

**JAYS AND CROWS**

- Blue Jay B
- American Crow B
- Fish Crow B

**LARKS**

- Horned Lark**

**SWALLOWS**

- Purple Martin B
- Tree Swallow
- N. Rough-winged Swallow B
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow B
- Cave Swallow
- Barn Swallow B

**CHICKADEES AND TITMICE**

- Carolina Chickadee B
- Tufted Titmouse B

**NUTHATCHES**

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch**
- Brown-headed Nuthatch B

**CREEPERS**

- Brown Creeper

**WRENS**

- Rock Wren**
- Carolina Wren B
- Bewick's Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren B

**GNATCATCHERS**

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher B

**KINGLETS**

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES**

- Northern Wheatear**
- Eastern Bluebird B
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush B
- American Robin B
- Varied Thrush**

**MIMIC THRUSHES**

- Gray Catbird B
- Northern Mockingbird B
- Sage Thrasher**
- Brown Thrasher B

**STARLINGS**

- European Starling B

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS**

- Yellow/Eastern Yellow Wagtail**
- American Pipit
- Sprague's Pipit

**WAXWINGS**

- Cedar Waxwing

**LONGSPURS AND ALLIES**

- Lapland Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur**
- Smith's Longspur H**
- Snow Bunting**

**WOOD WARBLERS**

- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula B
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler**
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler H**
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler B
- Pine Warbler B
- Prairie Warbler B
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart B
- Prothonotary Warbler B
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler B
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Kentucky Warbler B
- Connecticut Warbler**
- Mourning Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler**
- Common Yellowthroat B
- Hooded Warbler B
- Wilson's Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Painted Redstart**
- Yellow-breasted Chat B



**SPARROWS AND ALLIES**

- Green-tailed Towhee**
- Eastern Towhee B
- Bachman's Sparrow B
- American Tree Sparrow**
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow B
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lark Bunting**
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Le Conte's Sparrow
- Nelson's Sparrow
- Seaside Sparrow B
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Harris's Sparrow**
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco

**TANAGERS**

- Summer Tanager B
- Scarlet Tanager
- Western Tanager

**GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES**

- Northern Cardinal B
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak B
- Lazuli Bunting**
- Indigo Bunting B
- Painted Bunting B
- Dickcissel

**BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES**

- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird B
- Eastern Meadowlark B
- Western Meadowlark
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Grackle B
- Boat-tailed Grackle B
- Great-tailed Grackle H**
- Shiny Cowbird
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird B
- Orchard Oriole B
- Hooded Oriole**
- Bullock's Oriole**
- Baltimore Oriole

**CARDUELINE FINCHES AND ALLIES**

- Purple Finch
- House Finch B
- Common Redpoll**
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Evening Grosbeak**

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

- House Sparrow B

Total



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: Nutmeg Mannikins and other unestablished exotics are occasionally seen in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, but are not yet on the official list.

FIELD NOTES:

# CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE GULF COAST REGION OF ALABAMA



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## Introduction

This checklist, updated through 16 Apr 2011, covers the Gulf Coast Region of Alabama, comprised of Baldwin and Mobile Counties. Included is the Gulf of Mexico extending out to 200 nautical miles south of the 30 mile coastline, the Mobile Bay estuary, Gaillard Island, Dauphin Island, and Fort Morgan. The latter two are regionally important resting and staging areas for Neotropical migrants. North of I-10 and the city of Mobile is the 400 square mile Mobile-Tensaw Delta and adjacent uplands of subclimax pine forests, mixed hardwoods, and scattered pastures and croplands.

The Gulf Coast Region is a relatively small area, but it carries a lot of weight. Of the 445 species listed for the entire state, 420, or about 95 percent, have been observed in Baldwin and Mobile Counties. Many of these can be seen in the proper season and habitat at sites along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail which ties together the best birding locations in the two counties. One hundred and thirty, or 30 percent, of the 420 species listed here breed in Baldwin and Mobile Counties (indicated by a "B").

In the spring when the weather conditions are right, Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan may have spectacular "fallouts" of colorful warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, and orioles. In September and October thousands of hawks, mostly Broad-wingeds pass over Fort Morgan. The Fort Morgan peninsula and Dauphin Island are also "vagrant traps" where a number of rarities have been recorded over the years.

In winter thousands of gulls, mostly Laughing, Ring-billed, and Herring, gather at the Magnolia Landfill in south Baldwin. This is the best site on the Alabama Gulf Coast for observing gulls and is known for the occasional rarities that have turned up there including Franklin's, California, Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous-winged, and Glaucous Gulls.

