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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 251.

central southern region



STEVEN W. CARDIFF

Climatically this season was a rerun of 1998. Another mild winter provoked an early spring that was relatively cool, with drought conditions prevailing over much of the southern portion of the Region. Fronts making it to the coast were few, far-between, and weak, but noticeable minor to major "fall-outs" were reported for 30–31 Mar (western Florida, *Orleans*), 10 Apr (Grand Isle), 15–18 Apr (coastwide), 28 Apr (Alabama), and 30 Apr–1 May (*Cameron*). Although "migrant-friendly" southerly flow was generally in control, allowing the majority of trans-Gulf transients to bypass offshore platforms and the coast, things were kept interesting by a better-than-average assortment of lingering winterers, early migrants, and vagrants.

Abbreviations: EB-826 (*Ewing Bank 826 oil platform, 61 mi s. of E. Timbalier I.*); e.o.p. (*to end of period*); GB-189 (*Garden Banks 189 oil platform, 138 mi S Cameron*); GC-18 (*Green Canyon 18 oil platform, about 70 mi s. Racoon Pt.*); LSUMNS (*Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science*); MOGP (*Migrants Over the Gulf Project*); SMI-147 (*South Marsh I. 147 oil platform, 93 mi s. of w. tip Marsh I.*); VE-265 (*Vermilion 265 oil platform, 77 mi s. Pecan I.*). County/parish names are *italicized*, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of "review list" species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, respective state bird records committees.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Red-throated Loons were reported in *Santa Rosa*, FL, 8 Mar (D&J Ballman) and *Marshall*, AL, 8 Apr (LBR, RAR). In Florida, Pacific Loons (now >20 records) were reported in *Escambia* 12 (RAD) & 22 Mar (PT), and in *Santa Rosa* 29 Apr (LD, RAD) and 11 May (AF). An Eared Grebe in *Oktibbeha*, MS, 27 Mar (TS, MS) provided the first 7-county-area spring record; Alabama sightings in *Marshall* 24 Mar–8 Apr (RAR, LBR) and *Colbert* 28 Mar–8 Apr (SWM, D. J. Simbeck) were rare e. interior finds. A **Western Grebe** in *Shelby* 2 May (J. Levy, H. Dinkelspiel, B. Tucker) was Tennessee's 6th. Somewhat surprising was a rash of early spring Audubon's Shearwaters, with two during a pelagic survey out of *Lafourche*, LA, 12 Mar (SWC, *LSUMNS, DLD, DPM), and a combined seven MOGP sightings 18 Mar–13 Apr at GB-189 (SJP), SMI-147 (RLK), and EB-826 (JRK). Masked Boobies were once again recorded regularly at some MOGP sites: 13 sightings involving 14 individuals 30 Mar–8 May, mainly at EB-826 and GC-18 (JRK, BPG, SJP, RLK). Much more interesting was an imm. **Brown Booby** at EB-826 14 Apr (JRK). Six pairs of nesting Double-crested Cormorants in *Washington* 22 May–e.o.p. (M. Stevens, J. Litton) represented only the 3rd Mississippi breeding record, all in 1998–1999.

CICONIIFORMES

Peak counts of the declining Am. Bittern included 29 in *Cameron*, LA, 3 Apr (JPK), and 13 in *Desha*, AR, 2 May (JC); one at VE-265 28 Mar (BMM) was an interesting trans-Gulf migrant, and one in *Putnam*, TN, 11 Apr (RWS) furnished the first spring area record. A Tricolored Heron in *Noxubee* 28 Apr–21 May (TS, MC) provided only the 2nd *Oktibbeha*-area record. Some of up to 34 White Ibis, rare in the *Oktibbeha* area, arrived early 4 Apr and remained through e.o.p.; breeding could not be confirmed (TS, MS, MC). A White-faced Ibis in *White* 8–9 May (K&LN) and a *Plegadis* sp. in *Ouachita* 31 May (JC) were rare inland strays for Arkansas. Roseate Spoonbills

were confirmed breeding in coastal *Lafourche* 17 Apr, with about 75, including many pairs and several nests, associated with a heronry at Port Fourchon (SWC, DPM, PW); two each in *Natchitoches*, LA, 13 May (JLI) and e. *Orleans*, LA, 22 May (GO) were also suggestive of breeding range expansion. A Wood Stork in *Oktibbeha* 14 May (TS) was remarkably early.

