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Central Southern



there 2 Dec (DCu, RCu). One near Ft. Walton, FL 17 Dec (WWD, LD) and one at Moses Pier, Harrison, MS 20 Jan (SJD) were local rarities. In Tennessee, up to 2 were in the Pace Point area 23 Dec—23 Feb (JRW, HC, RD, JD, CAS).

Red-necked Grebes occur only sporadically in the Region; the only report was of one from Horn L., Desoto, MS 22 Feb (RH). Up to 2 Eared Grebes were at Guntersville, AL 1-5 Jan (LBR, RAR, DCu, RCu et al.), while singles were on Cross L., Caddo, AR 5 Dec (CLy) and St. Bernard, LA 23 Dec (DLD, SWC). Western Grebe, casual in Mississippi, was seen on End L., Yalobusha 1 Dec (SJD, WMD), while a **Western/Clark's Grebe** at Guntersville 24 Feb (p. a. DCu, RCu) was Alabama's 4th *Aechmophorus*.

A spectacular movement of American White Pelicans through the Region commenced 2 Dec. In Alabama, up to 22 were at W.N.W.R., Limestone (JWi, CDC et al.), where they are regular, and 35 were on Weiss L., Cherokee (SC), where they are rarely seen. Tennessee hosted 44 on Reelfoot L., Lake/Obion (m. ob.), with 20 remaining through 20 Feb; in Humphreys, 31 were seen 15 Jan (GBC). In Mississippi, 180 were on Columbus L., Lowndes/Clay 3 Dec, with 6 remaining through 25 Feb; 2 were at N.N.W.R., Noxubee 11 Dec—5 Jan, and one was recorded on Oktibbeha County L. 22 Dec (TS, MS, m. ob.). Up to 855 were on University L. in Baton Rouge, LA 4 Dec (MSw, JK). Neotropical Cormorants have been steadily expanding their range in Louisiana over the past few years. In what may be their northernmost breeding location, 15 pairs and a total of 50 individuals were in a rookery on L. Martin, St. Martin 17 Feb (JH).

Reddish Egrets occur sporadically along the n. Gulf of Mexico in winter. Singles in Little Lagoon Pass, Baldwin, AL 28 Dec (HHK, GA) and on the New Orleans C.B.C. 23 Dec (DPM, KVR, JWB) were noteworthy, as were 2 near Moses Pier in Mississippi 27 Jan (SWo, MC). Cattle Egrets lingered, with 20 on the W.N.W.R. C.B.C., Morgan, AL 15 Dec (m. ob.). In Arkansas, 7 were at Little River, Fomby 2 Dec (DA), one was at Lonoke, Lonoke 16 Dec (HP, MP), and 8 were in Stuttgart, Arkansas 26 Jan (HP, MP). White Ibis away from the coast were: one imm. along Browning Cr, Oktibbeha, MS 13 Dec (TS); 21 on the Texarkana C.B.C., Miller, AR (CM); and 12 at Millwood L., Little River, AR (CM). Seeing *Plegadis* away from the coast in Alabama during the winter is unusual; 2 on the W.N.W.R. C.B.C. 15 Dec (CDC, TP) and one at E.N.W.R., Barbour 23-24 Feb (LBR, RAR) were exceptional.

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While the calendar may have indicated it was winter, temperatures and lingering Neotropical migrants certainly did not. Most areas did not record freezing temperatures until mid-December, while the first major cold front arrived much later than is typical, in the first week in January. Overall, it was one of the warmest winters in recent memory. Waterfowl numbers were significantly below average, while 52 species of Neotropical migrants were reported, 18 of those warblers.

