

FROM THE FIELD

MARCH-MAY 2013

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification or acceptance of a record. Observations of Review Species need to be documented and a rare bird report submitted to the Georgia Checklist and Records Committee (GCRC) for consideration.

Spring 2013 was cool and wet, with many areas of severe drought eliminated for the first time since September 2010. Among the many bird highlights of the period were two first state records, 2 McCown's Longspurs in Macon Co., and a Short-tailed Hawk in Liberty Co., as well as the first Dovekie since 1950. Several backyard rarities were also found, with the cream of the crop being a Long-eared Owl in Clarke Co., 2 Evening Grosbeaks in Fannin Co., and 3 different Bullock's Orioles.

Abbreviations: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, G. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AIC - Andrews Island Causeway and spoil site, Glynn Co.; AP - American Proteins settling ponds, Forsyth Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh Co.; BCL - Bartow Co. Loop, a cluster of sod farms and cattle ponds on Brandon Farm Road and Taff Road, west of Cartersville; BUENWR - Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CCWA - Clayton Co. Water Authority; CINS - Cumberland Island National Seashore, Camden Co.; CLRL - Carter's Lake Re-regulation Lake area, Murray Co.; COP - Centennial Olympic Park, Fulton Co.; CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; CSU - Cochran Shoals Unit of the CRNRA, Cobb Co.; GI - Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, Glynn Co.; HP - Henderson Park, DeKalb Co.; JI - Jekyll Island, Glynn Co.; JIBS - Jekyll Island Banding Station, Glynn Co.; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; LCI - Little Cumberland Island, Camden Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island, Glynn Co.; LTI - Little Tybee Island, Chatham Co.; LWFG - Lake Walter F. George, Clay Co.; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds, Richmond Co.; m. ob. - multiple observers; MSS - Marshallville Super Sod Farm, Macon Co.; MWSS (Mid-winter Shorebird Survey of the Georgia coast); *NAB* - *North American Birds* (journal of the American Birding Association); NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; OM - Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, Muscogee Co.; PCR - Pine Chapel Road, Gordon Co.; ph. - photographed; PSNP - Phinizy

Swamp Nature Park, Richmond Co.; Region - when capitalized, refers to Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; SBG - State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Clarke Co.; SCI - St. Catherines Island, Liberty Co.; SF - sod farm; SP - State Park; SSI - St. Simons Island, Glynn Co.; TI - Tybee Island, Chatham Co.; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WPD - West Point Dam, Harris and Troup cos.

Note: Species that appear in a **bold-faced font** represent those that were considered “review” species by the GCRC during the year of the sighting. This list changes from year to year. The current review list may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.gos.org/checklists/reportables.html> GCRC activity, including the status of reports listed as “pending” as of press time, may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.gos.org/checklists/gcrc-activity.html>

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK - The maximum count from AWMA was 82 on 25 April (Paul Sykes). The highest inland counts came from Lee Co. on 22 May, with 23 on Pinewood Road and an amazing 63 from Lagg Road (both Wayne Schaffner). Elsewhere, 10 were at Tolomato Causeway Pond, McIntosh Co., on 21 April (Steve and Rachel Holzman), 2 were in Lowndes Co. on 22 May (Samuel Ewing), 3 were in Douglas, Coffee Co., on 23 May (Annette Bittaker), and 6 were at PSNP on 28 May (Jim Hanna).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The long-staying bird in Heath Park, Muscogee Co., remained throughout the period (m. ob.).

SNOW GOOSE - Reported from 7 locations across the state, the highest count was 41 from Eastbank Campground, Decatur Co., on 9 March (Sunny Phillips). A late bird was seen in Glynn Co. on 21 April (Gene Keferl).

SNOW x ROSS'S GOOSE - One was reported from Bell Lake, Oconee Co., on 21 March (R Lavender).

ROSS'S GOOSE - One was reported from Lake Acworth, Cobb Co., on 18 April (Nikki Belmonte, Joel McNeal; GCRC 2013-33).

