

the Pettigrew count. This was the seventh count season to record this species for the North Carolina CBC, all since the 102nd count! Tree Swallow numbers were down considerably this year, although the location of the large wintering flocks present in the state does not always fall into count circles. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were back down compared to last year. Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher numbers were back up this year, while Hermit Thrush, American Robin, and mimic thrush numbers were down. No Lapland Longspurs or Snow Buntings were detected during the counts this year. Warbler highlights this count season included three **Northern Parulas** with singles at Mattamuskeet, Greenville, and New Bern; and an **American Redstart** at Holly Shelter provided only the fourth North Carolina CBC record. Numbers of Prairie Warblers (8) were up while Black-and-whites (5) and Ovenbirds (3) were down. Last year's **Summer Tanagers** at Raleigh and Wilmington returned for this winter's counts; this time the Raleigh bird was seen count day while the Wilmington bird was noted count week! Noteworthy sparrows included four Bachman's (singles at Wilmington and Southport, and two at Southern Pines), single Clay-colored and Grasshopper at Greenville, a Henslow's at Holly Shelter, four Le Conte's (2 at Gastonia and singles at New Bern and Greenville), and a good total of nine Lincoln's from eight counts. An **Indigo Bunting** was a good find at Rocky Mount, as inland winter Indigos are quite rare. Wintering Painted Bunting numbers were down with four at Southport, two at Holly Shelter, and singles at Morehead City and Kitty Hawk. Blackbird numbers were down overall, and the best Rusty Blackbird counts were 101 at Durham and 81 at Greensboro. A **Brewer's Blackbird** was at Henderson County, providing a good North Carolina CBC report for that mountains locality. Baltimore Oriole numbers were down somewhat with the

best count total being 11 at Rocky Mount. Finches were way down when compared to last winter. Purple Finches (40 on 14 counts) and Pine Siskins (66 on 9 counts) were spread rather thinly and in small numbers across the state. And for the fifth year in a row, not a single Evening Grosbeak was observed during the counts!

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

**Dennis M. Forsythe**  
*Department of Biology*  
*The Citadel*  
 171 Moultrie Street  
 Charleston, SC 29409  
 dennis.forsythe@gmail.com

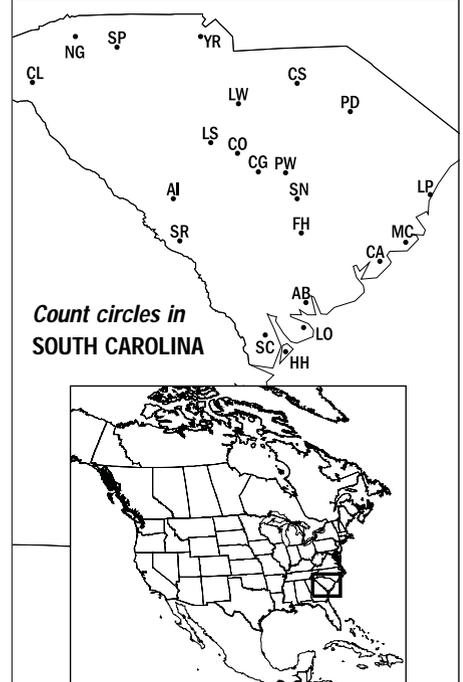
Twenty-two counts were conducted in South Carolina during the 112th CBC season, three less than last year. This winter was unusually warm, with a number of late migrants and half-hardy species along with reduced numbers of wintering species, especially waterfowl. There were good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes, Cooper's Hawks, woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, and Winter Wrens. Le Conte's Sparrow had a mini-invasion on midlands counts. The warm winter also resulted in reduced numbers of Northern Harriers, kinglets, catbirds, juncos, sparrows, and blackbirds. Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers declined, perhaps related to the increase in Cooper's Hawks. Northern Bobwhite, American Kestrel, and Loggerhead Shrike continue to decline. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin were virtually absent. For the first time in recent memory, all counts experienced excellent weather conditions except temperature-challenged Lake Wateree.

McClellanville tallied the highest species total (176), while Santee N.W.R. (127) was the highest Outer Coastal Plains count, Savannah River Site (109) the highest count of the Inner Coastal Plains/Sandhills, and Clemson (90) the highest Piedmont count.

The ACE Basin tally (146) had two exclusives: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and two of the reintroduced Whooping Cranes, plus a high of 50

Bald Eagles. Aiken (82) had their first Grasshopper Sparrow, plus a low for the declining Rusty Blackbird. Charleston (133) had a count-first adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, plus new lows for 17 percent of species, including the endangered Piping Plover. Congaree Swamp (95) had five new species (Merlin, Solitary Sandpiper, Barn Owl, and Le Conte's and Henslow's sparrows) and 15 record tallies. New to Clemson (90) was a Cattle Egret. Unique there was the high count of 40 Brewer's Blackbirds. Columbia (84) had four new species (Snow Goose, Anhinga, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Harris's Sparrow). Cooper's Hawk, Sedge Wren, and Le Conte's Sparrow were new for the Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. (78). Four-hole Swamp (89) had four new species (Wilson's Snipe, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Bachman's Sparrow, and one Red-breasted Nuthatch). Thirty-seven Purple Finches were also notable.

Hilton Head Island (156) had a remarkable Red-eyed Vireo, plus record counts for Wood Stork and Anhinga. In its third year, the Lowcountry count (112) had excellent results with increased coverage, including 11 new species and record counts of Bald Eagles and American Oystercatchers. Also remarkable was the 1180 Willets.



Count circles in SOUTH CAROLINA

Sixteen Piping Plovers and three Common Ground-Doves were encouraging numbers for these declining species. The tally at Litchfield-Pawley's Island (150) would have been higher if any of the five count week birds (including a remarkable photographed Blackpoll Warbler, Parasitic Jaeger, and Razorbill) had been seen on count day. Fourteen species reached new highs. Notable were 27 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and two Reddish Egrets. The reestablished Lower Saluda count (86) had five new species, four record counts, and a remarkable 10 Winter Wrens. Lake Wateree (68) had low counts of nine species but four new record tallies including 11 Winter Wrens.

