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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As you know, we are well into the 1965-66 AOS year. Many of you are having an excellent year. One of the reasons you are having a good year is that you are doing something constructive. To those of you who are having a good year and doing something constructive, I should like to encourage you to keep up the good work.

But some of us are not having as good a year as we would like. To those of us who fall into this category, I would like to present a challenge. That challenge is: Do something constructive during the 1965-66 AOS year.

What are some of the constructive things that we can do to help us have a better year? Here are a few suggestions: 1. Take a more active interest in the affairs of AOS, especially attend its meetings. 2. Be a regular contributor to ALABAMA BIRDLIFE and the NEWSLETTER. Let's not make the editors have to pry the information from us. 3. Donate a book to the AOS Library. As you know, the Library is housed at Auburn University. Dr. Julian Dusi at Auburn will be glad to receive books and place them in the Library. 4. Keep a record of our observations and either publish them or make them available to somebody who will publish them. 5. Make a series of color slides of birds, bird nests, etc. and show them to garden clubs, civic clubs, school or other groups. Programs of this kind are always welcomed. 6. Actively cooperate with the committee. Actually, each of us should be a one-man (woman) membership committee. Our Treasurer, Frank Huttlinger, Box 1945, University, Alabama, will be glad to supply forms for enrolling new members, and for accepting dues from delinquent members. 7. Get better acquainted with birders in your area. We may find enough interest to organize a local bird club. 8. Build and erect nest boxes. A house for purple martins makes an ideal project for a dad who is trying to interest his youngsters in birds. See pages 8 - 10 of Tom Imhof's ALABAMA BIRDS for instructions on building and erecting nest boxes. 9. Take a youngster on field trips. Show him how to use a field guide and binocular. We may be surprised by how proficient he gets within a short time in identifying birds. 10. Actively cooperate with the North American Nest Record Program. Dr. Dusi at Auburn can supply the forms for recording the desired data.

These are just a few of the things that we can do to help us have a better year. There are many, many more. I challenge you to accept one of these suggestions and have a better AOS year for having done so.

Robert E. Waters.

The 1965 Alabama Summer Bird Count

Compiled by Maurice F. Baker

Five summer bird counts were made this year. This report of these counts follows that pattern used in the past for Christmas and Summer Bird Counts.

Auburn (Au). May 25, 1964, 4-9 A.M. & 2-5 P.M.; Same 7.5 mile radius circle used in Christmas counts; 4 parties, 17 individuals, 19 party hours, 105 miles by car, 3 miles by foot; clear and dry.

Birmingham (Bi). Count made on June 5, 1965; clear to partly cloudy with a brief light rain west side about 5 P.M., wind mostly easterly; temperature 70° to 85° F. Twenty-six observers in 10 parties spent 106.5 party-hours afield from 4:00 A.M. to 7:45 P.M. and travelled 410 miles by car and on foot. Averaged 157 birds per hour. Area covered as in previous counts. Tom Imhof, compiler.

Bon Secour (BS). Same 15-mile diameter circle used for Christmas counts centering at Bon Secour Post Office. June 4, 1965, 5:00 A.M. to 6:45 P.M.; weather fair and hot, extremely dry, S-SW wind 8-16 M.P.H.; 2 observers, 22 party hours; 174 party miles, 165 in cars, 7 on foot, 2 by boat. Participants, P. F. Chandler (compiler) and H. M. Stevenson.

Dauphin Island (DI). June 5, 1965; includes Dauphin Island and Little Dauphin Island; 12:50 - 7:20 P.M.; 6.5 party hours, one observer; 18 party miles, 10 by car and 8 by foot; Henry M. Stevenson.

Mobile (Mo). June 12, 1965. The usual 15 mile circle including Dauphin Island and Bellingrath Gardens. Clear, hot, tide very high all day. Seventeen observers. Dr. Wilson Gaillard, compiler.

Synopsis of all Counts

SPECIES	Au.	Bi.	BS.	DI.	Mo.
Pied-b. Grebe		1			2
White Pelican					2
Brown Pelican					15
Mag. Frigate-bird				1	15
Great Blue Heron			1		15
Green Heron	8	20	8	3	15
Little Blue Heron	1	1	1		15
Cattle Egret			19	16	1000
Reddish Egret			1	1	4
Common Egret					25
Snowy Egret				2	78
Louisiana Heron				6	205
Yell.-cr. Night Heron				2	5
Least Bittern			4	1	2
White Ibis					100
Mallard		1			2

