ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

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Alabama Birdlife

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Decatur members of A. O. S. and the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Personnel provided the Society with an unforgettable week-end on November 15-17. For many members the meeting will long be remembered as a first: first time for seeing the Canada Goose, maybe, but definitely a first time for seeing at one time, on the wing, thousands of geese.

For me there were two highlights of the meeting: one in the field and the other at the Paper Session. The Second Research Paper Session for the Society conveyed to me the rapid degree of growth of interest and study of ornithology among the membership. It was indeed a sign of growth in the eleven-year-organization to have such a group of stimulating papers presented. I urge each of you to take your observations more seriously and compile the information for publication.

Upon our arrival at the refuge early Friday afternoon, we were challenged to identify a duck in questionable plumage. After we had seen the strange duck and each had consulted his best possible reference book, all agreed it was a female duck, but only a few would agree that it was a European Widgeon. By this time the director, Mr. Thomas Z. Atkeson, had our interest sufficiently sharpened to permit us another morsal of bird interest. He asked that we drive to Garth Slough to see the birds which have become the symbol of the Refuge. The drive was lovely. Either side was flanked by the colorful hues of the autumn foliage.

Suddenly the road opened from the forest onto the slough and we could see exposed mud flats. There was the symbol of Wheeler Refuge, the Canada Goose. Arthur Cleveland Bent writes in his LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN WILD FOWL that the Canada Goose (Branta canadensis) is the most common goose in North America, "and when once seen its grandeur creates an impression on the mind which even the casual observer never forgets." If suddenly seeing thousands of Canada Geese at once makes them a common bird then surely the grand goose was then a common bird for the duration of our meeting. There on the mud flats were thousands and thousands and thousands of geese. Some were floating on the water, or just resting on the flats, while others were preening their beautiful brownish white feathers. As the car slowly approached, all activities ceased and with the group clucking call, all eyes concentrated on the possible danger.

Mr. Atkeson explained that we were at a position from which we were able to see about one-half the distance up or down the Tennessee River as it flowed through the refuge. The very low water level at this time of the year permitted us to continue to drive along a dry mud flat with the water on either side of the car while ducks and geese lined the avenue. After about a mile the car was stopped and we quickly got out and with clapping hands and much noise caused the birds to take to the air. Only those of you who have experienced the thrill of seeing a snow storm when there were huge flakes can envision the spectactular sight of the loose feathers which floated to earth as the magnificent birds with powerful sweeping wings hurriedly took to the air, emitting the distress call, amidst the sound of hurried wing beats, honking and calling while circling higher and higher assembling into the family groups. The sky was now heavily peppered with the thousands and thousands of honking

geese; one could not distinguish from whence came the cry of the birds because there were so many darkening the sky on this late afternoon in November. In October the estimated number of geese had been 35,000 but this was November and the birds had continued to come southward and now the rough estimate was 40,000 geese. If we had just seen approximately one-half of the geese on the refuge while standing at Garth Slough, then we had seen close to 20,000 geese in the sky at one time. Truly this was a most stimulating sight to behold; the white feathers floating earthward; the sky pink with the dust ladened air, darkened with geese as they formed into many V-patterns. As their clarion notes mingled together in the distance the voices reminded one of the joyous barking of dogs. Surely we had just witnessed one of nature's most spectactular ballets.

The dates have been set for two coming meetings. The mid-winter meeting will be held on Saturday evening, 22 February at Heart of Auburn Motel, 333 So. College St., Auburn. This meeting is open to all members who are interested in the business of the organization. The Spring meeting will be held on Dauphin Island, April 24-26 at the Holiday House Apartments. Do make a note of these dates and plan to be with the group.

Happy Birding in 1964
Rosemary T. Dusi

A Study of Warbler Migration at a North Alabama Banding Station

James and Margaret Robinson

The primary purpose of this warbler study is to determine at what dates the various species arrive in the area and at what dates they leave.

