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The President's Page 34

The Cattle Egret, Bulbulcus ibis ibis, in Alabama
. . . . . Charles W. Summerour 35

Some Comments on the Species of Dowitchers in Alabama
. . . . . Henry M. Stevenson 40

Two Significant Specimens of the Swallow-tailed Kite from Alabama
. . . . . Robert W. Skinner 42

Notes 43

The First Summer Bird Count 45

List of Birds Seen During Fall Meeting 47

Memorial to Ruth McCormack Copeland 48

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The fall of 1964 has been one of the most unforgettable autumns that I can remember. It has been marked by scant rainfall and unseasonable temperatures, along with a beautiful array of fall color. Our Society held its Fall meeting in Birmingham, where the members enjoyed field activities and fellowship in a region that is consistently known for its good birding. Oak Mountain, Cahaba Valley and Lake Purdy provided much enjoyment and diversified scenery for us all. Our entire weekend was additionally complemented by the graciousness of our hosts, THE BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON SOCIETY. We look forward to having another meeting in this part of the state.

One need not put away the binoculars and field guide after the last fall migrants have been observed, for we are coming to one of the best activity periods of the year --- THE CHRISTMAS COUNT. This endeavor is sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The purpose of the Christmas Counts is to determine the winter bird population within a given circular area. These counts are registered with the National Audubon Society and the results published each year. These censuses are of particular value because they are made in the same locality at the same time of the year over a long period of time. The accumulation of this type of data is valuable because it can be used as an index to predict changes in our bird populations.

Here in Alabama we have three well-established count areas -- Auburn, Birmingham and Mobile. Each of these count areas is divided into sections, and each section is assigned to a party leader by the compiler of the particular count area. The party leader and members of his party are responsible for tallying the number and species of birds observed in their region during the day which usually begins before dawn and ends after dark. It is a rather strenuous occasion, for efforts are made to bird as many different habitats as possible in order to increase the number of birds observed. Enthusiasm and anticipation mount as each party attempts to beat last year's species count record.

It is hoped that other members in the state will initiate a Christmas Bird Count for their own area this year. Alabama is a large state, and it would be desirable to have several additional count areas set up where there are enough competent birders to carry out a census. I am quite sure that the birders in Auburn, Birmingham, and Mobile would welcome interested people to take part in their own censuses. This would be an excellent opportunity for the visitors to find out what is involved in the establishment of Christmas Counts. Additional information regarding the formation of Christmas Counts may be secured through the officers of AOS or by writing directly to the National Audubon Society. Moreover, I would like to encourage the membership to help in as many of the different Christmas Counts as possible. Here one not only has the opportunity to enjoy good birding in various parts of the state during the winter but also has the opportunity to meet new people and to renew old acquaintances.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Holiday Season, and to ask you to help make our Society a better and stronger one for next year. Participate in our activities and be responsible for adding at least one new member to our roles for next year.

THE CATTLE EGRET, BULBULCUS IBIS IBIS, IN ALABAMA

CHARLES W. SUMMEROUR

A preliminary study on the status, distribution and habits of the Cattle Egret in Alabama was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Julian Dusi, professor of zoology, Auburn University, from May, 1963, to May, 1964.

This study combined the efforts and knowledge of many people and the author wishes to express his gratitude especially to those AOS members who so willingly assisted him. These members shared with the author a personal interest in the study and it is hoped that the findings in this report will add to their enjoyment of the avifauna of Alabama.

The study was not intended to concentrate on a limited phase of the biology of the Cattle Egret. Rather, an attempt was made to gather as much information about the status and life history of this species in Alabama as possible, so that the data obtained might serve as a stepping stone for more limited areas of research in the future.

History of the Cattle Egret

Until the turn of the century, the Cattle Egret was indigenous to the warmer climates of the Old World where it was widespread and well known in southern Spain and Portugal, all of Africa except the Sahara Desert, and the warmer parts of Asia. Two known subspecies exist: The African Cattle Egret, Bulbulbus ibis ibis (Linnaeus), and B.i. coromandus (Boddaert), the Asian race. A third variant of the Seychelles off the east coast of Africa, has not been positively established as a subspecies.