TUNDRA SWAN - The immature bird at AWMA was last reported on 4 March (Sandy Beasley, Brenda Brannen).

GADWALL - One at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Putnam Co., on 10 May is a new late date for the Piedmont (Matthew Schenk).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - A pair was present at Huie Ponds, CCWA, until the end of the period (Carol Lambert).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - One at Fagala Road Pond, Murray Co., on 27 April is a new late date for the Ridge and Valley (Joshua Spence).

CANVASBACK - The only report for the period was 19 at George T. Bagby SP, Clay Co., on 2 March (Nathan Farnau, Joel McNeal).

REDHEAD - One in Murray Co. on 22 April (Joshua Spence) is a late date for the Ridge and Valley, and 3 at Dockery Lake, Fannin Co., on 15 May (Charlie Muise) is a new state late date.

RING-NECKED DUCK - One seen on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Echols Co. on 22 May (Charlie Muise) is late for the Coastal Plain. A male at Huie Ponds, CCWA, was present until the end of the period (Carol Lambert).

GREATER SCAUP - Reported from 7 locations from the interior of the state, the only reports of multiple birds were 8 at Lake Chapman, Clarke Co., on 23 March (Richard Hall) and 26 at Bear Creek Reservoir, Jackson Co., on 31 March (Mirko Basen). One on the BCL on 16-18 May (Rebecca Byrd, m. ob.) is a new state late date.

LESSER SCAUP - The latest report was of one at a private site in Murray Co. on 23 May (Joshua Spence).

SURF SCOTER - The latest report was one from Ossabaw Island, Chatham Co., on 27 April (Cory Gregory).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - One at CINS on 22 May is a new state late date (Gene Keferl).

BLACK SCOTER - An unusual number lingered at the Coast throughout May, and were reported from 6 locations spanning CINS to TI; the latest report was 7 on LTI on 26 May (Nathan Lellouche).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - The only report for the period was one at Lake Lanier, Forsyth Co., on 7 March (Jim Flynn).

COMMON MERGANSER - The continuing female was last seen at CLRL on 24 March (m. ob.; GCRC 2013-17).

RUDDY DUCK - Late for the Coastal Plain, 3 were still at Lake Mayer, Chatham Co., on 17 May (Larry Carlile).

RED-THROATED LOON - The only inland report was of one at Lake Varner, Newton Co., on 29 March (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell).

HORNED GREBE - Late-lingering individuals were observed at Lake Herrick, Clarke Co., on 18 May (Richard Hall) and CLRL the same day (Derrick Ingle, Joshua Spence).

EARED GREBE - One was at AIC on 4 April (Gene Keferl).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - One was reported from the south tip of JI on 30 April (Dennie McClure) and one was seen from LSSI on 18 May (ph., Abby Sterling).

GREAT CORMORANT - The wintering bird was last observed on 2 March (Nathan Farnau, Joel McNeal; GCRC 2012-47).

ANHINGA - North of the Fall Line, one was at the Athens-Clarke Co. Landfill on 26-28 March (ph., Richard Hall), 2 were on Big Creek Greenway, Fulton Co., on 28 March (ph. Toni Bowen), one was at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Putnam Co., on 9 April (Matthew Schenck), and one was at the Conasauga River Bottoms, Murray Co., on 22 April (Joshua Spence).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Inland, 4 were at LWFG on 6 March (Walt Chambers), 2 were at PSNP on 21-25 March (Ruth Mead, m. ob.), 25 were in Laurens Co. on 21 April (Jerry and Marie Amerson), and 7 were seen at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Putnam Co., on 23 May (Brian Cooke, Matthew Schenck). A tagged individual that hatched in Idaho in 2012 was found on Little Egg Island Bar, McIntosh Co., in April, and becomes the first Georgia record of a bird from the Pacific Flyway (Tim Keyes). An impressive 280 were counted at the Brunswick Dredge Island on 23 May (Tim Keyes).

