

# Central Southern



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An unusually strong cold front passed through the Region in early to mid-August, bringing record-low temperatures and northerly winds more typical of October. Expected migrants appeared in normal to above-normal numbers, but surprisingly few early dates of arrival were reported. Hurricane *Ivan's* traumatic landfall in September along the Gulf Coast is discussed below.

Late-departing Neotropical migrants were too numerous to mention. These record or near-record late dates included 18 from Alabama, 8 from Arkansas, 13 from Louisiana, 25 from Mississippi, and one from Florida. When a strong cold front entered the Gulf on 5 November, Troy Reitan reported from an oilrig 12 km south of the mouth of the Mississippi River that Magnolia and Chest-

nut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts were still migrating through. In contrast, only five early arrival dates were reported for the Region; compared to previous years, this was exceptional. October and November were warm and wet, perhaps not conducive to trans-Gulf movements, which could explain late southbound movements.

**Abbreviations:** F.W.B.S.F. (Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa, FL); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science); nw. Florida (Florida w. of the Apalachicola R.); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., AL); Sardis L. (*Panola/Lafayette*, MS); Guntersville (Guntersville L., *Marshall*, AL).

## LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A Red-throated Loon was in *Grenada*, MS 26 Nov (p.a., SJD), while single Pacific Loons were at Guntersville, AL 23 Oct (RRR) and at Sardis L. 6 Nov (p.a., SJD, GK, SK); the species is considered accidental in Mississippi. An impressive concentration of 1090 Pied-billed Grebes was estimated 8 Nov in *Marshall* (GDJ, DGJ). On 6 Nov, a Western Grebe was observed on Sardis L. (SJD, GK, SK). A pelagic trip 22 Aug from Destin, Okaloosa, FL to DeSoto Canyon yielded 3

Cory's Shearwaters and 4 Wilson's and 10 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels; also documented were a White-tailed Tropicbird, the first confirmed for nw. Florida, and a Red-billed Tropicbird, only the 2nd nw. Florida record (†BM et al.). A Cory's Shearwater noted 4 Aug was about 51 km se. of the mouth of the Mississippi R. (DLD, m.ob.). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel 63 km sse. of the mouth of the Mississippi R. 29 Sep provided Louisiana's 5th specimen (\*L.S.U.M.N.S., DPM et al.).

A Masked Booby, rare but regular in the Gulf, was found 29 Sep 80 km sse. of the mouth of the Mississippi R. (\*L.S.U.M.N.S., SWC et al.). Northern Gannets summer in small numbers in the n. Gulf, and on 4 Aug one was seen in the Mississippi Sound, *Harrison*, MS (GK et al.) and another was 21 km ese. of the mouth of the Mississippi R. (SWC et al.). Unusual were 300+ Neotropic Cormorants in s.-cen. Louisiana's *St. Martin* 20 Oct (JH). One was in *Sunflower*, MS 7 Aug and another in *Washington*, MS 13 Aug (SJD, DM). A kettle of 35 migrating Anhingas 26 Aug at the F.W.B.S.F. was the maximum ever for nw. Florida (BM).