Also in winter, ten species of hummingbirds have been documented and banded in the Gulf Coast Region. Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, and Rufous are the most frequently seen, but Buff-bellied and Calliope are usually present most winters as well.

## Acknowledgments

This checklist is the result of many years of observations by experienced observers including independents, members of the Mobile Bay Audubon Society, the Eastern Shore Birders, the Coastal Birding Association, and the Alabama Ornithological Society.

John Borom, Venetia Friend, Howard Horne, Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell, and Eric Soehren critically reviewed the list and contributed information from their personal records and the Alabama state database.

- B** = Breeds
- H** = Hypothetical. Record accepted by the Alabama Bird Records Committee but lacking a specimen, photo, or recording, and seen by fewer than three qualified observers.
- P** = Pelagic. Most sightings far off-shore, out of sight of land.

**Bold print.** Recorded less than ten times or less than two times in the last ten years. *Report sightings to Greg Jackson (g\_d\_jackson@bellsouth.net).*

Graphic Design by *Kathy Hicks*.  
Compilation and paintings by *Bill Summerour*.

For dates of occurrence and relative abundance refer to *A Birder's Guide to Alabama*, John Porter (ed.), University of Alabama Press (2001).

## DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

- \_\_\_ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck B
- \_\_\_ **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**
- \_\_\_ Greater White-fronted Goose
- \_\_\_ Snow Goose
- \_\_\_ Ross's Goose
- \_\_\_ **Brant**
- \_\_\_ **Cackling Goose** H
- \_\_\_ Canada Goose B
- \_\_\_ **Tundra Swan**
- \_\_\_ Wood Duck B
- \_\_\_ Gadwall
- \_\_\_ American Wigeon
- \_\_\_ **American Black Duck**
- \_\_\_ Mallard B
- \_\_\_ Mottled Duck B
- \_\_\_ Blue-winged Teal
- \_\_\_ **Cinnamon Teal**
- \_\_\_ Northern Shoveler
- \_\_\_ **White-cheeked Pintail**
- \_\_\_ Northern Pintail
- \_\_\_ **Garganey** H
- \_\_\_ Green-winged Teal
- \_\_\_ Canvasback
- \_\_\_ Redhead
- \_\_\_ Ring-necked Duck
- \_\_\_ Greater Scaup
- \_\_\_ Lesser Scaup
- \_\_\_ **Harlequin Duck**
- \_\_\_ Surf Scoter
- \_\_\_ White-winged Scoter
- \_\_\_ Black Scoter
- \_\_\_ Long-tailed Duck
- \_\_\_ Bufflehead
- \_\_\_ Common Goldeneye
- \_\_\_ Hooded Merganser B
- \_\_\_ Common Merganser
- \_\_\_ Red-breasted Merganser
- \_\_\_ Ruddy Duck

## NEW WORLD QUAILS

- \_\_\_ Northern Bobwhite B

## TURKEYS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ Wild Turkey B

## LOONS

- \_\_\_ Red-throated Loon
- \_\_\_ Pacific Loon
- \_\_\_ Common Loon

## GREBES

- \_\_\_ Pied-billed Grebe B
- \_\_\_ Horned Grebe
- \_\_\_ **Red-necked Grebe**
- \_\_\_ Eared Grebe

## SHEARWATERS

- \_\_\_ Cory's Shearwater P
- \_\_\_ Great Shearwater P
- \_\_\_ **Sooty Shearwater** P
- \_\_\_ **Audubon's Shearwater** P

## STORM-PETRELS

- \_\_\_ Wilson's Storm-Petrel P
- \_\_\_ **Leach's Storm-Petrel** P
- \_\_\_ Band-rumped Storm-Petrel P

## TROPICBIRDS

- \_\_\_ **Red-billed Tropicbird** P

## STORKS

- \_\_\_ Wood Stork

## FRIGATEBIRDS

- \_\_\_ Magnificent Frigatebird

## BOOBIES AND GANNETS

- \_\_\_ Masked Booby
- \_\_\_ Brown Booby
- \_\_\_ Northern Gannet

## CORMORANTS

- \_\_\_ **Neotropic Cormorant**
- \_\_\_ Double-crested Cormorant
- \_\_\_ Great Cormorant

