birds that were wintering on a small pond in Coal Mountain, Forsyth Co., were still present at that location through 19 March (Jim Flynn). Eric Beohm reported a late sighting of a bird in Spalding Co. on 1 May.

MOTTLED DUCK - Mark Freeman reported a high count of seven birds from the AWMA near Darien on 21 May.

NORTHERN PINTAIL - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported finding a drake at the AWMA on 17 April, for a fairly late date for that location.

REDHEAD - Marion Dobbs had a high count of 59 birds at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 8 March.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Carole Lambert reported a male bird present through the end of May at ELHLAF.

GREATER SCAUP - Ken Blankenship reported finding a bird on the coast on 5 April. This would be a new late date for the coastal region, according to the ACOGB.

SURF SCOTER - Chuck Saleeby observed a drake at Lake Acworth on 14 March.

BUFFLEHEAD - Doris Cohrs reported finding a late migrating bird in Doboy Sound on 3 May.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Marion Dobbs observed a female bird at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 18 March, for a rare sighting from that location.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Doris Cohrs reported a bird in Doboy Sound on 3 May. Steve Calver and Peter Range found a bird on 27 May on Wassaw Island.

RUDDY DUCK - Jim Flynn had a high count of 325 birds seen in Wilkinson Co. on 26 March.

RUFFED GROUSE - Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard had a close encounter with an adult female bird and a dozen of her young on Ivy Log Gap Rd on 23 May. The female charged, and they wisely backed away. Bill and Karla O'Grady and Jim Hanna also encountered a female bird with eight young on 22 May on the same road. Their encounter sounded like it was much less threatening.

RED-THROATED LOON - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding six birds still at Tybee Island on 20 March. Offshore from Tybee Island, Russ Wigh counted 10 birds on a pelagic trip commencing 21 March.

PACIFIC LOON - The bird located in February by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn was still present at Lake Hartwell on 6 March (Dan Vickers; CRC records 2005-08A and 2005-08B).

COMMON LOON - Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz had a high count of more than 120 birds observed on Lake Lanier on 2 April. Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garret observed a bird at Henderson Park in DeKalb Co. on 8 May, and Sam Pate reported a bird in the Columbus area on 16 May.

EARED GREBE - One bird continued to be seen at Lake Hartwell through 6 March (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Jackie Heyda and Leslie Curran had a single bird at the JI causeway on 10 March, for an unusual occurrence at that location. Jim Flynn found

a bird in alternate plumage on a pond in Wilkinson Co. on 26 March. Patrick Brisse discovered a bird at ELHLAF on 9 April, which remained until 24 April.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Steve Calver reported finding one bird approximately 64 km offshore from the Savannah area on 22 May.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Steve Calver reported finding one bird on 22 May, approximately 64 km offshore.

NORTHERN GANNET - Steve reported a high count of 111 birds at Wassaw Island on 23 April. The latest report of this species was on 14 May, when Steve Calver observed two birds, also at Wassaw Island.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - There were widespread reports of this species during this season. From the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert observed nine birds from the JI causeway on 11 March. One bird was present at Crooked River State Park on 11 March (Dot Freeman), and again on 17 April (Jim Flynn and Earl Horn), and another was seen near the Sea Camp dock on Cumberland Island on 15 March (Chris Skelton). Brandon Noel found 13 birds on LSSI on 16 March, six of which remained through 3 May. Away from the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had an excellent count of 81 birds observed in Quitman Co. flying over the Chattahoochee River on 28 May.

AMERICAN BITTERN - The highest count reported was three birds seen at the ENWR on 23 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. Dan Roper had a good report of a bird seen at Arrowhead in northern Floyd Co. on 29 April.

LEAST BITTERN - The earliest report this season was a bird observed on 6 April on LSSI by Brandon Noel.

GREAT BLUE HERON - Mike Ivie reported finding 23 nests in Spalding Co. on 20 March. Also noteworthy were several nests found in the Atlanta area. This species rarely nests in suburban areas, so three nests found at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 21 April was unusual (Mark Davis). Patrick Brisse reported finding five nests in the Lawrenceville Highway area on 24 April.

GREAT EGRET - Chuck Saleeby observed a single bird on the early date of 14 March at Lake Acworth.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Joshua Spence found a bird in Murray Co. on 7 April, which was unusual for that part of the state.