No reports of bitterns were received. A Great White Heron was in *Santa Rosa*, FL 14 Aug, the 13th nw. Florida record (RAD). Maximum ever for Alabama's mts., 123 Great Egrets were in *Cherokee/Etowah* 20 Sep (GDJ). Mississippi's offshore islands yielded 33 Reddish Egrets 4 Aug (SJD, GK, DM), a high number for the area. *Plegadis ibis* peaked at 76 in the Mississippi Delta, *Washington*, MS 13 Aug (SJD). In nw. Florida, the 7th through 9th records of White-faced Ibis were furnished by one in n. *Escambia* 22 Sep (LC), one at the F.W.B.S.F. 28 Sep (LC), and another there 8 Oct (RAD, CB). The Louisiana Rice Field Shorebird Survey 7 Aug found 60 Roseate Spoonbills in *Vermilion* (CL, KE). Dinsmore noted that it was a poor fall for this species in the Mississippi Delta. In Alabama, where rare, one was in *Shelby* 18 Aug (TV, m.ob.) and another in *Hale* 17 Sep (SJD). A count of 330 Wood Storks was noted in *Jefferson Davis*, LA 28 Sep (JK, ES). Over 1000 were reported from *Hale* 17 Sep after *Ivan* (SJD), a maximum ever for Alabama. Considered low, only 134 total were reported from Mississippi.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their spread in Louisiana, with 6 on 7 Aug in *Rapides* (CL), 15–20 on 16 Sep in *Orleans* (PW, DPM, RDP), 5 on 19 Oct in *St. Martin* (DD), 120 on 14 Nov, and 400 on 22 Nov in *Cameron* (JK, JoK). Nine were reported from *Leflore*, MS 7–13 Aug (SJD, DM). Fulvous Whistling-Ducks also continued to expand in Louisiana, with 28 tallied 7 Aug on the Rice Field Shorebird Survey (CL). In Mississippi, where accidental, 9 were seen in *Hancock* 13–16 Oct (p.a., NRB et al.). Greater

**SA** Hurricane *Ivan* roared onto the Alabama–nw. Florida coast 16 Sep, bringing 130-mph winds. It was “the” event of the season, for birds and birders alike. Severe damage occurred inland as far n. as Montgomery and n. to Birmingham, though primarily limited to downed trees there. Property damage was extensive, and avian habitats were altered significantly from Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL, to Navarre, *Santa Rosa*, FL. Winds stripped leaves from trees, and saltwater spray killed remaining foliage. The Gulf of Mexico surged over low-lying coastal areas, leveling beach dunes and heavily damaging swamp vegetation with saltwater and debris. Intertidal zones were churned and overwashed, altering the invertebrate-rich substrate on which Sanderlings and other shorebirds feed. Many dunes in Gulf Islands National Seashore, *Escambia*, FL were replaced with sand flats—which will potentially provide breeding habitat for Least Terns, Black Skimmers, and Snowy Plovers.

Much of the coastal Longleaf Pine forest was damaged. Fierce winds broke many host trees at nest cavity points. Biologists from two closely monitored forests described effects on Red-cockaded Woodpecker clusters. Tom Arrington from Blackwater River S.F., *Escambia*, FL reported that of 129 active Red-cockaded cavity trees (natural and inserts) assessed, 36% were broken or uprooted and another 4% were leaning following the hurricane. On Eglin A.F.B., *Santa Rosa*, *Okaloosa*, and *Walton*, FL, Bruce Hagedorn indicated that 10% of Red-cockaded nest trees were destroyed. One may assume that other cavity-dependent birds were equally affected.

Reports of pelagic birds from Alabama and Northwest Florida’s coasts were minimal, probably because coastal areas were closed by police order, and travel by car was difficult or impossible in many areas. Many dead birds were reported along Pensacola’s Naval Air Station beaches, but the base and other coastal areas were closed to visitors because of damage, so no assessment of mortality was possible there. *Ivan* deposited Laughing Gulls and Gull-billed, Caspian, Royal, Sandwich, Common, and Forster’s Terns at scores of lakes and reservoirs in cen. and n. Mississippi and Alabama during and after the storm’s passage. Observed after most strong hurricane landfalls, single Sooty Terns were seen 16 Sep in *Orleans*, LA (DPM, PW) and *Wilcox*, AL (SJD), and the next day in Birmingham (ph. AM, GJH) and *Clay*, AL (6; LWe, WC). Remarkable was one inland over two weeks later—at Sardis L. 3 Oct (p.a., SJD). A **Brown Noddy** perched on hurricane debris was photographed at Big Lagoon S.P., *Escambia* 16 Sep—a 3rd for nw. Florida (ph. JBu)—and Alabama’s 6th was in *Wilcox* 16 Sep (p.a., SJD). Black Skimmers were also displaced inland by the storm, with 15 in Alabama and 2 in Mississippi.

