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Central Southern Region

GREG D. JACKSON

The shop doors opened August 1 to a crowd of eager patrons. It wasn't a superstore; still, the selection was impressive. Shelves were bulging with waterfowl, inland shorebirds, and larids, with a glut of hummingbirds from which to choose. Other categories were more typical, though a moderate western theme was evident. Many selections, especially passerines, were obtained late, with extended hours at this emporium. Hidden among the usual items were several stellar finds, with lots of smiles at the checkout counter.

The weather picture this autumn was punctuated by two hurricanes. *Erin* arrived in early August and *Opal* in early October. Though neither resulted in phenomenal bird records, powerful, rapidly moving *Opal* left a few interesting species in its wake in the Florida Panhandle and eastern Alabama. Birding in coastal Alabama was productive for about two weeks

after this tempest. Rainfall in much of the Region was normal, except where the hurricanes deluged local areas. August was broiling, September and October showed normal temperatures, and November was chillier than usual. Best frontal passages for birding were September 21–23 and October 14 (excellent) and 28.

With sadness we note the passing of a man whose words graced these pages for many years. Alabama's dean of birding for decades, Dr. Thomas A. Imhof, departed in early July. His influence on Alabama and the Region was immeasurable; he will be missed by the multitudes he touched along the way.

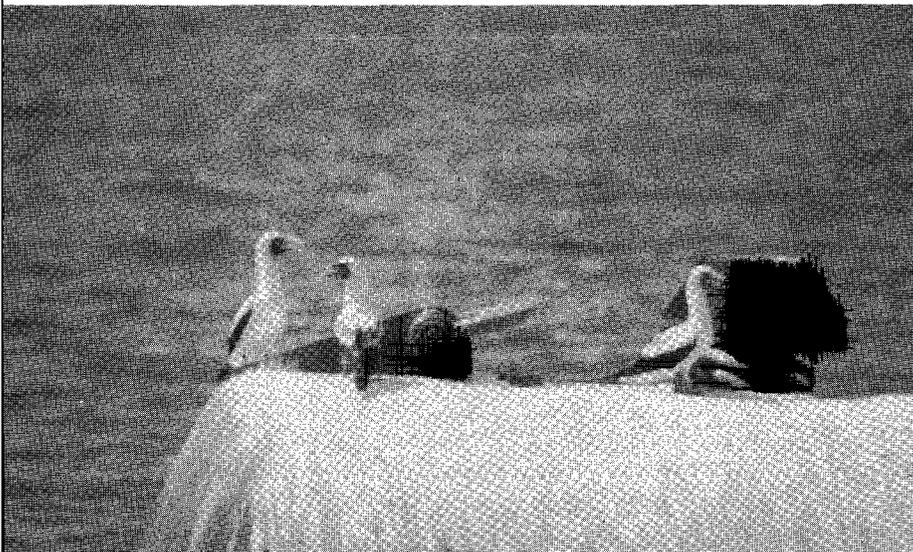
Acceptable documentation of rarities must be received for inclusion. This rule applies to everyone, regardless of experience.

Abbreviations: b. (*banded*); C.P. (*Cameron Parish, s.w. LA*); I.C.P. (*Inland Coastal Plain Region, AL*); M.L. (*Millwood Lake, s.w. AR*); N.N.W.R. (*Noxubee N.W.R., e.c. MS*); O.U. (*Oakwood Unit, Overflow N.W.R., Desha Co., s.e. AR*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by the state bird records committee*); T.E.C. (*The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, Shelby Co., s.w. TN*); * (*specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge*).

Loons to Ducks

Over 50 Com. Loons Nov. 11 in Henry (AMB) set a new I.C.P. maximum. Good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes appeared by early September. Locally early was a





Three Masked Boobies (of seven seen) far out in the Gulf of Mexico, about 60 miles beyond Southwest Pass, Louisiana, September 16, 1995. Photograph/David P. Muth.