McClellanville (176) had a count week Rough-legged Hawk; new counts of Eared Grebe and Ruby-throated Hummingbird; and seven high counts, including a remarkable 120 Belted Kingfishers. Northern Geenville (82) had 26 highs, mostly permanent residents. Six American Kestrels was noteworthy. Pee Dee (82) had four highs including Winter Wren and five lows including American Kestrel. New for Pinewood (94) were Sandhill Crane, Semipalmated Plover, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Ground-Dove, plus nine highs of mostly permanent residents. Misses there included Eurasian Collared-Dove. A Canvasback was new to the Sun City-Okatie (128); six species had new highs and three new lows.

Santee N.W.R. (127) had two new species (Tricolored Heron and Dunlin), and seven highs. Notable were six Common Ground-Doves. Spartanburg (87) had an above average season with Osprey, Bald Eagle, Rufous Hummingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow noteworthy. One Rufous is spending its fourth winter and another its sixth winter. Most remarkable was a well-described Bobolink. A good effort by teams produced a high tally for the Savannah River Site (109); a photographed Le Conte's Sparrow there was a first. Also new were *Myiarchis* sp. and Osprey. Among the five high counts was a

remarkable 6382 Ring-necked Ducks. York-Rock Hill (61) had a high of two Bald Eagles but 12 new low counts.

## GEORGIA

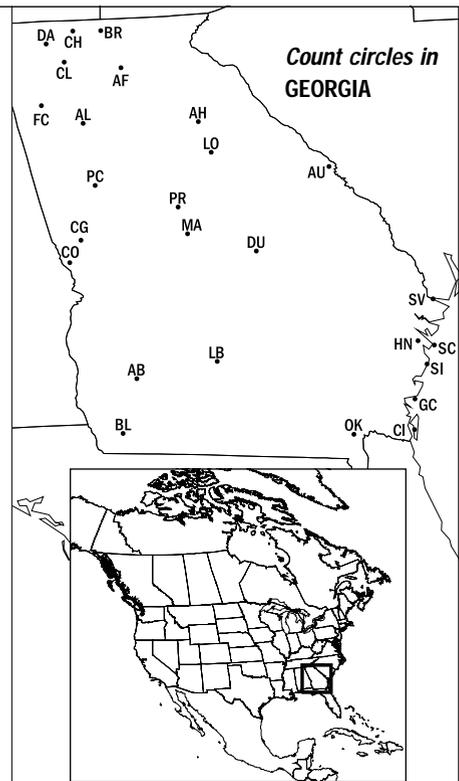
**Giff Beaton**  
320 Willow Glen Drive  
Marietta, GA 30068  
giffbeaton@mindspring.com

Georgia had 26 counts again this year, with a state total of 217 accepted species. The 582 participants drove 6324 miles and walked 532 miles. Weather was good for most counts. There were a number of new state high counts, and as this is the fifth year with 26 counts, that only partially explains the numbers.

Ducks made another good showing, especially scoters. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Augusta (AU) was the third state CBC record, and Gadwalls more than doubled the previous record high with **1938** total. Very high counts were 826 at Savannah (SV), 305 at Macon (MA), and 253 at Dalton (DA). Surf Scoter came in with 90 (third highest CBC total), the 20 White-winged Scoters were a new state high (14 at St. Catherines [SC]), and the state total of 4559 Black Scoters was the second highest total ever. Conversely, only 506 Ruddy Ducks were counted, the lowest count in 10 years.

Northern Bobwhites continue to decline for a variety of reasons, especially habitat loss, and this fact continues to be reflected in CBC counts. This year's total of 10 was the lowest ever.

A new high count of Horned Grebes was set with 344, led by 151 at AU and 114 at SV. Northern Gannet also set a new record with 950, including 458 at SC. The second highest count of American White Pelicans was 363, led by 191 at SV. Glossy Ibis also set a new record with 71, including 64 at SV, and for the sixth year in a row a few Roseate Spoonbills lingered into CBC time. Wood Storks rebounded from last year's low with a solid 343. Both vultures set new record highs, with 2091 Black and 4196 Turkey. Bald Eagles also set a new high with 111. A new high count of



Cooper's Hawks was set with 104, and only the second Georgia CBC record of Northern Goshawk was at SV, of all places. Red-tailed Hawks came in with 580, second highest ever, and there were 17 Merlins, the third highest.

In direct contrast with last year, many shorebirds set record counts this year. Two species of plovers crushed the previous records: Black-bellied more than doubled the previous high with **5622**, and Semipalmated set a new high with 7961. St. Catherines alone beat the previous record of Black-bellied with 3908, and also had the high count of Semipalmated with 3432. Merely setting new high counts were American Oystercatcher with 269 (77 at Sapelo Island [SI]), Willet with 1348 (450 at Glynn County [GC]), Red Knot with 2711 (2413 at SI), and Wilson's Snipe with 294, including a whopping 172 at SV. Near-record counts included 2959 Killdeer (730 at Carter's Lake [CL]), second highest state total; 699 American Avocets, third highest total; 178 Lesser Yellowlegs, third highest; 1438 Least Sandpiper, also third highest; 19,643 Dunlin (9956 at SC), second highest; 1705 Short-billed Dowitchers, second highest; and 58 American Woodcock,

second highest. Two phalarope species were documented: two Wilson's at SV were the fifth state CBC records and a new high count, and 12 Red from the beach at SC were the third CBC record and second highest total.

Forster's Terns numbered 2178 (852 at SC), a second highest total and much better than last year's 510. Both Royal Terns and Black Skimmers made the third highest state counts ever with 485 and 1708, respectively. The count of 12 Parasitic Jaegers tied the high count, with 10 at Cumberland Island (CI).

The Common Ground-Dove total of 96 (48 at SV) was the third highest ever, and a new high was set for Barn Owls with 11. Four species of hummingbirds were noted, a total of eight birds (both high totals): the third CBC Buff-bellied at GC (three years running); four different Ruby-throated, tying the high count; one Black-chinned and three Rufous, including two at MA. Three woodpeckers set new high counts: Red-headed with 393, Red-bellied with 1736, and Pileated with 564. Two species had the second highest counts: Hairy with 96 and Red-cockaded with 54 (45 at Piedmont-Rum Creek [PR]). Somewhat surprising in a warm winter was the low count of 41 White-eyed Vireos, the lowest total in 12 years. Crow numbers continue to vary, with the second highest count of American at 8089 after last year's record 9199, and Fish Crows almost tripled last year's 2198. It was another good year for Brown Creeper with 79, the second highest count, including 15 at Athens (AH). Eastern Bluebirds set a new high total with 3528. American Pipits fell deeply after last year's record 1973 to 804, after averaging about 1600 the last six years. Orange-crowned Warbler set the second highest count with 77. Again surprising in a warm winter was the fairly low count of 44 Black-and-white Warblers, especially in contrast to last year's record of 88.