WATERFOWL

"Pairs" of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Lafourche* 22 (WRF) & 30 May (DPM, RDP), in *St. Charles*, LA, 25 May (PY), three individuals at Sabine N.W.R., *Cameron*, 25 Apr and 1 May (JPK), 25 in *Lafayette*, AR, 24 Apr (K&LN), and five in *Garland*, AR, 11 May (J. Newman) provided continuing evidence that the species is consolidating and spreading n. and e. Interior-straying Fulvous Whistling-Ducks included six in *Tallahatchie/Quitman*, MS, 8 Apr (ph. FB) and one in *White* 15 May (K&LN, JRW). Lingering geese included Greater White-fronteds in *Putnam* 27 Mar (SJS; first area spring record) and *Tallahatchie/Quitman* 10 Apr–14 May (FB), a blue-morph Snow in *Montgomery*, AL, 4 May (CTS), Snows in *Etowah*, AL, 9 May (P&K White) and *Putnam* 26 May (SJS), two Ross's in *Lake*, TN, 17 Mar–5 Apr (WGC, JRW), one in *Dyer*, TN, 2–3 Apr (WGC), and one in *Baldwin*, AL, to 1 May (M. F. Floyd, GDJ, vt) Totally unexpected were two **Tundra Swans** over Grand I., *Jefferson*, LA, 16 Apr (DJL, RMG).

Puddle duck strays/stragglers were two Am Wigeon in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* 26 May (FB) and three N. Pintails there 21–26 May (FB); Am. Black Ducks in *Lake* 23 May and *Shelby* 29 May (JRW); two Mottled Ducks n. to *Howard*, AR, 11 Apr (CM), and one in *Desha* 29 May (K&LN). Three sightings of male Cinnamon Teal in the Lacasine N.W.R. area, *Cameron*, 15 Mar–24 Apr (RLK, GG, JPK) may have involved a single individual. Other males were present in *Humphreys*, TN, 5 Mar (RW, JCo), and *Lake* 9–18 Mar (WGC); one spending its 2nd winter in e. *Orleans* remained to 28 Mar (GO). Ring-necked Ducks at Baton Rouge 18 May–e.o.p. (W. Wilson) and in *Forrest*, MS, 22 May (D. Cimprich) were almost certainly unhealthy summering birds. Late single Greater Scaups were in *Mobile* 16–17 Apr (SWM), *Harrison*, MS, 30 Apr (SJP), *Quitman* 11 & 14 May (FB), and Black Bayou W.M.A., TN, 2–27 May (WGC, W. R. Peeples, V. B. Reynolds). Twelve White-winged Scoters in *Escambia* 25 Mar (RAD, LD) and one in *Marshall* 20 Apr (RAR)

were overshadowed by an exceptionally late bird in *Hempstead*, AR, 29 May (CM). A Bufflehead 13 May in *Caddo*, LA (JLI), was quite late. The sole Long-tailed Duck report was from *Prairie*, AR, 27 Mar–2 Apr (ph. K&LN). Late, inland Red-breasted Mergansers included birds in *Montgomery* 15 May (LFG), *Chicot*, AR, 26–27 May (D. R. Simons), and *Marshall* 31 May (B&W Brown).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

Noteworthy migrant Swallow-tailed Kites included early detections in *Cameron* 6 (GG) & 12 Mar (RLK), remarkable trans-Gulf sightings at SMI-147 30 Mar (RLK) and EB-826 8 Apr (JRK), and late coastal stragglers in lower *Plaquemines* 8 May (DPM, PW) and *Cameron* 12 May (WRF, GB). White-tailed Kites once again bred at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, where a nest was monitored late Apr–e.o.p. (JPK); one in *Little River*, AR, 22–23 Apr (ph. CM, D. Arbour) was more unexpected. A Swainson's Hawk near Baton Rouge 20 Apr (SWC) was well e. and one of few area spring records. A wintering Rough-legged Hawk in *Cleburne*, AR, remained to 16 Mar (K&LN) and another was in *Dyer* 23 Mar and 3 Apr (WGC, JRW). A rare and rather late Golden Eagle was located in *Sunflower*, MS, 2–18 Mar (ph. FB). A westbound Crested Caracara was out-of-place on the *Cameron* coast 24 Apr (JPK).

