

4 females in *Woodford* 18 Jun (ph. JL); 5 territorial birds just n. of Winchester, *Clark* 26 Jun (JSm); and several territorial birds in ne. *Bourbon* 16 Jul (SM, RB). Two pairs were in *Washington, TN* through the season (DH, RK); 3 juvs. seen there 23 Jul (RK) furnished the state's 2nd breeding record.

Corrigenda: The Mottled Duck at Dutch Bottoms, Douglas L., TN Sep 2006 was seen in *Jefferson* and *Cocke*, not *Sevier* as reported. It represents the 2nd accepted record for the state.

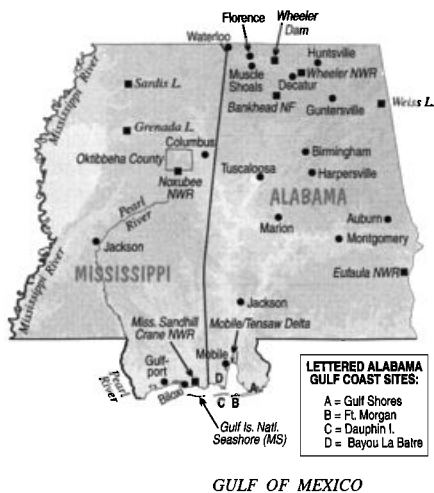
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Abbreviations: Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., *Oktibbeha/Winston, MS*); Swan Creek (Swan Creek W.M.A., *Limestone, AL*)

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found 15 Jul near Inverness in *Sunflower, MS* (SJD). Two calling Pied-billed Grebes made a nice surprise 7 Jul at Swan Creek, where the species is an uncommon breeder (SWM). The

(J&MP). Summering American White Pelicans are rarely found inland in Alabama, making the 24 in *Hale, AL* 15 Jul quite noteworthy (GJH). The long-staying individual at the mouth of Town Cr., *Colbert/Lawrence, AL* continued for a 3rd year (m.ob.). Three Neotropical Cormorants (2 ads., one imm.) at Dutch Brake, *Sunflower* 15 Jul were rare for Mississippi (SJD). Repeated observations of Anhinga throughout the season in e.-cen



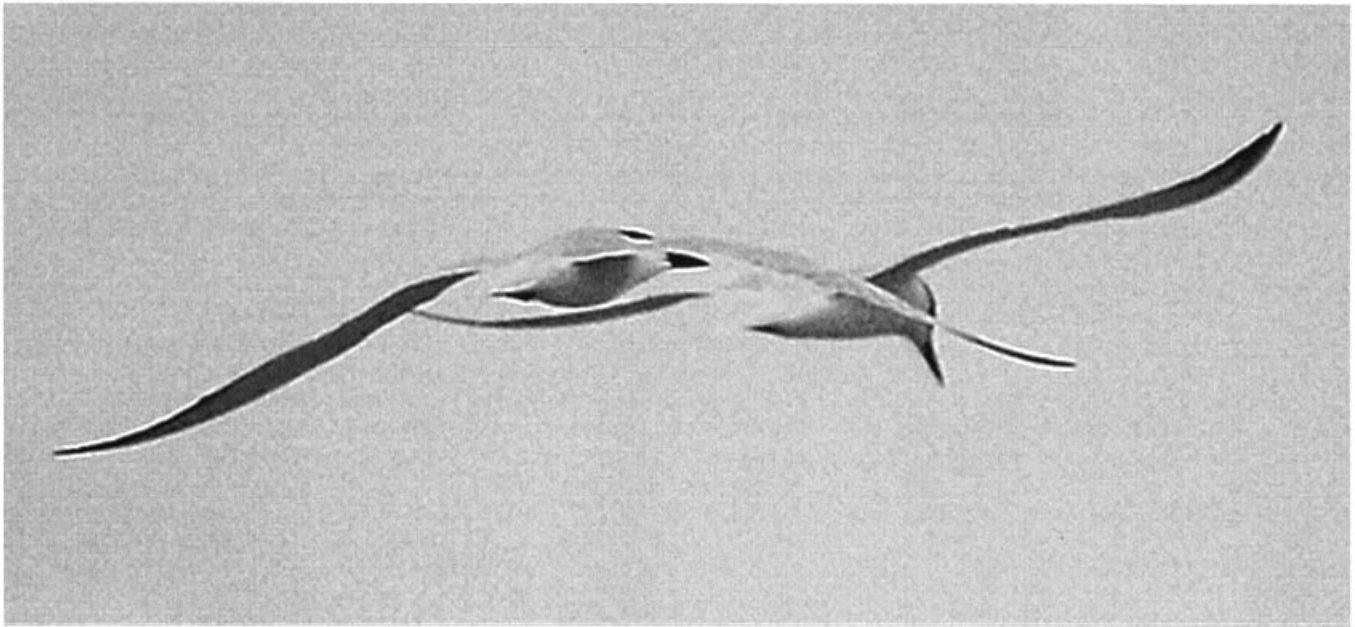
Up to 14 Wood Storks visited a small pond in Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama in late June 2007 (here with small fish on 29 June). The species is only an occasional visitor to the Tennessee Valley region of northern Alabama. Photograph by Jerry D. Green.

