

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