

# central southern region



## STEPHEN J. STEDMAN

**W**arm conditions prevailed this winter, but rainfall was less uniform with some parts of the Region drier and others wetter than the “norm.” Many new inland wintering records were set, presumably as a result of these conditions, the origin of which remains uncertain, but increased atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions might be part of the answer (see *Nature* 382: 146–149). Interesting avian records occurred offshore from Louisiana this winter; be sure to note the species you can encounter if you take a winter cruise on the Gulf of Mexico—or reside on an oil-drilling platform for a few weeks.

### LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Mississippi obtained its first Red-throated Loon specimen when one was found dead in *Harrison* Jan. 24 (*vide* TLS\*). One Red-throated and two Pacific loons in *Henry*, TN, Feb. 7 (†JRW, MW) visited a site where one of the latter was also noted Dec. 5 and Feb. 21. Alabama had 3 reports of Pacific Loons, including inland sightings in *Marshall* Dec. 10 (†GDJ, DGJ) and *Laurence* Jan. 23 (†SWM, JRW et al.). Single Eared Grebes in *Washington* and *Clark*, AR, Feb. 11 (MM et al.) and 15 (HP, MP), respectively, were locally rare as was a single inland in *Marshall*, AL, Dec. 3–17 (†RAR, LBR); one–three were in *Panola*, MS, Jan. 5–23 (GK, SK, WMD) while a single briefly visited *Oktibbeha*, MS, Jan. 23 (TLS, MS, MC). Western Grebes stayed in *Faulkner* and *Hempstead*, AR, Nov. 28–Feb. 6 (KN, LN et al.) and Dec. 5–6 (CM), respectively.

Alabama's 9th Sooty Shearwater appeared briefly in *Baldwin* on the Gulf Shores



**Representing the third winter record for west Tennessee, this American Bittern was found in Black Bayou, Lake County, December 19, 1998, during the Reelfoot Lake CBC. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson**

CBC Jan. 2 (†GDJ); a small, unidentified shearwater (ALM) and at least one unidentified booby (RRR) were also sighted on that count. American White Pelicans were again abundant in Mississippi where 1430 were registered Dec. 19 in *Panola/Lafayette* (WMD, GK).

Western Tennessee's 3rd winter Am. Bittern was found on the Reelfoot L. CBC, *Lake*, Dec. 19 (JZ, NM et al.); only the 2nd locally and first in winter, another was noted in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 9 (GKE, SJS); locally very rare in winter, one also visited *Clark*, AR, Dec. 31 (RHD). Six Great Egrets over the Gulf of Mexico 135 mi s. of Morgan City, LA, Feb. 13 (DNP) were somewhat unexpected though associated with a cold front. Rarely seen in n.w. Louisiana during January, and more rarely still by the dozen, 12 Snowy Egrets were in *DeSoto* Jan. 10 (JfT, JnT). Four Tricolored Herons in *Nachitoches*, LA, Feb. 6 (RJS, VL) were also unexpected winter *voyageurs* to n.w. Louisiana. Western Tennessee's first winter Cattle Egret was present in *Lake* Feb. 12 (WGC); one in *Clark* Feb. 15 (HP, MP) and two in *Cleburne* Feb. 18 (KN, LN) were considered early migrants in Arkansas; the 2nd sighting for Alabama's Tennessee Valley

was established by one in *Colbert/Lauderdale* Jan. 24 (JH, m. ob.); another single in *Caddo*, LA, Jan. 31 (CL, JK, JoK) rounded out records of this northward-roving heron during the winter. Further evidence of the eastward expansion of Roseate Spoonbill was provided by two in *Plaquemines*, LA, Jan. 2 (DPM et al.).

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were noted in 3 w. Louisiana parishes while reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were restricted to 2 sightings in *Cameron*, LA. Continuing a late fall sighting, an imm. Greater White-fronted Goose in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 1–16 (WAW, BHS, m.ob.) was first locally; up to 17 in *Okaloosa*, FL, Dec. 1–Jan. 21 (DW, RAD, m.ob.) continued fall sightings and were locally rare; Alabama had 3 sightings of small groups; flocks of 5000 in *Tunica*, MS, Jan. 17 (JRW) and 8000 in *Tallahatchie/Quitman*, MS, Jan. 4 & 24 (FB, JeL) were certainly notable; groups of 25 & 2 in *Iberville*, LA, Feb 21 & 22 (DLD, SWC) were locally rare. A flock of up to 230 Snow Geese in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD, m.ob.), through the period represented a locally unprecedented number, and 220 in *Baldwin*, AL, Jan. 2 (GDJ, DGJ) were considered a good coastal aggregation; 50,000 in