Abbreviations: E.N.W.R. (Eufaula N.W.R., AL), M.S.C.N.W.R. (Mississippi Sandhill

Crane N.W.R., MS), N.N.W.R. (Noxubee N.W.R., MS), p. a. (pending acceptance by appropriate state bird records committee), U.A.E.F. (University of Arkansas Experimental Farm), U.L.L.E.F. (University of Louisiana-Lafayette Experimental Farm), W.N.W.R. (Wheeler N.W.R., AL).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Red-throated Loons continue to be reported widely in winter. In coastal Alabama, one was recorded on the Perdido Bay C.B.C., Baldwin 22 Dec (RAD, LRD), and 2 were seen in Perdido Pass 29 Dec (DMW, RRR); in Florida, one was at Bayou Grande, Escambia 22 Dec (PB et al.). Inland, singles were at Guntersville, Marshall, AL 5-12 Jan (SWM, CDC, SG) and near Pace Point, Henry, TN 3-23 Feb (JRW, HC, RD, m. ob.). Pacific Loons were at Perdido Pass 29 Dec (3; RRR), and up to 3 were at Guntersville, AL 17 Jan—23 Feb (GDJ, DGJ, RAR, CDC, m. ob.), with a different bird

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl numbers in general were low in the Region, presumably owing to the fall-like temperatures that persisted throughout the period. While numbers were low, diversity remained high. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their expansion in Louisiana, with 21 at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. 23 Dec (PAW, CSo). The highest number reported was 150 at W. Hackberry, *Cameron* 15 Dec (GO, BiH). The 4th Tennessee Valley record for Fulvous Whistling-Duck was of one at Guntersville, AL 1-20 Jan (RAR, m. ob.). In Louisiana, up to 55 were seen on Forked Island, *Vermilion* 21 Feb (GO), while 10-35 were recorded at Sabine N.W.R., *Cameron* 17 Dec—10 Feb (BrH, WC, m. ob.). Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from their usual Alabama haunts at W.N.W.R. (CDC, JJ, m. ob.), with a peak of 19 on 28 Dec, and at E N.W.R. (BFF, m. ob.), where they peaked at 21 on 22 Feb. One was reported in *Baldwin* 27 Jan, where rare in winter (LG, AM). Impressive Snow Geese flocks reported were 10,000 at Reelfoot L., 12 Jan (MAG, JRW, VBR), 40,000 at Big Lake N.W.R., *Mississippi*, AR 2 Feb (NL, CL), and 80,000 in *Tunica*, MS 25 Dec (JRW). Ross's Geese were reported from an amazing 18 different locations. Largest numbers were reported from areas that traditionally host large flocks of Snow Geese. In *Little River*, AR, 226 were seen 23 Feb (CW), including one neck-banded and 6-8 Snow x Ross's hybrids. An amazing 300 were with the 80,000 Snow Geese reported in *Tunica*, MS 25 Dec (JRW). Away from the traditional areas, interesting singles were at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, AL 16 Dec (BSu); Auburn, AL 20 Dec (BFF); L. Atalanta, *Benton*, AR 24 Dec (DJ, JN, LA, MM); Savannah Bottoms, *Hardin*, TN 29 Dec (JRW); Prichard, *Tunica*, MS 30 Dec (KKu, BPe, WRP); Calera, *Shelby*, AL 31 Dec (JAA, *fide* AMi); *Orleans*, LA 27 Jan (PAW); and, Nashville, *Davidson*, TN 3 Feb (PDC).

The only Tundra Swan reports came from Mississippi, one at N.N.W.R. 15 Jan+ (RW, LW,

TS, m. ob.) and 3 in *Washington* 16 Jan (GK, SK). Eurasian Wigeon has become almost annual at a few locations in the Region; one at Britton Ford, TN 18-22 Feb was w. Tennessee's 5th (MCT, AH). Blue-winged Teal singles were on East L. in Birmingham, *Jefferson*, AL 8 Dec (GJH) and near Little Dixie, *Prairie*, AR 30 Dec (KN, LN, MDi). A **Common Teal** was at Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge, TN 3 Dec—Jan (JRW, m. ob.). The largest number of Greater Scaup reported was 52 from Guntersville, AL 23 Feb (SJD, JRB). An impressive flock of 20,000 Lesser Scaup in *St. Martin*, LA 27 Jan (MJM) appeared to be staging for migration. Surf Scoters were reported from five locations: 2 at Guntersville, AL 7 Dec (SWM); one at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, AL 23 Feb (SJD); one in *Dekalb*, TN 7 Dec (joined by 12 others 11 Dec [SJS]); one at Britton Ford 9 Feb (MAG, MCT, JRW); and 2 along the Mandeville waterfront, *St. Tammany*, LA 30 Nov—30 Dec (BW, RS, m. ob.). White-winged Scoters were reported from four locations: 2 in upper Mobile Bay, AL 7-15 Dec (KK et al); one at Guntersville, AL 1 Jan—26 Feb (LBR, RAR, m. ob.); Oktibbeha County L. 17 Dec—21 Jan (TS, m. ob.); and near Pace Point, TN 20 Jan—23 Feb (MCT, JRW).