A seldom-reported Black Rail was glimpsed at Dauphin I. 17 Apr (G. J. Harber). A Sora in *Dyer* 23 May (JRW, WGC) was very late. A northward incursion of Purple Gallinules included an early individual found dead in *Oktibbeha* 28 Mar (G. & G. Bull; *MS State Univ.), a late bird in *Noxubee* 20 May (TS; 2nd–3rd area records), up to three in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* 29 Apr–20 May (FB, GK), three in *Lafayette*, AR, 24 Apr (K&LN), the first for *Crockett*, TN, 6 May (C. Wirwa), and one in *Shelby* 9 May (ph. JRW). An "odd" offshore visitor at EB-826 was an Am. Coot 24 Mar (JRK). Eleven Sandhill Cranes in *Bolivar*, MS, 8 Mar (FB), and three in *Shelby* 12 Mar (G. R. & J. Payne) were locally noteworthy; 35 lingered to 6 Mar in *Calcasieu*, LA (JPK).

SHOREBIRDS

High-counts of Am. Golden-Plovers included 102 well e. in *Okaloosa* 16 Mar (PT), up to 237 in *Lowndes*, AL, 20–21 Mar (SER, LFG), 1435 in *Dyer* 3 Apr (JRW), and 1163 in *Little River* 17 Apr (CM). Single Snowy Plovers in *Cameron* 22 (JPK) & 28 May (PW, CS) were late and suggestive of

breeding. The first substantiated breeding of Am. Oystercatchers in *Cameron* occurred 19 Apr–e.o.p. on the e. bank of the Sabine R. (RJB, JPK, DPM, RLK); three individuals a few miles away 25 Apr (DPM, PY), and w Florida's 11th in *Santa Rosa* 5 Apr (RAD) were presumed migrants. In *Benton*, a Greater Yellowlegs 1 Mar (D. James) and a Solitary Sandpiper 28 Mar (MM, DC) were earliest-ever for n.w. Arkansas. Rare interior Whimbrels were noted in *Clark* 13 May (DolH, DonH) and *Benton* 19 May (JP), eight in *Lake* 22 May and one there 23 May (JRW, WGC) represented the 8th w Tennessee record. A Marbled Godwit in *Lake* 25 Apr (WGC) was the 2nd w Tennessee spring record; 19 in *Humphreys* 22 Apr (RW, C. Ferrell, JCo) and one in *Santa Rosa* 22 Apr (A&DF) were also unusual. Rare interior Sanderlings included the first spring occurrence at Millwood L., *Howard*, 22–23 May (CM), and one in *Lake* 23 May (JRW, WGC). Early peeps included a White-rumped Sandpiper in *Mobile* 16 Apr (SWM; ties Alabama early date), two Pectorals in *Benton* 7 Mar (MM, DC; earliest n.w. Arkansas), and 52 Dunlins (with 160 early Long-billed Dowitchers) in *Bolivar* 8 Mar (FB).

A rash of female Ruffs made appearances in *Quitman* 9–13 Mar (ph. FB, G&SK, JRW; exceptionally early, 4th recent area record), *Prairie* 27 Mar (ph. K&LN) and 21 Apr (K&LN; first records c. Arkansas), and *Shelby* 10 Apr (JRW; 6th area spring record). A locally rare and somewhat early Wilson's Phalarope was in *Okaloosa* 1 Apr (PT), and Regionally rare Red-necked Phalaropes were located in *Clark* 11 May (2, DolH) and *Benton* 25 May (3; MM).

GULLS, TERNS

An ad. **Little Gull** in *Cameron* 25 Mar (R Bacon) was an excellent find; there are still <10 state records, most from this area. Reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an adult at SMI-147 31 Mar (RLK), a sub-adult in *Lafourche* 3 Apr–2 May (ph. PW, CCK, ph. JPK, DPM, PY), three first-years there 30 May (ph. DPM, RDP), two sub-adults near *Cameron* 24 Apr (DPM, PY), a first-year in lower *Plaquemines* 9 May (JPK), and a sub-adult in *Baldwin* 23 Apr (RAD). First-year Great Black-backed Gulls were noted near *Cameron* 14 Mar (RLK) and in *Lafourche* 2–22 Apr (ph. PW, CCK, CS, DJL). The salvation of a rough 17 Apr pelagic trip off *Lafourche* were two **Kelp Gulls** and a suspected Kelp × Herring hybrid at a shrimp trawler about 15 mi s e of Port Fourchon