Horned Grebe Oct. 5 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS); a flock of 23 was unusual for n.w. Louisiana Nov. 13 (CEL, HJ). Red-necked Grebes are always great finds in our Region, and an individual Nov. 26 at Reelfoot L., *Obion* (JLD, SU) was especially rare for w. Tennessee. Most notable of several Eared Grebe reports was a maximum of eight birds beginning Oct. 18 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD, PCT, MS, DMW *et al.*). Though probably regular in the Gulf, 20 Audubon's Shearwaters were exciting on a Sept. 16 trip 45–65 mi s. of Southwest Pass, *Plaquemines*, LA (SWC, DLD, DPM, RDB, m.ob., p.a.). Additional finds on this productive pelagic venture included as many as 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (p.a.) and seven Masked Boobies (ph. DPM), expected but rarely reported species. Another Masked Booby was "discovered" on the television news Oct. 6 after hurricane *Opal* grounded the bird in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD, LRD).

Excellent numbers of Am. White Pelicans were observed in transit in the n.w. part of the Region; the highest count was of 1000 Oct. 25 in *Lauderdale* (JC), establishing a new Tennessee maximum. Local arrival records for this bird were broken by singles Sept. 6–14 in *Limestone*, AL (SWM) and Sept. 12 in *Dyer*, TN (WGC). Continuing to increase in numbers inland, >500 Double-crested Cormorants set a new I.C.P. maximum in *Henry* beginning Nov. 11 (AMB). Only casual in s.e. Louisiana, a Neotropic Cormorant was studied Aug. 20 in *Lafourche* (RDP, GG). A post-frontal movement of 1060 Anhingas Sept. 23 at the hawk

watch on the East Jetty, C.P. (JPK, M&SA), was an amazing sight. Over 160 Snowy Egrets were outstanding at O.U., Sept. 4 (JRW). Though expected in small numbers near the Mississippi R. each fall, a Tricolored Heron at N.N.W.R., Nov. 11 was both rare and very late (MW, MSt, TLS, m.ob.). Usually seen in smaller numbers, 68 Black-crowned Night-Herons and 113 imm. White Ibis were at O.U., Sept. 4 (JRW).

The White-faced Ibis Oct. 10–11 on Dauphin I., *Mobile* (GDJ, DGJ, m.ob., v.t., p.a.) represented the 9th for Alabama; another was rare in *Hancock*, MS Oct. 15 (BMM). Three imm. Roseate Spoonbills were outstanding in s.e. Arkansas; one was at O.U., Aug. 19 (JRW, DRS, H&MP, CT, ph.), and singles appeared at separate sites in *Chicot* Aug. 26 and Sept. 28 (DRS). Also rare was the spoonbill Sept. 11 & 20 in *Jackson*, MS (BL, ph. DM, m.ob.). Wood Storks are difficult to find along the coast e. of Louisiana. One was noted from August–Sept. 9 in *Jackson*, MS (BL, DM, m.ob.); four storks Aug. 13 in *Baldwin* (J&JP) were the first on the



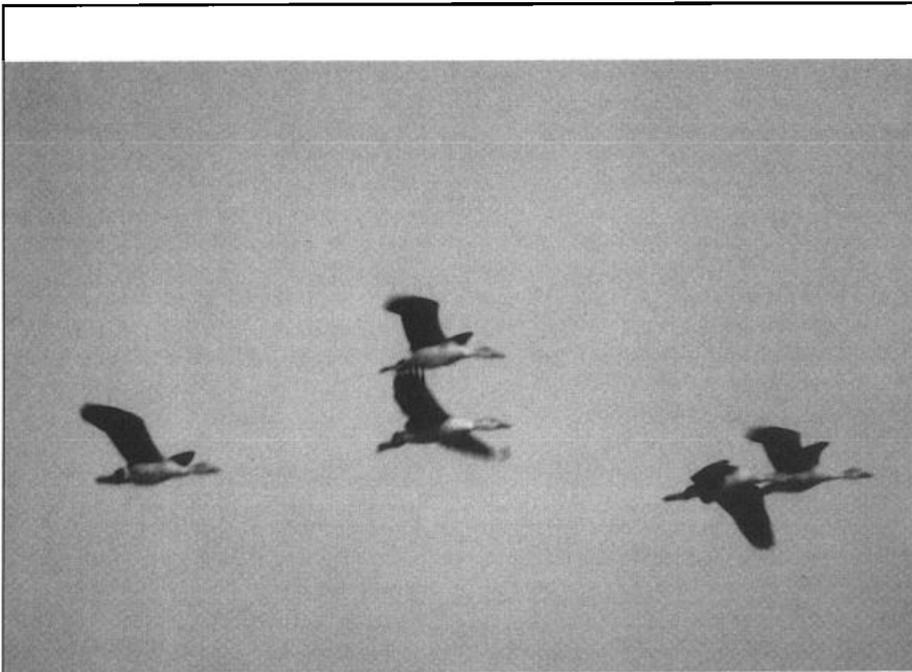
Immature Roseate Spoonbill in Desha County, Arkansas, August 19, 1995. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