It is not definitely known when and where the Cattle Egret invaded the New World but the earliest records indicate that it first appeared in Surinam, South America, between 1877 and 1882 and British Guiana between 1911 and 1912 (Palmer 1962:441). The first authenticated record for the new world was a specimen collected by Blake (1939) in British Guiana on May 27, 1937, and the species was first recorded in North America by Willard E. Dilley near Clewiston, Florida, in the summer of 1941 or 1942 (Palmer loc. cit.).

Dean (1957) gave a brief history of the Cattle Egret in the New World and explained that the bird had been seen from Florida to Texas and north to Newfoundland. Keeler (1957) reported collecting the first Cattle Egret seen and identified in Alabama on November 8, 1957. He wrote that the bird was first observed "standing about five feet from the edge of the pavement at the mouth of Chocalata Bay, two miles east of the drawbridge on the Mobile causeway in Baldwin County." The specimen was placed in the zoological collection at the University of Alabama.

On April 26, 1958, two Cattle Egrets were seen on Dauphin Island by Lovett E. Williams and Dan W. Speake. One of these was collected by Speake for the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit collection. A third specimen was collected by Skinner (1958) at Boatyard Lake, Baldwin

County, on May 5, 1958.

Keeler (1960) related having seen 16 Cattle Egrets on July 6, 1960, near County Road No. 75, 4.3 miles south of Pansey, Houston County, Alabama. This was the first account of the Cattle Egret in Houston County.

Atkeson (1961), Manager of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge at Decatur, Alabama, gave the following account:

> "On April 13, Louis Nebrig, a local farmer, telephoned to say that three strange birds were walking about his pasture near the southeastern edge of Decatur. Charles Parker, Henry Grammer, William Depreast, and Tom Sandlin investigated and found three fine examples of the Cattle Egret, complete with reddish wash on heads, necks and backs; the first record for northern Alabama."

Atkeson (1962) further reported:

> ". . . the most interesting observation . . . . . came on May 12, 1962, when David Hulse found two pair (sic) of Cattle Egrets nesting in a mixed heron colony on the Swan Creek Public Hunting Area, a colony that also included 25 pairs of nesting Little Blue Herons, 12 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, and 5 pairs of Snowy Egrets."

This was the first nesting evidence for the state although the actual contents of the nests were not known. Atkeson (loc.cit.) said as many as 17 at a time were seen in the area, but that they were not noted after July 26, 1962.

From the information available through 1961, Imhof (1962:90) concluded that the birds were transient in the State, uncommon on the Gulf Coast, and casual to rare inland in the Coastal Plain and Tennessee Valley. He pointed to the probability of the birds breeding in Baldwin County and Houston County near Dothan. Inclusive dates for Alabama were listed by Imhof as April 6 to November 8; for the Tennessee Valley, April 12 and 13; Mountain Region, no record; Piedmont, no record; Upper Coastal Plain, May 12 to June 2; Lower Coastal Plain, July 6 and May 30; Gulf Coast, over 25 records as of 1961, April 6 to November 8.

Status 1963-1964

The present status of the Cattle Egret in Alabama, as found in the 1963-1964 study, is outlined below:

A. Dates of Occurrence: (January 18 to November 8)

Tennessee Valley - March 29 to October 17; Mountain Region - April 20 (Imhof, Birmingham); Piedmont Region - August 18 (Summerour, Auburn); Upper Coastal Plain - May 12 (Rosemary Dusi, Green Bay) to August 29 (Summerour, Montgomery); Lower Coastal Plain - March 18

(Dusi and Dusi, Gordon) to September 13 (Summerour, Gordon); Gulf Coast - January 18 (Chandler, Mobile) to November 8 (Keeler, Mobile).

B. Distribution - During migration and post-breeding season dispersal, Cattle Egrets may be seen as singles, groups, or mixed with native species in pastures and wet lands over the entire state. Cattle Egrets were found breeding in 5 widely separated heronries located near Gordon, Green Bay, Montgomery, Decatur, and Faunsdale.