An ad. male Long-tailed Duck was noted at Andersen's Fish Farm, *Chicot*, AR 19 Dec. (LAn), while single females were at the U.L.L.E.F., *St. Martin* 23 Jan (JH); in *Harrison*, MS 25-26 Feb (Swo, MC); and along the Mississippi R. Levee, *Dyer*, TN 1 Jan (JRW). Arkansas's first **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found on L. Dardanelle, *Pope/Yell* 2-3 Feb (KN, LN, m. ob.). Common Mergansers are noticeably absent from the Region during mild winters. Up to 5 were on L. Dardanelle, AR 9 Jan (LAn), while in Tennessee, up to 12 were at Pace Point 11 Jan—13 Feb (MCT, DM, m. ob.) and one on Gibson County L. 2 Feb (MAG).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

White-tailed Kites continue to do well in *Cameron*, Louisiana. Nine were seen near Ferry

12 Dec (JK, JKL), and 10 were recorded from Johnson Bayou to Holly Beach 26 Jan (KDE) Two were e. of normal range at Lacassine N.W.R. Pool 14 Dec—3 Jan (JK, KF, MGu, BHa, m. ob.). Broad-winged Hawks continue to winter in *Plaquemines*, LA, where 4 were on the Venice C.B.C. 29 Dec (m. ob.) and an amazing 8 were recorded from Boothville to Venice 21 Jan (BMM, PAW, RDP, DPM). Outside that area, one was near Sorrento, *Ascension* 20 Jan (JH) A **Swainson's Hawk** was seen on the Creole C.B.C at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, LA 17 Dec (DLD, SWC, MSw). Rough-legged Hawks can be hard to find during mild winters in the Region. Singles were recorded 5 Dec—1 Jan in *Lake*, TN (MAG, NM, MCT, JRW) and 24 Dec—23 Feb near Georgetown, *White*, AR (KN, LN, MDi) A dark-morph bird was in *Madison*, TN 29 Dec (MAG, CG).

Golden Eagles were widely reported in the Region, continuing the trend of recent winters. In Arkansas, an ad. was seen on the Illinois Bayou C.B.C., *Pope* 3 Jan (CK), and an imm. was near Yancopin, *Desha* 20 Jan (JC). In Louisiana, where it is a review-list species, 2 imms. were seen in *Morehouse* 9 Dec (MSw, BR), 2 were near the Lacassine Pool 14 Dec (JK, MGu, KF, BHa), and an imm. was in *Jefferson Davis* 14 Dec (m. ob.). An imm. was at N.N.W.R., MS 2-26 Jan (TS, SJD), while 2 were at Pace Point, TN 1 Jan—Feb. (MCT, JD, CAS). Merlins were recorded at several inland locations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, where they are always unusual. **Prairie Falcons** were recorded at two locations in Arkansas (Pangburn, *Cleburne*, 10 Feb [KN, LN] and Lollie Bottoms, *Faulkner* 10-18 Feb [HR, AMu]) and one sporadically in Tennessee in *Lake* 4 Dec—26 Feb (DR, MAG, CAS, m. ob.).

One each of King and Virginia Rail provided good winter records at N.N.W.R., MS 15 Dec (TS). Sandhill Cranes were at W.N.W.R., AL, where up to 142 were seen throughout the period (SWM, DCu, RCu, CDC, m. ob.). In Tennessee, 29 were near Britton Ford 3 Feb

SA In 1820, during his flatboat trip along the Mississippi River, John James Audubon recorded **Trumpeter Swans** twice in Tennessee: on 26 November, he sighted one in west Tennessee, and on 30 November another was near the Third Chickasaw Bluff, Shelby and Tipton Counties (Robinson, J.C. 1990. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville). For the next 182 years and 28 days, Trumpeters were unknown in the state.

