

SPECIES	BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE
Warbler, Yellow-throated	--	3
Pine(lowest in 18 yrs)	7	7
Palm	--	2
Yellowthroat, Common	2	3
Sparrow, House	661	325
Meadowlark, Eastern	315	102
Blackbird, Red-winged	4,214	5,049
Rusty	1,580	3
Brewer's	--	215
Grackle, Boat-tailed	--	55
Common	6,350	250
Cowbird, Brown-headed	1,940	15
Cardinal	259	12
Finch, Purple	99	43
Siskin, Pine	14	--
Goldfinch, American	486	42
Towhee, Rufous-sided	493	11
Sparrow, Savannah	37	375
Grasshopper	--	1
LeConte's	--	1
Sharp-tailed	--	4
Seaside	--	6
Vesper	20	35
Bachman's	1	1
Junco, Slate-colored	811	3
Sparrow, Chipping	24	115
Field	614	75
White-crowned	1	--
White-throated	919	151
Fox	13	--
Lincoln's	--	1
Swamp	199	6
Song	<u>456</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Species	92	141
Total Individuals	67,000	13,651

Compilers: THOMAS A. IMHOF - FR. J. L. DORN, S.J.

Notes: Found in Mobile area during count period--Common Loon, Mottled Duck, Bufflehead, Sora Rail, Least Sandpiper, Greater Horned Owl; and along the Causeway, 12 American Avocets.

Birmingham count reveals 33 species that either equal or surpass previous count records.

REGIONAL WINGBEATS

DECATUR--Since the last issue of Birdlife, the witches' brew of winter has poured over the Tennessee Valley, and the pot included two floods, a six and a half inch official snow-fall, sub-zero temperatures, an ice-locked reservoir, spittings of sleet and much rain. Though the weather gave us wide variety, bird life gave us little that was unusual. The most note-worthy event took place on November 11 when David Hulse, with his usual penchant for the unusual, shot down a drake Cinnamon Teal in the Limestone County backwaters of Wheeler Reservoir near the mouth of Swan Creek. After examining the specimen, Wheeler Refuge employees air expressed it to the National Museum where its identity was confirmed.

Despite the Continental waterfowl shortage, the wealth of food produced by the vegetation-grown mudflats of Wheeler Reservoir brought in unusual waterfowl numbers. On Wheeler Refuge, duck numbers jumped to an all-time high, and exceeded by 20 per cent the number present during the fall and winter of 1960-61. Coot numbers, too, were the highest ever recorded and were several hundred per cent in excess of any previous count. Geese were a different story. Canada Goose numbers were slightly lower than those of last year, while Blue Goose and Snow Goose numbers dropped sharply. Doubtless because of the unusual quantity of underwater food, diving ducks made up a far higher proportion of the total duck numbers than usual. Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaups, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, and Old Squaws were fairly common throughout the late fall and early winter.

A few Common Egrets remained until they were driven off or killed by the below-zero temperatures of early January. Probably due to cold weather, Common Loons and Horned Grebes were more in evidence than usual. David Hulse states that he has seen more Horned Grebes than ever before, and spotted one flock of 15 on February 9. Eagle numbers increased, and at least 7, possibly more, used the refuge regularly. All but one were immature, and it is possible that some of these so-called Bald Eagles are really Golden Eagles, but this could never be ascertained.

--THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR.

HUNTSVILLE (BROWNSBORO)--Large numbers of Slate-colored Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Cardinals, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Field Sparrows have frequented the feeders here.

Frequent visitors in smaller numbers have been Myrtle Warblers, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Fox Sparrows, and a single Red-breasted Nuthatch which has stayed all winter.

Occasional visitors have been Carolina Wrens, American Goldfinches, Blue Jays, Hermit Thrushes, Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Purple Finches, Yellow-shafted Flickers, and Brown Creepers. Single visits by English Sparrows, Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, and Grackles were observed.

--JIM ROBINSON

BIRMINGHAM--Around Birmingham, the most outstanding bird event of this winter is the presence of Evening Grosbeaks. The birds are very erratic, but nevertheless have been noted in rather large numbers (up to 200 in a flock). They show up at unexpected places, maybe for an hour or two or a few days, and then move on. They have not as yet shown up at the two Bessemer feeders of Clustie McTyeire and Dorothy Davis, where they were reported last year, in spite of an abundant supply of sunflower seeds and constant vigilance. Bill Summerour reports that he sees some about every other day in Western Jefferson County, while on forestry duties for T.C.I. It was Bill who reported the flock of 200.

To the best of my knowledge, the following trends are indicated:

Purple Finch--abundant. Harriet Wright has banded over 100.
Red-breasted Nuthatch--fairly widespread, but not in large numbers.

Pine Siskin--a few large flocks around, and scattered individuals in with numerous Goldfinch flocks.

Hermit Thrush--in very bad shape; the wintering population in Jefferson County is about 10% to 20% of normal.

Pine Warbler--also in bad shape; nowhere near as common as before 1958.

Longspurs--absent

Bluebirds--believed to be holding its own now, but still low.

Phoebe--much better than it was a year ago, but still not completely recuperated.

Starling--still getting more abundant.

Most small woodland and dooryard species are doing fairly well, because there are plenty of woods and dooryards around

TUSCALOOSA--To most of us here at the University, birding is a new hobby, and we cannot well make comparisons with past winter bird populations. On January 24th a lone Purple Finch was seen feeding on a Privet bush. Examination of parts of the berries on the ground revealed that the bird removed the purple skin, and was also rather successful in removing the seed covering before eating the inner meaty part.

As a tentative project we are considering periodic visits to the University arboretum (north on Hwy #11). A valuable little study of this habitat could be made if weather and feeding conditions were accurately recorded each time a count was made.

Dan Holliman promised us a look at the Red-cockaded Woodpecker if we would come to Lake Purdy on Feb. 4th. Diane Ingram, Margaret Waldrep, Davis Finley and I took Dan at his word. We not only saw the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, but Dan also turned up 3 Evening Grosbeaks. These two species were "firsts" for all four of us, so it was a highly rewarding and enjoyable trip.

--FRANK HUTTLINGER

MONTGOMERY--Little in the way of bird activities was accomplished this winter. An attempt was made to look for longspurs and Horned Larks during the extremely cold weather when snow remained on the ground. The field trip proved unsuccessful as far as these birds were concerned; however, there appeared to be enough pipits to replace any shortage of longspurs or larks in the Montgomery area.

The hawk population has gradually increased since mid-January, so that more Red-tailed Hawks are now being seen in Central Alabama. Even so, they have not reached the high population usually seen during the winter months of the past few years. During the extremely cold weather of January 11 and 12, Bob Skinner noted an American Rough-legged Hawk, in the Melanistic phase.

One band recovery was received which is of interest. A male Orchard Oriole banded March 20, 1961 in British Honduras, Central America, was killed by a cat on May 26, 1961, at Hartselle, Morgan County, Alabama. As far as is known, this is the first recovery of a bird banded in its winter range, south of the United States, that has been recovered in Alabama.

--JIM KEELER