

Central Southern

Strong fronts on 9 and 25 April produced significant groundings of Neotropical migrants along the Gulf coast. Otherwise, the weather was uneventful. Early and late records for various areas of the Region were too numerous to note individually.

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (Craig Fish Hatchery, AR); F.S.M. (Florida State Museum); FW.B.S.F. (Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields, FL); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science).

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

Three Pacific Loons, rare in the Region, were in *Escambia*, FL 23 May (RAD, LRD). An excellent count of 124 Common Loons came from the Birmingham area 29 Apr (GDJ, DGJ). An Eared Grebe in *Oktibbeha*, MS 7 Apr (TS) was the 2nd spring record for the area. Farther e. was one in *Lee*, AL 22-29 Mar (TH, m. ob.). A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was found offshore from Pensacola 13 Apr (*F.S.M.). Single Brown Pelicans were unusual in *Covington*, AL 17 Apr (JTG) and in *Little Rock* 22 Apr (CB). A Neotropic Cormorant, accidental in the state, was discovered in *Humphreys*, MS 28 Feb (GK, SK) and seen through 7 Mar (TS, SJD, m. ob.). The species continues its expansion to the n. and e. of its normal sw. Louisiana range, as documented by several sightings along the ne. edge of the Atchafalaya Basin during Apr (DLD). Tricolored Herons, uncommon at inland locations in spring, were reported from *Carroll*, AR 25 May (PV), *Oktibbeha* 26 Apr (TS, MS), and *Yazoo N.W.R.*, MS 7 May (SJD, PB). The only report of Reddish Egret came from *Lafourche*, LA 5 Apr (PAW, CCS). Among several Cattle Egrets using a rig off Louisiana as a rest stop during May was one seen eating a Black-and-white Warbler 22 May (NR). White Ibis are probably established nesters in *White*, AR, as indicated by 48 birds 24 May (KN, LN). White-faced Ibis, rare in Mississippi, were at *Coldwater R. N.W.R.*, with 4 seen on 5 Apr and 2 on 4 May (GK, SK).

The 4 Trumpeter Swans that wintered in *Okaloosa* stayed through 2 Mar. This would be a first state record for Florida. The Tundra-Trumpeter Swan found at *Noxubee N.W.R.*, MS during the winter season stayed through 29 Mar (TS et al.). A Ross's Goose, rare but becoming more regular in Alabama, was seen in *Colbert* 21 Mar (SAW) through 2 Apr (DJS). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in small numbers from Mississippi and from *Cameron* to New Orleans in Louisiana, highlighted by an extraordinary count of 500-600 in *Jefferson Davis* 2 Apr (DPM). Mottled Ducks continued their expansion inland, as indicated by reports from the upper Atchafalaya Basin in Apr and May, with a high count of 13 reported 7 May (SWC, DLD), including a pair with 2 chicks



and a hen being courted by 2 male Mallards. A Cinnamon Teal was at *Bald Knob N.W.R.*, AR 5-12 Apr (KN, LN). Surf Scoters were present at *Holly Beach*, LA 12 Apr (JPK, JK) until 11 May (PC), with a high of 14 on the 12th. Two White-winged Scoters, the rarest of the scoters in the Region, were reported from *Fort Pickens*, FL 25 Apr (LRD, StS).

Unusual reports of Swallow-tailed Kites were of 4 in *Concordia*, LA 16 Apr (JOC), one in *St. Landry*, LA 30 May (JH), one in *Perry*, MS 27 Apr (SS), and one carrying nesting material in *Baldwin*, AL 21 Mar (KG). An exceptionally early migrant was in *New Orleans* 1 Mar (DPM). Also very early was a Mississippi Kite 19 Mar at *Dauphin I.* (CH). Two very late Bald Eagles were in *Rapides*, LA 26 May (JH). Among several reports of Swainson's Hawk from sw. Louisiana, the most interesting was from *Calcasieu* 16 May (DLD, SWC) near an area where breeding has been suspected. A Crested Caracara believed to be a juv. was reported from *Calcasieu* 4 May (GG). A Prairie Falcon was seen briefly in *Lafayette*, MS 23 Mar (GK).