## DARTERS

- \_\_\_ Anhinga B

## PELICANS

- \_\_\_ American White Pelican
- \_\_\_ Brown Pelican B

## HERONS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ American Bittern
- \_\_\_ Least Bittern B
- \_\_\_ Great Blue Heron B
- \_\_\_ Great Egret B
- \_\_\_ Snowy Egret B
- \_\_\_ Little Blue Heron B
- \_\_\_ Tricolored Heron B
- \_\_\_ Reddish Egret B
- \_\_\_ Cattle Egret B
- \_\_\_ Green Heron B
- \_\_\_ Black-crowned Night-Heron B
- \_\_\_ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron B



## IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

- \_\_\_ White Ibis B
- \_\_\_ Glossy Ibis B
- \_\_\_ White-faced Ibis
- \_\_\_ Roseate Spoonbill

## NEW WORLD VULTURES

- \_\_\_ Black Vulture B
- \_\_\_ Turkey Vulture B

## OSPREY

- \_\_\_ Osprey B

## KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES

- \_\_\_ Swallow-tailed Kite B
- \_\_\_ **White-tailed Kite**
- \_\_\_ Mississippi Kite B
- \_\_\_ Bald Eagle B
- \_\_\_ Northern Harrier
- \_\_\_ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- \_\_\_ Cooper's Hawk B
- \_\_\_ Red-shouldered Hawk B
- \_\_\_ Broad-winged Hawk B
- \_\_\_ **Short-tailed Hawk**
- \_\_\_ Swainson's Hawk
- \_\_\_ Red-tailed Hawk B
- \_\_\_ **Ferruginous Hawk** H
- \_\_\_ **Rough-legged Hawk**
- \_\_\_ Golden Eagle

## FALCONS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ **Crested Caracara**
- \_\_\_ American Kestrel
- \_\_\_ Merlin
- \_\_\_ Peregrine Falcon
- \_\_\_ **Prairie Falcon** H

## RAILS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ Yellow Rail
- \_\_\_ Black Rail
- \_\_\_ Clapper Rail B
- \_\_\_ King Rail B
- \_\_\_ Virginia Rail
- \_\_\_ Sora
- \_\_\_ Purple Gallinule B
- \_\_\_ Common Moorhen B
- \_\_\_ American Coot

## CRANES

- \_\_\_ Sandhill Crane
- \_\_\_ **Whooping Crane** H

## PLOVERS

- \_\_\_ Black-bellied Plover
- \_\_\_ American Golden-Plover
- \_\_\_ Snowy Plover B
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Plover B
- \_\_\_ Semipalmated Plover
- \_\_\_ Piping Plover
- \_\_\_ Killdeer B
- \_\_\_ **Mountain Plover**

## OYSTERCATCHERS

- \_\_\_ American Oystercatcher B

## STILTS AND AVOCETS

- \_\_\_ Black-necked Stilt B
- \_\_\_ American Avocet

## SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ Spotted Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Solitary Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Greater Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Willet B
- \_\_\_ Lesser Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Upland Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Whimbrel
- \_\_\_ Long-billed Curlew
- \_\_\_ **Hudsonian Godwit**
- \_\_\_ Marbled Godwit
- \_\_\_ Ruddy Turnstone
- \_\_\_ Red Knot
- \_\_\_ Sanderling
- \_\_\_ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Western Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Least Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ White-winged Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Baird's Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Pectoral Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ **Purple Sandpiper**
- \_\_\_ Dunlin
- \_\_\_ **Curlew Sandpiper**
- \_\_\_ Stilt Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ **Ruff**
- \_\_\_ Short-billed Dowitcher
- \_\_\_ Long-billed Dowitcher
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Snipe
- \_\_\_ American Woodcock B
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Phalarope
- \_\_\_ **Red-necked Phalarope**
- \_\_\_ **Red Phalarope** P

## GULLS

- \_\_\_ Black-legged Kittiwake
- \_\_\_ **Sabine's Gull**
- \_\_\_ Bonaparte's Gull
- \_\_\_ **Little Gull**
- \_\_\_ Laughing Gull B
- \_\_\_ Franklin's Gull
- \_\_\_ Ring-billed Gull
- \_\_\_ **California Gull** H
- \_\_\_ Herring Gull
- \_\_\_ **Thayer's Gull**
- \_\_\_ **Iceland Gull**
- \_\_\_ Lesser Black-backed Gull
- \_\_\_ **Glaucous-winged Gull**
- \_\_\_ Glaucous Gull
- \_\_\_ Great Black-backed Gull

