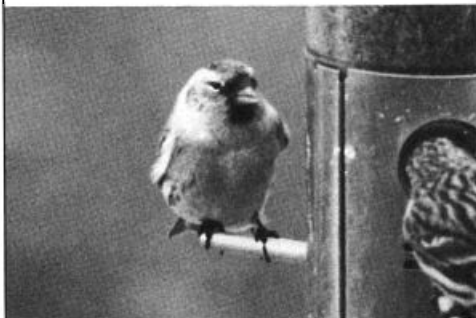


in *Franklin*, IA Feb. 20 (TK, RCe). Four Lapland's ranged E to *Tuscarawus*, OH, where they were seen Dec. 31 with two Snow Buntings (ES). Smith's Longspurs were reported only in Missouri, where 15 were found in rural *Cass* Feb. 6 (JG *et al.*) and one was at the Bilby Ranch, *Nodaway* Feb. 18 (KG, BJ). Out-of-range Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared in *De Witt*, IL Dec. 19–Jan. 9 (RP, MDe) and in *Springdale*, OH Dec. 16–Jan. 4 (*fide* NK). In concert with recent expansions into Missouri and Iowa, Illinois' second **Great-tailed Grackle**, an ad. female, appeared in *Murphysboro*, IL Jan. 23 (†TF, †CS).

Though winter finches were present in the best numbers in recent years, most correspondents were disappointed with the invasion. Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were the dominant invading species; the hoped for Pine Grosbeaks failed to appear. Modest to low numbers of Purple Finches appeared in every state; the peak count was 40 at Hooper Game Area, IA Jan. 29 (JSi). Despite the winter finch invasion there were only 3 Red Crossbill reports: 2 in Iowa (involving three birds) and about 20 birds w. of Popular Bluff, MO Feb. 6 (JG). White-winged Crossbills were equally scarce, with four birds at 2 Illinois locations and one–three that visited the Rienschneider feeder in South Bend, IN Dec. 1–Jan. 18. The dominant winter finch was



At Braidwood, Illinois, January 1, 1994, this male Common Redpoll (feeding with Pine Siskins) was one of the hundreds that invaded the region during this season. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

the Com. Redpoll, which was recorded in every state except Missouri. Maximum counts included 500 near L. James, IN Feb. 20 (BSI), 300 at *Orland*, IN Feb. 27 (Haw), 250 at *Clinton L.*, IL Jan. 29 (RCh), and 125 at *Hicksville*, OH Feb. 16 (MA). A bird showing characteristics consistent with Hoary Redpoll was carefully described as it visited a Du Page, IL feeding station Feb. 6 (MM, †ASk, BBx). Modest Pine Siskin counts were made in every state; the peak tally was 180 at *Caesar Creek*, OH Jan. 12 (LG). Following passage of last fall's Evening Grosbeak wave, a few winter birds were observed in every state except Missouri. The

high counts, which were concentrated e. of the Mississippi R., included 150 at *Mohican S.P.*, OH Jan. 29 (DDt), 110 in *Saline*, IL Feb. 3 (JDe), and 42 at *Murray*, KY Jan. 1 (WB).

Corrigenda

The nesting Golden-crowned Kinglets in *Medina*, OH during Summer 1993 (AB 47:1114) were reported as providing that state's 2nd confirmed breeding record. That statement should have read: provided Ohio's 2nd confirmed breeding record within the Middlewestern Prairie Region.

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Central Southern Region

STEPHEN J. STEDMAN

Following three consecutive winters of mild conditions, temperatures across the Region dipped to near normal levels this season. Rainfall in many areas exceeded seasonal norms and caused substantial flooding, but the meteorological event of the season was clearly mid-February's severe ice storm. It subjected vegetation in many northern sectors of the Region to lethal loads of frozen precipitation. A week after the storm, for instance, Memphis still resembled a war zone, with fully one-quarter of its large trees either felled or severely damaged. Effects on local avian populations remain unknown, but may have been considerable. Some important records will not be found in this report, primarily because necessary data were omitted by those submitting the records. Observers are especially reminded to include the dates of sightings with their re-cords; reference should also be made to the county/parish in which the sightings took place. Many thanks to the many observers, cited below, who carefully documented their sightings. Abbreviations: p.a. (*pending acceptance by the state bird records committee*).