AMERICAN BITTERN - Reported widely across the state, the latest inland records were one in the Etowah Bottoms, Dawson Co., on 11 May (Georgann Schmalz) and one at PSNP the same day (m. ob.). The last coastal record was one at AWMA on 13 May (Cory Gregory).

LEAST BITTERN - North of the Fall Line, the only reports were one at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve, DeKalb Co., on 17-18 April (Jeff Sewell, m. ob.), and one in northern Greene Co. on 27 April (Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd, Trey McCuen, Paul Sykes).

GREAT BLUE HERON - Far from its usual south Florida haunts, a "Wurdemann's" Great Blue Heron was on Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., on 20 April (ph., Maureen Leong-Kee, m. ob.).



**Wurdemann's Heron, Chatham Co., 20 April,
by Maureen Leong-Kee**

SNOWY EGRET - Above the Fall Line, single birds were seen in Oconee Co. on 30 April (John Whigham) and Ward Road, Greene Co., on 27 May (R Lavender, Ben Williams).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - North of the Fall Line, 2 were seen at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve, DeKalb Co., on 16 April (Marko Bajic, Christina Brosius), one was at CSU on 25 April (Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd) and 3 were at the University of Georgia Plant Sciences farm, Oconee Co., on 28 April (Steve and Rachel Holzman).

TRICOLORED HERON - Rare above the Fall Line, one was in George Pierce Park, Gwinnett Co., on 9 May (Chris O'Neal).

CATTLE EGRET - Once considered a rarity in the Ridge and Valley, birds were recorded at 4 different sites between 14 April and 25 May (m. ob.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Rare in the eastern Piedmont, one at Lake Chapman, Clarke Co., on 26 May (Clark Jones) was notable.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - A nesting pair was found in the unlikely location of a Cobb Co. subdivision on 12 April (Giff Beaton).

GLOSSY IBIS - Accidental in the Piedmont, one was at Huie Ponds, CCWA, on 9 May (Steve Mitchell).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - A mixed kite flock of 70 birds near Glennville, Tattnall Co. on 25 April contained mostly this species (Todd Schneider).

GOLDEN EAGLE - A subadult was seen on Brawley Mountain, Fannin Co., on 17 May (Giff Beaton), almost a month later than the state late date for spring migrants listed in ACOGB.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK - This spectacular first state record, a light morph, was found in Hinesville, Liberty Co., on 27 April-4 May (Nicole Janke, m. ob.; GCRC 2013-29).



Short-tailed Hawk, Liberty Co., 28 April,
by Dan Vickers

BLACK RAIL - This species was absent for the third consecutive spring in the former breeding site in northern Greene Co. (Paul Sykes).

KING RAIL - North of the Fall Line, one was reported at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve from 22 March - 10 April (Jeff Sewell, m. ob.).

VIRGINIA RAIL - In the Ridge and Valley, 1-2 birds were on private property in Murray Co. from 8 March - 30 April, and one was at Polecat Creek, Murray Co., on 13 May (all Joshua Spence).

COMMON GALLINULE - Above the Fall Line, this species was recorded regularly from CCWA with a high count of 5 on 11 March (Jeff Sewell) and one was at Drummond Swamp, Bartow Co., on 20 May (Aija Konrad).

AMERICAN COOT - A notable count given the relatively late date, 69 were still present at AWMA on 25 April 2013 (Paul Sykes).

LIMPKIN - One was at a private site in Millen, Jenkins Co., on 16 April (ph., Amanda Holland; GCRC 2013-26).

SANDHILL CRANE - A large flight of over 8600 birds over MSS on 4 March is a new state high count (James Fleullan).