SHOREBIRDS

There were two reports of Snowy Plover from *Holly Beach*, LA, with 4 seen 19 Apr

B. Mac. Myers

320 Sharon Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
(bmyers990@earthlink.net)

Phillip A. Wallace

4515 South Prieur Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125-5044
(phillip_wallace@hotmail.com)

(JPK, JK) and 2 seen 27 Apr (JPK). Four were also observed in *Harrison*, MS 19 Apr (AH, TGa). Piping Plover reports included 2 in *Lafourche*, LA 16 Mar (PAW, BMM, RDP), plus one on 25 Mar (KM, JN) and 10 on 19 Apr in *Harrison*, MS (SJD, AH, TGa). Fifteen American Oystercatchers from *Jackson*, MS 28 Mar (MSW, FL) was a large number for the Region. A very early Solitary Sandpiper was in *Washington*, MS 1 Mar (TS, MS, m. ob.). Establishing a new high count for Whimbrels on the Mississippi Gulf coast were 125 in *Jackson* 25 Apr (MSW, FL). In *Vermilion*, LA on 9 May, 121 was also a good number (JPK, MG, JG). The only Hudsonian Godwits reported were 12 from *Vermilion* 9 May (JPK, MG, JG). A count of 170 Ruddy Turnstones in *Vermilion* 25 May (JPK, JK) was a good number away from the coast. Two were also seen 17 May in *Arkadelphia*, AR (DH, DoH).

Even more unusual away from the coast were 2 Red Knots reported from *Vermilion* 6 May (BF, TG, JH) and 9 May (JPK, MG, JG). *Harrison*, MS hosted 107 knots 19 Apr (AH, TGa). A count of 395 White-rumped Sandpipers near the ne. edge of the Atchafalaya Basin 7 May (DLD, SWC) was astounding for a supposedly rare migrant in the Baton Rouge area! That number was eclipsed by 420 on the same day in *Humphreys*, MS (SJD, PB). A White-rumped found 26 Apr at FWB.S.F (RAD, LRD, BT) had been banded in Argentina in fall 2001. The Curlew Sandpiper in alternate plumage seen 4 May on Fourchon Beach (RDP) was only the 2nd record for se. Louisiana. Early were 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Lowndes*, AL 22 Mar (BKF, LFG) and 2 in *Vermilion* 27 Mar (BF, JH, ZR). An excellent count of the species was 170 in *Calcasieu* and *Cameron*, LA 26 Apr (CW, BO'S, DFL). An American Woodcock displaying at dusk in *Iberville*, LA 18 Apr (DLD) was either late or a rare local breeder. Wilson Phalarope numbers peaked at 175 in *Cameron* 26 Apr (PAW, RDP, BMM).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

An excellent find was a Little Gull in definitive basic plumage discovered 28 Feb (SJD) in *Washington*, MS and seen again on 1 Mar (GK, SK, m. ob.). Thayer's Gull is quite rare in the Region, so 2 seen on the same day, 4 May, in *Cameron* (DPM, PC) was extraordinary! One was an ad. in alternate plumage, and the 2nd was a first-year bird (*L.S.U.M.N.S.). There were reports of 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Louisiana, one in *Lafourche* and 4 in *Cameron*. The gull of the season was an ad. Heermann's Gull in *Okaloosa*, FL. The bird was discovered 18 May (CS) and seen through 20 May (RAD, LRD et al.). This is the first record for the Region. A Least Tern at Dauphin I. 19 Mar (CH) was extremely early. There were also