C. Habitat Description - Typically, Cattle Egrets were found in pastures in close association with cattle. Dense long grass pastures such as bahia appeared to be preferred over closely grazed or short grasses such as dallas. Cattle Egrets were found nesting in colonies over water and in bottomland hardwoods over land.

D. Interrelationship with Native Herons - No antagonistic relationships other than territorial defense within the heronries were noted between Cattle Egrets and native species. Cattle Egrets were found in close association with all native species observed in the heronries. One juvenile Cattle Egret was collected by the author on August 18 north of Auburn in the company of six immature Little Blue Herons indicating that it was migrating with these birds.

E. Interrelationship with Cattle - The relationship appears to be one of protocooperation, in which both species profit but are not forced to associate in order to survive. The egrets benefit by catching insects flushed from the grass by grazing cattle. Food analysis revealed a number of tabanids (horse-flies), persumably taken from or near the cattle, indicating a relationship in which the cattle also benefitted. The cattle may also indirectly profit by an increase in forage due to the consumption of grasshoppers and other pasture insects by Cattle Egrets.

F. Banding Status - Three hundred and seven Cattle Egret nestlings were banded in four heronries as follows: Gordon, 285; Decatur, 14; Montgomery, 5; and Green Bay, 3. One bird banded at Gordon on July 10, 1963, was recovered from Dothan one month later. Color bands were used in the Gordon and Montgomery heronries.

G. Breeding Habits

1. Status in Heronries - Cattle Egrets comprised approximately one-third of the total number of nestlings in the Gordon heronry, 40 per cent of the Montgomery heronry (where none was known in 1961), 15 per cent of the Decatur heronry (an estimated 4.5 per cent in 1962) and less than 1 per cent in the Green Bay heronry.

2. Nest - Nests were found in a variety of hardwoods from five to 36 feet from the ground or surface of the water, and were similar to those of the smaller native herons. They were constructed of twigs available in the respective areas. The average of nine nests measured at Decatur was 14.4 inches in diameter and six inches deep. One exceptionally well made nest at Montgomery measured 20 inches in diameter and ten inches deep.

3. Eggs - Inclusive egg dates were from May 17 at Green Bay to August 3 at Montgomery. Cattle Egret eggs could be distinguished from all native heron eggs by their more pale blue color. Some were almost white. Of 23 nests containing eggs, all held either three or four.

4. Young - Nestlings were found from May 18 at Green Bay to August 10 at Gordon. The most distinctive feature of the nestlings over one week old was the yellow-tipped black bills. Other distinctive characteristices were the white iris, erect neossoptiles on the crown, lack of black-tipped primaries and slate grey to black tarsals and toes. The time of transition from black to the characteristic yellow bills of older birds was found to be variable. Based on identification by colored leg bands, the transition from black to yellow bills of two nestlings was known to have taken no more than 38 days or less than 14.

A banded nestling of known age (found when hatching) made short flights up to 50 feet in distance for the first time when 36 days old. The bill of this bird was black with an 8 mm., yellowish tip which was normal for juveniles at flying age. Only rarely were nestlings found with yellowish bills.

Juvenile plumage is solid white. The crown may be white or faintly washed with yellowish-tan.

H. Food

1. Nestlings - The regurgitated stomach contents of 20 nestlings from the Gordon heronry consisted of 90 per cent insects by frequency and 53.43 per cent by weight. Eighty-six per cent of the insects consited of crickets and grasshoppers. Other items included spiders, frogs, toads, small snakes and skinks. Miscellaneous items included a spider's cocoon with eggs, two small reptile eggs, insect larvae and roughage. The type of food consumed by nestlings was the same as that eaten by adults.

2. Adults - The stomach contents of seven adults collected near Gordon contained 91.22 per cent insects by frequency and 59.14 per cent by weight. Approximately 85 per cent of the insects were crickets and grasshoppers; about 10 per cent of the diet consisted of spiders, amphibians, caterpillars, reptiles, millipedes, and roughage. No fish were found in any of the stomachs examined and there was no indication that ticks were eaten.