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Always a rare sight inland, 2 were at Planterra Ridge Country Club, Fayette Co., on 28 April (Leon and Debbie Canup).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A new state high count of 385 was documented at AIC on 4 April (Gene Keferl).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - The only inland report was 8 birds on the BCL on 19 May (James White).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - One was at Fite Bend Road, Gordon Co., on 17 March (Mark McShane), 2 were there on 24 March (Jim Flynn), and one on 3 April (Max Medley). The first Clarke Co. record touched down briefly in Athens on 18 March (James Neves). After an initial sighting of 4 at Braswell Church Road, Walton Co., on 24 March (Jim Hanna), numbers climbed to 12 on 26 March (Mark McShane) and dwindled until just one remained on 1 April (John and Nancy Crosby). Two were on the BCL on 24-31 March (Bruce and Traci Dralle, Mark McShane). The last report was one at Dias Road Pond, Baker Co., on 5 May (Wayne Schaffner).

WILLET - The only inland reports were 6 at CLRL on 27 April (Derrick Ingle) and one on the BCL on 3 May (Pat Markey).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Single birds were seen on Astondale Road, Oconee Co., on 1-7 April (Mark Freeman, m. ob.), BCL on 1-3 April (Aija Konrad, Max Medley) and 4 May (Joel McNeal), Charlie Bolton Road on 9-15 April (Mirko Basen, James Neves), and AP on 6 May (Jim Flynn). An excellent spring count, 12 were at Yuchi WMA, Burke Co., on 16 April (Brenda Brannen).

WHIMBREL - Postel, a bird tagged on LSSI last spring, returned to the same area on 24 April, having bred in the high Arctic and wintered in Brazil. Two birds, Cabretta and McKay, were captured and fitted with transmitters on SSI on 13 May (*vide* Tim Keyes).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The only report was 2 on LSSI on 24 March (Gary Allport, Wendy Paulson).

STILT SANDPIPER - The highest coastal counts were 34 at AWMA on 11 May (Bob Sattelmeyer) and 36 at AIC on 12 May (Gene Keferl). Birds were seen inland at Laramore Road, Lee Co., from 18 April-15 May (m. ob.), with a maximum of 3 on 21 April (Wayne Schaffner). Two birds were at MSS on 14 May (Walt Chambers).

SANDERLING - Inland, one was on the BCL on 5 May (Shannon Fair, Patty McLean, Kathy Miller).

DUNLIN - Inland, one was in northern Greene Co. on 14 April (Jim Hanna,

Paul Sykes), 2 were at Apalachee Road Pond, Morgan Co., on 5 May (Mirko Basen), and single birds were on the BCL on 5 May (Shannon Fair, Patty McLean, Kathy Miller) and 18 May (Jim and Allison Healy).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - One was in Baker Co. on 11 May (Wayne Schaffner).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Inland, birds were reported from Baker, Bartow, Forsyth, Lee and Macon Counties from 11-28 May, with a maximum count of 23 on Laramore Road, Lee Co., on 14 May (Wayne Schaffner). Reports from the coast spanned 7- 29 May, with a maximum count of 9 at AWMA on 12 May (Cory Gregory).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER - One on Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., on 1 April is a new state early date (Russ Wigh).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Inland, 3 were at AP on 13 May (Georgann Schmalz) and one was at Laramore Road, Lee Co., on 15 May (Tod Lanier, Wayne Schaffner).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - The only inland report was 4 on Braswell Church Road, Walton Co., on 5 May (Mirko Basen). An impressive single site count of 2024 was reported from AIC on 4 April (Gene Keferl).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - The earliest and latest reports for the period came from AWMA, with 3 on 8 April (Nathan Farnau, Steve Fox) and one on 16 May (Patty McLean). The high count of 19 was also recorded at AWMA on 9 April (Trey McCuen). Inland, a maximum of 7 were at Laramore Road, Lee Co., on 18 April (Wayne Schaffner), a maximum of 12 were on the BCL on 28 April (Nathan Farnau, Joel McNeal), and 2 were on Dias Road, Lee Co., on 5 May (Wayne Schaffner).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - Single birds were seen at North Georgia SF on 5 May (Patty McLean, Kathy Miller) and AIC on 12 May (Gene Keferl).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - One on the BCL on 5 May represents a new onshore early date for the species (Shannon Fair, Patty McLean, Kathy Miller). Other individuals were sighted on TI on 6 May (Diana Churchill) and AWMA on 10 May (Jim Hanna, Jim and Allison Healy).