numerous inland reports from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Small numbers of Sooty Terns were reported from their traditional nesting areas in Breton N.W.R., LA on 26 May (DPM, BMM, RDP).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The first nw. Florida breeding record of White-winged Dove was noted 2-16 Apr in *Pensacola* (MJ). Very unusual were single Inca Doves in *Harrison*, MS (NM, NC) and *Bolivar*, MS (CGS, NS), both 6 Apr. Common Ground-Dove reports included singles on Grand I. 13 Apr (SWC, DLD) and in *Hancock*, MS 20 Apr (NRB), and 9 were in *Baldwin*, AL 1 Apr (LFG). Black-billed Cuckoos were reported more than usual. A Burrowing Owl found in *Harrison*, MS 22 Apr later died (UL). Single Chuck-will's-widows were early in *Oktibbeha*, MS 4 Apr (TS) and in *Jefferson*, AL 8 Apr (PHF). Six Whip-poor-wills in *Franklin*, AL 25 Mar (PDK) were early, and one in *Autauga*, AL 29 May (CTS) was far s. if a breeder. A Chimney Swift at Ft. Morgan 13 Mar (CH) was early, and migratory flocks of 300 on 28 Mar and 75 on 29 Mar were in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in *Baldwin*, AL 9 Mar (FB, KW, DP) was well documented, and one remained in Baton Rouge until 31 May (C&MM). A Calliope Hummingbird in *Oktibbeha*, MS stayed until 18 Mar (G&SB, TS), and one in *St. Gabriel*, LA lingered until 1 Apr (DLD). An Allen's Hummingbird in *St. John*, LA stayed until 4 Apr (E&GS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Iberville*, LA 3 May (JVR) was very late. Joe Neal and Warren Montague located 20 nests of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in *Scott*, AR 12 May. Olive-sided Flycatcher is an uncommon spring migrant in the Region, so single birds 3 May in *Lawrence*, AL (PDK, m. ob.), 6 May in *Lauderdale*, AL (TMH), 11 May in *Cameron*, LA (PC), and 28 May in *Chicot*, AR (RO) were noteworthy. One in *Caddo*, LA 12 Apr (JI) would be extremely early. A Greater Pewee in *Cameron*, LA 26 Apr (LO'M) was well described under the circumstances (head-on views only); lack of hard documentation precludes its addition to the state list, and addition to the hypothetical list seems uncertain. Eleven Alder Flycatchers were singing in *Washington*, AR 17 May (RD). A singing Willow Flycatcher in *Lauderdale*, AL 4 May (DJS) was the 18th record for the state. One in *Benton*, AR 10 May (MML, DC) was at a site where they have bred. Several other Willows reported from Arkansas were presumably migrants. Fifteen Least Flycatchers were singing in *Washington*, AR 10 May (RD), and one was calling in *Lafayette*, MS 27 Apr (GK, SK). An Eastern Phoebe in *Iberville*, LA 9 Apr (DLD) was

very late. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Cameron* 27 Apr (PC, GB) was a good find. This year there were several reports of Western Kingbirds from s. Louisiana and singles in Florida and Mississippi. In *Sebastian*, AR, 18 pairs were found nesting. An Eastern Kingbird at Fort Morgan 17 Mar (CH) was early. A Gray Kingbird was at Dauphin I. 25 Apr (DD et al.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continue to expand their nesting range, with several reports from *Rapides*, LA (JH).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Six White-eyed Vireos were rather early at Ft. Morgan 18 Mar (RAD, LRD et al.), and 104 were at Grand I. 10 Apr (BMM). A Blue-headed Vireo singing in *Winston* 29 May (MSG) was considered a possible breeder; there is one breeding record for Alabama. A Warbling Vireo at C.F.H. 13 Apr (RD) was early; one in *Lowndes*, MS 27 Apr (TS, MS) was unusual. Fifteen Warblings were reported without comment from *Crittendon*, AR 30 May (DP, KG, LD, KL). Red-eyed Vireos were early in several locations, including one in *Iberville*, LA 17 Mar (JVR), 2 at Ft. Morgan 18 Mar (RAD, LRD et al.), one in *Lee*, AL 29 Mar (TH), and 3 in *Noxubee*, MS 29 Mar (LT). Single Black-whiskered Vireos at Ft. Morgan 4 & 7 Apr (RR&MBS, FB et al.) were considered early. More unusual were single birds in *Jackson*, MS 1 May (MSW) and in *Cameron*, LA also 1 May (p. a., SWC, DLD, MP).