Since the fall of 1960 an intensive banding program has been conducted in the Brownsboro area of Madison County, Alabama. The banding station is located approximately 5 miles east of Huntsville at an elevation of 780 feet above sea level. It lies in a valley between Monte Sano Mountain (1700 feet) and Chestnut Knob (1600 feet).

Ten mist nets of twelve meter length are set up in an abandoned cotton field now grown up in young pines, sassafras, sumac, sweet gum, blackberries, and various weeds and vines.

Throughout the principal periods of migration, March 20 to June 1, and August 20 to November 10, the nets are continually in use, taken down only when they cannot be tended and in bad weather. Netting has been performed on 70% of the principal periods of migration as listed above. Most of this time the nets were in position 24 hours a day.

The birds are caught, identified, banded, wing measurements taken, and fat content noted. The band numbers and the observations are recorded and the birds are released.

Since August of 1960, 1473 individuals of 32 species of warblers have been banded at the Brownsboro station. Chart 1 lists the species AOU number, the number of individuals captured, the season, the year, and the number of returns. Of the returns, most occurred after at least one migratory flight.

It is interesting to note that the 1963 fall totals for the number of Tennessee, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Black-throated Green Warblers banded exceeds the sum total of these species for the preceeding three years. This possibly is attributable to the unusually warm and dry weather this fall. Another apparent result of the weather was the number of birds remaining in the area after first capture. Repeats on Tennessee Warblers occurred after 2, 3, 4, 8, and 11 days: repeats on Magnolia Warblers after 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, and 19 days. The listed repeats refer to separate birds.

For the 32 species of warblers banded at Brownsboro there are 69 previous early and late date records (i.e. early spring, late spring, early fall, late fall) for the Tennessee Valley area (Imhof, 1962). These previous records were established over many years, the earliest of which was by McCormack at Leighton, Alabama, in 1889. Our banding operations have established 25 new early and late records for the Tennessee Valley area and 4 for the State. These include the only record of a Connecticut Warbler in Alabama in the fall which was captured on September 24, 1963. Chart 2 lists these new records.

These compiled records demonstrate the usefulness of a banding station in supplying this information. Indications are that the nets achieve better results than a limited number of observers. The operators of the Brownsboro station observe the surrounding habitat with great regularity (practically on an hourly basis), but the species is seldom seen without first having been captured in the nets.

Chart 1

Seasonal Banding of Warblers at Brownsboro, Alabama

Warbler Species	AOU No.	Season Banded 1960 Fall	1961 Spr.	1961 Fall	1962 Spr.	1962 Fall	1963 Spr.	1963 Fall	Returns to date
Black & White	636	6	21	1	10	14	1	7	2
Worm-eating	639	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	
Blue-winged	641	0	3	0	0	3	4	2	
Golden-winged	642	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
Nashville	645	1	4	1	2	3	12	6	
Orange-crowned	646	1	1	0	0	4	0	8	
Tennessee	647	25	25	10	3	6	38	220	
Cape May	650	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Black-Thr. Blue	654	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Myrtle	655	0	15	7	28	24	13	5	2
Magnolia	657	35	4	16	1	39	1	109	
Cerulean	658	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Chestnut-sided	659	6	3	1	0	5	6	8	
Bay-breasted	660	0	5	1	4	1	0	50	
Blackpoll	661	0	6	0	12	0	21	0	
Blackburnian	662	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Black-thr. Green	667	1	0	0	0	3	1	21	
Pine	671	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
Palm	672	3	5	1	0	0	10	1	
Prairie	673	2	5	2	7	5	8	3	3
Oven-bird	674	12	11	5	4	21	1	14	
N. Waterthrush	675	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
La. Waterthrush	676	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Kentucky	677	10	21	1	14	0	2	5	
Connecticut	678	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Mourning	679	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Yellow-throat	681	8	1	0	3	7	9	4	
Yellow-br. Chat	683	3	35	1	42	12	44	5	6
Hooded	684	15	9	2	10	3	11	11	8
Wilson's	685	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	
Canada	686	8	9	7	4	28	1	12	
American Redstart	687	2	1	4	0	14	1	37	

Chart 2

Early Arrival and Late Departure Dates for Migrating Warblers in the Tennessee Valley Area of Alabama As Established by Banding Operations at Brownsboro.