PARASITIC JAEGER - The maximum counts of 5 came from LSSI on 25 and 29 March (Gary Allport, Wendy Paulson).



DOVEKIE - The first state record since 1950, one was found exhausted on TI on 7 April (Shannon Fair; GCRC 2013-25).

Dovekie, Chatham Co., 7 April, by Shannon Fair

RAZORBILL - One was found dead on JI South Beach on 13 April 2013 (Ethan Hatchett, Patrick Maurice, Angus Pritchard, Evan and Todd Schneider).

LAUGHING GULL - Inland, one was on the BCL on 28 April (Nathan Farnau, Joel McNeal), 3 were in Cooper Creek Park, Columbus, on 29 April (Walt Chambers), one was at LWFG on 2 May (Walt Chambers), and 2 were at Lake Chapman, Clarke Co., on 18 May (Richard Hall).

HERRING GULL - This species was reported from 6 inland sites; the latest report was one at Lake Chapman, Clarke Co., on 19 May (Mirko Basen).

GLAUCOUS GULL - The only reports were of single birds on TI, an immature on 14 March (ph., Marko Bajic, Christina Brosius) and an adult on 30 March - 8 April (ph., Diana Churchill, m. ob.; GCRC 2014-10).



**Glaucous Gull, Chatham Co., 30 March,
by Diana Churchill**

GULL-BILLED TERN - One seen at the JI Causeway on 10 March represents a new state early date (ph., Nathan Farnau, Joel McNeal).

CASPIAN TERN - Inland, 3 were at PSNP on 3 April (David Nicosia), 4 were at Margery Lake, Jasper Co., on 4 April (Katie Moore), and single birds were noted at BUENWR on 5 April (Walter Darmetko), WPD on 9 April (James White), and Hard Labor Creek SP, Morgan/Walton Co., on 25 May (Phil Delestrez).

BLACK TERN - One was at Raccoon Key, Chatham Co., on 27 May (Cory Gregory).

COMMON TERN - Rare inland in the spring, 6 were positively identified at Lake Lanier, Hall Co., on 18 May (Jim Flynn).

FORSTER'S TERN - Reported from 8 inland sites, the highest inland count was an impressive 97 at WPD on 17 March (Jim Flynn).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Single birds were in Americus, Sumter Co., on 25 April (ph., Phil Hardy) and Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Co., on 1-2 May (ph., Robin Brown).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - Unusual for the Ridge and Valley, one was in Sam Smith Park, Bartow Co., on 18 May (ph., Jim and Allison Healy). In the upper Piedmont, 2 were in Walton Co. on 26 April, and 3 were in northern Greene Co. on 27 April (Paul Sykes).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - One in Johns' Homestead Park, DeKalb Co., on 7 April ties the early date for the Piedmont in ACOGB (Jeff Sewell).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Single birds were reported from Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve, DeKalb Co., on 20 April (Laurie Findlay, m. ob.), Bridges Forest, Fulton Co., on 25 April (James Sheffield), the Johnson Ferry Unit of CRNRA on 28 April (Jim and Allison Healy), and Powers Island, Fulton Co., on 14 May (Doug Murray).

LONG-EARED OWL - The first state record since 2005, one was a surprise find in an Athens backyard on 9 April (Krista Gridley; GCRC 2013-27).



Long-eared Owl, Clarke Co., 9 April, by Krista Gridley

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - One was found roosting in the urban oasis of COP on 17-20 April, with perhaps the same bird there on 9 May (Nathan Farnau). A pair was seen foraging in late morning of a sunny day on SCI on 23 May (Paul and Joan Sykes).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - The wintering individual in Macon was last seen on 12 April, a new state late date (Jim Ferrari).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - One remained in Marietta, Cobb Co., until 26 March (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - A second-year male was banded in Sharpsburg, Coweta Co., on 3 April (Rusty Trump; GCRC 2013-23).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - The last bird reported this season was a female in Cherokee Co. on 15 April (JoAnn King).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - The wintering bird was last seen on 20 March (Russ Wigh; GCRC 2013-10).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - One banded in Suwanee, Gwinnett Co., was re-sighted in March, setting a new longevity record for the species at 12 years and 3 months (Rusty Trump).