A report of Chihuahuan Raven from Rutherford Beach, LA 27 Apr (SWC, DLD, MP, BMM) was supported by excellent descriptions, but it eluded hard documentation, so at best it might be added to the state's hypothetical list. Four pairs of Tree Swallows in *Montgomery*, AR already had young on 15 May (RD). Twelve Bank Swallows visited nest sites in *Independence*, AR 31 May (KN, LN). There were several reports of Cave Swallows. In Florida, one was at FWB.S.F 11 Apr (RAD), one was in *Escambia* 12 Apr (LRD et al.), and one was at FWB.S.F 10 May (DW). In Alabama, singles were at Bayou La Batre, *Mobile* 8 & 11 Apr (AHa et al.) and Dauphin I. 18 Apr (LFG, RER, A&CG, m. ob.). Single Barn Swallows in *Baldwin* and *Mobile*, AL on 1 Mar (LFG) were early. A Bewick's Wren was noted 16 Mar in *Washington*, AR (MMI), where it is an uncommon migrant. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in *Lauderdale*, AL 23 Mar (PDK) and *Limestone*, AL 25 Mar (GDJ, DGJ) were early. A Townsend's Solitaire reported from *Cameron*, LA 25 Mar (p. a., SHN) was rather briefly described. A Veery in *Washington*, AR 20 May (MML) was considered rare for that area. A Swainson's Thrush in *Montgomery*, AL 29 May (FB) was late. A Hermit Thrush in *Lowndes*, MS 19 Apr (TS, MS) was rather late; one in

Iberville, LA 28 Apr (JVR) was quite late, as was one at Ft. Morgan 4 May (MJJ). A Wood Thrush in *Oktibbeha*, MS 28 Mar (MS) was early. A Gray Catbird at a rig in Louisiana waters 22 May (NR) was late. An American Pipit in *Pointe Coupee*, LA 18 Apr (DLD, BF, SWC) was late, as were singles in *Colbert*, AL 5 May (SWM, JTG, DJS), *White*, AR 1 May (KN), and 3 in *Humphreys*, MS 3 May (SJD). A Sprague's Pipit at Ft. Morgan 29 Mar (BKF) was unusual; SWC, DLD, and BF had one to 2 late individuals in *Iberville*, LA on three dates in mid-Apr.

Single Brewster's Warblers were at Dauphin I. 13 Apr (JJ, JC et al.) and in *Cameron*, LA 26 Apr (BMM, PAW, RDP et al.). More unusual was a Lawrence's Warbler in coastal *Hancock*, MS 11 Apr (NRB, KM, JNa). Single Nashville Warblers in *Macon*, AL 23 Apr (TH), *Oktibbeha*, MS 25 Apr (TS), and *Lafayette*, MS (GK, SK) were noteworthy. Cape May Warbler reports included records from Arkansas and Louisiana, as well as from inland Alabama and Mississippi. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was in *Hancock*, MS 30 Apr (KM, JNa), and there were five reports from inland Alabama, where rare. Reports of Cerulean Warbler were encouraging, with 5 in Arkansas, 10 in Mississippi, and 4 in Louisiana. Two Black-and-white Warblers in *Crenshaw*, AL 25 May (CTS, PS) were unusually far s. for breeders. Worm-eating Warblers were reported in good numbers in coastal Alabama and Louisiana, with a total of 157 at Ft. Morgan 4-18 Apr (RR&MBS, FB, m. ob.). Swainson's Warbler, another species of concern, brought reports of singles from four sites in Arkansas, a regular site in Alabama, one site in *Prentiss*, MS, and 12 singing males in Apr and May in areas surveyed by TS near Starkville, MS. The Sargents had a maximum of 37 Ovenbirds at Ft. Morgan 9 Apr; the following day there were 71 at Grand I. (BMM). A Louisiana Waterthrush at New Orleans 7 Mar (LE) was early, and one in St. Francis N.E., AR 8 Mar (RR, TN) was exceptionally early. At Ft. Morgan, Kentucky Warblers reached a maximum of 55 on 13 Apr (RR&MBS, FB, m. ob.), and the same number was found at Grand I. 13 Apr (BMM). A Connecticut Warbler in *Craighead*, AR 7 May (C&NL) was a rare find. Single Mournings were reported 22 May in *Washington*, MS (banded) and in *Lauderdale*, AL 25 May (TMH). Peak Hooded Warblers numbers included 97 on 14 Apr and 94 on 18 Apr at Ft. Morgan (RR&MBS, FB, m. ob.), 175 at Grand I. 10 Apr (BMM), and >55 there 12 Apr (PAW, CCS, RDP). A Wilson's Warbler in *Lafayette*, MS 14 May (GK, SK) was considered rare.

