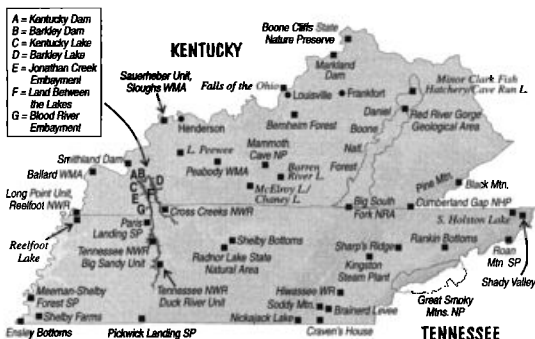


# Tennessee & Kentucky



## WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Waterfowl migration was relatively unremarkable across the Region. At least 4 Greater White-fronted Geese lingered into mid-May at three e. Tennessee locations. A sampling of additional late waterfowl reports included a Tundra Swan in Hawkins, TN 21 Apr–11 May (SHu) that may represent a new late date for the state; a male Gadwall at Standifer Gap through the period (*vide* KCa); a male Northern Shoveler in Ballard, KY 23 May (BPa); 3 Lesser Scaup on Douglas L., Sevier, TN 29 May (MS); a Canvasback in Anderson, TN 15 May (AT); a male Redhead in Pulaski, KY 31

Grebes at S. Holston L. remained through 7 Apr (RC). Two Western Grebes were present on Kentucky L. above the dam 28 Mar–18 Apr (vt. DR et al.); 2 continued at Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN through 7 Mar (ph. MT).

Northbound Double-crested Cormorants peaked in late Mar at 15,000 (a new state high count) on L. Barkley, Lyon/Trigg, KY 30 Mar (DR). Three male Anhingas seen soaring over Fulton, KY 7 May (ph. DR) represented an early arrival date for the state and the first record of more than one individual since 1950. One was at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood, TN 17 May (DPr). One to 3 American Bitterns were reported on eight occasions at five locations in Kentucky 9 Apr–17 May and on nine

**Chris Sloan  
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The spring 2007 season was one of extreme temperature variation. Following a colder-than-average period in February, temperatures in March averaged above normal, largely due to a period of near-record-high temperatures during the latter two weeks that made the month the fifth warmest March on record at Louisville. However, temperatures abruptly “went south” in early April, and a nearly two-week period of nearly record-cold temperatures from 4-15 April set spring back significantly. Emerging vegetation was significantly damaged, and it took several weeks for deciduous trees and shrubs to recover. As a result, returning summer residents and migrants were confronted with very unusual conditions. Temperatures during May subsequently returned to above normal. Precipitation was below average for the three-month period, with March and May being the driest months and southern portions of the Region suffering from lack of rainfall more than the northern portions. The loss of early season food due to the April freeze was likely at least partly responsible for an unprecedented showing of several species at feeding stations, including Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings. Rarity highlights included Great White Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Yellow Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Little Gull, Iceland Gull, Painted Bunting, and continuing Spotted Towhee, Scott’s Oriole, and Common Redpoll.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, sw. Shelby, TN); Kentucky Dam (n. end of Kentucky L., Livingston/Marshall, KY); Radnor (Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Davidson, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); S. Holston L. (Sullivan, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

May (RD); a male Bufflehead on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY through 31 May (m.ob.); a male Common Goldeneye in w. Fulton, KY through at least 24 May (BPa); and a female Red-breasted Merganser on the Ohio R. at Louisville 16 May (BPa). A female Blue-winged Teal at Ensley 19 May was on a nest with 9 eggs (JRW). There were several reports of Surf Scoter: one in Muhlenberg, KY 1 Mar (RD)–3 Mar (BY, MY); 6 at Booker T. Washington S.P., Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 19 Mar (KCa); a female at S. Holston L. 29 Mar–16 Apr (RK, m.ob.); 10+ on Kentucky L. above the dam 30 Mar (DR), with at least 9 there 31 Mar (BY, MY, BPa); and a male in Greenup, KY 21 Apr (ph. RSe). Lingered White-winged Scoters included 4 below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton, TN 1 Mar (ph. DS) and one on the Ohio R. at Louisville 2 Mar (DA). In Kentucky, female Hooded Mergansers with young were observed in Ohio (DR), Boone (LM), Jefferson (two broods), and Henderson, (three locations) (BPa, CC). A hen with 6 young in White, TN 19 May (SJS, DD) furnished the 4th breeding record for the county.