PEREGRINE FALCON - A pair was nesting again in March at the Suntrust Plaza in downtown Atlanta and a camera was set up to monitor the nest (*vide* Tim Keyes). One was at LWFG on 2 May (Walt Chambers).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - This species was first recorded at a regular nesting site in Blairsville, Union Co., on 5 May (m. ob.). Migrants were reported from Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve, DeKalb Co., on 11 May (Ernesto Carman), Ocmulgee National Monument, Bibb Co., on 12 May (Anne Armstrong, James Fleullan), the South Milledge Fields, Clarke Co., on 14 May (Richard Hall), and J. L. Lester WMA, Polk Co., on 25 May (Jim Flynn).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Three were at their traditional breeding site on Hale Ridge Road, Rabun Co., on 3 May (Kathy Miller, Patty McLean). One migrant was reported from a Coweta Co. yard on 18 May (James White).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER - One was in Dexter, Laurens Co., on 13 April (Melissa Carroll; GCRC 2013-28).



**Ash-throated Flycatcher, Laurens Co., 13 April,
by Melissa Carroll**

WESTERN KINGBIRD - The 2 wintering birds at Hutchinson Island, Chatham Co., were last reported on 14 March (Steve Calver).

GRAY KINGBIRD - First reported from south of Savannah, Chatham Co., on 20 April (Mary Lambright), birds were subsequently recorded at AWMA on 21 April (Gene Keferl)

and SSI from 24 April (Bob Sattelmeyer). A pair was found in downtown Savannah on 10 May (Steve Wagner).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - A pair returned to Sam Smith Park, Bartow Co., on 20 April and were still present at the end of the period (m. ob.). Individuals were seen at Champney Boat Ramp, McIntosh Co., on 5 May (ph., Cory Gregory, Fletcher Smith) and East Valley Road, Bartow Co. (the site of last year's nest), on 24 May (Pat Markey).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - One was observed capturing and impaling a female Bobolink in Gordon Co. on 17 May, a very large prey item for this species (Derrick Ingle).

WARBLING VIREO - One was at CSU on 6 May (Jim and Allison Healy).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Rare in the state in spring, one was on KMT on 12 May (Jeff Sewell, Ben Thesing).

BANK SWALLOW - The first report was 2 birds in Brunswick, Glynn Co., on 9 April (Lydia Thompson) and the last record was 17 in eastern Clarke Co., on 19 May (Richard Hall).

CLIFF SWALLOW - The first report was 3 at CLRL on 17 March (Joel McNeal, m. ob.).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Many birds lingered from this winter's irruption, with at least 30 birds still present on SCI on 20 April (m. ob.) and one bird still present in Valdosta, Lowndes Co., on 9 May (Marvin Smith).

BROWN CREEPER - Two birds were heard on Chestnut Mountain, Rabun Co., on 27 May (Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd). This species has previously bred at this site.

MOURNING WARBLER - An unusual record of 2 birds found together came from KMT on 15 May (Justin Neal, m. ob.). One was also in Catoosa Co. the same day (David Hollie) and one was in Meriwether Co. on 22 May (Pierre Howard).

AMERICAN REDSTART - One on LSSI on 24 March represents a new state early date (Gary Allport).

CERULEAN WARBLER - As usual, most observations came from KMT, where birds were recorded from 20 April-9 May (m. ob.), with a high count of 3 on 29 April (Nathan Farnau).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Rare in the Coastal Plain, one was at Fort Stewart, Liberty Co., on 9 May (Larry Carlile).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - One on LSSI on 28 March is a new early date for the Coast (Gary Allport).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - An excellent single-site count of 500 was noted at the J. W. Stevens Wetland Center, Bryan Co., on 21 March (Larry Carlile).