On 28 December 2001, Jeff Wilson found an immature and 2 adult Trumpeter Swans at Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge, *Lauderdale*, Tennessee. The swans had been neck-banded in Wisconsin, where the species has been reintroduced in recent years. For the next 15 days, the swans were seen by many on the refuge. Some time after 12 January, the young bird disappeared. While watching the 2 adults at some distance on 13 January, Wilson noticed suspicious dark spots on one of the adults. After getting closer to the swans and through extreme magnification, he was able to determine that the spots were blood. Several days of searching failed to locate the immature. During this time, the wounded swan did not feed and stayed close to the apparently uninjured swan. In February, a hunter pleaded guilty in state court to killing the immature swan. He was fined \$50 plus court costs of \$131.50, as well as \$200 to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The wounded adult appeared to recover, and both adults were seen through 22 January. Are they the vanguards to re-establish Trumpeter Swans in Tennessee and the remainder of their former range?

(JRW, et al.), and 18 were at the Tunica County Landfill, MS 30 Dec—2 Jan (CB, VH, GP, WRP, DDP).

An American Avocet in *Evangeline*, LA 27 Dec (SWC, DLD) was the first Pine Prairie C.B.C. record; 400 were at the East Jetty, *Cameron*, LA 10 Feb (JK, JKI). Single Solitary Sandpipers, all in Louisiana, were at Shreveport, *Caddo* 16 Dec (JT, JTr), on the Creole C.B.C., *Cameron* 17 Dec (WC), on the Reserve—Bonne Carre C.B.C. 26 Dec (MW), and at Haines Airport, *Acadia* 4 Jan (JH, DPa). The shorebird find of the season was the **Purple Sandpiper** (p. a.) at Lakefront Airport—L. Pontchartrain on the New Orleans C.B.C. 23 Dec (DPM, KVR).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Last winter's spectacular Laughing Gull invasion inland was not repeated; only 3 were reported this season: an ad. on Dardanelle L., AR 27 Oct+; an imm. at Pickwick S.P., *Hardin*, TN 8 Feb (JRW, MCT); and an ad. at Wheeler Dam, AL 23 Feb (SJD). Single ad. Franklin's Gulls were reported at Columbus L., MS 6-8 Dec (KKI, m. ob.) and Dardanelle L., AR 21 Feb (KN, LN). Regional records of **Little Gull** are decidedly rare. Single ads. were seen 1 Dec on Sardis L., MS (SJD) and 4 Jan on Millwood L., AR (CM). An imm. was found on Johnson's Bayou Beach, LA 16 Dec (BMM, PAW, CSo). Single **Black-headed Gulls** were seen in Arkansas 31 Dec on Millwood L. (CM) and 10 Feb on L. Norfolk, *Baxter* (HR). Another ad. was present at Grenada L., MS 6 Jan (SJD, GK, SK, WMD). There are some 10 **California Gull** reports for nw. Florida, though none with documentation; an ad. was reported at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia* 5 Feb (RAD). An imm. Thayer's Gull was at Pickwick Dam, TN 10 Feb (JRW).

Of four reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, three were inland in Tennessee. A first-year Great Black-backed Gull was found at Guntersville, AL 20-26 Jan (RAR, LBR, DPG, CDC, SG), where rare, as was one near Moses Pier, MS 10 Feb (SJD, JJJ). An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** was at Columbus L., MS 6-8 Dec (KKI, m. ob.), and the 8th Arkansas record was of an ad. at Dardanelle L. 18 Dec (KN, LN). Northwest Florida's 3rd report of Roseate Tern was one found on the Pensacola C.B.C. 15 Dec (WWD, EC, JP). There are no verified winter records of Roseate Tern in Florida.