*Tunica*, MS, Jan. 17 (JRW) and 100,000 in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* Feb. 6 (GK, SK) represented large numbers at those locales. The species' search for wintering sites to accommodate its burgeoning continental population is probably indicated by these records. Continuing late fall sightings, an imm. Ross's Goose in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 1–Jan. 12 (SJS, m.ob.) and an immature and three adults in *Okaloosa*, FL, Dec. 1–Feb. 23 (RAD, PCT, PB v.t., m.ob.) provided first local records; singles were noted in 3 inland Alabama counties while a group of three appeared in *Baldwin* Jan. 2 (GDJ, DGJ), the 3rd record for the Gulf Coast in that state. Mainly small groups showed up in 6 Mississippi counties with 250 in *Tunica* Jan. 17 (JRW) constituting by far the largest; a single in *Orleans*, LA, Jan. 24+ (DPM et al.) was rare at the location.

A male Cinnamon Teal was probably a returnee from the previous winter to *Orleans*, LA, being noted late fall to Feb. 14 (GO et al.); two other males were in *Cameron* Dec. 20 (DP, JW, MWe, MA). Six-hundred Ring-necked Ducks in *Lauderdale* Feb. 8 (PAK) tied the high count for n.w. Alabama. An imm. Black and three Surf scoters stayed in *Yell*, AR, Jan. 16–30 (KN, LN) while two Blacks visited *Baldwin*, AL, Dec. 14 (GDJ, DGJ); Mississippi birders recorded Black Scoters in 3 counties—including two in *Oktibbeha* Dec. 13 (TLS, MS, m.ob.), one of which stayed until Feb. 12—and Surfs in three. Second locally in winter, a White-winged Scoter was noted briefly in *Putnam*, TN, Jan. 9 (SJS) while another showed up in *Dyer*, TN, Feb. 14 (WGC); a female in *Yell*, AR, Jan. 16–30 (KN, LN) created a clean sweep of scoters in one inland county in one season. *Yell* also hosted 350 Com. Goldeneyes Jan. 9 (KN, LN), a sizable flock evenly divided by sex. Sixteen Com. Mergansers in *Henry*, TN, Feb. 14 (JRW) represented a good count; seven were in *Cleburne*, AR, Jan. 5 (KN, LN). Mississippi had singles in *Tunica* and *Yalobusha*. An Alabama high count for Hooded Merganser was established Dec. 19 when 1057 were counted on the Wheeler N.W.R. CBC (*vide* GDJ).

#### RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Running late or wintering, an Osprey was noted in *Columbia*, AR, Dec. 19 (DC); late or wintering, singles were also sighted in 3 inland Mississippi counties. Six Louisiana parishes hosted White-tailed Kites during the season, including s.e. *Plaquemines*. The mid-winter eagle survey in Tennessee turned up 244 in the west and 92 in the

middle portion of the state, somewhat higher numbers than the long-term averages; Reelfoot L. was 95% iced over during the counting period (Jan. 1–15), reducing eagles counted there and probably increasing numbers on the Mississippi R. and Kentucky L./Tennessee R. (*vide* RMH). By the end of the period 7 active Bald Eagles nests were at Reelfoot L., TN (DH).

Judging from Regional CBC data (Table 1), *Accipiters* have been increasing nicely during the last decade. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was studied at leisure in *Plaquemines*, LA, Jan. 31 (PW, DPM, RDP); early arriving, another was in *Tipton*, TN, Feb. 27 (†JRW). Fifth locally, a Swainson's Hawk ventured into *Okaloosa*, FL, Dec. 14 (†DW); two well-described individuals were in *Vermilion*, LA, Dec. 18 (CWi, AS, PC). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk returned to the same wintering site in *Putnam*, TN, for the 12th winter (SJS); others were reported in *Fayette*, *Mauzy*, and *Shelby*, TN. Very rare in Alabama, an ad. rufous-morph Red-tail was noted in *Blount* Dec. 6 (GDJ, DGJ). On the Mississippi Review List, a Rough-legged Hawk was identified in *Sharkey* Feb. 4 & 18 (PBH, CW; p.a.); another was notable in *Nachitoches*, LA, Jan. 10–Feb. 21 (RJS, m.ob.). Quite a few Golden Eagles were reported from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Back again in *Calcasieu*, LA, a Crested Caracara was noted Dec. 26 (JK, DR) and Feb. 20 (DCl, SC) while another was noted in *Cameron*, LA, Dec. 29 and Jan. 16 (JK, JoK, KF). Single Peregrines were observed over the Gulf of Mexico 135 mi s. of Morgan City, LA, Jan. 24 and Feb. 12 (DNP). The *Yalobusha*, MS, Prairie Falcon made it back for the 8th winter (GK, SK, FB et al.).