WILSON'S WARBLER - A wintering bird continued at the Stuart Avenue Pond, Dougherty Co., until 3 March (Roy Brown, Melissa Martin). Single migrants were seen at Reed Creek Park, Columbia Co., on 3 April (Mac McCall), Big Trees Forest Preserve, Fulton Co., on 8 May (Eran Tomer), Allatoona Creek, Cobb Co., on 12 May (Walter Darmetko), and Chamblee, DeKalb Co., on 24 May (Joan Ana-Leo, Steve Ehly).

LARK SPARROW - Two were in Jackson Co. on 23 March-3 April (Rachel Cass, m. ob.).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - One photographed at Glennville Water Treatment Facility, Tattnall Co., on 25 May (Gene Wilkinson), is a new late date for the Coastal Plain.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - One on CINS on 30 April is a new late date for the Coast (Ann Mahoney, Carol Ruckdeschel).

FOX SPARROW - A good count of 8 was at CSU on 10 March (Jim and Allison Healy).

SONG SPARROW - Two birds were on territory in northern Greene Co. from mid-April to late May; this species has not yet been documented breeding in the county (Paul Sykes).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - A wintering bird at Lily Pond Road, Dougherty Co., was last seen on 4 April (Wayne Schaffner). Single birds were at AP on 9 March (Jim Flynn), SBG on 5 April (Clark Jones), Polecat Creek, Murray Co., on 15 April (Joshua Spence), Panola Mountain SP on 27 April (m. ob.),

South Milledge Fields, Clarke Co., on 12 May (Richard Hall), and in an Athens backyard on 16 May (Mirko Basen).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - One showing characteristics of the western Oregon Junco subspecies was in Oconee Co. on 3 April (ph., Josiah Lavender).

SCARLET TANAGER - A scarce nester in the Piedmont, a female was seen on a nest in HP on 20 May (Jeff Sewell).

BLUE GROSBEAK - A new state high count of 55 was made at the North Application Fields, Muscogee Co., on 2 May (Mason Jarrett).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - One visited a Houston Co. backyard on 7 April (ph., Carolyn Yager).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Two were on Alma Road, Bulloch Co., on 2 March (Beth Schilling), 2 were on the BCL on 16 March (Mark McShane), and 3 were at Apalachee Road Pond, Morgan Co., on 27 March (Richard Hall, Mitchell Jarrett).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - Of several reported in the state's interior, the northernmost reports were of single birds at BUENWR from 6 March - 3 April (m. ob.).

ORCHARD ORIOLE - One was on Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., on 27 March (Russ Wigh), a new early date for the Coast.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE - Amazingly, 3 birds showed up at backyard feeders during the period: a first spring male was in Tucker, DeKalb Co., on 6-14 March (Jeff Sewell; GCRC 2013-30), an adult male was in Hinesville, Liberty Co., from 15-19 March (Nicole Janke; GCRC 2013-31), and another adult male was in Valdosta, Lowndes Co., on 5-6 April (Brad Bergstrom; GCRC 2014-12).



**Bullock's Oriole, Lowndes Co., 5 April,
by Brad Bergstrom**

RED CROSSBILL - This species visited feeders in Ellijay, Gilmer Co., from 24 March - 29 April, with a maximum of 8 observed on 27 April (Bill Schmid). Three were in Habersham Co. on 14 April (John Hintermister) and 2 were in Sheffield WMA, Paulding Co., on 26 May (Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd).

PINE SISKIN - Following this winter's invasion, birds were still present in good numbers throughout the state in early May. Two on Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., on 14 May, is a new late date for the Coast (Russ Wigh).

EVENING GROSBEAK - Two visited feeders in Epworth, Fannin Co., on 9-15 April, with one remaining until 2 May (Dave and Kathy Tickner, m. ob.).



**Evening Grosbeak, Fannin Co., 13 April,
by Mark McShane**

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