Inca Dove is expanding its range in the Region. Sixteen were recorded at the Ogden Post Office, *Little River*, AR throughout the period (CM). The 2 reported in fall in *Washington*, MS remained through at least 2 Jan (GK, SK, m. ob.). Three at Grand Isle,

Jefferson, LA 21 Dec (CGB, TCB) were a first for the local C.B.C. Two Groove-billed Anis were at Holleyman—Sheeley Sanctuary 16 Dec (DLD, SWC, CF); 4 were near Triumph, *Plaquemines*, LA 29 Dec (RDP, LE, MSw, CLy). A **Lesser Nighthawk** was on the Venice C.B.C., LA 29 Dec (DPM, KVR, CLy, MSw, RS), while a **Common Nighthawk** was seen during the count period of the White River C.B.C., *Arkansas*, AR 15 Dec (KS, BH). Both species are extremely rare in winter in the Region.

SA The influx of hummingbirds into the Region was again nothing short of extraordinary. Consider this: nine species reported in the Region, including eight in Louisiana, seven in Alabama, three in Arkansas, three in Mississippi, one in Tennessee, and four in northwestern Florida! The total of hummingbirds banded was equally extraordinary. Nancy Newfield and her associates banded 429 hummingbirds during the reporting period: 6 Broad-billed, 22 Buff-bellied, 14 Ruby-throated, 72 Black-chinned, 15 Calliope, 9 Broad-tailed, 274 Rufous, and 17 Allen's! With those banded by the Hummer—Bird Study Group and others, surely over 500 were banded in the Region! Given these numbers, one wonders how many hummingbirds winter in the Region. Among the luminaries, Alabama's first documented **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (p. a.) was an ad. male in Mobile seen early Nov+ (FB, JCo, m. ob.). Other Broad-billeds (p. a.) were in Louisiana, where one was in Baton Rouge 5 Jan (MD, NLN, JWB, CW, PW) and a second-year female was reported in Thibodaux, *Lafourche* 26 Jan (BM, SM, BB). An **Anna's Hummingbird** was found and banded near Gurdon, *Clark*, AR 4-10 Jan (BS, SF, PF, LFI, m. ob.). Eleven **Calliope Hummingbirds** were reported in Louisiana, with 3 in one yard in Covington, *St. Tammany* 30 Dec (NLN, MO). Four **Allen's Hummingbirds** were reported, with an ad. male banded in Pensacola 5 Jan. A male, banded as an imm. 24 Jan in Reserve, LA (NLN, RJS et al.), attained ad. male plumage and was last seen 27 Feb. In Mississippi, a hatch-year male was trapped and banded in Diamondhead, *Hancock* 27 Dec (DHo, RRS, MBS); a second-year male was banded in Ocean Springs, *Jackson* 20 Feb (JZ, RRS, MBS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Least Flycatcher was identified near Kaplan,

Vermilion, LA 3 Feb (RDo). A **Say's Phoebe** (p. a.) was reported again this winter from *Jefferson Davis*, LA 14 Dec—9 Feb (CW, JK, JKI). Vermilion Flycatchers, reported widely in the Region, always liven up a winter's day. A first-year male was at Big Lake N.W.R., AR 2 Dec+ (NL, CL, KN, LN). In Louisiana, single Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported near Gecko, *St. Martin* 3 Dec (GB, MSw); in *Jefferson Davis*, 14 Dec (BF, DPa, PH, JM); in *Acadia* 4 Jan (MAS, JAS, WW, RDo); and near Gueydan, *Vermilion* 4 Jan (VR, JF). Another **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was on the Venice C.B.C., 29 Dec, as last year (BMM, PAW, MSw, CLy). A Western Kingbird was seen near the Lacassine N.W.R. Pool, LA 3 Jan (DC, LS), where it is rare in winter.