The northward migration of Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee peaked in mid-February for the 2nd consecutive year, about 2 weeks earlier than expected; in *Putnam*, TN, crane flocks were also noted for the first time in January, some going N and some S (SJS, JCS, GKE); sizable wintering crane flocks, including 300+ in *Obion* Dec. 16–Feb. 13 (WGC), persisted again in Tennessee (also see Appalachian Region); a new maximum count for the Alabama Gulf Coast was established when 35 were observed Jan. 2 in *Baldwin* (WJB, GB); other sightings took place in 4 Mississippi counties and 4 Louisiana parishes.

The first w. Tennessee winter record of King Rail was established Jan. 16–17 in *Lake* (JRW, WGC, NM); singles were also noted in *Leflore* and *Rankin*, MS, as well as *Nachitoches*, LA.

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Very rare inland, eight Semiplumbed Plovers were counted in *Jeff Davis*, LA, Dec. 29 (DPM, PW, LCB, DP). A new Alabama maximum count of 35 Am. Oystercatchers took place in *Mobile* Feb. 8 (JoP, JP). *Dyer*, TN, provided the first w. Tennessee winter record of Am. Avocet when a single was noted Dec. 1–4 (WGC); also rare was one in *Limestone*, AL, Jan. 16 (HD). Alabama's 7th winter Whimbrel was noted in *Mobile* Feb. 8 (JoP, JP); another was very rare inland in *Cameron*, LA, Dec. 29 (JFH). A Long-billed Curlew was noted Feb. 27 in *Lafourche*, LA (CK), where the species is scarce. Solitary Sandpipers were observed in 3 Louisiana parishes, where wintering is rare. A lingering Spotted Sandpiper in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 1–19 (SJS, BHS, LP, GKE) provided the first local winter record; one was rare in *Jefferson*, AR, Dec. 26 (RHD, JLY); still another was considered rare in *Panola*, MS, Jan. 9–Feb. 13 (GK, SK, WMD). Alabama's first inland winter Sanderling stayed the season in *Limestone* (SWM) where 10+ W Sandpipers were also located Dec. 27 (SWM et al.). Alabama's first **Purple Sandpiper** regaled a crowd in *Baldwin* Jan. 1–3 (JPe, TW; p.a. Alabama Bird Records Committee). "Impressive" is a good way to describe 300+ Stilt Sandpipers counted in *Lafourche*, LA, Jan. 17 (PW, DPM, MMy) Reliable inland records of Short-billed Dowitcher are rare, so 15–20 Dec. 29 in *Jeff Davis*, LA (DPM, PW), were notable. Long-billed Dowitchers seldom winter in Alabama, making a single Jan. 2 in *Baldwin* (GDJ, DGJ) a nice find while three in *Limestone* Jan. 22 provided the first record in n. Alabama (SWM); flocks of 60 and 20 Dec. 1 and Feb. 25, respectively, in *Quitman*, MS (FB), were probably migrants.

A dark-morph Pomarine Jaeger was well studied in *Harrison*, MS, Jan. 24 (JB, SJP et al.); three Pomarines in *Cameron*, LA, Dec. 19 (SWC, DLD) and another there Dec. 21 (DP, JW) were the only others reported Staying Dec. 5–Jan. 23, a Laughing Gull was noteworthy in *Pope/Yell*, AR (KN, LN), another inland sighting took place in *East Baton Rouge*, LA, Jan. 1 (DCl, SC). An ad. Franklin's Gull was noted Jan. 1 in *Davidson*, TN (CS), where rare; another was in *Crawford*, AR, Feb. 20 (KN, LN); and still another was in *Noxubee*, MS, Dec. 11 (TLS), five in *Baldwin* Dec. 2 (GDJ, DGJ) were notable while an adult stayed appropriately in *Franklin*, FL, Dec. 24–28 (†TL, DM, GM). Louisiana had singles in *Cameron* Dec. 19 (SWC, DLD) and *Jeff Davis* Dec. 29 (RB et al.).