ES = Early Spring
LS = Late Spring
EF = Early Fall
LF = Late Fall

Nashville Warbler---ES, 4-14-62; EF, 9-20-62; LF, 10-15-61.
Orange-Crowned Warbler---ES, 4-19-61; EF, 10-7-63; LF, 11-3-62.
Cape May Warbler---LS, 5-10-61.
Black-throated Blue Warbler---LS, 5-9-61; LF, 10-17-59.
Myrtle Warbler---EF, 10-9-63.
Magnolia Warbler---EF, 8-28-62.
Chestnut-sided Warbler---LF, 10-17-63.
Bay-breasted Warbler---EF, 9-20-63; LF, 10-26-63.
Prairie Warbler---LF, 10-9-63.
Ovenbird---ES, 4-12-63.
Kentucky Warbler---LF, 9-25-60.
Connecticut Warbler---LS, 5-20-62; Only Fall Record for State, 9-24-63.
Mourning Warbler---ES, 5-18-63; EF, 9-6-62.
Yellow-throat---LF, 10-18-60.
Wilson's Warbler---LF, 10-9-63.
Canada Warbler---ES, 4-23-62.
American Redstart---LF, 10-13-61.

Those dates underlined are also State Records.

In conclusion it can be said of this continuing study, that the present results begin to indicate more accurately the yearly occurrence of migrating warblers and the times of their arrival and departure. Also, the study points out that there is much work to be done in expanding ornithological knowledge in the North Alabama area, and perhaps most of the rest of Alabama, as well.

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Rt. 1, Box 91, Brownsboro, Alabama.

Mortality of the Little Blue Heron

Julian L. Dusi

The mortality of the Little Blue Heron, Florida caerulea, as portrayed in this report is based on the analysis of the records of recoveries of nestlings banded by the writer and others in Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Louisiana and Delaware.

The banding done in Alabama discussed in this paper was done by the writer and his wife with the assistance of a number of students; biologists of the Alabama Department of Conservation, especially J. E. Keeler and Robert W. Skinner; and Maurice F. Baker of the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Banding in Mississippi was mainly done by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. In Oklahoma, V. A. Travis and B. W. Beall did the banding. Less constant groups of banders worked in the other states. Listings of the recoveries were made available by Allen J. Duvall, Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S.F. & W.S., Patuxent Research Center, Laurel, Md. The research was partly supported by a grant-in-aid from Auburn University.

The grouping of the 282 recoveries by states, where banding was done, and by age classes, is given in Table 1. The greatest age shown was 12-13 years and less than one percent of the birds attained this age. The greatest mortality was during the first year when 74 percent of the banded young died. This actually represents a much lower rate than that which occurs among all first year Little Blue Herons because by the time they reach the banding age of two to five weeks, a 10 to 25 per cent mortality of nestlings has already occurred. Therefore, nestlings banded are a select group. In Table 2 are listed the select group of recoveries known by the writer to have resulted from 1856 bandings of nestlings from three colonies in Alabama. Table 3 lists mortality data comparing the select Alabama data with those combined from all states.

No data have been found in the literature regarding longevity in the Little Blue Heron. Therefore the two birds banded by Coffey (366-57277, banded 5-23-37 and recovered 4-19-50; and 376-45635, banded 6-1-41 and recovered 2-__-54) sufficiently establish a longevity of almost 13 years. This is a very conservative estimate because one bird was reported as "shot" and the other as "found injured", indicating that these were not physiological terminations of life. Therefore, the birds may naturally live much longer.