TRICOLORED HERON - Paul Sykes reported an early migrating bird in Greene Co. on 3 April.

CATTLE EGRET - Paul Sykes was surprised to find two birds in northern Greene Co. on 31 March.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Although this species is becoming more common in the Piedmont during the spring, Joshua Spence's observation of two birds in Whitfield Co. in the Mountains region on 5 May was very interesting. Chris Loudermilk reported finding a bird in the McIntosh Reserve, Carroll Co., on 8 May.

GLOSSY IBIS - Walt Chambers discovered a bird near Columbus on 1 April, which is a rare sighting in the western part of the state.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The earliest report submitted was a bird returning

to LSSI on 30 March (Brandon Noel). Brandon reported finding two breeding plumaged birds at the same location on 12 April.

WOOD STORK - Unusual for the Columbus area, several birds were seen during the GOS spring meeting at Oxbow Meadows on 26 April (fide Walt Chambers).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Betty Belanger reported the earliest arriving birds on 11 March near Woodbine. John Cole reported a bird from the ENWR on 1 May, which was very unusual for that location.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Johnny McMahan had a very good count of more than 500 birds at Oxbow Meadows near Columbus on 28 April.

BALD EAGLE - Brandon Noel had a high count of six birds at LSSI on 5 March.

NORTHERN HARRIER - Terry Miller and Patrick Brisse reported a bird from Spalding Co. on the late date of 21 May.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Richard and Rose Beohm observed a bird in Upson Co. on 13 May (fide Eric Beohm). Eric also reported that he and Jessica observed a bird in Spalding Co. on 31 May.

MERLIN - A bird reported from the U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center in Blairsville on 21 May was a good find (fide Lisa Hurt).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Michael Bender reported observing a bird in Greene Co. on 30 April.

BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes reported hearing birds calling in a northern Greene County marsh on 1 May. He also heard two calling in the same area on 22 May.

COMMON MOORHEN - Carol Lambert reported finding a bird at ELHLAF in Clayton Co. on 18 April, and she had a high count of five birds at the same site on 1 May. This is the same area where the birds nested last year, which is rare for the Piedmont.

SANDHILL CRANE - There were very few reports this period. Ken Blankenship reported seeing 10 birds at KMT on 5 March. Anna Threadgill reported a large group of 100 birds flying north over Lake Lanier on 7 March. Three birds were seen flying north over Greene County on 13 March by Paul Sykes. Very late in the season, Kristen Street reported a bird in the Sagamore Hills neighborhood on 24 May, which remained through the end of the month (Wendy West).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Chris Skelton had a high count of more than 300 birds on Cumberland Island on 14 March. Also from the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a good high count of 200 birds on the JI causeway on 12 March. The highest inland count was from ELHLAF on 1 May, where Carol Lambert observed 18 birds.

PIPING PLOVER - Chris Skelton reported finding 12 birds on Cumberland Island on 17 March. The highest count of the season was 40 birds reported by Brandon Noel from LSSI on 24 April.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Brandon Noel reported an early bird at LSSI on 5 March.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a high count of 40 birds on the JI causeway on 13 March.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a good high count of 52 birds at



ELHLAF on 1 May.

WILLET - Joshua Spence had an excellent discovery of four birds in Murray Co. on 8 April. Walt Chambers found seven birds at West Point Dam on 22 April. The bird found at ELHLAF on 29 April was a good find by Carol Lambert, as the species is rarely reported inland.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Very unusual were the 12 birds found on Cumberland Island on 12 March by Dot Freeman, Betty Belanger, and Susan Blackwell. Also unusual were the four birds found in Gordon Co. on 4 April by Jim Eager. Mark Welford reported two birds from the sod farm in Bulloch Co. on 18 April. Jack Caruso reported finding several birds at Dobbins Air Force Base in Cobb Co. around 6 May, which is a very unusual sighting for that area.

WHIMBREL - Paul Sykes reported a good count of 80 birds on St. Catherine's Island on 16 May. Lydia Thompson had a high count of 558 birds at Gould's Inlet on St. Simons Island on 23 May.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Brandon Noel had a good count of three birds on LSSI on 5 March. Three birds were still present on Sapelo Island on 24 May (Sheila Willis).