Sparrow numbers were generally low, but the best bird of the season was a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Lake Oconee

(LO), the state's first CBC record and only second record ever. Le Conte's Sparrow did have the second highest total of seven, with four at Floyd County (FC), and the Fox Sparrow total of 203 was a new high count. Leading the way were 55 at Chattahoochee National Forest (CH) and 36 at Dublin (DU). Finally, Baltimore Orioles were again found in good numbers, tying the second highest count with 22; Savannah led the way with 17.

## FLORIDA

**Bill Pranty**

8515 Village Mill Row

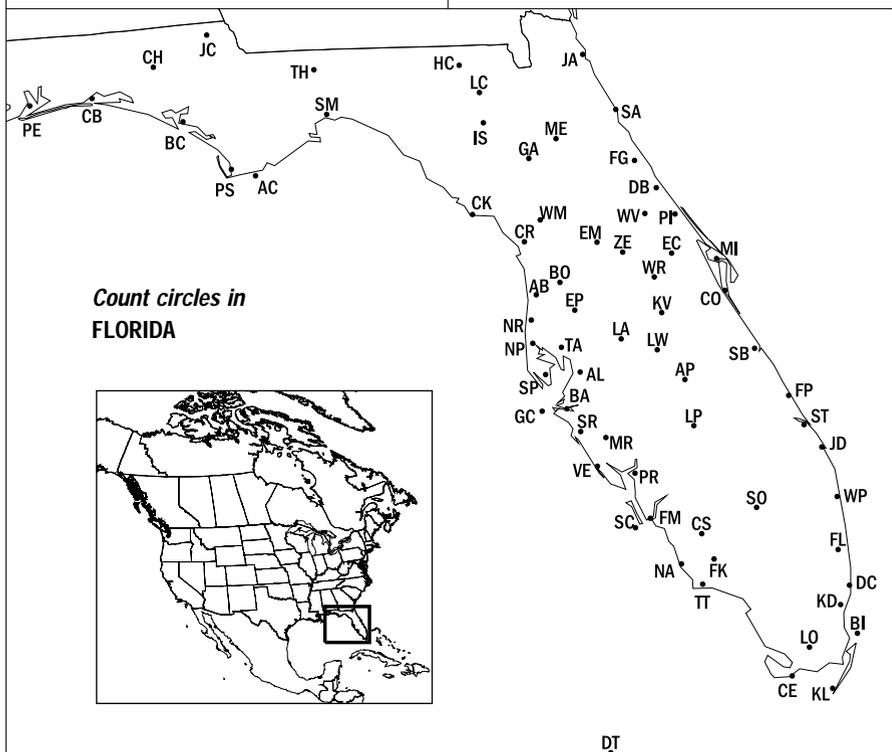
Bayonet Point, Florida 34667

billpranty@hotmail.com

This 112th season, 68 CBCs were run in Florida. No new counts were added, and counts at Key West and Lower Keys were skipped. The CBCs accounted for 8666 accepted observations of 345 taxonomic forms and 3,587,820 individuals. The forms comprise 281 native species, the reintroduced Whooping Crane, 13 countable exotics (Red-whiskered Bulbul was overlooked), 28 non-countable exotics, two morphs, one intergrade, two hybrids, and 17 species-groups.

Thirteen CBCs, including three inland (\*), exceeded 149 species: West Pasco

(171), North Pinellas (168), \*Zellwood-Mount Dora (165), Alafia Banks (159), Cocoa (159), St. Petersburg (158), \*Gainesville (156), St. Marks (156), Sarasota (155), Jacksonville (154), \*Lake Placid (152), Aripeka-Bayport (151), and South Brevard (150). Nine CBCs, four of these inland (\*), tallied more than 50,000 individuals: Venice-Englewood (1,514,152, with 1,500,000 Tree Swallows), Cocoa (225,638, with 155,000 Lesser Scaup), \*Econlockhatchee (206,358, with 135,000 Tree Swallows), \*STA 5-Clewiston (126,892, with 100,000 American Coots), Ponce Inlet (79,944), \*Zellwood-Mount Dora (65,925), \*Lakeland (57,353), Merritt Island N.W.R. (55,451), and West Pasco (53,511). Only five species (Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Gray Catbird, and Palm Warbler) were reported on all 68 counts. Eleven species exceeded 50,000 individuals: Tree Swallow (1,802,251), American Coot (227,570), Lesser Scaup (182,003), American Robin (99,699), Fish Crow (84,235), Laughing Gull (73,135), Red-winged Blackbird (72,931), Yellow-rumped Warbler (64,146), White Ibis (56,363), Double-crested Cormorant (55,593), and Ring-billed Gull (55,490).





**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**  
*(Stelgidopteryx serripennis)*,  
Aripeka-Bayport, Florida. Photo/Bill Pranty

*This summary excludes undocumented rarities and questionable numbers.* (Thanks to all who took the time and effort to document their observations). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks numbered 4066 on 27 counts, while only 278 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found on two. Top counts of Egyptian Geese were 57 at Fort Lauderdale and 37 at Dade County. There were 3194 Muscovy Ducks on 51 counts and 4094 mostly feral Mallards on 52. A total of 403 Mallard x Mottled Duck hybrids was reported on eight CBCs, including 210 at St. Petersburg and 125 at Aripeka-Bayport. A male and female Cinnamon Teal were photographed together at Sarasota. There were 1412 Wild Turkeys on 39 counts and 305 Northern Bobwhites on 26.

A Pacific Loon adequately described at Ponce Inlet was the sole report. Common Loons numbered 1542 on 47 counts. Dry Tortugas N.P. tallied 39 Masked Boobies and **248** Brown Boobies. There were 10,654 American White Pelicans and 22,574 Brown Pelicans statewide, each on 45 counts. Brown Pelicans were inland to Lakeland (119), Lake Placid (six), and West Volusia (one). Among Florida's 123,936 wading birds were 243 "Great White" Herons, 233 Reddish Egrets, **1492** Roseate Spoonbills, and 4674 Wood Storks. One White-faced Ibis was photographed at Zellwood-Mount Dora. The feral flock of American Flamingos at Dade County numbered 202.