The only Red-throated Loons reported were one on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 30 Mar (DR) and one on S. Holston L. 16-17 Apr (RK, m.ob.). There were three reports of single Eared Grebes in Kentucky: in Muhlenberg 10 Mar (BY et al.); above Kentucky Dam 21 Mar (†BPa, KH); and on L. Barkley, Trigg 30 Mar (DR). In Tennessee, 4 were at Douglas L., Sevier 13 Mar (MS), and 6 were at Ft. Loudoun L., Loudoun 29 Mar (SHo); wintering Eared



These two Western Grebes (here 7 March 2007) at Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Henry County, Tennessee were holdovers from the winter season and may have been the same two present at the same location the previous winter. Photograph by Mike Todd.

occasions at four locations in Tennessee 20 Mar–28 Apr. Single Least Bitterns were heard calling at five locations in Kentucky and one location in Tennessee 29 Apr–24 May. Multiple Least Bitterns were at Standifer Gap 30 Apr+ (KCa, JE, DPa), and four nests with eggs were found there 29 May (DPa). A Great White Heron continued in Blount, TN



These three male Anhingas were seen flying northward over Fulton County, Kentucky 7 May 2007. The record represents the first since 1950 of more than one bird in the state. The species is not known to breed north of this location. Photograph by David Roemer.

through 27 Mar (WB). The expansion of nesting Great Blue Herons continues in Kentucky, with new colonies located in Elliott (SF), Calloway (HC), and Jefferson (DC) during the period. A new nesting site for Great Egrets was located in Muhlenberg, KY in late Apr (DR, KOS). There was a notable flurry of reports of



At least three Glossy Ibis put in appearances in Kentucky in spring 2007; this individual was found in Fulton County 3 May. Photograph by David Roemer.

Glossy Ibis in Kentucky, involving at least 3 ads. and including 2 different birds at Sauerheber 18 Apr (MM)—6 May (ph. DR et al.) and one at the Long Point Unit, Reelfoot N.W.R., Fulton 3 May (ph. DR); in Tennessee, 2 were at Douglas L., Sevier 7-10 May (ph. MS). Two Roseate Spoonbills were reported from Shelby Forest, Shelby, TN 9 May (DPr, MTOS).

Two Mississippi Kites in Fulton 26 Apr (BPa) established a new early arrival date for Kentucky. There were a number of reports of w. forms of Red-tailed Hawk, especially during the Mar migratory period for the species (DR, BPa, AS); an ad. light-morph *calurus* in Webster 8 Mar (AS) was a county first. A Red-tailed Hawk banded at French R., MN in Oct 1991 as a hatch-year bird was recovered in Muhlenberg, KY 13 Mar, making it nearly 16 years old (SR, fide AS). A Rough-legged Hawk in Nashville 3 Mar (RC) was a surprise. Juv. Golden Eagles were reported in Madison, KY 11 Mar (SM, RBr) and Ohio, KY 8 Apr (ph. DR). Six Merlins were reported 11 Mar–5 May across the Region. As of mid-May, eight of nine known nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons along the Ohio R., KY had active nests (SV, AS, BV). Two ads. were at the traditional nesting site on the railroad trestle below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton, TN through the period, and a chick was present 30 May (fide KCa). In Kentucky, there were also 14 reports of migrants 18 Mar–5 May.

## RAILS THROUGH TERNS

At least one and possibly 2 Yellow Rails were observed during a prescribed burn of a native grass planting in ne. Crittenden, KY 23 Mar (†BM). The only King Rail in Kentucky was one at Sauerheber 10 Apr (BPa). One to 7 Virginia Rails were encountered at four Kentucky and five Tennessee locales 10 Mar–4 May; as many as 4 were at Standifer Gap

through the period, but no nests were found this season. Three imm. Virginia Rails and an imm. Sora at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greeneville, Greene, TN 29 May (DMi) suggested that both species nested there. A tally of at least 65 Soras at Sauerheber 21 Apr (DR, KOS) established a new high count for Kentucky. In Kentucky, Common Moorhens were reported only from traditional breeding locales in Henderson (DR, CC et al.) and Union (BPa); in Tennessee, the lone report was of a single bird in Hawkins, TN 17-18 May (DK et al.), a rarity for e. Tennessee.