(ph. JPS, ph. RMG, ph. PW, ph. G. Payne, DPM, DLD, SWC, C. Marantz); there are no previous well-documented Louisiana records outside summer on the Chandeleur Is. Seven Glaucous Gulls was above average: two wintering birds remained to 13 Mar in n. Jefferson, LA (ph. PY); others were at SMI-147 25 Mar (RLK), at Grand I. 3–16 Apr (ph. PW, CS, CCK), and in Cameron 10 (2, M. Weber) & 24 Apr (ph. JPK, ph. PY, DPM). Also a good season's total, five Black-legged Kittiwakes were distributed in Cameron 13 Mar (ph. RLK), at VE-265 31 Mar and 10 Apr (ph. BMM), at SMI-147 11 Apr (ph. DP), at GC-18 18 Apr (ph. BPG), and in Baldwin 14 Apr (RAD). An onshore **Bridled Tern** in Cameron 24 Apr (RJB, JPK, GS) was totally unprecedented for spring.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to spread inland, with a dozen reports from new and recently occupied sites in Arkansas, Mississippi, and middle Tennessee (m.ob.). White-winged Doves also continue to increase, especially in s. Louisiana, with strays radiating n. and e. elsewhere in the Region. Most unusual (all singles) were trans-Gulf migrants at EB-826 six times 5 Apr–1 May (JRK) and at GB-189 2 Apr (SJP), and pioneers in Phillips, AR, 18 Apr (ph. J. Gschwend), Columbia, AR, 15 Apr (E. L. Lacy, SSL; 2nd area record) and 22–23 Apr (ph. SSL; 3rd area record), 25 Apr in Oktibbeha (TS, ph. MS; 2nd area record) and Grenada (ph. FB, D. Welch; first for n.w. Mississippi), in Escambia 19 May (BHS), and in Gulf 20 May (BHS). A **Long-eared Owl** in lower Plaquemines 5 Mar (AP, ph. DH) provided one of few well-documented Louisiana records. A Chuck-will's-widow found in early February in lower Plaquemines stayed to 5 Mar (AP, DH). Two wintering male Whip-poor-wills in Iberville, LA, remained to 7 & 10 Mar, respectively (DLD, SWC); one in Cleburne, AL, 5 Mar (BS) was incredibly early and may have more likely wintered locally. Most mentionable among last-seen dates for various wintering hummingbirds were Calliopes 24 Mar at Iberville (SWC, DLD), 25 Mar and 4 Apr at Baton Rouge (C. Foil), and 8 Apr at Baton Rouge (M. Davey), and a Broad-tailed 7 Mar at Baton Rouge (M. Griffith).

FLYCATCHERS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Jackson 20 May (GDJ) was e. of normal and the latest for Alabama. An Acadian Flycatcher at Grand I. 2 Apr (PW, CS) was early. About five vocalizing Willow Flycatchers in Cam-

eron 12 May (WRF, GB, v.t.) provided one of surprisingly few well-documented records for Louisiana. Two wintering Least Flycatchers in lower Plaquemines were present to 5 Mar (AP); one in Mobile 17 Apr (LFG, SER) was early and rare for the e. coast. A Vermilion Flycatcher in Cameron 3 Apr (JPK) was relatively late, but more unusual was inland Alabama's 9th and latest in Monroe 16 Apr (ph. C&J Stallworth). Particularly rare as a spring migrant, an Ash-throated Flycatcher was found near Cameron 23 Apr (ph. PW, CS). A very rare **Great Kiskadee** was discovered in lower Plaquemines 17 Apr (ph. E. Jeanclous); amazingly, the (apparently solitary) bird constructed a nest on a telephone pole and was viewed by many through e.o.p. (ph. RMG, ph. JPK, JPS). A freshly dead **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** at W. Cameron 319 platform, 73 km s.s.w. of Cameron 6 May (T. Reitan, *LSUMNS), was Louisiana's 5th, and 3rd in spring. Another perplexing offshore record of **Tropical/Couch's Kingbird** featured a silent bird at VE-265 9 May (ph. BMM). A wintering W. Kingbird near Baton Rouge was last seen 5 Mar (D. F. Lane); mentionable migrants included a trans-Gulf individual at VE-265 8 May (BMM), strays e. to Baldwin 6 Apr (LD) and Santa Rosa 10 May (RAD), and a late interior bird in Lake 30 May (JRW). A Gray Kingbird in Harrison 21–29 May (K. Hackman, SJP) was at the location where a pair bred last year; perhaps more interesting was a moribund trans-Gulf individual at EB-826 30 Apr (JRK, *LSUMNS). Yet another strange trans-Gulf wanderer was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at VE-265 7 May (BMM); most notable among several e. reports were a very early individual in Mobile 9 Mar (P. Rodelamb), and a possible breeder in Morgan, AL, 18 May–e.o.p. (H. H. Kittinger).