Reports of tubenoses and pelecaniforms after the storm were few. An exception was the storm-driven **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** found 17 Sep in *Barbour*, AL (LWe, GEH). A Brown Pelican 25 Sep–3 Oct at inland Sardis L. was rare and probably storm-related (SJD, DM), although the species has wandered inland in autumn a great deal in recent years. Magnificent Frigatebirds were surprisingly absent in nw. Florida and Alabama during and after *Ivan* but were recorded in large numbers to the w. of the eye’s landfall: 1200–1500 were estimated 15 Sep over *Orleans*, LA (DPM, PW).

White-fronted Geese were widely reported. A flock was heard over *Hancock* 15 Oct (NRR), and 28 flew over Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL that day (LRD et al.). The maximum ever for inland Alabama, 133 were at Wheeler and Swan Creek W.M.A., *Limestone*, AL 31 Oct (SWM), while 32–38 birds were noted in n. *Escambia*, FL 25–27 Oct (LC). On 24 Oct, 38 Greater were in *Jackson*, MS (SJD, DM). Rare but increasingly reported in Alabama, 3 Ross’s Geese were found at Wilson Dam, *Lauderdale/Colbert*, AL 9 Nov (DJS). The Region’s first report of the recently split **Cackling Goose** was a bird found in *Yalobusha*, MS 6 Nov (p.a., SJD, GK, SK). Casual fall transients, 4 Mottled Ducks were at the FW.B.S.F. on 26 Sep (BM). A rare Cinnamon Teal was in *Jackson* 23 Oct (SJD, DM). Never widely reported in the Region, 219 Canvasbacks afforded a good count in *Grenada*, MS 26 Nov (SJD). Dinsmore reported Redheads equally numerous in the Mississippi Delta. Over 50,000 Lesser Scaup on L. Ponchartrain, *Orleans* 13 Nov was considered high (PW, DPM).

A Swallow-tailed Kite 8 Aug in *Oktibbeha*, MS was a county first (RW, LW). Very late, another was there 24 Nov (WB, WeB). Rare for the Region, 2 White-tailed Kites were in *Vernon*, LA 12 Nov–6 Dec (KE). Fifty Mississippi Kites 8 Aug in *Sumter/Pickens*, AL was considered a good number (SH, DH). Twelve Bald Eagles were tallied 27 Oct around catfish



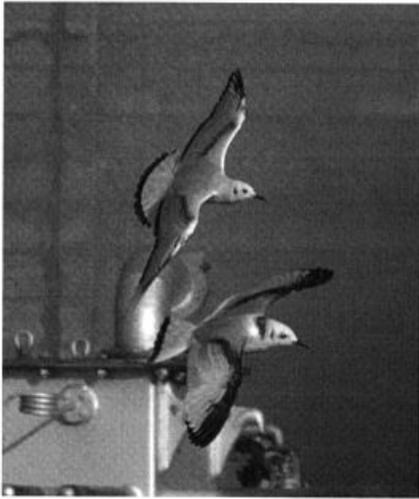
This Red Phalarope in Henry County 17 September 2004 provided a twenty-second state record for Alabama, just after the terrible landfall of *Ivan*. It was very likely either entrained by or grounded by the storm. Photograph by M. Liu.

farms in n. *Escambia* (LC), the maximum ever for nw. Florida. Elsewhere in the Region, only 9 were reported, possibly because it is becoming more common. Kleiman noted that Swainson’s Hawk sightings have been increasing in Louisiana, where they nested near Lake Charles in the early 1990s. Some 29 were observed in s. Louisiana 15 Aug–21 Nov. Four birds that lingered in *Baldwin*, AL 9–23 Nov (BS, m.ob.) may have been an indicator of range expansion or a transient part of the small s. Florida winter population. Farther e., another was at the FW.B.S.F. 9 Nov (RAD). Few reports of Merlin or Peregrine Falcon hopefully attest to their plenitude rather than scarcity. Casual in nw. Florida, 3 Sandhill Cranes were at the FW.B.S.F. 12 Nov (LF).