In Kentucky, shorebird migration was quite respectable, with significant numbers and diversity noted mostly in the w. portion of the state; Tennessee observers reported a below-average migration. A few early shorebirds included an American Golden-Plover in s. Warren, KY 3 Mar (DR); 2 Greater Yellowlegs in w. Fulton, KY 3 Mar (BY, MY); and a Solitary Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Marshall 26 Mar (BH). Tallies of 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs in



This female Hudsonian Godwit was one of two found in western Henderson County, Kentucky 25 April 2007. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Dyer, TN 17 Apr (MT), 78 White-rumped Sandpipers at Ensley 10 May (JRW), 4800+ Pectoral Sandpipers at Ensley 14 Apr (JRW, EC), and 650+ Semipalmated Sandpipers in w. Henderson, KY 23 May (BPa) represented noteworthy high counts. A count of 110 Semipalmated Plovers in Jefferson, KY 15 May (BPa) established a new high count for the Louisville area. There were two reports of Piping Plover in Kentucky: one in Jefferson 27 Apr (LM, ph. BPa et al.) and one in Union 7 May (ph. BPa).

One to 4 Black-necked Stilts were reported

at six sites in w. Kentucky 18 Apr–23 May. There were three reports of American Avocets: 9 at Kentucky Dam 24 Apr (KA, ph. BPa); 8 at Radnor 1 May (JS, KB, BB); and one on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 3 May (ph. BPa). It was an excellent spring for Willets, with one to 60+ reported at 11 locales on 17 occasions 24 Apr–15 May. There were only two reports of Upland Sandpiper in Kentucky: one in Warren 18 Apr (ph. BPa) and one in Calloway 9 May (KCo); in Tennessee, one was in Anderson 16 Apr (AT), one was at Standifer Gap 1 May (CFe, LW), and 12 were at Ensley 8 Apr (JRW), with 5 there 21 Apr (JRW). A Hudsonian Godwit at Ensley 31 Mar–1 Apr (JRW) and 2 females in w. Henderson, KY 25 Apr (ph. BPa) provided exceptional spring reports for the Region. A flock of 37 Marbled Godwits at Kentucky Dam 19 Apr (ph. BPa) included an individual that had been banded in coastal Georgia; the flock represented a new state high count for the species. One to 6 Ruddy Turnstones were found at four locales in Kentucky 12-16 May (MA, BPa). Sanderlings are a good find in the Region in spring, and there were three reports: 4 in Union, KY 15 May (BPa), and 5 on L. Barkley, Lyon, and 10 at Kentucky Dam, both 16 May (ph. BPa). A Western Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Mar-

shall 15 Mar (BH) was either an overwintering bird or early migrant. A White-rumped Sandpiper in w. Henderson, KY 19 Apr (BPa) established a new early arrival date for the state. There were four reports of Baird's Sandpiper in Kentucky: singles in different parts of w. Henderson 19 Apr (BPa), 30 Apr (ph. DR), and 1 May (BPa), plus one in w. Fulton 1 May (HC, ME). In Tennessee, 4 were at Ensley 31 Mar (JRW), with 2 there 14 Apr (JRW, EC), 4 there 21 Apr (JRW, MT), and singles there 24 Apr and 2 May (JRW). A molting Ruff was in Lake, TN 27 Apr–1 May (ph. MT et al.) A Red-necked Phalarope in w. Henderson, KY 23 May (ph. BPa) was the only one reported in the Region.

One to 3 Laughing Gulls were reported at four Kentucky locales 3-18 May; a Laughing Gull, presumably the same bird, was reported from several locations in Sullivan and Hawkins, TN 16 May–5 Jun (RC, RPh, SHu). The only Franklin's Gull reported in Kentucky was an ad. on L. Barkley, Lyon 31 Mar (BPa, BY, MY). An ad. Little Gull was present on L.