RED KNOT - Steve Calver reported a high count of 662 birds seen on Wassaw Island on 15 April.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 180 birds seen at ELHLAF on 1 May.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Jeff Martin found a bird at Fort Yargo State Park on 16 May. Several reports from Bartow Co. include a single bird on 20 May and three birds on 31 May (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 26 birds at ELHLAF on 21 March.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The five birds reported by Tim Rose from Tybee Island were a good find on 25 March.

STILT SANDPIPER - Deb and Bob Zaremba found one bird in Bartow Co. on 20 May.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Mark Freeman had a high count of 33 birds in Jackson Co. on 12 March, for a good inland count of this species. Chuck Saleeby and Marion Dobbs had a good count of 50 birds in Floyd Co. on 30 April.

WILSON'S SNIBE - Paul Sykes flushed a late migrating bird in northern Greene Co. on 1 May.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - There are very few reports of this species each year, so a bird found at ELHLAF on 28 April was an excellent find by Carol Lambert. The bird remained through 1 May.

RED PHALAROPE - Steve Calver reported finding one bird on 22 May, approximately 64 km offshore.

PARASITIC JAEGER - Russ Wigh observed a bird in the shipping channel off JI on 22 March.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had an excellent report of a bird seen at Walter F. George Dam on 3 April. This species is rare in the state, and most



records are in the fall.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Unusual away from the large inland lakes, five birds seen at Lake Shamrock on 15 March (Carol Lambert) and four birds seen at ELHLAF on 22 March (Patrick Brisse) were good finds. Paul Sykes found a flock of 45 birds in a field beside a sandpit in northern Greene Co. following a severe rainstorm on 31 March. The flock of 200 birds seen at Lake Lanier on 2 April by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz was also a very good report.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Jim Flynn found a bird at Lake Lanier on 29 March, for a very rare inland sighting.

GULL-BILLED TERN - Brandon Noel had a high count of 12 birds on LSSI on 8 April.

LEAST TERN - A bird found at ELHLAF on 31 May by Carol Lambert was an excellent find, as the species is very rarely seen inland. Bobby Crawford submitted a very interesting report of a dozen birds nesting on building rooftops in the Thomasville area in May (fide Terry Moore).

BLACK TERN - Steve Barlow reported finding a bird at ELHLAF on 30 May.

BLACK SKIMMER - A report of one bird seen at Walter F. George Dam by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn on 29 May was a good find. This species is very rarely found inland.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Brandon Noel reported finding a bird on LSSI on 6 April. Helena Wood and Richard Hester reported hearing one or possibly two birds in Brooks Co. on 14 May. One bird returned to Marjorie Clark's yard on JI on 16 May, but did not remain long.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - John Jensen and Ken Van Hoy discovered a nest that contained two chicks in Telfair Co. at Horse Creek WMA on 18 May.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - There were three reports of birds seen this season. The first was on 4 May at the ELHLAF Wetlands Center by Carol Lambert. Georgann Schmalz reported finding a bird at Pine Log WMA on 7 May. The last report was a bird found at KMT, also on 7 May, by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - Paul Sykes had a good count of 12 birds in northern Greene Co. on 22 May.

BARN OWL - A bird was found nesting on Sapelo Island on 3 May (Doris Cohrs), which was unusual for the barrier islands.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - An early bird was reported from Monroe Co. on 25 March by Nathan Klaus.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - The most exciting report this season was the bird visiting a feeder in southwest Georgia. The homeowner photographed the bird, which was visiting a feeder from 1-4 April, in Pavo, Brooks Co. (fide Brad Bergstrom). This is the first accepted record for this rare hummingbird in the state (CRC record 2005-10).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - The earliest reported bird was on 13 March by Kate Swiderski in Valdosta.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Steve Calver reported that the male bird wintering in his yard was last seen on 1 April. Amazingly, Steve also reported that

a female arrived in his yard on 3 April and departed on 4 April.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - A male was still present at a feeder in Houston Co. on 6 March (Jerry and Marie Amerson, Virginia Flatau).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds at the historical nesting location in Dillard near the Little Tennessee River on 21 May. Also on that date, Lisa Hurt reported finding a bird behind a Subway store in Blairsville. Also at the traditional nesting site in Blairsville, Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard found a bird on territory in the Ingles Shopping Center parking lot on 23 May.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding two birds at Sky Valley, Rabun Co., on 21 May. Also from the mountains, Betty Belanger reported finding a bird in Suches, Union Co., on 26 May.