Loons to Night-Herons

Santa Rosa, FL harbored a Red-throated Loon Dec. 12 (RAD), the only report of the season. A Pacific Loon in *Chicot*, AR Feb. 8 & 20 ((DRS) was the third locally; another appeared on the Gulf Shores CBC, AL Jan. 1 (RRR; p.a. A.R.B.C.). Sixty Com. Loons in *Baxter/Norfork* Jan. 8 (DM, JG) represented an "unprecedented number" (MP) in Arkansas during winter, while concentrations of 250 Horned Grebes in *Benton* Feb. 20 (MM) and 32 Eared Grebes in *Jefferson* Jan. 6 (LP, DZ) were similarly characterized. Eared Grebes were also present in *Livinston* and *Lafourche*, LA, while large numbers of Horned Grebes continued to winter on impoundments in Tennessee, perhaps partly explaining why this species "seem[s] to be in a continual decline" (RAD) in n. Florida. A Red-necked Grebe was noted in *Rankin*, MS Dec. 11 (TLS *et al.*); well-described and sketched, another on the Reelfoot CBC in *Lake*, TN Dec. 21 (JRW,

MAG) constituted the second for w. Tennessee. An ad. W. Grebe was noted in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18–19 (PW), the only report of the season.

Ten Am. White Pelicans in *Noxubee*, MS Dec. 18 (GCK, SK) provided the first area CBC record; 150 in *Caddo*, LA Jan. 1 (CEL, HJ) were considered an unusually high number; sixty were noted in *Dyer*, TN Feb. 25 (WCG), while an adult initially found in *Davidson*, TN Dec. 3 (GF), moved to and remained on nearby Old Hickory L., *Sumner* until the end of the season (DLC). Seven records of Brown Pelican were submitted from Louisiana, including one remarkable report of 300 in *Lafourche* and *Jefferson* Jan. 30 (NN, RDP, GC). An imm. Neotropic Cormorant in *Pointe Coupee*, LA Jan. 28 (DLD, SWC) was far from the species' usual winter haunts in *Cameron*.

Quite rare in winter, a Least Bittern was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC, AL Jan. 1 (MMc). A high winter count of Great Egrets in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama was made Dec. 30, when 67 were recorded in *Limestone*, remaining there at least two weeks (JG, LAI). A Tricolored Heron in *Rapides*, LA was unusually far inland Jan. 30 (DLD). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were uncharacteristically frequent in Louisiana, being reported from *Cameron* Dec. 18 (DK, PC), *Vermilion* Dec. 21 (VR, DWi), and *Plaquemines* Jan. 15 (PW, CK, MS *et al.*).

Whistling-Ducks to Raptors

High counts of whistling-ducks included 122 Fulvous in *Cameron*, LA Feb. 13 (GB,

JHD) and 237 Black-bellied in *Jefferson Davis*, LA Feb. 15 (CB, JHD). Tundra Swans showed up in several states in usual small numbers, and Ross' Geese visited several states in about the same numbers as reported the past 2 years. High numbers of puddle and diving ducks were reported in n. Arkansas, with frozen conditions farther north deemed responsible. *Vermilion*, LA hosted the lone Cinnamon Teal of the season Dec. 21 (WF *et al.*). Alabama's fourth Eur. Wigeon remained in *Morgan*, AL until at least Feb. 4 (SM), continuing an autumn record. A single Black Scoter in *Hardin*, TN Jan. 23–29 (MAG, ph. JRW) was considered rare, as were five in *Escambia*, FL Dec. 15 (RAD); another visited *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18 (JH *et al.*). Reports of Surf and White-winged scoters were about normal, with half a dozen of each.