These Marbled Godwits were part of a flock of 37 at Kentucky Dam, Marshall County, Kentucky 19 April 2007; the flock represented a new state high count. A green band on the leg of one bird indicated that it had been banded on the coast of Georgia. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Barkley, Lyon, KY 31 Mar–13 Apr (BY, MY, †BPa et al.). Approximately 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls were still on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 30 Mar (DR); a first-cycle bird lingered at Kentucky Dam through 10 May (KCo). A few Herring Gulls lingered at scattered locales into the 3rd week of May in Kentucky. The Region's only Thayer's Gull was a first-cycle bird at Kentucky Dam 28 & 31 Mar (ph. DR; †BPa, BY, MY). A first- or second-cycle Iceland Gull was present on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 28 Mar (vt. DR). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in Kentucky: an ad. on Kentucky L., Calloway 26 Mar (BH); an ad. on L. Barkley, Trigg 30 Mar (ph. DR); and a first-cycle bird on L. Barkley, Lyon 26 Apr (†BPa). Terns made an uninspiring showing across the Region during spring migration. The only report of Black Tern in Kentucky was of 2 above Kentucky Dam 17 May (BPa). Common Terns were scarcely noted, with one to 2 reported from three Kentucky locales 11-17 May.

### CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Black-billed Cuckoos put in an excellent showing this season: singles were reported from 10 Kentucky and seven Tennessee locales 21 Apr–25 May. There were four reports

of Barn Owl in Kentucky: one in Pulaski (RD); one at a previous year's nest site in Henry 4 Apr (BPa); a family of 5 young in Flem-



This Ruff was present in Lake County, Tennessee 27 April (here) through 1 May 2007. The species has been of nearly annual occurrence in the Tennessee & Kentucky region during the past decade. Photograph by Mike Todd.

ing 1 May (SF); and 4, including young, in e. Calloway 12 May (HC). Three Long-eared Owls lingered in Muhlenberg, KY through 20 Mar (BPa); 4 were discovered in a yard in ne. Boyle, KY in early Mar and lingered there through 21 Mar, with the one last observed 23

Mar (KS). Short-eared Owls lingered in Muhlenberg and Ohio, KY into early Mar. Single Whip-poor-wills in Carter, TN 25 Mar (B&JP) and Lewis, TN 27 Mar (BPu), and a Chuck-will's-widow in Jackson, TN 17 Apr (J&NL), were unusually early. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Knox, TN 10 May (CW) was late. A female Rufous Hummingbird that wintered at Louisville, KY was last observed 18 Mar (MC).

One to 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at six Kentucky and two Tennessee locales 6-19 May, representing a below-average showing, especially in Tennessee. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers put in an average showing in Kentucky, with small numbers reported 8-12 May. One to 3 Alder Flycatchers at eight locales 3-23 May was a relatively typical showing for Kentucky; likewise 3 at three locations 11-26 May in Tennessee (away from established breeding areas) was normal. A Willow Flycatcher in Calloway, KY 1 May (HC) established a new early arrival date for the state. As many as 4 Western Kingbirds were present in Shelby, TN, where the species is now an annual breeder, by 12 May (JRW). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to traditional nesting territories in Lyon and Livingston, KY and Shelby, TN; a male at the first site 2 Apr (PN, DR) established a new early arrival date for Kentucky. Two Western Kingbird × Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrids—both females, and likely fledged from previous years in the vicinity—were paired with Western Kingbirds in Shelby, TN 27 May (JRW).

Common Ravens continue to be reported in Sullivan and Washington, TN away from the mts.; a nest with 5 young was found in Unicoi, TN 26 Apr (RK). Several reports of vireos tied or established new arrival dates for Kentucky; these included White-eyes in Lyon 30 (DR) & 31 Mar (BY, MY, BPa); Yellow-throats in Trigg 30 Mar (DR) and Calloway 2 Apr (ME); and a Red-eyed in Madison 31 Mar (SM, RBr). A Bell's Vireo in Calloway, KY 12 May (fide HC) and one at Ensley 26-27 May (JRW) were away from known breeding areas. Swallows seem to arrive earlier each spring, and this year was no exception, with a Northern Rough-winged Swallow and a Barn Swallow in Memphis, TN 11 Mar (JRW) and 2 Bank Swallows at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 15 Apr (CB, KCa, GB, DJ). Following a poor winter showing across the Region, only a few Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported during spring, with the latest being one in Madison, KY 28 Apr (TH et al.).

**SA** The near-record cold snap of early Apr caused an unprecedented burning back of deciduous vegetation across most of the Region. The effects of the freezing weather were exacerbated by the fact that about two weeks of near-record warmth had preceded the cold snap; this warm spell had resulted in new leaves and flowers of deciduous trees and shrubs emerging well ahead of schedule, making them especially vulnerable to the cold temperatures. In the ne. portion of the Region, many trees had not yet broken winter dormancy, so other than being delayed by a few of weeks, emergence of leaves was relatively normal there. In a majority of the Region, however, the effect on forest trees was quite remarkable. Most sat lifeless in shades of brown and black for a period of nearly two weeks while vascular systems recovered and new lateral buds formed. When they did emerge again, however, most did not reflower, which resulted in the absence of many spring flowers and fruits on trees such as elms, maples, oaks, and hickories that are likely used heavily by migrant cardinals.