EASTERN KINGBIRD - The earliest report was on 13 March from Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta, where Brad Bergstrom found one bird.

GRAY KINGBIRD - John Galvani reported that the birds were back at the Convention Center on JI on 3 May.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - David Heyden found a bird at the Robinson Nature Preserve in Cobb Co. on 7 May, which remained until 8 May. Mark Davis found a bird in Bartow Co. on 19 May. Michael and Eric Beohm found one bird in Spalding County on 21 May. There were two birds back at the nesting site in Henry Co. on 21 May (v. ob).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - This species is very rarely reported in the spring, so a report of three birds in the Cohutta Wilderness area in Murray Co. on 6 May was an excellent find by Joshua Spence and Max Medley.

RED-EYED VIREO - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 57 birds seen at KMT on 5 May.

COMMON RAVEN - Mary Ellen Myers reported a bird from Ivy Log Gap Road on 20 April. At the more usual location of Brasstown Bald, Dot Freeman and Betty Belanger heard a bird calling on 7 May. Chris Hughes and James Hobbs found a bird along Warwoman Road in Rabun Co. on 22 May.

TREE SWALLOW - John Jensen reported that he and Ken Fahey discovered nesting birds on private property in Suches, Union Co., on 14 May. This species nests occasionally in the state, and it seems that the number of nesting reports is increasing.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - The earliest reports were from Paul Johnson in Bibb Co. (5 March) and Terry Moore in Smyrna (7 March).

BARN SWALLOW - A bird found at Lake Hartwell on 5 March was the earliest reported for the Piedmont (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Giff Beaton reported a high count of five birds at KMT on 19 April. At least one bird was still present at KMT on 12 May. In the mountains, birds were reported from Rabun County on 21 and 22 May (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Chris Hughes and James Hobbs).

BROWN CREEPER - There were two rather late reports of this species. Giff Beaton reported a bird on 7 May from KMT, and Vickie DeLoach reported two birds on 30 May from Sweat Mountain, Cobb Co. Both of these dates are later than the current

extreme date for the Piedmont, according to the ACOGB.

WINTER WREN - Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard heard two birds singing at Brasstown Bald on 23 May.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn found one bird in Rabun Co. on 21 May, which was either a very late migrant or a possible breeding bird.

VEERY - The earliest report was from the coast, where Doris Cohrs found a bird near Darien on 25 April.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Giff Beaton, Deb Zaremba, and Mark Oberle had a high count of 17 birds heard during a nocturnal count at KMT on 11 May. Michael Bell had an interesting report of a late migrating bird in Decatur Co. on 25 May.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Giff Beaton, Deb Zaremba, and Mark Oberle had a high count of 412 birds heard during a nocturnal count at KMT on 11 May.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Ken Blankenship had an exceptionally early sighting of a bird on the coast on 5 April. This would be a new early date for the Coastal Region, according to the ACOGB. Debbie Zaremba reported a high count of six birds from KMT on 27 April.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - There were multiple reports of one to two birds seen at KMT between 22 April and 10 May (fide Giff Beaton).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 15 birds at KMT on 28 April.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The earliest report was from KMT on 26 March, where two birds were observed (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Giff Beaton had a high count of 28 birds from the same location on 29 April.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Giff Beaton and Deb Zaremba reported a high count of 14 birds at KMT on 27 April. David Heyden observed a late migrating bird at the Robinson Nature Preserve in Cobb Co. on 28 May, which tied the late date for the Piedmont.

CERULEAN WARBLER - The earliest reported bird was on 5 April at KMT, a new early date for that location (fide Giff Beaton). Giff Beaton and Deb Zaremba had a high count of 10 birds at KMT on 13, 14 and 27 April.

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 10 birds at KMT on 19 April.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - The State Botanical Garden in Athens was a reliable location to see and hear this species this spring. Bill and Karla O'Grady and Charles Scarborough discovered a bird there on 17 April, which remained and was seen by many observers throughout the period.

OVENBIRD - Brad Bergstrom found a bird at Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta on 13 March.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Doris Cohrs found a very early bird near Darien on 22 March.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - The earliest reported bird was from Taylor Co., where Giff Beaton found a bird on 14 March.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - It was a good season for this often overlooked



species. The first report was from Clyde Shepard Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co., where Jeff Madsen found a bird on 1 May. Eric Beohm found one bird in Spalding Co. on 4 May, and another bird in the same area on 23 May. Giff Beaton reported finding a bird at KMT on 11 May. Pierre Howard, Stan Chapman, and Al Mercer found another bird at the same location on 16 May.