I. Adult Plumage - Except for the short period, when young birds have black bills, any small white heron with a yellow bill may be identified as a Cattle Egret.

Plumage color was found to be extremely variable; the degree of color was never found to be consistent at any given time. Most birds appeared to be in full breeding plumage through June but birds in full breeding plumage were observed near Montgomery on August 17. One incubating bird observed on July 4 and 8 at Gordon was entirely white save a very faint buff on the crown; the legs, bill and lores were yellow. Another incubating solid white bird with faint buff on the crown was observed on August 3 in the Montgomery heronry. Of seven

adult birds collected near Gordon on August 10 and one on August 11, all showed some degree of post-nuptial molting and two had almost completed the molt.

J. Daily Movement - Banded Cattle Egrets were seen up to 15 linear miles from the Gordon heronry indicating that some birds travel at least 15 miles to feeding areas.

K. Voice - Cattle Egrets were silent away from the nesting sites but were quite vocal within the heronries. The alarm notes were a distinctive kowp, kowp, kowp, similar in tone to the clucking of a domestic hen. Other sounds made by the adults were sharp squawks and gutteral croaks. The newly hatched nestlings made thin peeping notes which became progressively louder as the birds matured.

L. Enemies - Boys were known to have killed Cattle Egrets in the Montgomery heronry and observations pointed to the possibility of numerous other enemies. Among those found as possible predators were alligators, turtles, Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls, Bluejays, Common Crows, Fish Crows, Common Grackles and raccoons.

M. External Parasites - Hippoboscid flies were collected from nestlings and adults and lice from adults.

N. Specimens Collected - A total of 15 specimens has been collected in Alabama.

Continued research on the spread and life history of the Cattle Egret in Alabama should prove most informative not only to biologists, but also to cattlemen who will desire information concerning the relationship of these birds to their cattle.

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SOME COMMENTS ON THE SPECIES OF DOWITCHERS IN ALABAMA

HENRY M. STEVENSON

In the current state bird book (Imhof, 1962) I have been credited with records of the Long-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus scolopaceus) near Birmingham on July 3, 1936, and September 28, 1935. At the time this book was in preparation, I probably concurred with the author in this disposition of my dowitcher records, in the belief that the Short-billed Dowitcher (L. griseus) did not occur in the interior. Certainly at the time they were seen these birds were not differentiated as between the two forms, then thought to represent only subspecies. (Only after many more years of experience have I learned to make this distinction, and then only under favorable conditions.) In the same work (p. 252) it will be noted that no inland records of dowitchers were referred to the short-billed form, although it had long been known to occur inland in other states.

Recent elevation of the Long-billed Dowitcher to full species rank has focused the attention of more field workers on details of its morphology, voice, habits, habitat, distribution, and season of occurrence, with the result that certain changes in the apparent probabilities have ensued. There are now enough specimens extant to indicate that either species of dowitcher may occur at any suitable inland locality, although there tends to be a different period of migration for each. It has been shown that the Long-billed Dowitcher migrates earlier in spring and later in fall than the Short-billed (cf. Ogden, 1964).

This difference in time of migration is borne out by records around Tallahassee, Florida, where three Long-billed Dowitchers have been taken on dates ranging from September 1 to November 7. Reliable sight records, most of them based in part on the call note, also fall within this period, except for a record in January and, in northward migration, from March 7 to April 18. On the other hand, L. griseus, although found on the coast at any time of the year, does not reach its peak in spring until late April and May--after the larger species has departed. A numerical increase in July, involving birds in both summer plumage and winter plumage, denotes the early beginning of this species' fall migration, a fact also supported by early returns of dyed individuals (Loftin, 1962). Likewise, the only two inland specimens of this form were taken on August 19 (Stevenson, 1962) and August 30, before the known arrival date of scolopaceus.