There were 4437 Ospreys on 65 CBCs and 1543 Bald Eagles on 61. Single White-tailed Kites graced Avon

Park A.F. Range and Long Pine Key. Seventy Snail Kites were found on nine counts, with 32 at STA5-Clewiston and 29 at Kissimmee Valley. Cooper's Hawks outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks statewide 415 to 183. A Swainson's Hawk was detailed at Pensacola and two others were photographed at Alafia Banks, north of their usual wintering range. There were 40 Short-tailed Hawks on 11 counts (not all documented), with 10 at Dade County and eight at Ten Thousand Islands. An immature Golden Eagle at Myakka River S.P. was the only report. Crested Caracaras totaled 61 on 13 CBCs, with 17 at Lake Placid and 10 at Fort Pierce. Statewide falcon totals were 2398 American Kestrels on 67 counts, 77 Merlins on 42, and 71 Peregrine Falcons on 26.

Single Black Rails were documented at Crystal River and Long Pine Key. STA5-Clewiston tallied 70 Purple Swamphens, with three others at Fort Lauderdale. Of the 111 Purple Gallinules statewide, 42 were at Lakeland. Limpkins totaled 761 on 44 counts, with 98 at Lakeland, 85 at Sarasota, 80 at STA5-Clewiston, and 75 each at Kissimmee Valley and West Palm Beach. About 14,277 Sandhill Cranes were tallied on 45 counts, with 3600 at Lake Placid and 3300 at Gainesville. Statewide totals of small plovers were 101 Snowy, 100 Wilson's, 3506 Semipalmated, and 42 Piping. Faring better than during the 111th season, 648 Red Knots were tallied on 22 counts. Long-billed Curlews graced five CBCs, all singles except two at Port St. Joe. David Simpson photographed a Sanderling at Lake Placid to establish the first inland record in Florida for any season. Semipalmated Sandpipers were photographed at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. (one) and Key Largo-Plantation Key (38). A Wilson's Phalarope photographed at Zellwood-Mount Dora provided the first winter record in Florida. An Iceland Gull was photographed at Jacksonville. Black-backed gull tallies were 727 Lessers on 18 counts and 303 Greats on 16. Five

Common Terns were accepted, two at St. Augustine and three at Sanibel-Captiva. Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. tallied 3000 Black Skimmers, with 2300 others at St. Augustine. Parasitic Jaegers outnumbered Pomarine Jaegers 19 to nine statewide.

Perhaps showing a decline, Eurasian Collared-Doves numbered 6292 on 64 counts. An African Collared-Dove photographed at West Pasco furnished the first Florida CBC report in 10 years. White-winged Doves increased to 1059 on 37 counts. Nineteen species of psittacids were tallied, led by 14 at Dade County. At least 30 Budgerigars persisted at Aripeka-Bayport, and five were found at West Pasco. Monk Parakeets numbered 1039 on 19 counts, nearly eclipsed by the surprising total of 1002 Nanday Parakeets on 12. The 450 Nandays at St. Petersburg reflected a resurgence from recent under-sampled totals, but the 270 at West Palm Beach were an eye-opener. After being overlooked since the 108th CBC, 40 White-winged Parakeets were found at Dade County. A count week Mangrove Cuckoo was detailed at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. Fort Myers accounted for 87 percent of the state's 254 Burrowing Owls. All four Lesser Nighthawks were found within Everglades N.P., with three at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. and one at Long Pine Key. Florida's 183 hummingbirds were divided into 147 Ruby-throated, four Black-chinned, four Rufous, and 28 not identified specifically. Ninety-three Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Ichetucknee-Santa Fe-O'Leno. Totals of rare *Picoides* (none documented) were 39 Hairy Woodpeckers on 13 counts and 38 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on six.

The Say's Phoebe near Astatula made its fifth consecutive appearance on the Zellwood-Mount Dora CBC. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at East Pasco and a Brown-crested Flycatcher at Lake Placid furnished county firsts for Pasco and Highlands, respectively. At STA5-Clewiston, two Cassin's Kingbirds returned for the fifth winter and a Gray Kingbird was photographed. Another Cassin's was

photographed at Bay County. An Eastern Kingbird was detailed at Venice–Englewood. Nine of the state's 14 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at STA5–Clewiston. Loggerhead Shrikes totaled 1850 on 61 CBCs, with 210 at Fort Myers, 137 at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and 102 at Peace River. Florida Scrub-Jays totaled 382 on 17 counts. There were **22** Horned Larks at Jackson County. Extralimital swallows submitted with documentation included Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Aripeka–Bayport (photographed) and West Pasco (three), two Cave Swallows at West Palm Beach, and Barn Swallows at Cocoa (one), Coot Bay–Everglades N.P. (two), and South Brevard (nine). Tallahassee reported 23 White-breasted Nuthatches, with another at Pensacola. There were 46 Common Mynas on four CBCs, with 35 at Dade County. A surprising eight Sprague's Pipits were documented: five at Apalachicola Bay–St. Vincent N.W.R., one at Choctawhatchee Bay, and two inland and south at Gainesville. Cedar Waxwings numbered 2462 on 30 CBCs, a rather modest showing.

Twenty-four wood-warblers were accepted, with unique reports of Tennessee at North Pinellas (photographed), Prothonotary at South Brevard, and Louisiana Waterthrush count week at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Nashville Warblers were north to St. Petersburg (photographed) and Alafia Banks. Black-throated Blue Warblers were surprisingly numerous, with **41** on seven counts, including 14 at Kendall Area, 10 at Coot Bay–Everglades N.P., and eight at Dade County. Female and male Western Tanagers were photographed at Kendall Area. Prior to November 2011, there were four records of Green-tailed Towhee in Florida. This season, they were found on four CBCs, at Choctawhatchee Bay, Choctawhatchee River, Gainesville, and North Pinellas! The most abundant sparrows were Chipping (6440 on 47 counts), Savannah (4613 on 62), and Swamp (3006 on 51). Lark Sparrows were

reported at St. Petersburg (photographed), Zellwood–Mount Dora, and Dade County. Fifteen Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Aripeka–Bayport and two others were photographed at East Pasco. Tallies of "sharp-tailed" sparrows (few detailed) included 150 Nelson's on 17 counts and 74 Saltmarsh on nine (including 16 at Coot Bay–Everglades N.P.). Jackson County furnished seven of the state's 12 Dark-eyed Juncos.