Alabama coast since 1972. The flock of 101 birds, mostly immatures, was an encouraging sight Aug. 26 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS). A very late Wood Stork was spotted in C.P., Nov. 4 (JPK). There are few breeding records for Fulvous Whistling-Duck outside s. Louisiana; an amazing 36 birds, including eight young, at O.U., Aug. 19 (JRW, DRS, H&MP) established the first nesting record for Arkansas. Two Fulvous were noteworthy as far east as Dauphin I., AL beginning Oct. 18 (J&JP). Seven Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, rare away from s. Louisiana, were discovered Oct. 22 at M.L. (WMS, RT) It was a good season for Greater White-fronted Geese, with large numbers seen as early as October. In *Iberville*, s.e. LA, 635 were counted Oct. 20 (JVR), and the same day 6000 were migrating east in C.P. (JPK). A new Alabama maximum was set when a flock of 80 overflowed Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, Oct. 25 (DC, MD, SW); another excellent count was of 31 White-fronteds at T.E.C., Nov. 26 (JRW). Though still rare, a few Ross' Geese now appear regularly throughout the Region. One was spotted Nov. 4 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR), two were at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone*, AL beginning Nov. 12 (SWM, m.ob., p.a.), and four Ross' were discovered Nov. 19 in *Lauderdale*, TN (JRW). Mottled Ducks are only casual in Florida's w. Panhandle, ≤three were in *Okaloosa* Oct. 11–Nov. 7 (RAD, PCT, DMW, m.ob.).

A count of 266 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 26 in *Washington* (MM, PR) set a new n.w. Arkansas maximum. Of several reports of summering and/or early-arriving diving ducks in August, most unusual was a Greater Scaup Aug. 3 in *Jackson*, MS (TLS). The 26 Greaters Nov. 17 at Reelfoot L., *Lake* (MLG, VBR) represented a good number for w. Tennessee. Black Scoters are hard to find inland; one was at M.L., Nov. 23 (CM) and six were observed Nov. 25 at Pickwick Dam, *Hardin*, TN (JRW). Unusual numbers of White-winged Scoter reports came from inland areas, with 8 sightings of 12 birds beginning Oct. 28. An estimate of 1000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 1 in *Henry*, TN (TJW) was noteworthy.

Raptors to Shorebirds

Alabama's 10th White-tailed Kite visited Ft. Morgan Oct. 22 (SW, JN, AK, p.a.) Rare in fall in n.w. Arkansas, a Mississippi Kite was in *Madison* Aug. 26 (JP). Setting a new arrival date for w. Tennessee, a N Harrier appeared at White's L., Aug. 6 (WGC). Three Swainson's Hawks were rare as far east as coastal Alabama; an adult was at Dauphin I., Oct. 13–15 (JRW,



Five Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in flight in Desha County, Arkansas, August 19, 1995. Discovery of eight young here marked the first nesting record for the state. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

SWM, m.ob.), and immatures appeared at Ft. Morgan Oct. 21 & 24 (SW, DC *et al.*). Also noteworthy were an imm. Swainson's Nov. 11 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR) and an adult Nov. 15 in New Orleans (DPM), both making great "yard birds." I received 6 reports of lone Rough-legged Hawks in Arkansas and Tennessee beginning Nov. 5, portending a good flight year for this erratic species. Golden Eagle is a treat in our Region; the sole report was of one in *Putnam*, TN Nov. 8 (BHS). Defining site faithfulness, the *Prairie Falcon* in *Yalobusha*, MS returned Nov. 12 (GCK) to the *same* tree as the last 4 winters! Though *Yellow Rail* now is an expected species in the s.c. Louisiana rice fields in late fall, finding 13 birds Nov. 4 near Vincent Ref. (SWC, DLD *et al.*) must have been "simply mah-velous." An impressive 111 Com. Moorhens were noted at O.U., Sept. 4 (JRW). The species is rare in much of the n. portion of the Region; single moorhens were observed Aug. 25–Sept. 19 at T.E.C. (MLB, JRW), at another *Shelby* site Sept. 6–17 (CHB, MLG, VBR, MGW), and Oct. 1 at M.L. (CM). A new Louisiana maximum was provided by 450 Sandhill Cranes Nov. 18 in *Rapides* (SWC, DLD *et al.*). Reports away from traditional sites included 25 cranes Nov. 20 in *Weakley*, TN (JC), and a lone bird Nov. 24 in *Lauderdale*, AL (SWM).