VIREOS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Three Yellow-throated Vireos in lower Plaquemines 9 Mar (AP) were exceptionally early. A Blue-headed Vireo in Cameron 12 May (WRF, GB) was the latest-ever for Louisiana in spring. Warbling Vireos in Bossier, LA, 27 Mar (JLI) and in the Oktibbeha area 10 & 18 Apr (MS, TS) were early; one in Cameron 12 May (WRF, GB) was relatively late. A pair of Black-whiskered Vireos at Grand I. 30 May (DPM, RDP) once again suggested occasional breeding there. Farther east, where somewhat more regular, three (two captured and banded) were noted in Baldwin 3–18 Apr (RRS), and singles were in Escambia 28 Apr

(M. Rose, H. Huddleston) and Santa Rosa 29 Apr (RAD). A "pair" of Horned Larks in Lowndes, lingering from the winter period to 30 May, represented the first spring occurrence for the Alabama coastal plain and almost certainly bred, with a juvenile present and the adults copulating 22 May (T. Pratt, P. Johnson). A concentration of 185 N. Rough-winged Swallows in St. Charles 6 Mar (numbers building since Feb) were presumably early migrants (PY). An interesting trans-Gulf Bank Swallow at EB-826 24 Mar (JRK) was also early, as was a Cliff in Okaloosa 3 Mar (PT). Cave Swallows appear to be established at Louisiana's Hwy. 82–Sabine R. site, with at least one–two viewed 24 Apr and 1 May (RJB, JPK).

CREEPERS THROUGH PIPITS

Brown Creepers were observed nest-building in Lake 1 May (B. Ford, B. Rutledge). A wintering **Rock Wren** in White remained to 1 Mar (K&LN). Reports of the declining eastern Bewick's Wren included a presumed transient in Washington 20 Mar (MM), and a first-ever nest for Fayette, TN, 15 May (subsequently destroyed; D. Whittington). A singing Winter Wren in Putnam 21–24 May (SJS) was exceptionally late and away from known breeding areas. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Montgomery 15 May (CTS, PS) was Alabama's latest. Veeries in Washington 26 May (MM) and Iberville 27 May (DLD) were late, as was a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Cameron 29 May (PW, CS). A Swainson's Thrush in Orleans 1 Apr (DPM) was early. A Hermit Thrush (possible western subspecies) in lower Plaquemines 8 May (DPM) was one of the latest-ever for Louisiana. Numbers of Am. Robins lingered into early May at Pensacola, and a nest there 10 May provided one of few area breeding records (D. Timmons, PT). A N. Mockingbird was an unexpected inhabitant of VE-265 17 Apr (SJP). Two Am. Pipits in Washington 8 May (JP) were relatively late.

WARBLERS

A male Magnolia Warbler in Cameron 29 May (PW, CS) was quite late on the coast. Inland Cape May Warblers included one early in Montgomery 7 Apr (CTS, PS), another there 1–2 May (LFG), different birds in Washington 3 & 12 May (JP), one in Hempstead 8 May (CM), and six in w. Tennessee 30 Apr–8 May (m.ob.). The detection of two **Hermit Warblers** (both males), last seen in Louisiana in 1973, was phenomenal. More amazing still, the first appeared offshore at EB-826 15 Apr (JRK),