As these facts strongly suggested the improbability of Long-billed Dowitchers occurring in the South in June or July, and perhaps even in May or early August, I attempted to determine the status of some specimens collected during these months and referred to this species. I am indebted to Mrs. Roxie C. Laybourne, of the U. S. National Museum, for information about these specimens, including the measurements given below. Two collected on Dauphin Island by Arthur H. Howell, July 5, 1913, are not distinguished in her letter from one originally referred to griseus, because all three specimens have since been identified as L. g. hendersoni, an inland race of the Short-billed Dowitcher. Two of the identifications were made by Allen Duvall, the other by John W. Aldrich.

The measurements (in millimeters) of the wing, culmen, tail, and tarsus follow: male--133, 59, 53, 37; male--139.5, 56.5, 49, 38.5; female--148, 65.5, 61, 39. The great difference in length of tail is explained by the fact that the first two specimens are in worn winter plumage, but the third in breeding plumage. It may be noted that in no case is the bill length maximal for the respective sex of griseus. Unfortunately, a "Long-billed" Dowitcher collected by F. W. McCormack at Leighton, May 15, 1891, was not preserved.

Two Florida specimens referred to scolopaceus but collected on unlikely dates were taken at Clearwater Harbor, May 21, 1918, and in Pinellas County, June 2, 1903 (Howell, 1932). Although the latter specimen could not be located, Mrs. Laybourne stated that the Clearwater Harbor bird had also been referred by Aldrich to hendersoni. It was a female with a bill length of 66.5 millimeters.

In a review of the Georgia specimens of dowitchers, Johnston (1952) found only three undoubted specimens of scolopaceus. The only one bearing a date was taken on April 17, 1951.

In addition to the indicated periods of spring and fall migration of Long-billed Dowitchers, it should be added that there are Florida sight records, if not specimens, in winter. Such birds were found chiefly in fresh-water situations, some along the coast and some far inland, and in several cases the distinctive call notes were heard. Assuming these birds to have been correctly identified, it would not be surprising to find the species occasionally wintering in Alabama. A record made by Lois McCollough at Marion, on February 23 (Imhof, op. cit.), could represent either an early spring migrant or a wintering bird.

Summarily, there appears to be no incontrovertible evidence of the occurrence of Long-billed Dowitchers in the Southeast from late May to early August, and records in June and July seem, especially unlikely. My two sight records near Birmingham, listed under the long-billed species in Alabama Birds, should be considered simply unidentified dowitchers. It is recommended that the same disposition be made of other early-summer dowitcher records not supported by specimens, unless there is reason to consider them Short-billed Dowitchers.

I am indebted to Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr., for critically reading this manuscript.

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TWO SIGNIFICANT SPECIMENS OF THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE FROM ALABAMA

ROBERT W. SKINNER

The wing and tail measurements of two Swallow-tailed Kites collected in Alabama conform with those of Elanoides forficatus yetapa (Vieillot), the South American Swallow-tailed Kite, rather than with the prescribed race, Elanoides forficatus forficatus (Linnaeus), the North American Swallow-tailed Kite.

The following measurements are given by Friedmann (The Birds of Middle and North America, Part XI. U.S.N.M. Bull. 50: 84 and 90). For Elanoides f. forficatus, adult female, wing 436-445, tail 343-370; Elanoides f. yetapa, adult female, wing 390-427, tail 275-326. As can be seen the measurements do not overlap in the two races.

The measurements for the two Alabama specimens are as follows: Monroe County, Alabama, April 17, 1964, adult female, wing 412, tail 319: Montgomery County, Alabama, July 26, 1961, adult female, wing 400, tail 299.

The above measurements place the two Alabama specimens of kites well within the range of measurements given for the South American race.

The range of the South American Kite is given by Friedmann (op. cit.: 90) as South America north of Argentina, north to Campeche, Mexico, being known from Central America only as a summer visitor, probably absent in winter.

State Department of Conservation
Game and Fish Division
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NOTES

Additional Magnolia Springs Records. The following additions of interest may be made to my list in the last issue of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE: Mallard - one late female at Corte Pond, June 11, 1964; Dickcissel - April 28, 1964, 1 female at Gulf Shores, May 1, 1964, 6 singing birds at Foley; Pine Siskin - May 3, 1964, 6 birds in a flock of Goldfinches at Magnolia Springs. Fairly Chandler, Magnolia Springs, Alabama.