Seven Piping Plovers were unusual as early as July 19 at South Pass, *Plaquemines*, LA (BR). A new Alabama maximum was

set by 24 Am. Oystercatchers near Dauphin I., Oct. 10 (GDJ). Black-necked Stilts continue to increase along the Mississippi R., affirmed by 315 at O.U., Sept. 4 (JRW). Usually difficult to find inland, there were 14 reports of 87 non-coastal Am. Avocets Aug. 2–Oct. 28; particularly noteworthy were 52 at M.L., Oct. 2 (CM). The Whimbrel at T.E.C., Sept. 1–7 (JRW, M.C.T.O.S., ph.) was very unusual away from the coast. Hudsonian Godwit, an Atlantic migrant in the fall, is rare at this season. Single birds were studied Oct. 21 near L. Arthur, *Jefferson Davis*, LA (SWC, DLD, DFL *et al.*), and Nov. 8–9 at Mobile (PCT, MS, RB, PB, m.ob., p.a.), the latter providing Alabama's 4th autumn record. Though scattered coastal Marbled Godwits were not unexpected, one sighted Aug. 5 & 13 at T.E.C. (JRW, MLG, ph.) was a rare find. Unusual inland, 13 Ruddy Turnstones were noted in *Lake*, TN Aug. 5 (JRW, m.ob.). Even harder to find away from the coast, a Red Knot appeared at T.E.C., Aug. 25 (JRW).

Sanderlings are expected in small numbers inland, but 27 at *Sardis L.*, *Lafayette*, MS Oct. 7 (WMD) were surprising; seven set an I.C.P. maximum Sept. 15 in *Barbour* (AMB). The 3550 Least Sandpipers at T.E.C., Sept. 10 (M.C.T.O.S.) and 16 Baird's Sandpipers in *Lake* Sept. 3 (WGC) provided new Tennessee high counts. Other significant shorebird tallies included 1150 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 26 in *Tallahatchie*, MS (GCK) and 117 Stilt Sandpipers, a Tennessee maximum, at T.E.C., Sept. 27 (MLG). Very late was a Stilt Sandpiper Nov. 24 in *Prairie*, AR (K&LN). September 10 was a good day for observing Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with 15 in *Tallahatchie*, MS (GCK, SK

and 31 at T.E.C. (JRW). Over 600 Long-billed Dowitchers were noteworthy Sept. 4 at O.U. (JRW); four birds lingering to Nov. 21 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS) broke the previous local departure record. The Wilson's Phalarope discovered Nov. 5 in *Lafourche*, LA (RSB, GW) was very late. Red-necked Phalarope is rare-but-regular along the Mississippi R. in fall; one was at T.E.C., Sept. 3–10 (JB, VBR, MGW, ph. JRW).

Larids

Single Parasitic Jaegers, rarely identified in our Region, appeared Oct. 14 at Dauphin I., AL (BCG, JRW, SWM *et al.*) and Oct. 27 in C.P. (SWC, DLD, *). In the wake of hurricane *Erin*, 13 normally coastal Laughing Gulls were observed Aug. 4–12 at 7 inland sites in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Hurricane *Opal* produced more inland observations Oct. 5 in Alabama, including four in *Montgomery* (LFG) and 15 in *St. Clair/Talladega* (GDJ, DGJ).