Bunting tallies were 118 Indigo on 16 counts (including 29 at West Palm Beach, 22 at STA5–Clewiston, and 20 at Lake Placid) and 312 Painted on 37 counts (including 77 at Cocoa and 48 at West Palm Beach). The state's sole Dickcissel was documented at Long Pine Key, and the only Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Zellwood–Mount Dora. There were 124 Bronzed Cowbirds at Dade County, where now resident. A male Purple Finch at Pensacola was the only report. House Finches increased to 1384 on 46 CBCs, while House Sparrows numbered 2513 on 53.

Bruce H. Anderson again reviewed nearly all of the 168 documentation forms, a task for which I am grateful. I deleted 19 reports (0.22 percent of all observations) that were misidentified or submitted with insufficient or no documentation, and I appended 65 other reports with the DD (Details Desired) or QN (Questionable Number) editorial codes. My letter of instruction to compilers, including comments on most of the "troublesome" species, is posted each December to the website of the Florida Ornithological Society (<http://fos-birds.org>).

#### OHIO/WEST VIRGINIA/KENTUCKY

*Charles W. Hoyer*

*301 Central Avenue, A114*

*Hilton Head Island, SC 29926*

*choyvar@aol.com*

Two noteworthy occurrences happened in Ohio this CBC season. First of all, we had extremely mild weather leading to large numbers of lingering birds, and, secondly, we had a count that recorded more than 100 species during

the effort. This does not happen without the right day, the right organization, and the right weather. Toledo alone noted 26 species of waterfowl, which exceeds many individual state totals. Toledo's count day total was 108 species.

Lingering species were almost too many to mention, but I will try to provide a reasonable summary. An occasional Osprey is reported from the state and often questioned; this season this species was reported from four separate Ohio counts. A Lesser Yellowlegs was still in the Wooster area, and Great Egrets remained on four Ohio CBCs. The state's only recent observation of American Bittern came from the Lake Erie Islands, and Rufous Hummingbird sightings outdid themselves this year with four observations in the state.

Warbler reports were numerous with Yellow-rumps plentiful and Common Yellowthroat located on several counts. Of more interest was a photographed Ovenbird at Hoover Reservoir, an American Redstart at Columbus, a Palm Warbler at Grand Rapids–Waterville, and the state's only Pine Warbler from Cincinnati. The most unusual observation, however, came from Wilmot where a Nashville Warbler was reported. Other lingering species this season included many records of Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher. A Lincoln's Sparrow and a disoriented Dickcissel remained in the Toledo area. There were several records this season of Baltimore Orioles, including Millersburg and Wilmot, where the bird was photographed. Other birds remaining because of the mild weather included an unusual number of Blue-winged Teal and Winter Wren. Several other noteworthy lingering birds included a White-eyed Vireo photographed in Wooster and a well-documented Blue Gray Gnatcatcher at Delaware Reservoir.

We have probably highlighted enough of the lingering birds because there were a few observations of species more boreal in nature. These include a lone Red Crossbill located at Lake Erie Islands and Northern Shrikes reported

on a half dozen Ohio counts. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were numerous with 3556 longspur located on 13 CBCs and 1313 buntings reported from 10 counts. Purple Sandpiper showed up in numerous places with six individuals located on five different counts.

Gull reports were also numerous with a Little Gull recorded count week and a Pomarine Jaeger on count day in Mentor, a Thayer's Gull count week in Rudolph, and Iceland Gulls at Ashtabula and Elyria-Lorain. Reports of Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were numerous. Birds of prey included 334 Bald Eagle on 49 of Ohio's 61 CBCs. A lone report of Golden Eagle came from Chandlersville. Merlin was recorded on 16 counts while Peregrine Falcon was limited to nine. Waterfowl were numerous with all the open water, and highlights include Greater White-fronted Geese at Delaware Reservoir and during count week at Killdeer Plains. Ross's Goose was located count week in Ashland and Cackling Geese were widespread with nine count areas reporting them. Trumpeter Swan continues its expansion with 180 located from eight locations, while more than 7000 Tundra

Swans were recorded in 15 circles. A Red-throated Loon was observed during count week at Caesar Creek-Spring Valley. Thirteen Long-tailed Ducks were located, principally in the northwest portion of the state at Toledo and Grand Rapids-Waterville. Scoters were also numerous with 40 individuals located on 11 CBCs. Owl numbers were good and the only noteworthy observations included two Snowy Owls, one each at Lakewood and Ashtabula. Ashtabula had been the guest of one of Ohio's rare visitors this season, where a Black-tailed Gull had lingered. This bird was not available on count day but did appear during count week.