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

The 74 Summer Tanagers at Grand I. 10 Apr (BMM) made a good total. More than 75

Scarlet Tanagers were in *Jackson*, MS 1 May (MSW, PM), and 68 were at Grand I. 10 Apr (BMM). A Western Tanager was in *Cameron*, LA 28 Apr (p.a., DLD, SWC, MP). Single Spotted Towhees were reported from *Pulaski*, AR 2 Mar (WS) and *Sebastian*, AR 5 May (BB). Joe Neal found 11 Bachman's Sparrows in *Scott*, AR 14-17 Apr, and 3 were reported from areas near Starkville, MS. A Vesper Sparrow in *Washington*, AR 5 Mar (MML) was early. A Lark Bunting was in *St. Martin*, LA 24-25 Apr (p. a., JWB). Truly outstanding was Louisiana's first Baird's Sparrow at Rutherford Beach 27 Apr (SWC, DLD, MP, BMM; *L.S.U.M.N.S.). A Grasshopper Sparrow in *Washington*, MS 2 Mar (SJD, m. ob.) was considered noteworthy; one that appeared to be territorial 7 May in *Pointe Coupee*, LA (DLD) would be of great interest if confirmed as a breeder. Henslow's Sparrows were widely reported from Arkansas, with up to 12 at Warren Prairie, *Bradley* 20 Mar (BH). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Lafourche*, LA 26 May (NN, LE, AS) was quite late. A Dark-eyed Junco in *Panola*, MS 11 Apr (WMD) was late, and one at Grand I. 13 Apr (SWC, DLD) was very late for the immediate coast. A wintering Black-headed Grosbeak in *Harrison*, MS stayed until 2 Apr (MMC, AH, m. ob.). Indigo Buntings were early, with one in *Iberville*, LA 16 Mar (SWC), 2 in *Iberville* 21 Mar (JVR), and one in *Arkansas*, AR 20 Mar (KR). On 26 Apr, >1000 Dickcissels were in *Calcasieu*, LA (CW, DFL, BO'S). At FWB.S.F., 12-16 singing males seemed interested in breeding, but the field was mowed 20 May (RAD, LRD, BT); there is one Florida breeding record. Bobolinks were widely reported, but the estimate of 1000 in *Bolivar*, MS 4 May (JCH) was exceptional. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Grand I. 16 Mar (PAW, RDP, BMM); one was in *Madison*, AL 29 Mar (GT); another was in *Montgomery*, AL 13 Apr (DS); 2 were in *Hancock*, MS 31 Mar+, with one lingering until 17 Apr (NRB). Shiny Cowbird reports continue. In Alabama, a male and female were at Dauphin I. 10 May (BG). In Florida, one was in *Okaloosa* 3 Apr (A&JK), one was in *Gulf Breeze* 12 May (RAD, LRD), and another was at FWB.S.F. 20 May (RAD, LRD et al.). In Louisiana, singles were at New Orleans 30 Apr (EW) and in *Lafourche* 15 May (DPM, BMM). Bronzed Cowbirds appear to be expanding into coastal Mississippi; up to 6 were in *Hancock* 28 Mar-6 May (NRB, JNa et al.). Single Baltimore Orioles that wintered in *Lowndes* and *Oktibbeha*, MS stayed into Mar; one in *St. Tammany*, LA remained until 5 May (NN). A Bullock's Oriole that appeared in *Pensacola* in late Feb departed 5 Mar (JP).