The result of the dearth of this food source had to have been at least partially responsible for an unprecedented showing of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders during the last week of Apr and the first 10 days of May. Dozens of reports came in from all across the affected area. Some observers reported 50 or more individuals at feeding stations in early May. Most birds disappeared by mid-May, but a few hung on until late in the month, with latest reports involving individuals in *Henderson, KY* (CC) and *Kenton, KY* (MAB, *vide* LM) 31 May. Although Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were the most conspicuous feeder birds reported, significant numbers of Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks were also involved in the event.

After not being reported at all in Kentucky in 2006, a singing Bewick's Wren was encountered on a B.B.S. route nw. of Beechwood, *Owen* 28 May (LM). Marsh Wrens were relatively scarce this spring, and, somewhat remarkably, only a single Sedge Wren—and a probable holdover from winter at that—was reported in the Region in *Marshall, TN* 18 Mar (DMo). Eastern Bluebird numbers were notably low in open farmland of the Bluegrass region of n.-cen. Kentucky during the spring season, most likely the result of the effects of the Feb cold snap. There were several reports of dead bluebirds being found in nest boxes (m.ob.) and simply out on the open ground (JL) in this region. An American Pipit in *Jefferson, KY* 15 May (BPa) was rather late.

Several observers noted below-average numbers of both transient and breeding warblers, a possible after-effect of the late freeze described above. A sampling of record-matching/record-setting early arrivals of warblers in

Kentucky included Blue-winged in *Trigg* 2 Apr (BL); Nashville in *Jefferson* 9 Apr (JBe, PB); and Louisiana Waterthrush in *Pulaski* 14 Mar (RD). In Tennessee, a Blue-winged in *Lewis* 1 Apr (BPu), 2 Ovenbirds in *Putnam* 4 Apr (RSi, BHS), and a Prairie in *Lewis* 5 Apr (BPu) were unusually early. It was an excellent spring for Cape May Warblers, with numerous reports and several comments concerning overall abundance; an especially remarkable concentration of no fewer than 30 and possibly as many as 50 birds frequented a single large spruce tree at Frankfort, *Franklin, KY* during the first week of May (AS, BSm, SV et al.). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Trigg, KY* 20 Apr (HC, JH) and single males in *Henry, TN* 23 Apr (MT), at Craven's House, *Hamilton, TN* 30 Apr (KCa, JE, CB), at Radnor 7 May (FE, JS, KB), and in *Putnam, TN* 12 May (JM) were w. of their regular migration and breeding areas. Transient Cerulean Warblers were reported in exceptional numbers from *Hamilton, TN*, with one to 4 reported on seven occasions 12 Apr–5 May. Swainson's Warblers singing in *Hamilton, TN* 17 Apr (BPu) and 11–20 May (BW et al.) and in s. *Boyle, KY* 21 & 23 May (MH) were not near known breeding locales. The only reports of Connecticut Warbler in Kentucky were one in *Jefferson* 11 May (BPa) and 2 in n. *Warren* 15 May (DR); in Tennessee, one to 3 were reported on seven dates at five locales 9–23 May. Single Mourning Warblers at nearly a dozen locations in Kentucky 8–19 May was a normal showing; reports were slightly down in Tennessee, with only 4 reported 28 Apr–20 May.

The wintering male Spotted Towhee in ne. *Hart, KY* was last observed 15 Apr (CFr). A Vesper Sparrow that lingered in w. *Henderson, KY* through 6 May (DR) may have been on territory. A White-throated Sparrow lingered in a *Madison, KY* yard through 31 May (TH). A Bachman's Sparrow in *Montgomery, TN* 30 Apr (DMo) was the only one reported in the Region. Early Henslow's Sparrows were re-



This Red-necked Phalarope was present in western Henderson County, Kentucky 23 May 2007. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

ported at Yanahli W.M.A., *Maury, TN* 10 Mar (TE) and *Marshall, TN* 26 Mar (DMo); 2 in *Putnam, TN* 12 May (BHS) established a first county record. Two Painted Buntings, a male and a green bird, were reported in a yard near Bethlehem, e.-cen. *Henry, KY* 12 May (†ML, EL); the species is quite rare in the state. Migrant Bobolinks were not numerous in Kentucky. A new nesting locale was reported just w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer* during the latter