Palmer, 1962, refers only to survival in the Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodius, given in Owen, 1959, and that for the Grey Heron, Ardea cinerea, by Lack, 1949, and Olsson, 1958. Kahl, 1963, reporting on mortality of the Common Egret, Casmerodius albus, cites the oldest individuals as 16 years, and the oldest reported in the literature for some other herons as: Great Blue Heron 20-21 years, Common Heron 15-16, 11.2 and 18 years, and Black-crowned Night Heron, Nycticorax nycticorax, 12-13 years.

Longevity in the Alabama group (Table 2) is recorded only up to 6 years, which is to be expected with the small sample size and the relatively recent banding dates.

Table 1. Totals of Recoveries of Banded Little Blue Herons in Age Classes, by States (1926-1962).

Age Classes	States: According to Recovery Totals											Totals	
	Miss.	Ala.	Okla.	S. C.	Tex.	N. C.	Tenn.	Fla.	N. J.	Ia.	Del.	No.	Per Cent
0-1	90	30	30	14	15	12	6	6	4	1	1	209	74.1
1-2	12	3	3	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	15	8.9
2-3	7	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4.6
3-4	5	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.5
4-5	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.2
5-6	3	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.2
6-7	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.4
7-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9-10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
10-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12-13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
Totals	128	45	34	21	17	16	7	6	5	2	1	282	99.9

Table 2. Numbers and Percentages (of the total recovered from 1856 Little Blue Herons banded by the writer in Alabama (1953-1962) in Age Classes at Death.

	Age Classes in Years						
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	Totals
Number	20	2	3	4	2	3	34
Percentages	58.8	5.9	8.8	11.7	5.9	8.8	99.9

The mortality in the first year (Table 3) is 58.8 percent for the Alabama group and 74.1 percent for the combined group. This again undoubtedly reflects the small size of both samples. There are many reasons for high mortality in the first year. Banding returns in general report the bird as "shot" if returned from outside the states, and "found dead" if returned from within the United States. This simply reflects the veracity of the report. The reporting individual is curious about the band and he cannot be prosecuted for finding a dead heron. The young white birds are easy targets and a great number must get shot, as the recoveries indicate. They are less conspicuous as gray adults and are more wary, thus fewer are shot.

By using the method of analysis of Lack, 1949, the average annual mortality after the first year may be calculated by the formula:

$$M = \frac{D_2 + D_3 + D_4 \text{------} D_n}{D_2 + 2D_3 + 3D_4 \text{------} (n-1)\, D_n}$$, where M = the average annual mortality and D = the number of recovered birds the second, third--- to n th years.

Expectation of further life may be calculated from: $e = \frac{2-M}{2M}$.

Even though the survival rate of 41.2 percent for the Alabama group is much greater than the 25.9 percent for the combined group, the average annual mortality after the first year is 33.3 percent for either group and the expectation of life at the beginning of the second year is 2.5 years for both groups. Thus the similarities between the two groups are best seen after the first year.

Table 3. Comparison of Mortality of the Little Blue Heron in Alabama and all States Combined.

	Ala.	Combined
Number of recoveries	34	282
Mortality in first year	58.8%	74.1%
Average annual mortality after the first year	33.3%	33.3%
Expectation of life after leaving the nest	1.2 yrs.	0.85 yrs.
Expectation of life at the beginning of the second year	2.5 yrs.	2.5 yrs.

Compared with the mortality rate in older herons of other species, the Little Blue Heron with 33 percent is higher than the Great Blue Heron (29 percent, Owen, 1959), the Common Heron (31 percent, Lack, 1949, and 28 percent, Olsson, 1959), the Common Egret (26 percent, Kahl, 1963), and the Black-crowned Night Heron (31 percent, Hickey, 1952). The life expectancy at the beginning of the second year reflects this greater mortality rate, being 2.5 years as compared with an average of 2.94 years for the other herons just mentioned.