## SHOREBIRDS

In *Cameron*, 24 Snowy Plovers were reported 7 Nov (BMM, CCS). Mississippi’s offshore islands yielded 28 Snowy, 12 Wilson’s, and an encouraging 109 Piping Plovers 3–4 Aug (SJD, GK, DM). Two Black-necked Stilts in *Jefferson* 25 Sep (SSH) were the first for Alabama’s mts. Uncommon in the interior, one was in *Oktibbeha* 22–23 Sep (TS et al.) and another was there 10–11 Oct (TS, RK). American Avocets peaked at 266 in *Vermilion* 26 Aug (JK, CF) and at 207 in *Humphreys*, MS on 7 Nov (SJD, DM). Thirty-three Upland Sandpipers were tallied in *Baldwin* 25 Aug (LC). In Mississippi, a Long-billed Curlew, considered casual, was on Horn I. 3 Aug and 24–25 Oct (ph. SJD, GK, DM). Accidental in Mississippi, 8 Hudsonian Godwits were observed in *Humphreys* 6 Sep–2 Oct (p.a., ph. SJD, GK, SK, m.ob.). Three were in *Cameron* 24 Sep, where very rare (SWC, DLD). Normally a species of outer beaches, Sanderlings were reported widely in interior Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. In *Yalobusha*, 61 were found 3 Oct (SJD), while Alabama’s mts. yielded 8 in *Jefferson/Shelby*, a fall maximum, 18 Sep (RRR, HW), and that state’s Tennessee Valley had 8 at Gunter’sville 27 Sep (RAR). Some of these may have been transported inland by *Ivan*.

Least Sandpipers peaked at 3276 in *Humphreys* 11 Sep (SJD). A very rare fall White-rumped Sandpiper was in *White*, AR 3 Aug (KN). Baird’s Sandpipers were reported from Alabama (15), Mississippi (16), Arkansas (84), and nw. Florida (3). A Curlew Sandpiper in *Prairie*, AR 17 Aug was a state 2nd (p.a., ph. KN, LN). Though Buff-breasted Sandpiper totals were a bit below average, the Region’s 150 broke down typically: Arkansas (22), Louisiana (30), Mississippi (49), Alabama (45), and Florida (4). Rice fields in *Vermilion* hosted a remarkable 3050 dowitchers (JK, CF). Short-



Reservoirs and dams in northern Alabama attract rare gulls each winter. This juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake (with a juvenile Bonaparte's Gull above it) was present from 9 through 29 (here) November 2004. Photograph by Greg D. Jackson



This hurricane-weary Brown Noddy beached at Big Lagoon State Park in Escambia County, Florida 16 September 2004 was one of the few rarities found on the coast following the landfall of Ivan. Photograph by Jonathan Burrill.



Rare but regular in the Central Southern Region, Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported just once this season in Alabama—at Magnolia Springs 26 November 2004. Photograph by Bill Summerour.

billed Dowitchers were unusually common in *Humphreys*, where 2555 Long-billeds were found 7 Aug (SJD, DM). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked 29 Aug in the Mississippi R. delta, with 81 in *Washington* (SJD). Very rare in the Region, a Red-necked Phalarope was in Wash-

ington 29 Aug, and up to 4 were in *Humphreys* 6 Sep–2 Oct (SJD, m.ob.). In Alabama, one graced *Shelby* 8 Sep (HW, AC, EH), and another was found 17 Sep in *Wilcox* (SJD). A Red Phalarope in *Shelby* 9 Sep (RRR, EGR) was Alabama's 21st; another in *Henry* 17 Sep was the state's 22nd (GEH, ML).

### JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Alabama's 3rd Long-tailed Jaeger was found in *Henry* 28 Oct (p.a., ph. MB). Franklin's Gulls were well reported 31 Aug–21 Nov, with 450+ in Mississippi, 34 in Alabama, and 320+ in Louisiana. A Little Gull, accidental in Mississippi, was in *DeSoto* 16–17 Oct (p.a., QBG, JW), and another was found in *Yalobusha* 21 Nov (p.a., ph, SJD, GK, SK). Two Bonaparte's Gulls 28 Sep at the F.W.B.S.F. were the earliest for nw. Florida by 25 days (LC); one in *Oktibbeha* 14 Oct was the earliest there by 10 days (TS). Rare in Louisiana, 2 California Gulls were reported in *Cameron* 30 Oct—one at Rutherford Beach (p.a., ph.

SWC, DLD) and another at Broussard Beach (p.a., PC). A Thayer's Gull, accidental in Mississippi, was reported at Horn I. 24–25 Oct (p.a., ph. SJD, DM); another in *Clay*, AL 12 Nov was Alabama's 3rd (p.a., ph. EB, MB). Arkansas followed with its 2nd record in *Yell/Pope* 27 Nov (p.a., ph. KN, LN). Now rare but regular in Louisiana, 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from *Cameron* 23 Sep–7 Nov. Rarer in Mississippi, 6 were on Horn I. 25 Oct (ph. SJD, DM), and another was in *Pass Christian* 26 Oct (SJD).

Considered rare, a Great Black-backed Gull was in *Cameron* 7 Oct (p.a., JB). In Alabama, where considered rare but regular, 2–3 Great Black-backed Gulls were at *Dauphin I.* 19–24 Oct (LWe, RAR, LBR, BE). Accidental in Louisiana, a Sabine's Gull was in *Caddo/Bossier*, LA 29 Aug (p.a., JI, CL, m.ob.), while one was in *Hempstead*, AR 2–5 Oct (p.a., CM), where also accidental. A Black-legged Kittiwake was a good find in *Little River*, AR 25–28 Nov (p.a.,

CM, MD, LH); Alabama's 16th was at *Wheeler* 13–29 Nov (p.a., ph. GDJ, m.ob.). A survey of Mississippi's offshore islands 3 Aug yielded 2748 Sandwich Terns and 800 chicks (SJD, GK, DM), as well as 675 Black Terns. Over 300 Black Terns were observed 16 Sep,



Three Bell's Vireo were banded at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama by a team from University of Southern Mississippi; this one was captured 25 September 2004. Photograph by K. Falk.

the day after *Ivan's* landfall, in *Orleans* (JK, JoK). A trip 48–80 km se. of the Mississippi R. mouth 4 Aug yielded 18 Bridled and 7 Sooty Terns, with 31 Bridleds noted there 29 Sep (DLD et al.). A Sooty Tern was in *Jackson*, MS 3 Aug (p.a., ph. SJD, m.ob.), where rare onshore.

White-winged Doves continued expanding into the Region, with hundreds in *Hancock* in Nov (NRB). Common Ground-Doves were reported from Louisiana (17) and Mississippi (11), considered good numbers compared to recent years. Also in good numbers were 11 Groove-billed Anis in *Orleans* 19 Sep–4 Dec (DPM, PW); in *Hancock*, 3 stayed 24 Oct–5 Nov (NRB).

A 7th record for nw. Florida, a Lesser Nighthawk was in *Santa Rosa* 31 Aug (LRD). Accidental in Mississippi, another was in *Hancock* 30 Oct (p.a., NRB, SJD, m.ob.); and 2 were in *Cameron*, LA 30–31 Oct (p.a., SWC, DLD, BW, PC, DP). Around 500 late-departing Chimney Swifts were still in *St. Tammany* 30 Oct (LB, BSu).