SA The autumn status of Franklin's Gull shows a marked gradient in our Region, changing from common in some w. areas to rare in the east. Widespread sightings of this petite gull were reported during the season. A new Alabama coastal arrival date was set by an imm. Franklin's at Blakely I., Mobile, Sept. 2 (GDJ). There was a sharp peak in the west in tandem with a late October front; tallies were submitted of 1086 at M.L., Oct. 28 (CM), 319 in C.P. the following day (SWC, DLD *et al.*), and >500 in Caddo, LA Oct. 30 (CEL, HJ). To the east, nine Franklin's Gulls were noteworthy Oct. 28 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS), as were eight adults Nov. 1 in *Henry*, TN (TJW), and 23 immatures in *Grenada*, MS Nov. 4 (WMD). At the e. edge of the Region, five birds were noted Nov. 11 in *Barbour* and *Henry* (AMB), the first I.C.P. records.

An ad. California Gull was at Rutherford Beach, C.P., Oct. 27 (SWC, DLD, *); when will the Louisiana monopoly on this vagrant be broken? (*Larus* envy strikes again.) Outstanding numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to occur in Louisiana. In C.P., 15–20 were recorded this autumn beginning Aug. 27, with most at Rutherford Beach Oct. 27–29 (SWC, DLD, m.ob., five *, p.a.); another was in *Lafourche*, LA Oct. 14 (PW, CS, p.a.). The only non-Louisiana report was Alabama's 8th at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale*, from Nov. 24 (SWM, m.ob., p.a.). Great

Black-backed Gull appears more often in the e. portion of the Region; this season, though, the only reports were of first-year birds Sept. 16 in *Plaquemines*, LA (SWC, DPM *et al.*, p.a.) and Nov. 26 in *Orleans*, LA (PW, ph., p.a.). Sabine's Gull is very rare in our area, though a few occur regularly in fall at M.L.; one-two were seen again at this location Sept. 16–Oct. 5 (CM, K&LN). An amazing eight Sabine's Gulls provided Tennessee's 2nd record at Island No. 13, *Lake*, Sept. 18 (WGC, p.a.). Also surprising was an individual Oct. 4 on the shore of L. Pontchartrain, *Orleans*, LA (PHY, p.a.).

After hurricane *Opal* razed e. Alabama, a very rare inland Royal Tern was at Logan Martin Dam, *St. Clair/Talladega*, Oct. 5 (GDJ, DGJ). A minimum of 305 Com. Terns Sept. 25 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, DGJ) represented a recent Alabama maximum. Local *maxima* were set by 160 Forster's Terns Sept. 22 in *Yalobusha*, MS (WMD), and 45 in *Marshall*, AL Oct. 6 (SWM). Bridled Terns are regular in the Gulf in the warmer months; ≤ 60 birds 30–65 mi s. of *Plaquemines*, LA Sept. 16 (SWC, DLD, DPM, RDP, m.ob., p.a.) were exceptional, however. Six Sooty Terns, probably from a nearby breeding site, were seen Sept. 3 from a boat in the Mississippi R., *Plaquemines*, LA (DPM, RDP). Another five–six Sooties were located 45–65 mi s. of *Plaquemines* Sept. 16 (SWC, DLD, DPM, RDP, m.ob.). Much more unusual was an individual onshore and not associated with tropical activity at Ft. Morgan, AL July 31 (OEF, CWM). Alabama's 5th **Brown Noddy** was a surprise 26 mi w.s.w. of Ft. Morgan Sept. 10 (CD, p.a.); there had been a weak low pressure area in the n.e. Gulf for the previous 4 days, but no significant storms. Definitely hurricane-related were Black Skimmers in the I.C.P., Oct. 5, with only 2 previous records; two birds were in *Lee* (AMB) and another was discovered in *Montgomery* (LFG).

Doves to Thrushes

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to prosper, with expansions noted in several areas. Several tardy Com. Nighthawks were reported from Alabama to the end of the period.

Though **Buff-bellied Hummingbirds** have been observed often in adjacent states, Alabama previously had only one sight record; the 2nd occurrence was documented in *Mobile* Nov. 14–17 (RRS, MBS, b., ph., p.a.). Buff-bellieds also were in *Harrison*, MS Nov. 4 (BMM) and at Pensacola, FL Nov. 27–30 (B&DK, RAD, p.a.), the latter providing the 9th w. Panhandle record. More frequent in Louisiana, there were 4 reports of five

birds beginning Oct. 23. Of a few late Ruby-throateds, most unusual was an ad. male banded Nov. 30 in *Pulaski*, AR (PF).