This first- or second-cycle Iceland Gull was present on Lake Barkley, Lyon County, Kentucky 28 March 2007. Video capture by David Roemer.

half of May (KD, GD et al.); at least 8 territorial males were present, and a female was on a nest containing 5 eggs there 28 May (GD). One to 4 Brewer's Blackbirds at five Kentucky locales 1 Mar–21 Apr was a relatively typical showing for spring. Five Western Meadowlarks were at Ensley 10 Mar (JRW). The wintering imm. female Scott's Oriole in *Franklin, KY* lingered through 23 Apr (F&DS et al.). An Orchard Oriole in *Lake, TN* 25 Mar (NM) was unusually early.

Following a dismal winter for Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, a few migrants were reported at scattered locales from mid-Mar through mid-Apr (m.ob.); a relatively tardy

siskin was reported from Black Mt., Harlan, KY 21 May (DR). A Pine Siskin nest with an egg on Roan Mt., Carter, TN 5-19 May (AT, RBi, NS) established the first nesting record in the state, although nesting has been assumed for many years. The Common Redpoll in Lewis, TN lingered through 9 Mar (BPu).

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## Alabama & Mississippi



Steven W. McConnell

The general weather pattern over the Region during spring 2007 would best be described as warm and dry: temperatures averaged 3-6° C above normal, and rainfall totaled only 40 per cent of the normal amount. A vivid reminder that circumstances could be much worse came in the form of frequent, irritating smoke swept into our Region from widespread brush fires in Georgia and Florida. Despite all the heat, probably the most memorable weather event of the season was a cold one! Passage of a strong front 4 April allowed a large Arctic air mass to drift southward, almost reaching the latitude of Birmingham, Alabama and Starkeville, Mis-

issippi. A hard freeze followed on the nights of 7-8 April, with the mercury dipping around 14° C below normal. All-time record lows were set across the Region, and early spring vegetation and planted crops suffered mightily. The full extent of the damage was perhaps best seen in early May, when many forest canopies normally dressed in bright, spring green looked as though a defoliant spray had been applied.

“Excellent” migrant numbers were noted at many coastal locations 10-11 April, as a strong low-pressure system moved rapidly eastward, causing widespread rain and storms. Weaker fronts on 19 and 26 April produced more local events, although the latter did create classic fallout conditions at Fort Morgan, Alabama. Here, only a few coastal veterans had done their homework and witnessed a “dizzying” number of warblers. The Duncans ended the day with 49 Neotropical migrant land bird species, their highest ever!

Proving once again that the birding action up north may rival the coast, the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge spring count 28 April compiled impressive totals for both residents and migrants. Twenty-seven species had their previous Tennessee Valley spring or all-time record counts broken, and the 1076 Indigo Buntings amassed set a new Alabama one-day maximum. A sprinkling of rarities across the season included an inland American Oystercatcher, one or two Black Swifts, and the appearance of the largest Cave Swallow flock ever recorded in the Region.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the valuable, long-term contributions made by Robert and Lucy Duncan to the bird knowledge of our Region and to this publication in particular. I only hope to wisely use what they have taught me as I assume this role. We all look forward to hearing of their future travel and birding adventures and sharing those we can.

**Abbreviations:** Coldwater R. (Coldwater River N.W.R., Quitman/Tallahatchie, MS); Dauphin I. (Mobile, AL); FM.N.H. (Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville); Ft. Morgan (Baldwin, AL); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Oktibbeha/Winston, MS); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., Limestone/Morgan, AL).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

The 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks discovered at Dauphin I. 1 May provided Alabama's 4th record but only lingered for one day (BCG, ph. DD, m.ob.). A single bird 28 May furnished the 5th state record when it appeared much farther n. in Etowah, AL and stayed a few days (ph. EG). A Ross's Goose observed at Coldwater R. 7 Apr was quite late (G&SK). Also rather tardy was a Green-winged Teal found at Eufaula N.W.R., Barbour, AL 29 Apr (LW); a male Greater Scaup was tardy in Limestone, AL 15 Apr (GDJ, DGJ). By May, scoters have typically disappeared from our Region, and finding all three species on any day of the year is no mean feat. The ob-