OTHER REPORTS

Reports of Western Grebe, Rock Wren, and

Black-headed Grosbeak were received from Arkansas without descriptions.

Corrigenda: In N.A.B. 56: 316, the date for the 4830 Long-billed Dowitchers should be 27 Mar rather than 27 May, and on p. 317, the date for the 3 Clay-colored Sparrows should be 28 Apr rather than 28 Mar. In N.A.B. 57: 73, the location for the Great Black-backed Gull should be *Lafourche* rather than *Cameron*.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Fred Bassett, Philip Barbour, Bill Beall, James W. Beck, George & Sarah Bennett, Ned R. Boyajian, George Broussard, Carolyn Bullock, Steven W. Cardiff, Jared Caudle, David Chapman, Nora Clay, Paul Conover, J. O. Coulson, W. Marvin Davis, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Donna L. Dittmann, David Dortch, Rob Doster, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan (w. Florida), Lillian Durand, Lehman Ellis, B. K. Fleming, Bill Fontenot, Paul H. Franklin, Tisch Galbraith (TGa), L. F. Gardella, Ben Garmon, J. T. Garner, Keith Gaudin, Alison & Charles Glascock, Gay Gomez, Kate Gooch, M. Scott Gravette, Margie Griffith, Toddy Guidry, J. Guillory, A. Haffendon (AHa), T. M. Haggerty, Dolores Harrington (DoH), Don Harrington, Kevin Hartke, C. Henning, Alison Henry, J. C. Herbert, T. Hicks, Bill Holiman, Jay Huner, Jim Ingold, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Jud Johnson, Mary Jones, M. J. Jordan, P. D. Kittle, Joanne Kleiman, Joseph P. Kleiman (Louisiana), Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Alan & Jesse Knothe, Kay Lait, Uneeda Laitinen, Daniel F. Lane, Cheryl & Norman Lavers, Franklin Leach, Cindy & Mike Macolini, Nancy Madden, Kim Maute, S. W. McConnell, Margaret McCrary, Paul Miliotis, Mike Mlodinow (MML), Warren Montague, David P. Muth, B. Mac. Myers, Jennifer Nagy (JNa), Joe Neal, Nancy Newfield, Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, Trond Nilsen, Stephen H. Norman, Lawrence O'Meallie, Brian O'Shea, Rosalie Overby, Helen & Max Parker (Arkansas) Matt Pontiff, Jack Powell, Dick Preston, R. D. Purrington, Robert E. Reed, Ken Reinecke, Nelson Reitan, J. V. Remsen, Zachary Richard, Karen Rowe, Robert Russell, Charles Saleebe, R.R. & M. B. Sargent, Marion Schiefer, Terence Schiefer (Mississippi), Nathan Schiff, Debbie Sellers, William Shepherd, Alistair Shuttlesworth, D. J. Simbeck, Carl G. Smith, C. T. Snow, Phil Snow, Scott Somershoe, Curt C. Sorrells, Stuart Strahl (StS), Edna & Gene Street, Betsy Tetlow, Greg Thomas, Lauren Thread, Pat Valentik, Ed Wallace, Phillip A. Wallace, Don Ware, Shirley A. Wayland, Kate Wheate, Chris Witt, Mark S. Woodrey. We received more reports than we had room to include, and we thank those observers whose reports we could not cite specifically. 🐦