## TERNs

- \_\_\_ **Brown Noddy**
- \_\_\_ Sooty Tern B
- \_\_\_ Bridled Tern
- \_\_\_ Least Tern B
- \_\_\_ Gull-billed Tern B
- \_\_\_ Caspian Tern B
- \_\_\_ Black Tern
- \_\_\_ **Roseate Tern** H
- \_\_\_ Common Tern B
- \_\_\_ **Arctic Tern** H
- \_\_\_ Forster's Tern
- \_\_\_ Royal Tern B
- \_\_\_ Sandwich Tern B

## SKIMMERS

- \_\_\_ Black Skimmer B

## SKUAS AND JAEGERs

- \_\_\_ Pomarine Jaeger
- \_\_\_ Parasitic Jaeger
- \_\_\_ **Long-tailed Jaeger** H

## PIGEONS AND DOVES

- \_\_\_ Rock Pigeon B
- \_\_\_ **Band-tailed Pigeon** H
- \_\_\_ Eurasian Collared-Dove B
- \_\_\_ White-winged Dove B
- \_\_\_ Mourning Dove B
- \_\_\_ **Inca Dove**
- \_\_\_ Common Ground-Dove B

## CUCKOOS AND ALLIES

- \_\_\_ Yellow-billed Cuckoo B
- \_\_\_ **Mangrove Cuckoo**
- \_\_\_ Black-billed Cuckoo
- \_\_\_ Groove-billed Ani

## BARN OWLS

- \_\_\_ Barn Owl B

## TYPICAL OWLS

- \_\_\_ **Flammulated Owl**
- \_\_\_ Eastern Screech-Owl B
- \_\_\_ Great Horned Owl B
- \_\_\_ **Snowy Owl** H
- \_\_\_ **Burrowing Owl**
- \_\_\_ Barred Owl B
- \_\_\_ **Long-eared Owl**
- \_\_\_ **Short-eared Owl**

## NIGHTJARS

- \_\_\_ **Lesser Nighthawk**
- \_\_\_ Common Nighthawk B
- \_\_\_ Chuck-will's-widow B
- \_\_\_ Eastern Whip-poor-will

## SWIFTS

- \_\_\_ **Black Swift**
- \_\_\_ Chimney Swift B
- \_\_\_ **Vaux's Swift** H

## HUMMINGBIRDS

- \_\_\_ **Green Violetear**
- \_\_\_ **Broad-billed Hummingbird**
- \_\_\_ Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- \_\_\_ Ruby-throated Hummingbird B
- \_\_\_ Black-chinned Hummingbird
- \_\_\_ **Anna's Hummingbird**
- \_\_\_ Calliope Hummingbird
- \_\_\_ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**
- \_\_\_ Rufous Hummingbird
- \_\_\_ Allen's Hummingbird

## KINGFISHERS

- \_\_\_ Belted Kingfisher B



## WOODPECKERS

- \_\_\_ Red-headed Woodpecker B
- \_\_\_ Red-bellied Woodpecker B
- \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- \_\_\_ Downy Woodpecker B
- \_\_\_ Hairy Woodpecker B
- \_\_\_ **Red-cockaded Woodpecker**
- \_\_\_ Northern Flicker B
- \_\_\_ Pileated Woodpecker B

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- \_\_\_ Olive-sided Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ Eastern Wood-Pewee B
- \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ Acadian Flycatcher B
- \_\_\_ **Alder Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ **Willow Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ Least Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ **Hammond's Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ **Dusky Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ **Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flyc.**
- \_\_\_ Eastern Phoebe
- \_\_\_ **Say's Phoebe**
- \_\_\_ Vermilion Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ Ash-throated Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ Great Crested Flycatcher B
- \_\_\_ **Brown-crested Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**
- \_\_\_ **Couch's Kingbird**
- \_\_\_ Western Kingbird
- \_\_\_ Eastern Kingbird B
- \_\_\_ Gray Kingbird B
- \_\_\_ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- \_\_\_ **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**

## SHRIKES

- \_\_\_ Loggerhead Shrike B

## VIREOS

- \_\_\_ White-eyed Vireo B
- \_\_\_ Bell's Vireo
- \_\_\_ Yellow-throated Vireo B
- \_\_\_ **Plumbeous Vireo** H
- \_\_\_ Blue-headed Vireo
- \_\_\_ Warbling Vireo
- \_\_\_ Philadelphia Vireo
- \_\_\_ Red-eyed Vireo B
- \_\_\_ **Yellow-green Vireo**
- \_\_\_ Black-whiskered Vireo