A banding trip to the Gulf Island Refuges. Lovett Williams, Mac Myers, and I made the trip in mid-July. Over 3,000 Royal and Sandwich Terns were banded, a few adult birds were dyed red and the juveniles blue. The Petit Bois colony has moved to one of the spoil banks (Walnut Island) approximately 5 miles south of Pascagoula. The spoil banks are not included in the refuge, and therefore, do not come under the protection of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On July 14 we saw a Sabine's Gull about 3 miles west of the Ship Island lighthouse. July 16 we saw an adult Brown Booby, a Greater Shearwater, and another Shearwater, probably a Greater. These birds were seen in Chandeleur sound about 10 miles west of the North Islands. The same date two Pomarine Jaegers were seen mid-way between the Ship Island lighthouse and Biloxi. A Sooty Tern was seen on several occasions July 14 and 15 on Curlew Island, one of the Chandeleurs. The refuge manager obtained a good picture of the Sooty Tern, nest and egg at this location in June. July 11th, 12th and 13th as many as 19 Brown Pelecans were noted on the spoil banks south of Pascagoula. A pair of adult Common Terns with nest and two eggs was found on a spoil bank 3 miles south of Pascagoula.

Reports of any dyed terns seen on the gulf coast would be appreciated.

I have not been in the Montgomery area enough this summer to obtain much field data. However, the Cattle Egret seems to be on the increase and can be seen quite frequently. Robert W. Skinner, Alabama Department of Conservation, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sick Mourning Doves at feeding station. A greater number of Mourning Doves was observed at this feeding station during the summer of 1964 than during any summer of the ten years residence at this address. From June through August nine sick doves were observed, eight of which were trapped and destroyed. The last five were examined for possible evidence of disease. Four of these five had caseous of cheese like growths in the throat region. Each of the nine doves was observed to have difficulty in picking up and swallowing food. In each dove the breast was found to be thin. These Mourning Doves would seem to be victims of Trichomonas gallinae. An outbreak of trichomoniasis among Mourning Doves in Alabama was reported in 1950 (Mourning Dove Newsletter 1960, Fish and Wildlife Service). Harriett Wright, 2749 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, Ala.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cherokee County. On August 22nd, Dr. W. J. Calvert, Mr. Jerome B. Couch, Mr. John C. Hall and I made a trip to Weiss Lake up in Cherokee County. When within a mile or so from the lake, John Hall and I sighted this bird on the telephone wire along the road. We stopped and sounded our horn for Calvert and Couch who were in the car ahead, but they didn't hear us. As we got out of the car, the bird flew over into a grove of willows. Upon the return of Calvert and Couch, we all walked over into the willows where John Hall sighted the scissor-tail again, but the willows were so thick, the bird eluded us and we finally gave up the search. According to Imhof (1962:346) this would be the eastern most sight record of this species in Alabama. Julian W. Johnson, Regar Memorial Museum, Anniston, Alabama.

Cattle Egrets and Broad-winged Hawks at Livingston. On that cold, blustery, almost freezing Monday after Easter, March 30, 1964, while walking in a creek bottom pasture on my farm, I noticed in the distance a white bird I took to be an immature Little Blue Heron. It was not on water but near some grazing cattle, motionless in a humped-over posture, giving the appearance of a sick or half frozen bird. As I approached with binoculars I soon spied the tell-tale yellow bill and yellow-green legs. I made an attempt to get closer to the bird under an embankment but the bird disappeared in the meantime.

On April 21, 1964 I spotted two Cattle Egrets in a pasture right at the south corporate limits of Livingston walking around with a group of cattle in the manner of cowbirds. I approached these at close range with binoculars and observed them for a long time, noting all details as yellow bill, yellow-green legs, buffy streaks, and jowls which set them aside from other egrets and herons. Posture and movements appeared different also. I noticed as I approached too close that they ran with head up with somewhat of a comical appearance, and finally took to the air flying in a northerly direction. As I have not seen any Cattle Egrets since, it is my belief that these three were merely migrating through.