SA The age of "cyber-rarities" is upon us. Though Rare Bird Alerts have been posted on computer bulletin boards for several years, realization of a first state record through the Internet may be unprecedented. Alabama's first Green Violet-ear appeared at s. Mobile feeder in late October and remained to Nov. 4 (RRS, MBS, DB *et al.*, b., ph., p.a.). News of a possible "violent eared hummingbird" (!) was received on-line by Berger, energizing the banding team. Unfortunately, this dazzling vagrant, thought to be an ad. female, was seen by only a few birders after banding Nov. 1. There are 4 previous Regional records of Green Violet-ear, all from Arkansas; the species has occurred twice as far e. as North Carolina, but most reports are from s. and c. Texas. Green Violet-ear generally is a highland bird in the tropics, usually noted in the United States in summer, so a late fall record on the n. Gulf Coast was unexpected. Though occurring s. to Argentina, the breeding locale closest to the United States is San Luis Potosí in n.e. Mexico. For many vagrants, the closest site is not necessarily the point of origin (e.g. Fork-tailed Flycatcher). However, the migratory nature of many n. Green Violet-ears, and the distribution of United States sightings, suggests n. Mexico as the likely source. Subspecific identification would be very helpful in this determination. A n.e. Mexican origin may apply to several other rare hummingbirds in our Region, despite populations in the southwest.

Three Anna's Hummingbirds graced our area this season. An ad. male appeared in *Montgomery*, AL Nov. 10–23 (LL, m.ob., p.a.), and an ad. female was in *Starkville*, *Oktibbeha*, MS beginning Nov. 27 (MC, TLS, m.ob., b. RRS, MBS, p.a.); both provided 2nd state records. An Anna's Nov. 25 and Dec. 2 in *St. Charles*, LA (RJS, NLN, SN, TW, GS, p.a.) was only slightly more expected. This was an excellent season for Calliope Hummingbird, very rare but reported with increasing regularity. In Louisiana, one was in *St. James* Nov. 11 (TAS, RJS, NLN *et al.*), two established a presence in *Iberville* beginning Nov. 23 (DLD, SWC, JVR, LCB,

MDy, one ph.), and another appeared in *St. Tammany* Nov. 24 (b. NLN, DP, OC, CGB *et al.*) (all p.a.). Mississippi's 9th **Calliope Hummingbird** arrived Nov. 14 at Diamondhead, *Hancock* (DH, b. RRS, MBS, p.a.). The 5th **Allen's Hummingbird** for Alabama was banded Oct. 31 in *Montgomery* (DB, RRS, ph., p.a.).

A very early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was spotted Sept. 5 in *Washington*, MS (EA). Louisiana's 4th "Western" Flycatcher, thought to be a Cordilleran, was an excellent find Oct. 28–29 at Garner Ridge, C.P. (PHY, DPM, m.ob., * SWC, DLD, p.a.). Seven Vermilion Flycatchers in Louisiana Oct. 7–Nov. 11 represented a good total for this uncommon migrant. A late Great Crested Flycatcher was found Oct. 23 at Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA (RDP). Ash-throated Flycatcher is rare in our Region. Five Louisiana birds were identified unequivocally by tail pattern or voice Sept. 24–Nov. 26 (3 *) in C.P. and *Plaquemines*. Less frequent to the east, an Ash-throated was banded at Ft. Morgan, AL Oct. 29 (DC, MD, SW *et al.*, b., ph., p.a.); a calling bird was in *Santa Rosa*, FL Nov. 14–18 (CWM, PCT *et al.*, ph. WJB, p.a.). Standing in the midst of a 30,000-strong N. Rough-winged Swallow passage seems hazardous, but was braved Oct. 15 in C.P. (JPK) following a strong front. A late Cliff Swallow Nov. 14–15 in *Santa Rosa* (PCT, m.ob.) was the first November record for the w. Panhandle.

Moderate numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted throughout the Region commencing Sept. 16. Bewick's Wren is difficult to find in our area now; I received 6 reports of single birds Sept 19–Nov. 25, all but one in the n. tier of the Region. Good numbers of Marsh Wrens were noted at Ft. Morgan, AL (DC); one feeding for an hour among grocery carts in a nearby Gulf Shores parking lot displayed remarkable adaptation to a changing world! Louisiana's 4th, and the Region's 8th, **Northern Wheatear** was a surprise in n. *DeSoto* Oct. 4–5 (H&PH, PD, MC, m.ob., ph. CEL, p.a.). A different individual delighted observers Oct 11–14 in *Calcasieu*, LA (JFS, LD, BFS, m.ob., ph., p.a.). Nearly as rare was the **Mountain Bluebird** Oct. 9 in New Orleans (DPM, ph., p.a.), representing the first s.e. Louisiana sighting.