Videotaped in *Morehouse* Dec. 6 (RRi *et al.*), a White-tailed Kite was probably unprecedented in that part of Louisiana; other totals of this expanding raptor in the bayou state included at least six in *Cameron*, four in *Plaquemines*, and one each in *Vermilion* and *Jefferson Davis*. The annual midwinter eagle survey in Tennessee turned up 114 Bald Eagles at Reelfoot L., *Lake/Obion*, TN (*vide* RMH); 30 noted Jan. 22 at Sardis Dam in *Panola*, MS (GCK, SK, PH) was considered the most ever counted at any of the n. Mississippi lakes; three on the Gulf Shores CBC, AL Jan. 1 (BCG) provided an unusual number for the Gulf Coast, though the species continues to increase both w. and e. of Gulf Shores as indicated by about

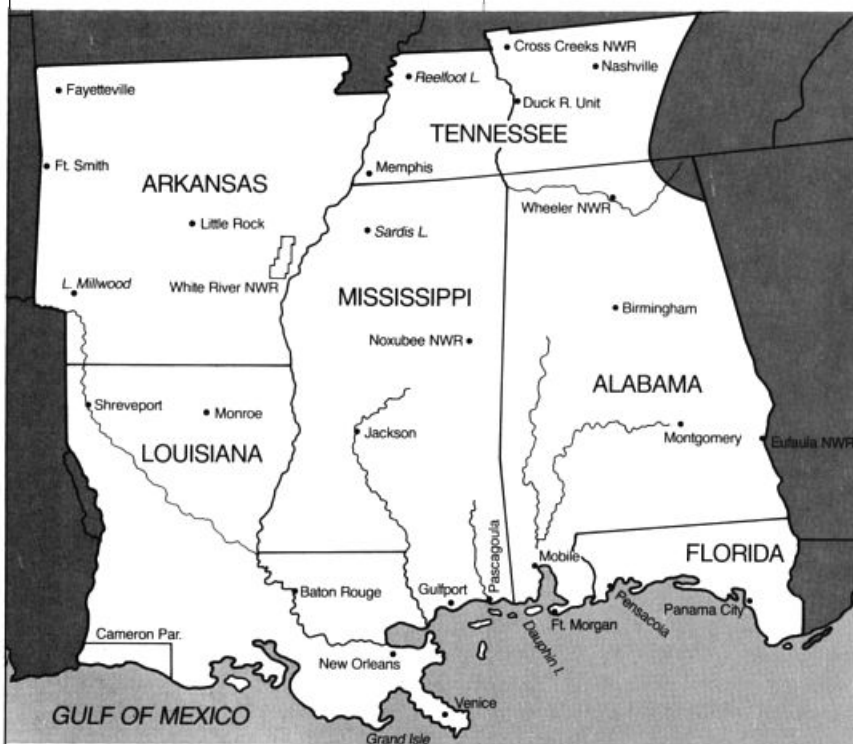
10 reports from Louisiana and a nesting pair in Niceville, FL (DW). Rare in winter, an imm. Broad-winged Hawk in *Plaquemines*, LA Jan. 26 (DLD, SWC) was photographed and observed capturing a rat. The lone Swainson's Hawk of the season, described in detail, was seen in *Jefferson Davis*, LA Dec. 11 (WF, PC). Rough-legged Hawks report were scarce. Unusual but unmistakable in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18 (JTM, KW) was a Crested Caracara. Equally unusual for Arkansas was a Prairie Falcon in *Sevier* Feb. 4 (DA, FB).

Rails to Terns

The first January records of Virginia Rail and Sora for *Grenada*, MS were established Jan. 17 (GCK, SK, TLS, PH, KH); a Virginia in *Colbert* Jan. 1 (GNP) represented only the 2nd winter record for the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama. A first local record was provided by three Sandhill Cranes in *Noxubee* and *Winston*, MS Dec. 18 (JMM, MHo, PE, MS); three in *Limestone*, AL Dec. 5 (SM) were noted where three had been present 2 winters previously; 4 crane sightings came from Louisiana; a single crane visited *Lake* Jan. 30 (WGC), establishing the 10th record ever for w. Tennessee; finally, more than 750 migrant cranes were noted in *Punam*, TN during February (RWS), the largest number counted during that month by the observer in 16 years there.

Very rare inland was a Black-bellied Plover in *Yalobusha*, MS Dec. 21 (GCK, TLS, PH). Twenty-three Piping Plovers in *Lafourche*, LA Jan. 7 (RSB, GW) & 22 (CK, PW) represented the largest number reported. Arkansas' first December Solitary Sandpiper was spotted Dec. 14 & 18 in *Clark* (HP, MP). A flock of 150 Marbled Godwits in *Lafourche*, LA Jan. 22 (PW, CK) was considered large for the season. A Pectoral Sandpiper in *Okaaloosa*, FL Dec. 17–22 (RAD, DW) became the second locally in December; the 2nd Louisiana specimen record—and about 15th overall—of Ruff occurred Jan. 21 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U. M.N.S.) in *Vermilion* when a reeve was detected. Eight dowitchers, probably Long-billed based on their call, were in *Tunica*, MS Jan. 9. (JRW); fair numbers of half a dozen more common shorebirds wintered at that locale (JRW).