Among all the Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintering in the Region, Bell's Vireo can easily escape detection. One was seen on Grand Isle, LA 13 Jan (BMM, RDP, DPM, PAW). An unexpected Warbling Vireo was found in Baton Rouge 5 Jan (LCB, CF). The earliest arriving Purple Martin reported was near Choctaw, *Bolivar*, MS 22 Jan (WI, JI). Northern Rough-winged Swallows winter in the Region rarely, so the 5 near Venice, LA 29 Dec (DPM, RS) and the single at the U.L.L.E.F. 10 Jan (JH) were unexpected. Bewick's Wrens were reported from three locations. In Louisiana, singles were near Gilliam, *Caddo* 20 Dec (MSw) and Black Bayou Lake N.W.R., *Ouachita* 28 Jan—9 Feb (SLP, JB, BHe). Another was on the M.S.U. North Farm, *Oktibbeha*, MS 23-25 Dec (TS, MS). The 24 Sedge Wrens at M.S.C.N.W.R. 3 Jan (SWo, MG) were a good count. Inland Marsh Wrens included 3 at W.N.W.R., AL 1-15 Dec (CDC, RRS, MRS) and 2 near Fayetteville, *Washington*, AR 13 Dec (MM). A well-described Swainson's Thrush near the Bonne Carre Spillway, *St. Charles*, LA 17 Jan (RJS) was unexpected in winter. Three Sprague's Pipits were in *Baldwin*, AL early Nov—9 Feb (BSu, m. ob.), where they are only occasional. Northwest Florida's 5th report was of 4 found on Elgin A.F.B., *Okaloosa* 9 Feb (LF).

Mild temperatures enticed 18 warbler species to overwinter in the Region. One of a few winter records of Tennessee Warbler in middle Tennessee came from *Davidson* 28 Jan (DWD, CPD). Three Nashville Warblers were recorded in the Region; this semi-hardy species sometimes overwinters along the coast. While there are a few records of **Tropical Parula** in Louisiana, they are always noteworthy. One was near Peveto Woods Sanctuary, *Cameron* 22 Dec (MSw). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at N.N.W.R., MS 12 Dec (TS) was the area's first winter record and latest by 40 days. Two Magnolia Warblers were reported, both in

Louisiana. One was in *Acadia* 4 Jan (JK, MSw), while the other was on Grand Isle 13 Jan—24 Feb (BMM, PAW, DPM, RDP).

The Black-throated Blue Warbler overwintering on Grand Isle, LA 13 Jan—24 Feb (BMM, PAW, DPM, RDP) was unusual. Alabama's 11th **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (p a) was in Montrose, *Baldwin* 5 Dec+ (VBF, m ob). The only Black-throated Green Warbler report was of one on Grand Isle 13 Jan—24 Feb (PAW, BMM, DPM, RDP). Alabama's 3rd inland winter record of Prairie Warbler was of an ad. male at E.N.W.R. 22 Feb (BFF) Two American Redstarts, two Yellow-breasted Chats, and one Northern Waterthrush were reported from Louisiana, but totally unexpected was a Kentucky Warbler on the Conway C.B.C., *Faulkner*, AR 15 Dec (LM).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Tanagers are sporadic overwinterers in the Region. Alabama's 12th winter Summer Tanager was found along the Mobile Causeway 23 Jan (RAD, LRD, BT). In Louisiana, a male was in Covington mid-Dec+ (LMK, LB) and a female was found on the Cheneyville C.B.C., *Rapides* 29 Dec (RJB). In Mississippi, single females recorded at Starkville 21 Dec+ (BWi, SW, TS) and Longview, both *Oktibbeha* 29 Dec (ECr) were first and 2nd area winter records, respectively. A male **Western Tanager** wintered in the same yard in Baton Rouge 24-27 Dec (JLe, JK) for the 3rd year.

Spotted Towhees, increasingly frequent, were near Hampton, AR 22 Nov—13 Jan (JC) and Fayetteville, AR 6 Dec—26 Jan (MM), in Peveto Woods Sanctuary, LA early Nov—22 Dec (DB, MSw), on the Johnson's Bayou C B C, LA 16 Dec (RDP), and 17 Feb in *Dyer*, TN (JRW). American Trees Sparrows were reported from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, with a high count of 6 on the Reelfoot C.B.C. 15 Dec. The only Clay-colored Sparrows reported were from Alabama, where singles were seen near Foley 29 Dec on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. (HEH, KK) and near Robinson, *Lowndes* 3 Feb (LG). Lark Sparrows were reported from Raceland, *Lafourche*, LA, where 2 were seen 30 Dec (LR, DS) and Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, AL, where one was recorded 26 Jan (LG, AM). The only Grasshopper Sparrow reported was seen 3 Feb on the U.A.E.F., *Washington* (MM).