Steven W. McConnell

The number of observer reports from across our Region this season seemed to be fewer than in recent years. Two reasons for this downturn were likely the completion of the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas field work during 2006 and the continuing very warm and dry weather pattern. Many locations did receive some temporary relief during July, when rainfall exceeded normal totals and the mercury averaged slightly below typical. No tropical cyclones threatened the Region this season. Highlights from this breeding season included the discovery of the Region's first Cedar Waxwing nest and a Bell's Vireo captured in Mississippi. A pair of inland Gull-billed Terns in Alabama was more difficult to explain.

alternate-plumaged Horned Grebe in Bayou Heron n. of Dauphin I., *Mobile, AL* 16 Jun-7 Jul provided a very unusual summer record

Mississippi, including a nest with 3 young 13 Jul at Noxubee, provided evidence of rarely detected breeding (TLS).



This pair of Gull-billed Terns was seen 6 July 2007 at W. F. George Dam, Henry County, Alabama. They furnished the sixth state inland record and were not associated with any tropical weather event. Photograph Walt Chambers.

Small numbers of Least Bittern are typically scattered throughout the Region; however, the 8 found 10 Jun in *Mobile*, AL made for a high count (BCG). A staggering number of Great Egrets—10,850—was counted in *Sunflower/Humphreys*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). An imm. White Ibis 7 Jul at Swan Creek was rare for Alabama's Tennessee Valley region (SWM). The only Roseate Spoonbill report for the season was of 6 (2 ads., 4 imms.) in *Sunflower/Humphreys*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). Wood Storks seemed unusually widely distributed across the Region. Up to 15 were found 18 Jun+ at Noxubee (TLS). Alabama's Inner Coastal Plain produced four records: 16 along the Alabama R. in *Lowndes* 1 Jun (W&LB); 6 on the Alabama R. in *Monroe/Clarke* 6 Jun (ECS, JT); one near White Hall in *Lowndes* 16 Jun (LFG); and an impressive 975+ later in the season in *Hale/Perry* 15 Jul (GJH et al.). The latter provided the 2nd highest Alabama daily total ever! In n. Alabama, where this wader is only occasional, 14 were found 22 Jun and lingered several days at a small spring-fed pond at Muscle Shoals in Colbert (DJS, ph. JDG, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Purple Gallinule returned to nest again at Noxubee, where 2 ads. and 3 downy young were seen 25 Jun (TLS). The 20+ Common Gallinules at the same location 12 Jun included both ads. and young to furnish a first *Oktibbeha* nesting record (TLS). Up to 4 American Coots were also found at Noxubee 11 Jun–30 Jul; however, no evidence of nesting

could be found (TLS).

Two Black-necked Stilts 17 Jun near Macon, *Noxubee*, MS provided one of only a few area records and the first in summer. Again, no nesting activity was noted (TLS). Later in the season an impressive 192 were tallied in *Sunflower*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). The Spotted Sandpiper in *Oktibbeha*, MS 15 Jul provided an early record for a likely migrant (TLS), and 912 Least Sandpipers in *Sunflower*, MS 15 Jul furnished an impressive total (SJD). Early for the Gulf coast were the Upland Sandpiper 12 Jul and 6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 19 Jul at Foley, *Baldwin*, AL (D&CD). The 2 Gull-billed Terns some 190 km from the Gulf of Mexico at Walter F. George Dam, *Henry* 6 Jul furnished only the 6th inland Alabama record and were not associated with a tropical weather system (ph. WC).

DOVES THROUGH BUNTINGS

A Common Ground-Dove seen near Macon, *Noxubee*, MS 10 Jun was at the same location where one was noted in summer 2006. Both are the only area summer records (TLS, MS). The Bell's Vireo captured and banded in *Coahoma*, MS 25 Jul was quite a surprise (b., ph. PJB); only a few previous summer records exist for Mississippi. The 3 Tree Swallows (pair and one imm.) discovered 16–23 Jun in *Lowndes* provided evidence for the southernmost Alabama nesting ever (LFG). Cliff Swallows continued to expand nesting into new locations; 30+ at Robert Henry Dam on the Alabama R., *Lowndes/Autauga*, AL 16 Jun (LFG) were at a new site, and 2 (near 15

nests) near Macon, MS represented the first *Noxubee* nesting record (TLS). The first Cedar Waxwing nest in Mississippi was found 1 Jul near Adaton, *Oktibbeha* (TLS, MS), where one ad. was seen feeding 2 nestlings. The two previous state breeding records were of a lone fledgling and of an ad. seen carrying nest material.

An imm. Magnolia Warbler 24 Jul at Shorter, *Elmore* furnished the earliest record ever for Alabama's Inner Coastal Plain (ECS). The Ovenbird seen and heard on territory several times 1–25 Jun at Noxubee represents the first probable breeding record in e.-cen. Mississippi (TLS). A new southernmost Song Sparrow breeding record for Alabama was established by two pairs, plus young, at a shopping mall in Opelika, *Lee* 11 Jun+ (GEH, ph. LW et al.). Up to 5 male Painted Buntings were seen 10–25 Jun near Macon, *Noxubee*, MS, where the species is a rare breeder (TLS, MS).

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