On April 29, 1964, I was attracted by an unusual hawk cry and upon looking up saw my first Broad-winged Hawk. The bird made a circle toward the south then returned flying in a northerly direction with another Broad-winged Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk evidently in migration.

On July 5, 1964, I ran into another Broad-winged Hawk with a snake in its talons and being harrassed by a kingbird. The hawk kept spiraling higher and higher until the kingbird came back to earth and the hawk flew in a southerly direction. Carrying food at this time of year would seem to indicate that the hawk may be nesting not too far away. Jenkins Jackson, Livingston, Alabama.

THE FIRST SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Compiled by the Editor

In 1963, Mr. Thomas Z. Atkeson proposed that the Society should undertake an annual summer bird count. Following several discussions in meetings of the Society it was decided that such a count would be undertaken in the summer of 1964, any time during the month of June. Any local group that wanted to make such a count would procede with it, using the same area and methods employed in the Christmas Count. Only 2 summer counts were made, but the results were of sufficient interest that it can be hoped that more counts will be made in the future.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. (column B of table). Same circle of 15 miles diameter used for the Christmas Count for the past 28 years, centering in New Merkle and including areas between East Lake, Oak Mountain, Elmwood Cemetery and Lake Purdy. Date, June 27, 1964; time, 4 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.; weather, warm and cloudy A. M., fair and hot P. M.; 85 party hours; 23 observers; 279 party miles, 233 miles in car, 43 miles on foot, 3 miles by boat; nests found 31, nests identified, 27; total species identified 87; approximate total of individuals seen, 27,059; description of habitat, 28% residential, 16% woodland border, 14% lakes and ponds, 25% oak-pine woods, 15% pastures, 1% tall grass, 0.5% creeks and rivers, 0.5% cemetery.

Participants (names capitalized are of party leaders) M. F. PRATHER; MORTON H. PERRY; BLANCHE CHAPMAN, Harriett Wright, Mildred Ferris; DAN C. HOLLIMAN (compiler), Bob Reid, Elberta Reid, Ron Eason; TOM IMHOF, John Imhof; HELEN KITTINGER, Steve Dirksen, Georgette Cantebury, Josephine Wood; F. BOZEMAN DANIEL, Raymond Bates; CLUSTIE MCTEIRE, Margarette Persons; WALTER COXE, Bob Hard, Jimmy Hard.

AUBURN, ALABAMA. (column A of table). Same circle of 15 miles diameter as used in the Christmas Count, centering at the Auburn post office, including Whatley's lake and the North Auburn Ponds. Date, June 23, 1964; time, 4 A. M. to 9 A. M., weather clear and warm; 9 party hours, 8 observers, 43 party miles, 40 miles in car, 3 miles on foot; total species identified, 66; total individuals seen, 837; description of habitat, 50% mixed woods, 20% water and mud flats 30% pastures and open fields.

Participants (names capitalized are of party leaders). M. F. BAKER, Chester McConnell; JULIAN DUSI, Rosemary Dusi, Bill Goslin, George Folkert, Kenneth Landers, Charles Patrick.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN.

Species	A	B	Species	A	B
Common Loon		1	Blue-winged Teal		20
Pied-billed Grebe		2	Shoveller		1
Great Blue Heron	1		Ring-necked Duck		2
Green Heron	15	16	Turkey Vulture		7
Little Blue Heron	5	6	Black Vulture	1	4