Henslow's Sparrows continue to be found in suitable habitat in the Region. Away from their coastal flatwoods winter habitat, singles were found near Hampton, AR 20 Nov—17 Feb (JC) and near Northport, *Tuscaloosa*, AL 2 Dec (PJ et al.). The highest number reported was 13 from M.S.C.N.W.R. 3 Jan (SWo, MG). Le

Conte's Sparrows were widely reported, with highest numbers in Mississippi from N.N.W.R. (6 on 15 Dec; TS, AS) and Sardis L. (4 on 15 Dec; GK, SK). A **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found on Navarre Flats, *Santa Rosa*, FL 25 Jan (WWD, LRD, AK, RAD), a first report in the Region—and a caution, inasmuch as most observers presume all sharp-tailed sparrows seen to be the expected Nelson's. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee a total of eight times. Single Harris's Sparrows were reported from *Lonoke* and *Boone* in Arkansas (KN, LN, SRo) and *Tunica*, MS (WRP). Two were seen near Wooster, *Faulkner*, AR 15 Feb (NL, CL).

Lapland Longspurs put in a good showing. Nine spent the winter in *Baldwin*, AL, where they are rare (BSu, m. ob). The high count was of 1000 in *Lake*, TN 1 Jan (JRW). Tennessee continues to host Smith's Longspur. This winter one was at Bessie, *Lake* 14 Dec (JEW, MCT, MAG). The 2nd area winter record of Rose-breasted Grosbeak was of a female in Columbus, *Lowndes*, MS 16 Feb (DP). A female was also recorded on Monkey I., *Cameron*, LA 15 Dec (SWC). An ad. female Black-headed Grosbeak frequented a feeder in Mobile throughout the season (VC, m. ob.), while an imm. was recorded at a feeder in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL 4 Jan (RAD, WWD, LRD). In Louisiana, a male was present throughout the period at Lafayette (KD); a female was recorded near L. Martin 30 Nov—19 Dec (RDo); and, a male was seen near Houma 17 Jan (JL, KL, LL). Arkansas's 4th **Lazuli Bunting** frequented a feeder in Arkadelphia, *Clark* throughout the season (KN, LN, DH, DHa). A female was seen in *Jefferson*, LA 14 Dec (JWB). The only Dickcissel reported was one at Ft. Morgan, AL 30 Jan (ECS).

Western Meadowlarks continue to winter in Mississippi and w. Tennessee. The highest numbers reported this winter were 21 near Phillip, *Lake*, TN 15 Dec (JRW, MAG, MCT, MCT) and 11 in *Tunica*, MS 25 Dec (JRW). Only one Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported, an imm. male from Phillip, TN 16 Dec (JRW). Single male Bronzed Cowbirds were reported from Pensacola Beach 10-15 Dec (RAD et al.) and Ft. Walton Beach, FL 17 Dec (WWD, LD); in *West Baton Rouge*, LA, 5 were noted 5 Jan (DLD, SWC). The only Orchard Oriole was reported 29 Dec on the Venice C.B.C. (DPM, KVR, RS). Baltimore Orioles were reported from Metairie, LA, where an ad. male was seen throughout the period (NLN) and Krotz Springs, *St. Landry*, LA, where an imm. was recorded Dec. 16.

Up to 7 Red Crossbills were at Coleman L., Talladega N.F., *Cleburne*, AL throughout the period (SWM, RRR, SG, m. ob.), and up to 6 were seen in Ozark N.F., AR 13 Dec—10 Jan

(LAn). A female was seen 1 Dec near Enid L., MS (SJD). Undoubtedly a candidate for Bird of the Year in Mississippi: an ad. male **Lesser Goldfinch** frequented a feeder in Clinton, *Hinds* 4 Jan+ (JE, m. ob.), a first state record.