Sixty-thousand Ring-billed Gulls in *Yell*, AR, Jan. 9 (KN, LN) must have taken a spell to count. Two California Gulls, still very rare in the Region, were in *Cameron* Dec. 21 (SWC, DLD). Lingered from fall, a Lesser Black-backed Gull stayed in *Henry*, TN, to Jan. 9 (JRW, m.ob.); one was found in *Hancock*, MS, Jan. 23 (JB, SJP); Louisiana birds included one in *Cameron* Dec. 20 (PW, MMy, CSo) and two in *Jefferson* Jan. 23–late February (PY); and four were noted in 3 Alabama counties including *Lauderdale* where a another rare larid, Glaucous Gull, also got counted Dec. 19 (DJS, MAB). Other Glaucous sightings included two in *Jefferson* during January and February (PY) and a single in *Cameron* Feb. 13 (JK, DR). Rare in Alabama, an imm. Great Black-backed Gull was sighted Dec. 2 in *Baldwin*, AL, where an adult was seen the next day (GDJ, DGJ et al.). First ever in North America, a **Gray-hooded Gull** was sighted Dec. 26 in Apalachicola, FL (TL ph., DM ph) where it was seen by few. Unusual terns flocked to Louisiana: 30 Gull-billeds congregated in *Lafourche*, LA, Jan. 17 (PW, MMy, DPM); a single Sandwich stayed in *Cameron* Dec. 21 (PC); Common was represented by singles in *John the Baptist* Dec. 26 (JaB) and in *Cameron* Dec. 20 (MS, KF), and by three elsewhere in *Cameron* Dec. 19 (KE, BV).

#### DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves showed up in *Yell* and *Little River*, AR, during December (KN, LN) and February (DA, JC), respectively; the species continued its dramatic expansion in Alabama (*vide* GDJ) where 134 Jan. 2 in *Baldwin* provided a Gulf Coast maximum. Small groups of up to 19 were reported in 3 Mississippi counties; 3 Louisiana parishes reported small flocks, but *Jefferson* boasted . . . er hosted . . . ok, tolerated 155 Feb. 17 (PY); if the increased number of collared-doves is having a negative effect on a competing columbid, Mourning Dove, in the Region, it is not yet evident (Table 1). Also increasing dramatically in Alabama, 89 White-winged Doves were counted in *Baldwin* Jan. 2 (PCT, BT, BCG, JoL), establishing a state maximum, and a single showed up in the Tennessee Valley in *Morgan* Jan. 20 (SH, PhC). Reports of White-wings emanated from 11 Louisiana parishes, an "unprecedented scatter" of sightings (SWC). An Inca Dove in *Sevier*, AR, Dec. 18 (CM) and eight there Feb. 22 (DA) were at a new site while other Arkansas reports came from *Clark*, *Columbia*, and *Little River*; the species is

also becoming more common in *Shreveport*, LA (RJS). Continuing the theme of columbid conquest, Com. Ground-Doves, normally scarce in Louisiana, were reported from at least 6 parishes—but in mercifully small numbers.

Four Greater Roadrunners in *DeSoto*, LA, Jan. 10 (JfT, JnT) represented a notable concentration. *Jackson*, MS, hosted a Groove-billed Ani Feb. 2–20 (KH et al.); the only others were in *East Baton Rouge* and *Jefferson*, LA. Rare in Tennessee, Long-eared Owls were noted in *Henry* Dec. 5 and in *Lake* Dec. 19–Feb. 28 (JRW, m.ob.). Four Com. Nighthawks lingered in *Davidson*, TN, to at least Dec. 7 (CS), and one–four visited *Shelby*, TN, until Dec. 20 (LCC, MH); another stayed late in *Lowndes*, MS, Dec. 16–17 (JAJ, TLS).