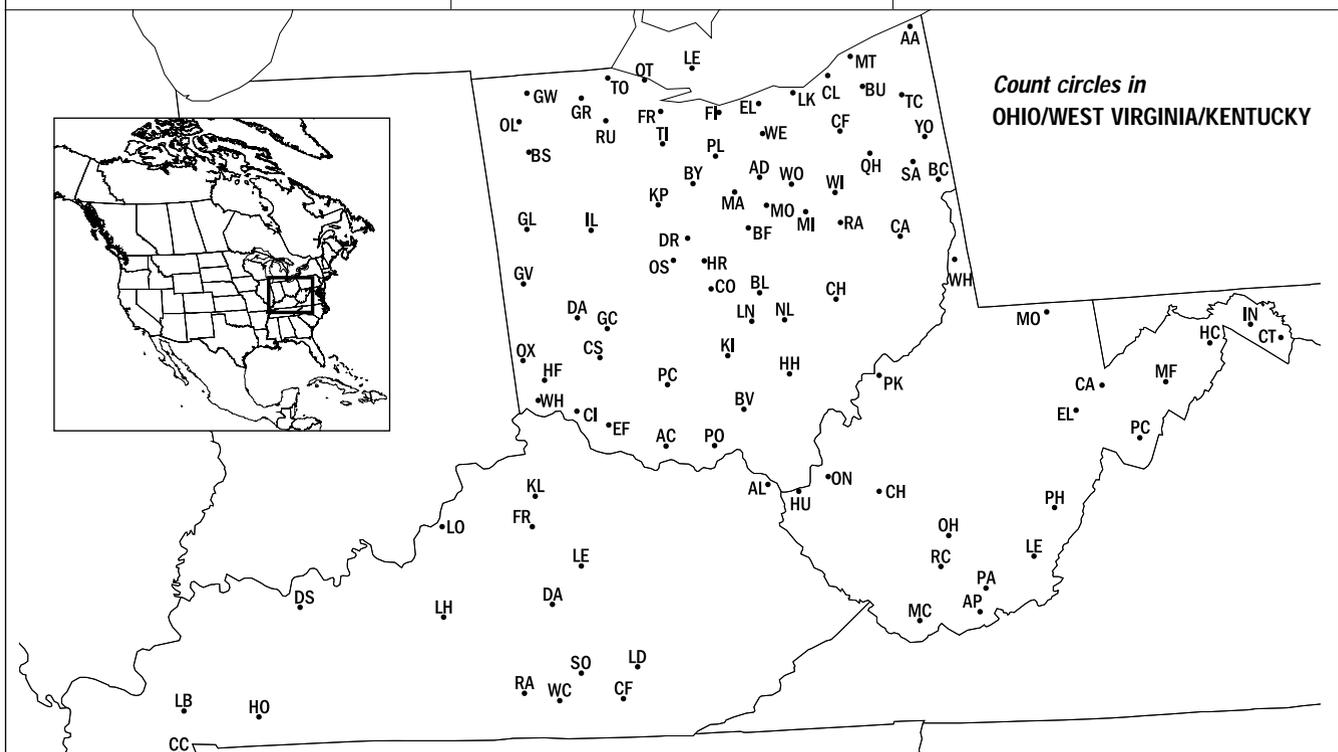
Other scattered observations included the dependable Virginia Rail at Millersburg and lingering Dunlin from three Ohio counts. Sandhill Crane, which 30 years ago would have been very local in small numbers, was found on 17 counts with 3438 individuals. Northern Bobwhite is making a modest comeback with its presence on three Ohio counts. Ruffed Grouse was only reported from seven locations. Our scavenging birds included 988 Black Vultures on 14 counts and 1276 Turkey Vultures on 24 counts. Last season a noteworthy report of a Common Raven

came from central Ohio, and it was again tallied in Mohican State Forest.

This region now consists of more than 100 Christmas Bird Counts and includes more than 2000 observers in the field. Ohio's share of this total is 1412 observers and 60 CBCs. The region totaled 5423.25 party hours in the field, with Ohio contributing more than 3800 hours of this total. Cuyahoga Falls and Cincinnati each provided 107 observers. The total number of species observed this season in the state of Ohio was an unusually high 162.

West Virginia fielded 337 observers who spent more than 1000 party hours in the field. This effort was rewarded with very mild weather and a total of 121 species. All of the count circles reported open water, and only two of the state's 19 reporting areas did not have temperatures above freezing.

As a result of the mild weather a number of lingering species were present or more common than usual. Winter Wren was reported regularly, often in above-average numbers. A Rufous Hummingbird was found in Charles Town, and for the first time this species was recorded in all of the states covered in this region. Green Heron lingered in the region, and one was found in West



Virginia and photographed in Morgantown. Although the only warbler species noted was Yellow-rumped, a Gray Catbird was found in Pendleton County and a Brown Thrasher at Ona. An Individual Savannah Sparrow was reported from Inwood, and a Vesper Sparrow was noted count week at Huntington. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were recorded statewide. Another lingering species was located at Charles Town where two Virginia Rail remained.

Waterfowl benefitted from the mild weather and open water, and Snow Geese were reported from three West Virginia counts and two Cackling Geese were found in Huntington. Several species of waterfowl were located only on one West Virginia CBC, including Northern Shoveler and Lesser Scaup at Huntington, Canvasback at Lewisburg, and a White-winged Scoter count week at Charles Town.

Birds of prey this season included 17 Bald Eagles reported from 13 West Virginia counts. More noteworthy was the discovery of six Golden Eagles statewide in four locations. The only report of Merlin came from Oak Hill, while Peregrine Falcon was noted in Charleston and Parkersburg. The state's lone sighting of Short-eared Owl came from Inwood. Charles Town did not report Fish Crow this season, but reports of this species came from Inwood and Hampshire County. Scavenging species were noted in good numbers with 996 Turkey Vultures, 714 Black Vultures, and 203 Common Ravens noted statewide.

All of the reports submitted this season were not lingering half-hardy species. There were a few boreal wanderers, including 19 Red Crossbills on the Pocahontas County CBC and the report of a Northern Shrike in Canaan. The only other lone observation of a species came from Inwood were 40 American Pipits were reported. The rewards for effort must go to Hamilton County since it fielded more than 10 percent of the state's observers, and to

Pocahontas County where more than 15 percent of the state's party hours in the field were tallied.

West Virginia observers noted 121 species this season, and organizational efforts of note included 40 observers at Hamilton County and 160 party hours of field work in Pocahontas County.

Kentucky fielded more than 200 observers this season, and during their approximately 700 hours in the field tallied 129 species. This was one of the mildest seasons in recent memory. There was open water on all of the Kentucky CBCs, and all but one count had temperatures above freezing. There was no snow cover and the Russell-Adair CBC had temperatures in the seventies, which led to an unusual number of observations of lingering half-hardy species. Louisville recorded a confused White-eyed Vireo, which was photographed, and several late Blue-winged Teal. Wood-warblers were found easily with Yellow-rumped Warblers widespread and Pine and Palm warblers located on multiple Kentucky counts. Somerset reported a Common Yellowthroat. Winter Wrens were located in above-average numbers while Vesper and Lincoln's sparrows were reported from Daviess County South and at Land Between the Lakes, respectively.

Waterfowl were also found in good numbers as indicated by three Greater White-fronted Geese at Hopkinsville, Snow Geese at Calloway County, and a noteworthy Ross's Goose in Louisville. The state's only report a Mute Swan came from Louisville while Tundra Swans were located on several Kentucky counts. The only other noteworthy waterfowl record was that of Black Scoter observed during count week at Russell-Adair. Nearly 1200 American White Pelicans remained in Kentucky, reported from Land Between the Lakes and Calloway County. Several Green Herons were tallied regionally this season, including in Kentucky from Somerset. Black-crowned Night-Herons were found on three Kentucky CBCs. Observers in Kentucky regularly report

Rufous Hummingbird, and this year was no exception with an individual located and banded at Somerset. Northern Bobwhite made a small rebound with individuals located on three counts.