Seven Pomarine (*L.S.U.M.N.S.) and two Parasitic jaegers were noted in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18 (DLD, SWC). Rare in *Oktibbeha*, MS Feb. 9 (TLS) was a 2nd-winter Laughing Gull. The first February record of Franklin's Gull in Arkansas was provided in *Chicot* Feb. 7 (DRS); another visited *Shelby*, TN Feb. 19–20 (JRW). Little Gulls were noted in *Chicot*, AR Jan. 3, 4,



& 15 (LP, DRS, HP, MP) and *Colbert*, AL Dec. 19 (GDJ, BCG). Well-described in *Grenada*, MS Dec. 10 (GCK) was a Com. Black-headed Gull, Mississippi's 6th.

If certified, a Thayer's Gull in *Colbert* Jan. 9 (GDJ) would represent Alabama's first (p.a. A.B.R.C.), and a winter ad. or 4th-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Chicot* Feb. 6–18 (DRS *et al.*) was Arkansas' first; another Lesser in *Lauderdale/Colbert* Jan. 25+ (MJO, ALM *et al.*) was Alabama's 6th (p.a. A.B.R.C.). An imm. Glaucous Gull showed up Jan. 23 at Pickwick Dam in *Hardin*, TN (MAG, JRW); another immature visited Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, AL Jan. 25 (ALM, MJO *et al.*). Immature Great Black-backed Gulls were present in *Gulf*, FL Dec. 29 (SJS), at Dauphin Is., *Mobile*, AL Feb. 15 (RAD), and in *Lafourche*, LA Jan. 30 (RDP, NN, GC), while an adult was well described in *Jefferson*, LA Feb. 15 (MTW). Four Com. Terns displaying carpal bars were noted near Reserve, LA Jan. 1 (BO, RH).

Collared-Dove to Hummingbirds

"Rare but increasing" was the label placed on 33 Eur. Collared-Doves seen during the Gulf Shores CBC, AL Jan. 1 (PT, BT, RRR); 60 noted on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC, FL Dec. 20 (*vide DW*) frequented an area where the species has occurred for a number of years. Eight Inca Doves in *Sevier* Jan. 12 (DA, FB) were the most ever simultaneously observed in Arkansas; another appeared in *Columbia*, AR Feb. 4–5 (ELL, SSL, LW).

A Long-eared Owl in Holla Bend N.W.R., *Pope*, AR Dec. 22 (LA) was the only one reported. Casual during December in n. Florida, a Com. Nighthawk was sighted in *Okaloosa* Dec. 17 (RAD, DW). A fine New Year's Eve sighting took place in *Builer*, AL (GDJ, DGJ). More intriguing was a smallish nighthawk uttering "click-click" vocalizations which allowed study for 10 minutes Dec. 20 in *Shelby*, TN (NPM), where three unidentified nighthawks had been less well observed the previous day (MH). A Com. Nighthawk in *Shelby*, TN Feb. 16 (JRW, JG) was well studied but hard to figure—an early migrant?

Two species of hummingbirds were noted in Arkansas during the season: one Black-chinned present and banded during Feb. 17–28 in *Hempstead* (RC, PF, MP); and one Rufous present all season in *Pulaski* (PF, RC). Alabama also hosted two species: a ♂ Ruby-throated, which arrived early Feb. 26 in *Mobile* (JP, JPo); and a Rufous banded in Montgomery during Jan. 2–6 (RS, LL *et al.*). Six species were banded in Mississippi (RS, MSa): one Ruby-

throated; four Black-chinned, including one thought to represent the diminutive subspecies from n. Mexico; one Calliope (Mississippi's fourth in Ocean Springs Jan. 13); one Broad-tailed (the state's first in Carriere Jan. 14); seven Rufous; and one Allen's. Louisiana hosted seven species, including the following minima: five Buff-bellied, two Ruby-throated, three Black-chinned, two Anna's, at least one Calliope, two Broad-tailed, eight Rufous, two Anna's/*Selasphorus* sp. (*), one Broad-tailed/Rufous, seven Rufous/Allen's, two *Selasphorus* sp., and four hummingbird sp.