Vireos to Finches

Bell's Vireo is a rare transient in much of the Region, though it breeds in the n.w. portion. The only reports were from Ft Morgan, AL; three were banded Sept. 10 & 17 and Oct. 7 (DC, MD *et al.*, ph.), and another was spotted Sept. 25 (GDJ)

(all p.a.). The Solitary Vireo Sept. 12, and a Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 14, in *Shelby* (DDP) set new arrival dates for w. Tennessee. Early as well was a Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 15 in Baton Rouge, LA (DFL, JB). At the opposite extreme was the Red-eyed Vireo in *Washington* Oct. 11 (MM), setting a late date for n.w. Arkansas; a Blue-winged Warbler in the same county Oct. 1 was behind schedule (PR). Scarce in w. Arkansas in fall, single Golden-winged Warblers were observed in *Washington* Sept. 20 & 23–24 (PR, JP, MM). I received 2 documented reports of rare Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids; a “Brewster’s” was at Grand Isle, LA Sept. 2 (CS, PW), and a very rare “Lawrence’s” was discovered Oct. 1 in *Tipton*, TN (DDP). Excellent numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers were noted on the Alabama coast in October (DC, GDJ, m.ob.). Very late was a Nashville Warbler Nov. 17 in *Okaloosa*, FL (DMW). A late local departure record for Yellow Warbler was provided by an individual Oct. 17 in Starkville, MS (TLS).

Cape May and Black-throated Blue warblers are Atlantic migrants, especially in the autumn; both, but particularly Cape May, are very rare in fall in the w. part of the Region. Two Cape Mays were noteworthy at Ft. Morgan, AL Oct. 17–18 (DC *et al.*, both b.), but one at M.L., Oct. 20 (H&MP) was singularly unusual. Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared in coastal Alabama in good numbers this season; ten were banded Sept. 18–Oct. 30 at Ft. Morgan (DC *et al.*), and ≥four males were present at one site on Dauphin I., Oct. 21 (GDJ, DGJ, RSD, RAD, LRD, m.ob.). Far to the west, single Black-throated Blues were good finds in *Sevier*, AR Oct. 1 (DA), in *Plaquemines*, LA Oct. 8 (JTS, JSS, TAS), and in C.P., Nov. 4 (JPK). A Blackburnian Warbler in *Washington* Oct. 1 (PR, JP) was unusual for n.w. Arkansas.

Blackpoll Warbler is the scarcest of the fall Atlantic migrant warblers in the Region, and many older records are clouded by identification questions; a lone bird was studied Oct. 9 at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ, RAD, DGJ). The Cerulean Warbler Oct. 11 in *Tipton* (DDP) set a new departure date for Tennessee; locally late was a N. Waterthrush Oct. 19 at N.N.W.R. (TLS). The 2nd I.C.P. record for Connecticut Warbler was established by one in *Lee* Oct. 7 (GH). Mourning Warbler can be difficult to find in the e. part of the Region; singles were at Ft. Morgan, AL Sept. 9 (DC, MD *et al.*, b.), in *Okaloosa*, FL Sept. 16 (DMW), and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL Sept. 18

(RAD, LRD, PWS, EC). The Mourning Warbler Oct. 28 in C.P. was unusually late (DFL, *), as was a Yellow-breasted Chat Oct. 1 in *Washington*, AR (JP).

A lingering Summer Tanager was in *Iberville*, LA Nov. 21–Dec. 1 (JVR, LCB). Western Tanager is rare-but-regular in the fall, mostly along the coast, with more records to the west. Single birds were at Grand Isle, LA Oct. 7 (BMM, CS), at Gulf Breeze, FL Oct. 22 (RSD, RAD, LRD), and in C.P., Oct. 28 (DLD, SWC, *). Tardy Blue Grosbeaks included the latest for Tennessee Oct. 29 in *Shelby* (SNM, GRP, MGW), and another near Baton Rouge, LA Nov. 29 (DFL, JK). A pair of Painted Buntings provided the first autumn I.C.P. record Aug. 11 in *Houston* (MLH); two female-type birds were unexpected in *Oktibbeha*, MS Sept. 1 (TLS).