More than 1000 Black Vultures were reported from 12 Kentucky counts and nearly 1200 Turkey Vultures from 15. Fifty-two Bald Eagles were observed from half of Kentucky's 16 Christmas Counts. Other birds of prey included a Rough-legged Hawk at Daviess County, a Merlin at Lexington, and the normal Peregrines in Louisville. Annual waterbirds included Least Sandpiper and Forster's Tern at Calloway County and Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Land Between the Lakes CBC. Sandhill Crane was numerous, observed on more than half of the Kentucky counts. Other observations of note include Eurasian Collared-Dove from three counts and Loggerhead Shrike from five. Thirty-five Lapland Longspur from Daviess County represented the state's only record this season, as did the report of 17 Brewer's Blackbirds at Lincoln's Birthplace. An undocumented account of a Yellow-headed Blackbird was submitted from Hopkinsville. High marks for effort go to Lexington, which fielded 40 hardy observers and to Daviess County's 104.5 party hours in the field.

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## TENNESSEE

**Stephen J. Stedman**

*Department of English and Communications  
Box 5053*

*Tennessee Technological University  
Cookeville, TN 38505  
stedman@tntech.edu*

Thirty counts were conducted in the Volunteer State this season, including one new count (Cane Creek, located near Centerville, Hickman County—welcome!). Because Warren County was not conducted, the total number of counts conducted in the state merely tied the highest previous total rather than exceeding it. The species total for the 30 counts was 153; in addition, three species were reported as count week species only.

Two species—**Little Gull** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—were reported for the first time on a Tennessee CBC.

Five species were reported in all-time highest numbers on a single Tennessee CBC: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (44, Memphis); Pied-billed Grebe (417, Nickajack Lake); Red-shouldered Hawk (31, Cookeville); Chipping Sparrow (322, Hickory-Priest); and Yellow-headed Blackbird (2, Memphis). Additionally, three species tied all-time highest numbers: Merlin (3, Hickory-Priest); Pectoral Sandpiper (1, Reelfoot Lake); and Clay-colored Sparrow (1, Memphis).

Only two counts exceeded the 100-species barrier this season, those being Reelfoot Lake, conducted early in the count season, and Savannah, conducted rather late in the season. Each of these counts tallied 111 species, including several species on each count that were not encountered elsewhere in the state this season. In general, count species totals were down moderately to considerably from the rather high totals accumulated during the previous season. The effects of weather and the wild food crop probably played a role in the general decline in species totals from last year, but even taken together these variables do not appear to account for all of that decline.

Ross's Geese were observed on four counts, with 31 at Reelfoot Lake being the highest number reported. The only

Cackling Goose was one photographed at Clarksville. Swans were represented by a long-present single Mute at Crossville and a briefly noted single Tundra at Hickory-Priest. Blue-winged Teal were noted on several counts, often without documentation. A Long-tailed Duck at Bristol was unique this season. Both Chattanooga and Columbia submitted single Common Mergansers.

Ruffed Grouse reports came from five counts, including five in Shady Valley; these are encouraging totals but still low. Bobwhites were noted on only eight counts, totaling 56 individuals—certainly discouraging results.

Bristol tabulated the only Eared Grebes found this season. A count week American White Pelican at Reelfoot Lake was the only one reported. Great Egrets lingered in four count circles, including five counted at Memphis.

Single Ospreys also lingered at Bristol and Knoxville, while Bald Eagles showed up on 20 counts with 54 at Reelfoot Lake being the high count. A single Rough-legged Hawk was turned in at Memphis, the only one of the season. Golden Eagles were noted in three circles, including two at Roan Mountain, as well as singles at Hiwassee and Savannah. Ten Merlins were reported from six counts, while the only Peregrine was a single at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Unusual sandpipers included a returning Spotted at Kingsport and a

Pectoral at Reelfoot Lake. A Laughing Gull was noted at Savannah and a Little Gull at Reelfoot Lake; a Lesser Black-backed Gull was also noted on the former count.

Knoxville hosted a late Common Nighthawk and the only Rufous Hummingbird, each reported count week only. Kingfishers were noted on all 30 counts, with 38 at Knoxville being the state high.

The Eastern Phoebe is a semi-hardy species, often indicating by its presence or absence the severity of weather during a CBC season, so the presence of phoebes on all 30 counts, including a season high of 28 at Chattanooga, commented on the weather rather clearly. Sixty-six shrikes were reported on 12 counts, slightly encouraging news. The only Blue-headed Vireo was a single noted at Savannah.

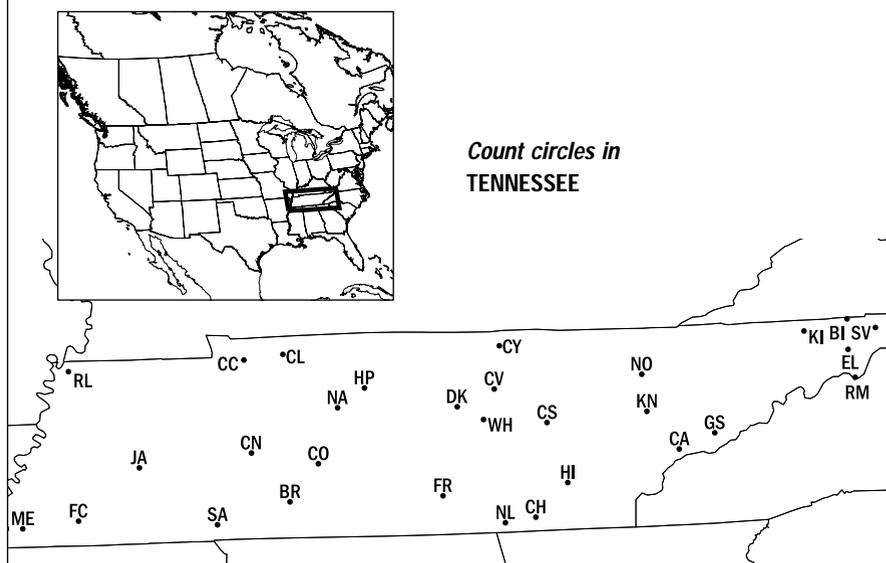
Fish crows were encountered only on four west Tennessee counts, while Common Ravens were reported only on seven counts in the eastern mountains, with 31 at Roan Mountain being just two shy of the highest total ever achieved in the state on a single CBC.