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Prairie Provinces



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A generally mild and dry winter was punctuated by a cold and snowy second half of January and another cold spell at the end of February. Overall precipitation remained below normal; fears of a continued drought remain, particularly in southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. Birding was rather lacklustre, though numerous lingerers were reported in December and some survived the period. The majority of Christmas Bird Count sightings are not included here.

Abbreviations: C.B.C. (Christmas Bird Count); W.L. (Wabamun L., AB).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Waterton Lakes N.P., AB hosted a late Pacific Loon, 4 Horned Grebes, and 11 Western Grebes 11 Dec (LB), while 3 Common Loons were there 16 Dec (D&TD). Two American White Pelicans lingered at Lethbridge, AB 1 Dec (D&TD), while one at Wascana Marsh, Regina, SK was eventually captured 25 Dec (*vide* BE). Three Double-crested Cormorants at W.L. 15 Jan likely overwintered there (RKL, FW). A Greater White-fronted Goose was unexpected at Lethbridge 23 Jan (LB). A tardy Snow Goose was at Gardiner Dam, SK 1 Dec (*vide* WG), while a flock passed Kleefeld, MB the same day (FF). Canada Geese near Pierson, MB 17 Feb (RWg), Eastend, SK 20 Feb (*vide* FL), and near Neepawa, MB 26 Feb (CC) were believed to be early migrants. Eight Tundra Swans were seen at W.L. 15 Jan (RKL, FW).

An American Wigeon on the Qu'Appelle R., SK 11 Dec (TR), 2500+ Mallards at Gardiner Dam 18 Jan (HL, D&FF), 8 Canvasbacks at W.L. 14 Dec (J&MM), and 2 Redheads at Gardiner Dam 18 Jan (HL, D&FF) all merited

mention. Four Ring-necked Ducks and 3 Lesser Scaup at a Winnipeg sewage lagoon disappeared during bitter cold in late Feb (m. ob.), while 4 Greater Scaup survived the period in Calgary (m. ob.). Alberta's 2nd **Common Eider** was a female of the *v-nigra* race at Cold L. 8-13 Dec (DNa, TT). Two Long-tailed Ducks wintered on the Bow R. in Calgary (m. ob.), a lone Red-breasted Merganser was there 23 Dec (GY), with another 2 noted at W.L. 4 Jan (RE, DV). Five Ruddy Ducks at W.L. 15 Jan (RKL, FW) and a single male at Cookson Res., SK 17 Feb (BL, JC) were also noteworthy.

A late migration of Bald Eagles at Windy Point, Sheep R. Valley, AB 2 Dec involved 344 birds (*vide* WS). A Northern Harrier at High River, AB 1 Feb likely wintered (TK), but one at St. Adolphe 22 Feb was no doubt a migrant (AC). Sharp-shinned Hawks were unusually prominent Regionwide, with at least 24 sightings altogether, the majority in Alberta (m. ob.). Most Gyrfalcon and Prairie Falcon reports came from Saskatchewan, with 17 and 16 respectively; a Prairie Falcon near Whitewater L., MB 24 Feb was rare (PJ).

GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Willow Ptarmigan were prominent in cen Saskatchewan near La Ronge, Creighton and Hanson Lake Road (B&HS et al.). An American Coot at Lockport, MB 4 Dec was tardy (RK), but more remarkable were 15 loudly calling Sandhill Cranes migrating over St. Adolphe 1 Dec (SC). A **Long-billed Curlew** near Maple Cr. 14 Dec was a winter first in Saskatchewan and likely for the Region (RJ, GW, WR). A very late unidentified jaeger harassed gulls at Cold L. 10 Dec (FW). A remarkably late movement of 640 Herring and 14 Ring-billed Gulls migrated upstream along the Winnipeg R. at Pine Falls, MB in 1.5 hours 1 Dec (PT et al.). The only other gull of note was a Glaucous at Cold L. 1 Dec (RKL).

Manitoba's 7th **Band-tailed Pigeon**, first found on the Brandon C.B.C. 16 Dec, lingered until at least 11 Jan (CC, m. ob.). An Eastern