the 2nd was in *Cameron* 28 Apr (S. Gauthreaux, C. Belser, D. Andrus, K. Dorris, ph. M&L Bellue, ph. WRF). A Palm Warbler at VE-265 12 May (BMM) was very late, especially offshore. Two male Blackpoll Warblers in *Cameron* 30 May (PW, CS) were late coastal stragglers. Two Black-and-white Warblers in lower *Plaquemines* 9 Mar (AP), a singing male in *Iberville* 9 Mar (DLD), and one at Grand I. 13 Mar (J. Conover) were all relatively early migrants. A wintering Ovenbird in *Orleans* was last seen 25 Mar (DJL), and, of three wintering in lower *Plaquemines*, one stayed to 1 Mar, and the other two until 5 Mar (AP); more unusual was a wintering individual in *Prairie* that remained to 7 Mar (T&RS). An Ovenbird in *Putnam* 8 Apr (RWS), Kentucky Warblers in *Noxubee* 4 Apr (TS, MS) and *Putnam* 11 Apr (RWS), and a Hooded Warbler in *Putnam* 8 Apr (SJS) were all early area records. A Wilson's Warbler in *Cameron* 12 May (WRF, GB) was a relatively late, rare spring coastal migrant. A wintering Yellow-breasted Chat in lower *Plaquemines* was present to 5 Mar (DH, AP)

TANAGERS THROUGH BUNTINGS

A male Summer Tanager, back for its 4th or 5th winter in Baton Rouge, remained to 9 Mar (ph. J&C Barré); one in *Caddo* 10 Mar (J Trahan) was incredibly early for a migrant, having more likely wintered in the Region. A W. Tanager in *St. John-the-Baptist* since early Feb remained to 4 Mar (R. Stein). A rare-in-spring Clay-colored Sparrow was observed in *Little River* 25 Apr (CM). Two pairs of Lark Sparrows in *Morgan* 10 May—e.o.p. (M. S. Gravette, C. D. Cooley) and a pair in *Madison* 19 May—e.o.p. (D&R Cutten) were at new sites for the small n.w. Alabama breeding population. Interesting reports of Savannah Sparrows included one headed SE past SMI-147 20 Mar (RLK), one—two late in n. *Jefferson*, LA, 14 May (PY), and two in *Prairie* 20 May (W. M. Sheperd). Five Le Conte's Sparrows in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* 29 Apr (FB) and one in *Desha* 2 May (JC) represented important late dates for this easily overlooked species. Also late were three Slate-colored Juncos in *Lee*, MS, 9 Apr and one still there 10 Apr (D. & K. T. Mapstone).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Grand I. 3 Apr (PW, CS) was early, especially for a female. Seven different Indigo Buntings noted in *Iberville* during the period 6 Feb–26 Mar (SWC, DLD, J. V. Remsen), were thought to have wintered in the area; more

impressive was a wintering bird in *Prairie* that remained to 26 Mar (T&RS). One in *Noxubee* 4 Apr (TS, MS) was very early for the area. A wintering male Painted Bunting in Baton Rouge remained to 6 Apr (J. Strickland), and a female in *Iberville* lingered to 9 Mar (SWC, DLD).

BOBOLINK THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A Bobolink in *Lowndes*, MS, 13 Apr (K. Kimmerle) was early for the area. A Yellow-headed Blackbird at EB-826 23 Apr (JRK) provided more evidence of a limited trans-Gulf movement by this species. On the mainland, 27 in *Caddo* 8 May (JLI) represented an excellent Louisiana count, and Mississippi strays were recorded in *Madison* 8 May (J. Jordan) and *Jackson* 12–14 May (C. Delmas). The much-anticipated Shiny Cowbird explosion has not been realized—yet, but a few continue to be reported each spring. This year, males were observed 14 May in *Santa Rosa* (RAD) and *Gulf*, FL (T. Lewis), at Grand I. 16 Apr (DJL, RMG), and near *Cameron* 30 Apr (SWC, *LSUMNS, DLD). Louisiana's 3rd or 4th **Hooded Oriole**, continuing from early Feb, remained in Baton Rouge to 23 Mar (ph. A. DeBosier, v.t. GS, ph. SWC, DLD). Non-coastal wintering Baltimore Orioles remained in *Davidson*, TN, to 9 Mar (C. Sloan) and *Marshall* to 2 Apr (RAR, LBR). A male **Bullock's Oriole** in *Jefferson* 24 Apr (RRS) was an exceptional find inland, and Alabama's first since 1990. Red Crossbills, rare in Alabama and the Region in general, were confirmed nesting in *Cleburne* through the season, with several nests under observation and building, egg-laying, and hatching/fledging activity monitored (BS); details will be published elsewhere.

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