HOODED WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 28 birds at KMT on 25 April.

WILSON'S WARBLER - The only report was from Jim Flynn and Earl Horn, who found a male bird on 21 May in Rabun Co.

CANADA WARBLER - Several people reported finding birds on Brasstown Bald in late May, one of the few easily accessible areas in which this species breeds in the state (v.ob.).

SCARLET TANAGER - Deb Zaremba and Giff Beaton had high counts of 21 birds at KMT on 19 and 22 April.

WESTERN TANAGER - The bird visiting a yard in Macon was last seen on 24 March (fide Jerry Amerson; CRC record 2005-06).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - This species is rarely found away from its typical habitat of piney woods, so two reports this season were excellent. Theresa Hartz had a very rare report for the Mountain region, observing a bird in the Big Canoe area on 29 April. Giff Beaton found one bird at KMT on 6 May.

VESPER SPARROW - Chris Loudermilk had a high count of four birds at SCSP on 25 March.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Michael Bell had a high count of seven birds at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 9 April.

SONG SPARROW - Paul Sykes reported a singing male in northern Greene Co. on 22 May. This site is about 25 miles south of the known breeding range for this species in that part of the state.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Jim Hanna reported finding a bird at the State Botanical Garden in Athens on 5 May.

HARRIS'S SPARROW - The bird visiting a retirement community in Athens remained until 24 March (fide Jeff Sewell; CRC record 2006-04).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Bryan Fobbus reported finding a bird in Houston Co. on 14 March.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 15 birds at KMT on 22 and 23 April. Rose and Jerry Payne reported last seeing a bird in their yard in western Bibb Co. on 7 May.

BLUE GROSBEAK - Paul Sykes had a high count of 25 birds in northern Greene Co. on 24 April.

INDIGO BUNTING - Russ Wigh had an early arriving male bird on 1 March at Tybee Island. Rose and Jerry Payne reported a high count of 17 male birds in their yard in the Macon area on 21 April. Deb Zaremba and Giff Beaton reported a high count of 13 at KMT on 11 May.

PAINTED BUNTING - Russ Wigh had an early arriving female bird on 1 March at Tybee Island. Karen Theodorou discovered a male bird behind the bird store in





Duluth, Gwinnett Co., on 24 May. This was a very rare sighting for the Atlanta area, and adds to the string of interesting birds seen at that location over the past several years.

DICKISSEL - Eric and Michael Beohm had a good count of 10 birds in Spalding Co. on 8 May. Paul Sykes reported a singing male in the edge of a pasture in northern Greene Co. on 22 May, which was an unusual sighting for that location.

BOBOLINK - Eric Beohm had a high count of more than 300 birds in Spalding Co. on 4 May.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - Several birds were still lingering at the Oxbow Meadows site near Columbus as late as 26 April.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had a high count of 15 birds in Grady Co. on 13 March.

PURPLE FINCH - Mike Chapman reported having 12 birds at his feeder in Glynn Co. as late as 6 March, which is uncommon for the coast. Giff Beaton reported a high count of 27 birds at KMT on 5 April.

RED CROSSBILL - Tom Striker reported a group of six birds observed in Fannin Co. on 16 March.

PINE SISKIN - Mike Chapman reported four birds at his feeder in Glynn Co. through 6 March, which was a rare sighting in the Coastal Region. Rick and Sandy Krause had a good count of 25 birds in Lilburn on 9 March. Giff Beaton reported a high count of 19 birds at KMT on 5 April. The latest date reported was 11 May from KMT (fide Giff Beaton).

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD JUNE–JULY 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This summer's sightings were certainly influenced by the early hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico. On 10 July, a category three hurricane made landfall on the Florida Panhandle. Hurricane Dennis moved quickly across Florida and skirted the western part of Georgia, producing high winds and rain. As is sometimes the case with fast moving storms, several species from the sea were pushed inland to the larger lakes prior to and following the passage of Hurricane Dennis. Along with the unusual occurrence of pelagic species inland that resulted from the hurricane, our knowledge of offshore pelagic species was expanded by boat trips several birders undertook. Typically, we have very few rarities reported during the breeding season, but a Curlew Sandpiper on Little St. Simons Island in