Species	A	B
Cooper's Hawk		2
Red-tailed Hawk		3
Red-shouldered Hawk		4
Bald Eagle (imm.)		1
Broad-winged Hawk		4
Bobwhite	20	97
Coot		3
Killdeer	12	36
Mourning Dove	33	471
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7	25
Screech Owl	1	
Barred Owl	1	1
Chuck-wills-widow	9	
Common Nighthawk	1	14
Chimney Swift	8	168
Ruby-throated Hum. Bird	2	8
Belted Kingfisher	4	16
Yellow-shafted Flicker	6	66
Pileated Woodpecker	2	17
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	52
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	42
Hairy Woodpecker		8
Downy Woodpecker	3	31
Red-cockaded Woodpecker		2
Eastern Kingbird	36	32
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	26
Eastern Phoebe		4
Acadian Flycatcher		12
Eastern Wood Pewee	5	32
Rough-winged Swallow	5	35
Barn Swallow	1	
Purple Martin	11	12,138
Blue Jay	36	209
Common Crow	28	73
Carolina Chickadee	5	101
Tufted Titmouse	7	106
White-breasted Nuthatch		21
Brown-headed Nuthatch	11	46
Carolina Wren	13	86
Mockingbird	23	236
Catbird	6	33
Brown Thrasher	2	100
Robin	4	308
Wood Thrush	12	113
Eastern Bluebird	3	37
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	3
Loggerhead Shrike	3	2
Starling	49	8,500
White-eyed Vireo	11	28
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	7
Red-eyed Vireo	9	66
Black and White Warbler		3
Prothonotary Warbler	1	4
Parula Warbler		1
Yellow Warbler	3	23
Cerulean Warbler		1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	27
Pine Warbler	4	17
Prairie Warbler	8	8
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	7
Kentucky Warbler		12
Yellowthroat	10	31
Yellow-breasted Chat	17	38
Hooded Warbler	3	12
American Redstart		3
House Sparrow	36	1,000
Eastern Meadowlark	13	72
Redwinged Blackbird	133	537
Orchard Oriole	17	44
Common Grackle	19	225
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	564
Summer Tanager	7	47
Cardinal	45	295
Blue Grosbeak	18	18
Indigo Bunting	21	142
Dickcissel		5
Eastern Goldfinch		29
Rufous-sided Towhee	31	320
Grasshopper Sparrow		4
Chipping Sparrow	14	41
Field Sparrow	12	45

Study of these two lists reveals some interesting differences, some of which may be attributed to the geographic differences in the two localities.

List of birds seen during the fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society, October 10 and 11, 1964. The same general area was covered as is reported for the summer bird count elsewhere in this issue. Good fall weather prevailed. Birmingham and vicinity.

Horned Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveller
Ring-necked Duck
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Bobwhite
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
American Woodcock
Common Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Pectoral Sandpiper
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Wood Pewee
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
Common Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Mockingbird
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
American Robin
Wood Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Eastern Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Water Pipit
Loggerhead Shrike
Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Solitary Viero
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black & White Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Blue-throated Green Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Ovenbird
Yellowthroat
American Redstart
House Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Redwing
Purple Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Summer Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Eastern Goldfinch
Rufous-sided Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Total: 101

MEMORIAL

to

RUTH McCORMACK COPELAND

Died

June 19, 1964

To see one of God's beautiful birds and to see someone enjoy them as much as Ruth McCormack Copeland did, was to see the sun rise on the morning dew. Ruth Copeland has long been active in the Alabama Ornithological Society as a warm and perceptive charter member, with a deep and dedicated love which, indeed, cannot be equaled. Her knowledge and faithfulness was a mere love of nature as God has given it to us. She was intensely interested in the growth of the Society and the broad programs of conservation which the National Audubon Society embraced. Ruth was also a member of the Birmingham Audubon Society and was treasurer for twelve years. Her knowledge of birdlife was greater than most realized. With her keen vision and remarkable memory, it was rewarding to be with her "in the field". In March, 1963, we entered the "Garden" in Mobile, and soaring so gracefully high above the tree tops was the Swallow-tailed Kite. Ruth saw the bird and her delight was that of a child as we watched the most graceful bird afloat, soaring beyond our vision. Ruth went about in her quiet way, learning, growing and contributing to the Society. Even those who never knew her will feel the benefit of her knowledge and enthusiasm in the future. Many will miss Ruth as a member of the Alabama Ornithological Society and the Birmingham Audubon Society, but most of all as a true, warm friend.