Four Broad-billed Hummingbirds were banded in Louisiana, doubling the number previously banded (NN, DP). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds in *Hancock*, MS, Jan. 1–Feb. 18 and beyond (SJP et al.) and *Harrison*, MS, Feb. 19 (SJP, HM) were the only ones reported outside of Louisiana. Banded Jan. 18 (BC) in *Harrison*, MS, a 2nd-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird present Jan. 14 to at least Feb. 28 was the only one reported away from Louisiana where numbers were unprecedentedly high (see Table 2, which does not account for all reports). A Black-chinned Hummingbird banded in *Williamson*, TN, Dec. 3 (CS, PM) established the 3rd state record. A Calliope Hummingbird banded by the Sargents in *Davidson*, TN, during winter 1997–1998 (FN 52: 210) returned for another gig in Music City, staying Nov. 10 until late February (CS, PM, EW); Louisiana experienced a "Calliope high" with about 20 present during the winter (SWC). Rufous Hummingbirds were banded and stayed the entire season in *Davidson* and *Rutherford*, TN (CS, PM) while another was banded in *Wilson*, TN, Dec. 4 (CS, PM); an ad. male stayed until frozen by a cold snap Dec. 23 in *Washington*, AR (DJ\*), but another made it through the winter in *Pulaski*, AR, where it was banded (PF). Still others were noted in *Cleburne* and *Faulkner*, AR; Mississippi's only report came from *Harrison* where a male was noted Jan. 18 and Feb. 16 (SJP et al.).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Vermilion Flycatcher in *Hancock*, MS, provided a New Year's Day treat (SJP et al.); the only other reports came from *Ouachita* and *Rapides*, LA. The only Brown-crested

Flycatcher came from *Plaquemines*, LA, Jan. 31 (DPM et al.). About the 4th Mississippi record, an Ash-throated Flycatcher remained in *Jackson* Feb. 6–28 onward (KH et al.), 4 Louisiana parishes hosted others. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were more numerous in Louisiana than usual. Rarely encountered in Tennessee in winter, a White-eyed Vireo was noted on the Memphis CBC Dec. 20 (†RP); two–three in *Grenada*, MS, Dec. 30 (FB, DeW) were also rare. Extremely rare was a Yellow-throated Vireo in *Hancock*, MS, Jan. 4 (SJP). Early-arriving swallows included two Purple Martins in *Lowndes*, MS, Feb. 11 (KK) and a Tree Swallow in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Feb. 26 (TLS); six of the latter were over the Gulf 135 mi s. of Morgan City, LA, Jan. 15 (DNP). A Bank Swallow in *Cameron* Dec. 20 (DLD, SWC) was amazin' The Rock Wren appearing in *White*, AR, last fall stayed until Mar. 1 (KN, LN). The only Bewick's Wrens were two in *Little River*, AR, Feb. 21 (JC, DA) and one in *Evangeline*, LA, Dec. 30 (MF).

A state maximum of 394 E. Bluebirds kept counters busy Jan. 2 in *Baldwin*, AL (*vide* GDJ). Where would you least expect six Am. Robins? You guessed it—135 mi s of Morgan City, LA, Jan. 15 (DNP); Remsen evaluated robin numbers in Louisiana as "excellent"; I guess so. A Gray Catbird in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 22–Jan. 6 (†RWS) provided the 2nd local winter record, and one in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Jan. 12–23 (MC, TLS) was rare. American Pipits beleaguered bird counters in *Limestone/Morgan*, AL, Dec. 19 when 1204 established a state maximum, 375 in *Lafayette*, MS, Jan. 23 (GK, SK) were considered a large group at that site.

Arkansas' first winter Tennessee Warbler showed up in *Jefferson* Dec. 26 (†GL, JL), another was in *Cameron*, LA, Dec. 12 (SJP, RDP, DPM). Three Louisiana parishes held Nashville, and two parishes Yellow warblers, both very rare in winter. Alabama's 3rd winter Cape May Warbler—and first in the Tennessee Valley—remained in *Lauderdale* Jan. 10–Feb. 28 onward (SW, m.ob.). Black-throated Green Warblers were noted in *Cameron* and *Plaquemines*, LA. A Prairie Warbler in *Putnam* Dec. 16 (†SJS, †GKE, †JCS) provided Tennessee's first winter record (see Appalachian Region for particulars about the 2nd winter record). Palm Warblers wintered inland to the far northern limits of the Region in noteworthy numbers. American Redstarts appeared in 3 Louisiana parishes. Another Arkansas winter first occurred when an Ovenbird tarried in *Prairie* Dec. 22–Feb. 28+ (TS, RAS, ph DaC, OA), and Louisiana hosted Ovenbirds

**Table 1. Christmas Bird Count Numbers for Accipiters and Two Columbids from 68 Central Southern Region CBCs Conducted All Ten Years 1988–1997**

| Species                | 1988   | 1989   | 1990   | 1991   | 1992   | 1993   | 1994   | 1995   | 1996   | 1997   |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk     | 194    | 157    | 176    | 232    | 216    | 222    | 230    | 245    | 229    | 253    |
| Cooper's Hawk          | 98     | 70     | 85     | 128    | 133    | 134    | 149    | 169    | 152    | 175    |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | 0      | 0      | 0      | 3      | 71     | 238    | 697    | 633    | 840    | 1562   |
| Mourning Dove          | 15,925 | 17,172 | 22,407 | 19,672 | 22,049 | 20,300 | 26,217 | 22,741 | 21,544 | 19,016 |