Woodpeckers to Swallows

The Mena CBC, *Polk*, AR hosted one Red-cockaded Woodpecker Dec. 18 (GL); two in *St. Tammany*, LA Feb. 12 (CGB) were the only others reported. Several Least Flycatchers were present in *Plaquemines*, LA during the season (*vide SWC*). Louisiana's second (and first winter) Western Flycatcher was also in *Plaquemines* Jan. 26 (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.M.N.S.). An unidentified *Empidonax* appeared on the Perdido Bay CBC, AL/FL, Dec. 27 (SD, WD). The always exciting Gulf Shores CBC, AL produced a Vermilion Flycatcher Jan. 1 (JL, BCG); at least four others were reported from Louisiana. An Ash-throated Flycatcher (GDJ, BCG *et al.*; p.a. A.B.R.C.) was videotaped on the Gulf Shores CBC, AL while a *Myiarchus* probably representing that species was sighted in *Okaloosa*, FL Dec. 9 (RAD; p.a. FRBC). Two Ash-throateds were positively identified in *Vermilion*, LA, one Dec. 21 (GL, DWi, VR, *L.S.U. M.N.S.) and the other Jan. 21 (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.M.N.S.), while that parish may have hosted as many as two others, one of which was videotaped Dec. 5 (PC, GB).

Plaquemines, LA hosted a plethora of Brown-crested Flycatchers again this winter. Four specimens were secured Jan. 26 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.N.S.), and at least three more Brown-crested, or Brown-crested/Ash-throateds, remained in the vicinity thereafter; two of the specimens proved to represent the "expected" subspecies (*cooperi*) while the others provided the state's first record of the more western subspecies (*magister*).

Rare in December, a W. Kingbird graced Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL Dec. 24 (WD, SD), while a first local February record of that species was established Feb. 4–21 in *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD). Presumably the same Gray Kingbird present last fall in *Plaquemines*, LA remained until Dec. 5 (JPK, BC, GS), providing one of very few Regional winter records for this species.

Establishing a first December record lo-

cally, a N. Rough-winged Swallow was in *Santa Rosa*, FL Dec. 8 (RAD, LD); three others were in *Lafourche*, LA Dec. 19 (GW). Considered rare and certainly late in *Tunica*, MS Dec. 5 (WRP, WPP) was a Barn Swallow; another was well described in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18 (VR *et al.*).

Nuthatches to Tanagers

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged the first moderate-sized invasion in Tennessee in more than 5 years: 22 in *Putnam*, TN on the Cookeville CBC Dec. 21 (SJS *et al.*) exceeded the previous local high count; 82 on the Fairfield Bay CBC, *Van Buren*, AR Dec 18 (MAB) revealed that the invasion was widespread. However, only 2 reports emanated from Louisiana. Meanwhile, observers on the Arkadelphia CBC, *Clark*, AR Dec. 18 (GG, EG) tallied 61 Brown-headed Nuthatches.

A Bewick's Wren was observed in *Noxubee*, MS Feb. 12 (TLS), the only one reported. Five Sprague's Pipits in *Cameron*, LA Feb. 6 (DLD, SWC, GH, *) were present where one had been sighted Dec. 17 (WF). Many Solitary Vireos and Orange-crowned Warblers were found well inland. The Warbling Vireo in *Plaquemines* Jan. 26 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.N.S.) was memorable for several reasons: It provided Louisiana's 2nd winter (and first midwinter) record, the state's first winter specimen, and the state's 2nd record of the w. subspecies (*swainsonii*).