Summary

These mortality studies of the Little Blue Heron were made from banding returns from nestlings banded in Alabama, by the writer, and from a number of other states where they have been banded by different workers.

The combined group showed a first year mortality of 74.1 per cent while the Alabama data show a 58.8 per cent mortality. The expected life after leaving the nest was 0.85 years for the combined group and 1.2 years for the Alabama birds.

After the first year, the average annual mortality rate was 33.3 per cent for both groups and the expectation for further life at the beginning of the second year was 2.5 years for both groups.

Compared with the Great Blue Heron, Common Heron, Common Egret, and Black-crowned Night Heron, the Little Blue Herons had a higher rate of mortality and a shorter life expectancy.

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INSECTICIDES AS A FACTOR IN BLUEBIRD NESTING SUCCESS

Ben D. Jaco and David C. Hulse

The recent decline in the Eastern Bluebird, Sialia sialis, population and the alleged reasons for the decline are well known. Facts about the extent and rate of decline are largely unpublished or unknown.

Four major reasons have been offered for the decline:

(1) Lack of nesting cavities caused by man's improved farming practices.

(2) Mortality incurred by agricultural chemicals, especially insecticides: mortality due either to direct contact with the chemicals or indirectly by ingestion of insects affected by the chemicals.

(3) Sterility caused by the chemicals.

(4) Mortality caused by unusually severe or prolonged periods of cold weather on wintering grounds.

Lack of facts, and curiosity, prompted the authors to begin a study of the comparative use of man-made nesting boxes in areas free of insecticides and areas having moderate to heavy use of the materials.

Twenty nesting boxes of 5/4" rough redwood were constructed during the winter of 1962-63. Dimensions of the boxes include 5" x 5" floor space, 8" deep front exposure and 10" rear. A 1½" entrance hole was centered in the front exposure 5" above the floor. A hinged roof allowed inspection of the interior. Adequate roof overhang, drainage and ventilation were provided. Small strips were attached to the interior below the entrance holes to allow the exit of swallows in the event of their use of the boxes.

The twenty boxes were divided into two groups of ten each. One group of ten boxes was erected on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur in Morgan County, Alabama. No insecticides or agricultural chemicals other than chemical fertilizers have been used in this area during recent years. The remaining ten boxes were placed on a private farm in Limestone County, Alabama, about seven miles north of the refuge boxes. This farm has a moderate to heavy annual use of agricultural insecticides and fertilizers. Here heptachlor granules were applied to alfalfa in October of 1962. Methyl parathion, endrin, cystox, toxophene, DDT, and sevin were applied to cotton in late spring and during the summer of 1963 by both ground equipment and aircraft. All of these chemicals are widely used in the Tennessee Valley.

There was no unusual departures from what is considered normal weather in this vicinity during the time the nest boxes were under observation. In the late fall and winter of 1962-63 there were several severe cold periods with temperatures falling to near 0° F. and slightly below.

All twenty boxes were erected on March 20-21, 1963. Each was faced in a southeasterly direction and placed about 4½ feet above the

ground either on fence posts or trees. Locations chosen were in open pastures or fields where the boxes were not obstructed by limbs, brush or weeds. An attempt was made to check the houses on Friday of each week. As much as two weeks elapsed between some checks during late summer, however. Random observations were also made on the refuge by refuge employees and the authors, and on the farm by the authors and farm owners.

The refuge and farm areas selected vary from about 560 to 600 feet above sea level and are typical of moderately clean farming practices with about 70% of the land in row crops and pasture, the balance being in wooded tracts and grounds about the buildings.

Results of the 1963 nesting season are interesting though inconclusive. The first completed nest was observed on April 5; first eggs on April 12; first completed clutch on April 14; and the first young on April 26. The last eggs were seen in mid-July and the young produced from these eggs left the nest in mid-August.