**Table 2. Hummingbird Totals on Louisiana Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)\* and Totals Banded by Nancy Newfield (NN) and Dave Patton (DP) in Louisiana during Winter 1998–1999 (overlap exists between the two sets of data)**

| Species                | LA CBC Totals | NN/DP Banding Totals |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Broad-billed           | 1             | 4                    |
| Buff-bellied           | 10            | 10                   |
| Ruby-throated          | 20            | 25                   |
| Black-chinned          | 26            | 31                   |
| <i>Archilochus</i> sp. | 3             | –                    |
| Calliope               | 5             | 4                    |
| Broad-tailed           | 2             | 2                    |
| Rufous                 | 43            | 62                   |
| Allen's                | 2             | 4                    |
| Rufous/Allen's         | 53            | –                    |
| hummer sp.             | 4             | –                    |
| Total                  | 169           | 142                  |

\*Data supplied by Steven W. Cardiff.

and N. Waterthrushes in 4 parishes each. A Wilson's Warbler in *Limestone* Feb. 6 (DRC, RC) provided the first winter record in Alabama's Tennessee Valley. Yellow-breasted Chats showed up in 4 Louisiana parishes.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Summer Tanagers were present in *East Baton Rouge* and *Caddo*, LA, the latter farther north than most sightings occur. The male W. Tanager in *St. John the Baptist*, LA, in late February (BJ, RS, MWe, m.ob.) was a show stopper. The 2nd Alabama inland winter record for Lark Sparrow took place Dec. 19 in *Lauderdale* (JTG); others were in *Cameron* and *LaSalle*, LA. Eight Henslow's Sparrows in *Bradley*, *Drew*, and *Hempstead* Feb. 13–15 (WMS, JLY) continued a recent trend toward greater wintering numbers in Arkansas; another in *Lee* Dec. 19 (WDR, GEH) provided Alabama's first winter record in the Mountain Region; the banding project in *Jackson*, MS, once again scored big with 146 banded Jan. 10–Feb. 24 (MSW, SI, MD). Rarely reported in middle Tennessee and Arkansas, single Harris Sparrows were noted in *Lawrence* Dec. 29–Jan. 20 (MoW) and *Little River* Feb. 21 (DA, JC), respectively. Found fittingly enough on Snow Bunting Pen., *Davidson*, TN, a Snow Bunting made one of the species' rare appearances in that state Jan. 10 (CS). Up to 500 Lapland Longspurs were noted throughout the period in *Lake*, TN (JRW, MG et al.) while 200+ were in *Henry*, TN, Jan. 9 (JRW); 386 in *Limestone*, AL, Dec. 27 (SWM) provided a good number at that location; Louisiana had records in 5 parishes Smith's Longspurs were monitored at the Stuttgart Airport in *Prairie*, AR, Jan. 16–17 (JZ, LZ, CB et al.) with up to 52 reported; in *Sebastian*, AR, 20 were noted Jan. 17 (TB, MP, DCh, MM) while 75 were present there Feb. 14 (MM, DMe).

Seldom well documented in winter, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in *East Baton Rouge* Jan. 1–16 (CoB, JBa). A basic-plumaged ad. male Indigo Bunting in *Baldwin*, AL, Dec. 14 (GDJ, DGJ) was late/rare; Louisiana had sightings in 6 parishes. Fifth in winter for Alabama, a Painted Bunting stayed in *Baldwin* Dec. 17–Jan. 7+ (ALM); Louisiana, again, had sightings in 6 parish-

es. First locally in winter, a female Baltimore Oriole wintered in *Putnam*, TN, Dec. 19–Feb. 28+ (+GKE, JCS, ES, JS); a male stayed in *Davidson*, TN, Dec. 18–Feb. 28+ (CS); another of unreported sex appeared on the Memphis CBC Dec. 20 (JZ, LZ). Farther south an ad. male Baltimore was noted Jan. 9 in *Shelby*, AL (PH), and a female was seen eating seed from a feeder in *Harrison*, MS, Jan. 6 (SJP). Louisiana hosted Baltimores in 6 parishes and Bullock's in two, but the oriole of the season was a **Hooded Oriole** in *East Baton Rouge* Feb. 6–28 onward (AD et al.). Winter finches were generally present in extremely low numbers or absent.

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