A carefully described Magnolia Warbler appeared Dec. 21 in *Chicot* (HP, MP), providing Arkansas' first winter record. The season's only Black-throated Gray Warbler turned up in *Plaquemines*, LA Jan. 26 (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.M.N.S.). Either the 4th or 5th record for Louisiana, a Townsend's Warbler was meticulously described and seen by many in *Cameron*, LA Dec 16–19 (MTW *et al.*). Three Black-throated Green Warblers in *Plaquemines*, LA Jan. 26 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.N.S.) provided an unprecedented number for a single locality during winter. A Prairie Warbler Dec. 29 in *Gulf*, FL (SJS), provided the first CBC record there; at least four were noted in Louisiana during the season. A Bay-breasted Warbler was found in *Cameron* Dec. 16 (MTW) near the site of the Townsend's. An ad. ♂ Am. Redstart showed up in *St. John the Baptist*, LA New Year's Day (MTW). At least two Ovenbirds and four N. Waterthrushes were also noted in Louisiana during the season. Second locally in December, a Wilson's Warbler was in *Santa Rosa*, FL Dec. 10 (RAD). Single Yellow-breasted Chats turned up at 2 Louisiana sites, as well as in *Gulf*, FL Dec 29 (MS, MHo, PE, JB)

Probably too early to be a migrant was a ♂ Summer Tanager in Dothan Feb. 18 (RS), the first inland coastal plain winter record for Alabama; three others inhabited *Plaquemines*, LA during January—two female-plumaged birds Jan. 15 (MS, PW, JPK) and an ad. male Jan. 26 (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.M.N.S.). The 3rd record of W. Tanager for Alabama's mountain region occurred Jan. 9 (JH; p.a. A.B.R.C.) when one showed up in *Tuscaloosa*; another was in *Plaquemines*, LA Jan. 15 (MS, PW, JPK *et al.*).

Grosbeaks to Grosbeaks

Rose-breasted and Black-headed grosbeaks made inland news with two of the former showing up in *Weakley*, TN Dec. 27 (DD) and one of the latter in *Pulaski*, AR Jan. 6–10 (MMe); another Black-headed was studied in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 17 (MTW). A Dickcissel stayed in *Chicot*, AR Dec. 21 (MP). Alabama's 4th inland winter record of Indigo Bunting was established Jan. 1–Feb. 5 in *Morgan* (SM). Three Rufous-crowned Sparrows were noted on Mt. Nebo, *Yell*, AR Feb. 5 (KN, LN). A Le Conte's Sparrow was in *Gulf*, FL Dec. 29 (SJS); one each at 3 locales in *Washington* and *Benton*, AR during the season (MM) were considered an exceptional showing for winter. At least three Henslow's Sparrows in *Bradley*, AR Feb. 26 (WMS) were noteworthy for this generally declining species. Representing the 2nd well-documented record for Louisiana, an im. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was briefly but thoroughly studied in *Cameron*, LA Dec. 18 (BMM). Along 4 mi of dirt road in *Montgomery*, AR Feb. 9 (LA) over 600 Dark-eyed Juncos were counted during the ice storm that affected the n. reaches of the Region.

A **McCown's Longspur**, well described including mention of the diagnostic "pwoik" call note, would constitute Mississippi's first if certified by an appropriate bird records committee; it was briefly viewed in an area of rice fields and fish ponds in *Tunica*, MS Dec. 11 (GCK, JRW) along with >3000 Lapland Longspurs. Three putative Chestnut-collared Longspurs and a Snow Bunting—and >5000 Lapland Longspurs—were also reported from this area during December; these also require review by a bird records committee. Five hundred or more Lapland Longspurs in *Limestone*, AL Dec. 26 (SM, JRW) represented a good number. Smith's Longspurs were thoroughly censused at the Stuttgart Airport in *Prairie*, AR Dec. 4 and Feb. 5 (WMS), with 23 and 27 respectively.

A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird in *Robertson*, TN Dec. 16 (ATT, MLM) was considered a rarity there Louisiana's third (and

first winter) **Hooded Oriole**, a basic-plumaged ad. male, provided relief for a multitude of eyes in *East Baton Rouge*, LA Jan. 22–28 (ph. JLe, †JPK, †JPS *et al.*).

A House Finch finally used the Parkers' feeders in *Hot Spring*, AR Dec. 20, a date that might live in infamy, given the reaction of many to the advancing waves of this finch; the first sighting in *Carroll*, AR also took place (FR). A Com. Redpoll ventured into *Baxter*, AR Jan. 17–18 (SB). An ad. ♂ Eur. Goldfinch appeared in *Rapides*, LA Jan. 12–25 (KCC, RB ph.), leaving observers in a quandary about its origins. Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks staged moderate irruptions, being encountered in moderately larger numbers than during any of the last few years.

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