At N.N.W.R., a very late Dickcissel was seen Oct. 28 (TLS, MHS). Clay-colored Sparrow moves in small numbers each fall, most often along the w. and s. boundaries of our area. Most notable of several reports were six birds Oct. 7 at Little Rock, AR (RHD, WMS, LY *et al.*), and three at Ft. Morgan, AL Oct. 9 (GDJ, DGJ, RAD). Louisiana’s 4th Lark Bunting was a treat Sept. 17 in C.P. (DFL, JVR, JB, JR, JK, *, p.a.). Henslow’s Sparrows set 2 state arrival dates; one was near Mobile, AL Oct. 14 (D&LR, JRW, SWM), and another appeared in *Tangipahoa*, LA the next day (DFL, ph.). Up to four LeConte’s Sparrows were noteworthy in a *Lauderdale*, AL field beginning Nov. 21 (JTG, SWM, DJS, m.ob.). Locally early was a Fox Sparrow Oct. 20 in *Lowndes*, MS (TLS).

Bobolinks are uncommon transients in the autumn; of multiple reports, most noteworthy were 13 at N.N.W.R., Sept. 4 (TLS) and one in *Shelby* Oct. 29 (SNM, GRP), the latter providing a new w. Tennessee departure date. There were several sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, including ad. males Sept. 15 in Venice, *Plaquemines*, LA (SWC, DLD) and Oct. 14 near Mobile, AL (JRW, SWM). A rare Red Crossbill was reported Nov. 21 in *Lafayette*, MS (GCK). The Am. Goldfinch in n. *Walton*, FL Sept. 16 (BJ) was locally early. A moderate influx of Evening Grosbeaks occurred in our n. areas; I received 13 reports of 104 birds beginning Nov. 12.

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W. Cardiff (Louisiana), Ed Case, David Cimprich, Olga Clifton, Jack Colwick, Margaret Copeland, W.G. Criswell, Lee Daniel, Miriam Davey (MDy), Michelle Davis, W. Marvin Davis, Paul Dickson, Donna L. Dittmann, Chris Dorgan, Robert H. Doster, Lucy R. Duncan, R. Scot Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan** (n.w. Florida), Jon L. Dunn, Owen E. Fang, Perk Floyd, Lawrence F. Gardella, Murray L. Gardler, Ben C. Garmon, Jeff T. Garner, Gay Gomez, Marion L. Hannahan, Mac Hardy, Hubert & Pat Hervey, Geoff Hill, Doris Hope, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), Betty Jacobs, Horace Jeter, Bev & Don Kenney, Andy Kinsey, Jeremy Kirchman, Joe P. Kleiman, Gene C. Knight, Shannon Knight, Daniel F. Lane, Larry Locklin, Bill Longwood, Charles E. Lyon, Steve W. McConnell, Don McKee, Susan N. McWhirter, Memphis Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society, Charles Mills, C. William Milmore, Mike Mlodinow, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Nancy L. Newfield, Kenny & LaDonna Nichols, Josh Nove, Susie Nowell, **Helen & Max Parker** (Arkansas), Dave Patton, George R. Payne, Jackie & John Porter, John Prather, Dick D. Preston, R.D. Purrington, J.V. Remsen, Dick & Linda Reynolds, Virginia B. Reynolds, Paul Rodewald, Bob Russell, Jeff Ryzek, Jeanne F. Sachs, Merilu Sands, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Marion H. Schiefer, Terence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), William M. Shepherd, Damien J. Simbeck, Don R. Simons, Curt Sorrells, Billie F. Spencer, Barbara H. Stedman, Ronald J. Stein, Mary Stevens (MSt), Gene Street, Paul W. Sykes, John S. Sylvest, Joshua T. Sylvest, Tom A. Sylvest, Phil C. Tetlow, Richard Thackway, Carolyn Theis, Sue Utterback, **Martha G. Waldron** (w. Tennessee), Tommy Walker, Phillip Wallace, Donald M. Ware, Jeff R. Wilson, Terry J. Witt, Stephan Woltmann, Mark Woodry, Gary Worthington, Peter H. Yaukey, Lyncal York.

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