A Barn Swallow was counted at Reelfoot Lake where there were previously only two count week reports. Fifty Red-breasted Nuthatches on 11 counts did not betoken more than a moderate irruption. By comparison, Brown-headed Nuthatches appeared on just seven counts but totaled 72 individuals.

Single Marsh Wrens were noted on three counts, but no Sedge Wren was reported. Hermit Thrushes numbered 414 on 28 counts, probably suggestive of a good crop of soft mast or at least a good crop of cedar "berries." Single catbirds were counted at Hickory-Priest and Knoxville but nowhere else.

Orange-crowned Warblers graced four counts, including Memphis where three were the state high. Palm Warbler on seven counts was the only other warbler species, besides Yellow-rumped and Pine, to be turned in.

Six American Tree Sparrows at Reelfoot Lake were the only ones reported this



season. Vesper Sparrows were noted only in southern west Tennessee, with one in Fayette County and 18 at Savannah. Reelfoot Lake reported the lone Le Conte's Sparrow in the state this season. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrows derived only from Memphis, where three were reported, and Hickory-Priest, where one was noted. Reelfoot Lake amassed more than 2000 Lapland Longspurs this year; this grassland species was noted on just two other counts totaling three individuals.

Nashville contributed a well-described Indigo Bunting to the state species total. Western Meadowlarks were once again noted only at Reelfoot Lake. Rusty Blackbirds were reported on few counts (13) and were scarce with just 464 individuals being reported. Brewer's Blackbirds were even scarcer, with 66 showing up on just four counts.

Irruptive finches were low in numbers: only 97 Purple Finches were counted and were thinly dispersed across 17 counts; Red Crossbills were noted in low numbers on only three montane counts in the far east of the state; and siskin reports came from three counts that were spread across the state, with three being noted in Savannah, six in Nashville, and 170 at Roan Mountain.

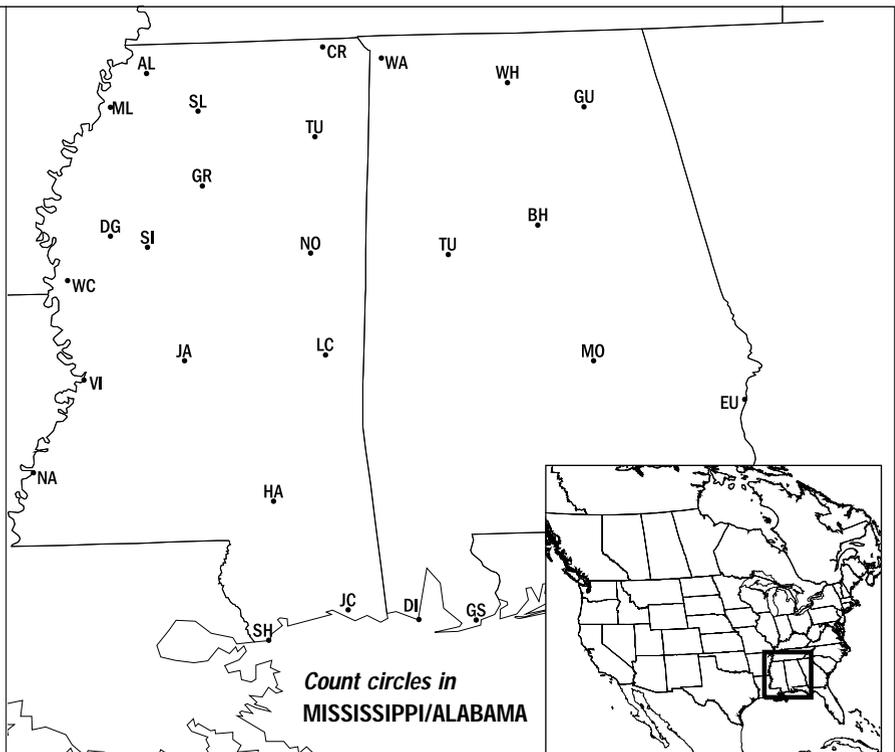
Gratitude is once again due the hundreds of observers and the two dozen compilers who make the CBCs happen.

#### MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA

**Larry Gardella**  
6407 Merritt Court  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
tapaculo@knology.net

**David King**  
1917 Vicklan Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
kingd@canufly.net

There were 25 counts in the two-state region this year, with eight in Alabama and 17 in Mississippi. This number was down three from last year, with Cullman, Eagle Lake, and Tuscaloosa not reporting in. Observers recorded a total of 213 species, which is two more than last year and a little over the 10-year average. Mississippi recorded 199



species and 183 were found in Alabama. Southern Hancock County ran away with the prize for the most species at 156. This is the first time that a count in the region has substantially passed the 150-species mark since before the coastal devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Jackson County came in second at 143 followed by Gulf Shores at 138. The high non-coastal count was (again) Eufaula N.W.R. at 127. Fourteen of the 25 counts in the region counts broke the 100-species barrier.

Just shy of 1,000,000 total birds were found, which is about two-thirds of the recent average. Gulf Shores had the greatest number of birds (roughly 272,000). Waterloo, at 118,000 was the only other count to have more than 100,000 birds. The main reason for the low numbers is that massive flocks of blackbirds and Snow Geese did not show up within the count circles this year. Southern Hancock County and Wheeler N.W.R. each had the highest totals in the region with 41 species, followed by Jackson County with high numbers for 22 species. Southern Hancock also had the highest number of species (8) not found on any other count.

The weather in November and December was warmer and drier than usual. The warm weather also extended to much of the eastern United States. The lack of frozen lakes to the north of us was a likely reason for the low numbers of waterfowl reported on many of the counts.

**Highlights:** The biggest highlights this year included four species that were new state or region records for the CBC: a **Purple Sandpiper** and a **Saltmarsh Sparrow** at Southern Hancock County, a **California Gull** at Guntersville, and a very cooperative **Painted Redstart** at Jackson County. These were all excellent finds.

Though total waterfowl numbers were about half that found for many species, a total of more than 10,000 **Greater White-fronted Geese** found on nine counts mostly in the Mississippi Delta was the largest number ever found on CBCs in the region. The only **Cackling Geese** found were five at Arkabutla Lake. Six **Surf Scoters** were reported at Gulf Shores and 25 **Black Scoters** were found at Southern Hancock. Fifty **Northern Bobwhites** at Eufaula plus five each at Waterloo and Southern Hancock were the most found