Four boxes were used by blue-birds; three on the refuge and one on the farm. One box on the refuge was used for three separate nestings. The five nests on the refuge produced 23 eggs, all of which hatched, matured and left the nest. The one nest on the farm produced five eggs, all of which also matured and left the nest.

In addition to bluebirds, House Sparrows, Passer domesticus, and Carolina Chickadees, Parus carolinensis, successfully nested in some boxes. Nest boxes located near dwellings or other buildings were utilized freely by house sparrows but not by bluebirds or chickadees.

Although the study will be continued and expanded during 1964, several important observations were made during the current year. Bluebirds readily accepted and successfully used man-made boxes. Nest boxes were most successful when placed at locations remote from buildings. Bluebirds nested, produced eggs, and raised young in both the area affected with insecticides and the area free of the chemicals but nest box use was much heavier in the areas where insecticides were not used.

More conclusive results will depend on a larger number of houses and more efficient observation of each. The authors seek aid from anyone interested in the project.

Decatur, Alabama

The AOS, 1963, Fall Meeting

The fall, 1963, meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama. Members began to arrive late in the afternoon of November 15 and some early birding was done, including a trip to Garth Slough, a part of the refuge. A slide-showing session was held Friday evening.

Forty-eight people registered for the meeting and most were out early on Saturday, the 16th, for bird trips over the refuge. Three separate parties, each under local leadership, went to different parts of the refuge. While the enormous flocks of geese were the main attraction, a wide variety of birds was seen, as is attested by the list on the next page. In the afternoon birders were again free to go where they chose, and most went on one of the same trips made in the morning. The refuge offered a wide variety of habitats - open water, shallow backwater, mudflats, fields, pastures and woodlands.

On Saturday evening, 49 members and guests attended the banquet which was followed by the paper session. Six papers were given as follows:

The Pyrrhuloxia in Alabama, by Blanche E. Deane,

Insecticides as a Factor in Bluebird Nesting Success, by David C. Hulse and Ben D. Jaco,

A Study of Warbler Migration at a North Alabama Banding Station, by James C. and Margaret L. Robinson,

Early Returns of Blackbirds Banded at Auburn, by Maurice F. Baker,

The Cattle Egret in Alabama, by C. William Summerour,

Nests and Nestlings of some Herons, by Julian L. Dusi.

Two of these papers appeared in this issue of Alabama Birdlife. Others will appear in future issues.

Sunday morning was given to more birding on the refuge until about 10, after which the composite list was made up. A total of 102 kinds of birds were recorded as having been seen on or near the refuge for the three days. The composite list appears on the next page.

List of Birds Seen on and in the Vicinity of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Decatur, Alabama
November 15 to 17, 1963

Common Loon
Horned Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Little Blue Heron
Canada Goose
Snow Goose
Blue Goose
Mallard
Black Duck
Gadwall
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
European Widgeon
American Widgeon
Shovellor
Wood Duck
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Canvasback
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Turkey Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
Sparrow Hawk
Bobwhite
American Coot
Killdeer
Black-bellied Plover
Common Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Pectoral Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin
Dowitcher
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Common Tern
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Yellowshafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
Common Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
American Robin
Hermit Thrush
Eastern Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Water Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike
Starling
Myrtle Warbler
Pine Warbler
House Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Redwing
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Cardinal
Purple Finch
Eastern Goldfinch
Rufous-sided Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY November 17, 1963

A meeting of the Executive Council of the A.O.S. was called to order by the president at 11:20 A.M., November 17, 1963, at the headquarters of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama.

Those present were:

Mrs. Julian Dusi	President
Mr. George J. Brabender	Treasurer
Mr. Robert E. Waters	Secretary
Dr. Maurice F. Baker	Editor, Alabama Birdlife
Dr. Julian Dusi	Executive Director

The president stated that both Foley and Dauphin Island had been proposed as meeting places for the twelfth annual meeting of the A.O.S. The president asked for discussion of these two proposed meeting places. After some discussion, the Council voted in favor of holding the twelfth annual meeting at Dauphin Island on the week-end of April 24-26, 1964.