Wintering w. hummingbirds made their now-regular appearances in the Region. Most noteworthy was a Broad-billed Hummingbird 16–22 Sep in *Pensacola*, a first Florida record (p.a., ph. JL, PB). Louisiana had 4 Buff-bellied Hummingbirds and Alabama one. A first for Louisiana, a stunning Magnificent Hummingbird was in *St. Tammany* 10–29 Nov (p.a., LB, vt. BW, ph. JT & DP, m.ob.). An Anna's Hummingbird in *Leflore*, MS 30 Nov was another rarity (b. B&MS [H.B.S.G.]). Two Calliope Hummingbirds were reported, one in *Pulaski*, AR 24 Sep (JM, MP, HP) and another in *Iberville*, LA 23 Oct (VR). A count of over 100 Red-headed Woodpeckers at *Guntersville* 21 Sep was impressive and encouraging (RAR, LBR).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A Western Wood-Pewee was a very rare find in *Cameron* 6 Nov (\*L.S.U.M.N.S., p.a., ph. PC, DPM, PW et al.). About 34 Vermilion Flycatchers were reported across the Region, all 12 Oct–26 Nov, with 3 in Alabama, 20+ in

Mississippi, and 11 in Louisiana. Rare but regular, 6 Ash-throated Flycatchers were observed in the Region 6–26 Nov. Louisiana hosted very rare **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** in *Cameron* 9 Sep (p.a., RCD) and *Plaquemines*, LA 30 Sep (p.a., WGV). Two **Couch's Kingbirds** were heard calling in *Cameron* 31 Oct (\*L.S.U.M.N.H., p.a., SWC, DLD); this species is considered accidental in the Region. Rare-but-regular transients and winter visitors to the Region, 7 Western Kingbirds were reported throughout. Gray Kingbirds were last seen 5 Sep in New Orleans, where they nested in summer 2004 (DPM et al.). A rare but regular transient, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was tallied in good numbers in nw. Florida (14) and Mississippi (21), all 1 Oct–16 Nov.

Regionally rare, 3 Bell's Vireos at Ft. Morgan 25 Sep–12 Oct (b. RB, LFi, AA) were bracketed by one in *Cameron*, LA 25 Sep (PC) and another there 6 Nov (DPM). A Warbling Vireo on 30 Aug (LRD) in *Santa Rosa* provided the 2nd Aug record for nw. Florida; singles at Dauphin I. (HH) 31 Aug and *Escambia* 9 Sep (LC) were rare, the latter a first Sep area record. A **Black-whiskered Vireo** in *Santa Rosa* 11 Aug was first for that month in nw. Florida (RAD, LRD).

A very late movement of 655 Northern Rough-winged Swallows occurred 5–7 Nov in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD). Two Cave Swallows were at the F.W.B.S.F. 7 Sep (BM), and another was in *Hancock* 30 Oct (p.a., SJD). A minor incursion of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred in the Region. The only report of Bewick's Wren was a bird in *Yalobusha* 26 Nov (SJD). Nocturnally migrating thrushes over Dinsmore's yard in *Oktibbeha* 3 Oct included 61 Gray-cheeked and 206 Swainson's. Three **Sage Thrashers** were documented: one in *Craighead* 5–9 Oct provided Arkansas's 2nd record (p.a., ph. DB); one in *Cameron* 5 Nov furnished a 10th state record (\*L.S.U.M.N.H., SWC, DLD); and Alabama's 5th was at Ft. Morgan 14–17 Nov (p.a., TZ, AZ, RAD, BS, LWe).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only 4 Golden-winged Warblers were reported, all in Mississippi 14 Sep–15 Oct, while 27 Nashville Warblers were reported in



Alabama's third Green-tailed Towhee was banded 12 October 2004 at Baldwin County, Alabama by a team from University of Southern Mississippi. Photograph by K. Falk.