The treasurer asked about accepting the regular annual membership fee and reinstating members who have been deliquent for more than one year. It was the understanding of those present that payment of only one years' dues was sufficient for reinstatement into the A.O.S.

The treasurer reported a membership of about 140 and a bank balance of about $183.00 on November 2, 1963.

The treasurer brought the following to the attention of the Council:

1. That there is a need for more membership-card forms.
2. That there is a need to reprint the checklist. The treasurer said that he was going to investigate the cost of these items as well as the cost of a supply of dues-reminder notices and report his findings at the next Council meeting.

The president mentioned using appropriate markers, either on automobiles or along travel routes during future A.O.S. field trips. Such markers would lessen the chance of someone's getting lost from an automobile caravan or missing the road on field trips. These markers were discussed, but no official action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

EDITORIAL PLEA

If this issue seems dull and less interesting than usual, it may be due to the shortage of field notes. This is something the editor cannot help. If field notes do not come in for publication, they just can't be published. This is a plea for you to get your Christmas Bird Count and other field notes in to the editor by February 1, so they may appear in the next issue of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE.

Business Meeting

A business meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama, on November 16, 1963, at 1:45 P. M. The reading of the secretary's and treasurer's reports were dispensed with.

The president, Mrs. Julian Dusi, discussed Mr. Tom Atkeson's proposal that a count, similar to the Christmas bird count, be made on or about July 4. She pointed out that we have a great deal of information on our wintering populations but relatively little on our summer populations. Mr. Atkeson reminded the group that more information is needed on our summer bird populations because, among other things, we do not know what effect, if any, various insecticides are having on our summer bird populations. After a considerable amount of discussion from the floor, Mr. Atkeson suggested the period from Memorial Day to July 4 as possibly the best time for making the count. Since similar counts from other states would make the data more valuable, it was suggested that bird study groups from other states be contacted regarding their interest in making summer counts in their states. Mr. Atkeson agreed to prepare a statement for use in contacting these out-of-state organizations.

The president called attention to the fact that the cattle egret is not protected by federal law. She stated also that she has appointed Mr. Dan Holliman as chairman of a committee to do something toward getting the bird put on the protected list. Mrs.Blanche Dean moved that the A. O. S. go on record in favor of protection of the cattle egret. Miss Blanche Chapman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ Robert E. Waters, Secretary

Fall Notes From Jacksonville. My records for arrivals and other interesting records for the Jacksonville area are as follows:

September 14, Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper; Sept. 22, Black-poll, Black-throated Blue, Canada, Chestnut-sided, Golden-winged, Magnolia and Nashville Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes; Sept. 26, Blackburnian and Blue-winged Warblers:

October 5. Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, Ovenbird (at low altitude), Short-billed Marsh Wren, Tree Swallow, Rough-legged Hawk, Coot; October 16, White-throated Sparrow; October 18, Song Sparrow; October 19, Leconte's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Cowbird, Cliff Swallow, Maryland Yellowthroat; October 20, Myrtle Warbler, Gray-cheeked Thrush (late date), Mallard; October 25, Wood Duck; October 26, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pintail, Greater Scaup, Great Blue Heron; October 27, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush;

November 2, Cedar Waxwing, American and Sprague's Pipits, Prairie Horned Lark, White-crowned Sparrow; Nov. 3, Ring-necked Duck, Baldpate; Nov. 6, Canvasback and Black Ducks; Nov. 12, Green-winged Teal, Northern Phalarope; Nov. 22, Ruddy Duck; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Nov. 27, Hooded Merganser; Nov. 28, Sharp-shinned Hawk; Nov. 30, Gadwall. William J. Colvert, Jr., Jacksonville, Alabama.