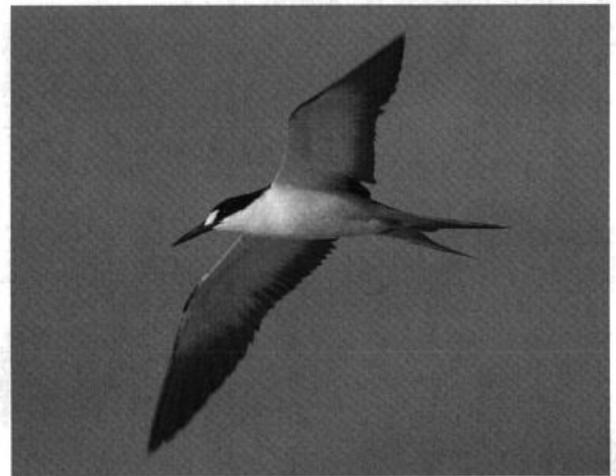
the Region. A rare fall migrant, Black-throated Blue Warbler made appearances in Louisiana (5), Alabama (3), and Mississippi (2); one at Noxubee N.W.R. in e.-cen. Mississippi afforded a first area record 26 Oct (TS). A one-km stretch in *Orleans* produced an impressive 125 American Redstarts 15 Oct (PW). Only 3 Cerulean Warblers were reported, all in Louisiana 15–21 Aug. Casual in Mississippi, a Connecticut Warbler was at Enid L., *Yalobusha/Panola* 11 Sep (p.a., SJD, GK, SK). Another was locally rare in *Colbert*, AL 26 Sep (DJS).

Rarely found, Western Tanagers were at Guntersville 19 Sep (RAR, LBR) and *Santa Rosa* 26–29 Nov (WWD, CZ, RAD et al.). Alabama's 3rd Green-tailed Towhee was at Ft. Morgan 12 Oct (p.a., b., ph. RB, LFi, AA). Rare but regular, Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in Alabama (4), Mississippi (3), Louisiana (3), and Arkansas (one). Unusual and early in *Orleans*, a Lapland Longspur was seen 25 Nov (DPM, PW, BMM). A count of 55–60 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks there 15 Oct was high (PW, DPM). A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Beauregard*, LA 14 Aug was early and very rare (p.a., GJP). The only Dickcissel report came

from *Hancock*, where 8–10 were present late Aug–early Nov (NRB et al.). Very rare Regionally, a Yellow-headed Blackbird was at the F.W.B.S.F. 3 Sep (LC), one was at



This Royal Tern (with Forster's Terns) appeared at Grenada Lake, Yalobusha County, Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Ivan and was the first record of this species for northern Mississippi. This record was especially notable because of the bird's displacement west of the storm's track: most displaced birds are found along the track or east of it. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.



This adult Sooty Tern was one of a pair that frequented Sand Island, Jackson County, Mississippi in the summer and early autumn (here 3 August 2004), raising the possibility of nesting. The species is considered quite rare in the state outside the context of landfalling tropical cyclones. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.



The first confirmed record for Mississippi for Tayer's Gull came from Horn Island, Jackson County, where this bird in fresh juvenal plumage was found 25 October 2004. Georgia and Virginia also had early records of juveniles this autumn. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.



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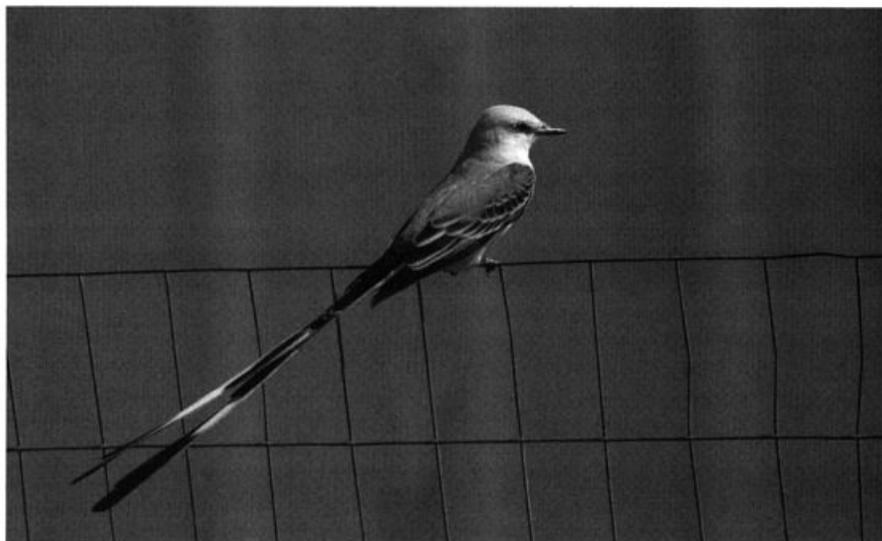
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These Hudsonian Godwits in Humphreys County 11 September 2004 furnished a first fall record for Mississippi, possibly related to a large-scale grounding of shorebirds in the wake of Hurricane Frances, which made landfall 5 September in Florida and resulted in reports of shorebird groundings as far north as Pennsylvania. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports from Mississippi in autumn 2004 far outnumbered those from any previous fall season, with more than 100 individuals documented. This adult was at Ansley, Hancock County on 30 October. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

ice Christenson, Paul Conover, Mike Dillon, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Donna L. Dittman, Robert C. Dobbs, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan (nw Florida), William W. Duncan, Daniel Durand, Betsy Eager, Kreg Ellzey, Lenny Fenimore, Lisa Fitzgerald (LFI), Carol Foil, M. Scott Gravette, Q. B. Gray, Stan Hamilton, Dana Hamilton, Greg J. Harber, Tiffany Hawkin, Geoff E. Hill, Howard Horne, Lee Howard, Sharon S. Hudgins, Jay Huner, Edith Hunt, James Ingold, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Debra G. Jackson, Rick Kaminski, Joe Kleiman

Dauphin I. 12 Sep (PM), and another was in Hancock 16–20 Sep (NRB). Purple Finches were reported in small numbers. Three Red Crossbills were reported from their usual haunt in Cleburne, AL 7–26 Nov (ECS, MSG), while 5 were noted in Tate, MS 17 Oct (GK, SK et al.) and 2 were at Enid L. 14 Nov (SJD). The irruptive Pine Siskin was widely reported in good numbers at feeding stations throughout the Region. Early arriving American Goldfinches were in Livingston, LA 17 Aug (TH) and Union, LA 20 Aug (PS).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Asia Anderson, Dick Baxter, Linda Beall, Eric Beohm, M. Beohm, Paul Blevins, Justin Bosler, Ned R. Boyajian, Cecil Brown, Rachel Bru, Wes Burger, Wesley Burger (WeB), Jonathon Burrell (JBu), Steven W. Cardiff, Laura Catterton, Walt Chambers, Al-

(Louisiana), Joanne Kleiman (JoK), Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, M. Liu, Jan Lloyd, Charles Lyon, Jim Major, Steve W. McConnell, Don McKee, Ann Miller, Charles Mills, Paul Milotis, Brian Monk, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, Max Parker, Helen Parker (Arkansas), Wayne Patterson, Dave Patton, Gary J. Pontiff, R. Dan Purrington, Robert R. Reid, Elberta G. Reid, Van Rensen, R. A. Reynolds, Linda B. Reynolds, Bob & Martha Sargent (Hummer/Bird Study Group [H.B.S.G.]), Terrence Schiefer (Mississippi), Pat Serger, Edna Silverman, Damian J. Simbeck, Eric C. Soehren, Curtis C. Sorrells, Bill Summerour, Bill Sussky (BSu), Joe Turner, William G. Vermillion, Ted Vodde, Phillip Wallace, Ray Watson, Louise Watson, Bill Wayman, Lorna West (LWe), Jeff Wilson, Harriet Wright, Caralyn Zehnder, Ann Ziccardi, Tony Ziccardi. 🐦