SPECIES	Au.	Bi.	BS.	DI.	Mo.
Mottled Duck				2	
Wood Duck	1				18
Ring-n. Duck		1			
Lesser Scaup		1			
Red-br. Merganser					10
Turkey Vulture		9			
Black Vulture		2			5
Cooper's Hawk		4			
Red-tailed Hawk		1			
Red-should. Hawk	1	2			1
Broad-winged Hawk		2	3		1
Osprey			2	1	
Sparrow Hawk		3			3
Bobwhite	45	165	79		24
Turkey	2				
King Rail					1
Clapper Rail			5	6	42
Sora					2
Common Gallinule					2
Am. Coot		1			
Am. Oystercatcher					8
Semipalm. Plover				4	3
Snowy Plover					8
Wilson's Plover				18	15
Killdeer	4	49			7
Black-bellied Plover				1	2
Ruddy Turnstone				3	20
Spotted Sandpiper	1			3	
Willet				110	155
Lesser Yellowlegs					8
White-rumped Sandpiper					3
Least Sandpiper					8
Short-billed Dowitcher				2	22
Semipalm. Sandpiper				3	
Sanderling				11	15
Herring Gull					8
Ring-billed Gull					5
Laughing Gull			1	35	79
Gull-billed Tern				5	100
Forster's Tern			10	1	23
Common Tern			80	1	11
Least Tern			4	180	830
Royal Tern					108
Sandwich Tern			13	20	75
Caspian Tern			2		16
Black Tern			100	20	100
Black Skimmer				160	500
Mourning Dove	21	559	50	8	35
Ground Dove		4			
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	14	31	14		37
Screech Owl		2			
Great-horned Owl			1		

SPECIES	Au.	Bi.	BS.	DI.	Mo.
Barred Owl		1			
Chuck-will's widow	6	7	1	6	20
Common Nighthawk	3	11	11	24	12
Chimney Swift	33	13	23	6	85
Rudy-thr. Hummingbird	2	1			5
Belted Kingfisher	7	15	5		7
Yellow-sh. Flicker	12	59	13		30
Pileated Woodpecker	4	6	7		4
Red-b. Woodpecker	12	42	33	1	23
Red-h. Woodpecker	4	38	10		16
Hairy Woodpecker		3	2		
Downy Woodpecker	8	33	5		9
Eastern Kingbird	42	27	47	3	12
Gray Kingbird					7
Scissor-t. Flycatcher					1
Great-cr. Flycatcher	18	44	30	3	54
Eastern Phoebe	2	9			
Acadian Flycatcher	1	9			1
Traill's Flycatcher		1			
E. Wood Pewee	9	35			6
Rough-w. Swallow	13	30	8		20
Barn Swallow			3	2	12
Purple Martin	7	5117	142	35	412
Blue Jay	38	195	107	3	290
Common Crow	46	110	2		60
Fish Crow			60	35	200
Carolina Chickadee	4	81	9		5
Tufted Titmouse	25	158	25		47
White-br. Nuthatch		14			
Brown-hd. Nuthatch	14	24	33	2	35
Bewick's Wren		1			
Carolina Wren	39	78	62	4	43
Long-b. Marsh Wren					4
Mockingbird	100	298	203	6	58
Catbird	3	21			
Brown Thrasher	23	100	46		68
Robin	11	242			
Wood Thrush	25	116	5		8
Eastern Bluebird	10	48	13		
Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	3	8	2		6
Loggerhead Shrike	16	23	21	1	15
Starling	31	2175	21	6	200
White-eyed Vireo	19	54	26		15
Yellow-thr. Vireo	1	4	1		3
Red-eyed Vireo	15	104	13		8
Bl.-&Wh. Warbler	2	5			
Prothono. Warbler	5	3	16		2
Blue-w. Warbler		2			
Parula Warbler			23		8
Yellow Warbler	6	23			
Myrtle Warbler					6
Yellow-thr. Warbler		8	1		
Pine Warbler	1	20	4		11
Red-cocka. Woodpecker		8	7		

SPECIES	Au.	Bi.	BS.	DI.	Mo.
Prairie Warbler	3	54			
La. Waterthrush	1	8			
Kentucky Warbler	6	7			
Yellowthroat	10	25	35		9
Yellow-r. Chat	35	78	5		
Hooded Warbler	14	9	14		2
American Redstart	4	4			
House Sparrow	39	950	424	20	65
Bobolink				6	
East. Meadowlark	52	110	68		65
Red-w. Blackbird	101	383	205	120	550
Orchard Oriole	37	42	65	1	11
Baltimore Oriole					1
Boat-t. Grackle			10		
Common Grackle	32	1663	370	29	100
Brown-h. Cowbird	11	2100	8	2	2
Summer Tanager	10	60	16		15
Cardinal	80	277	89	4	135
Blue Grosbeak	14	23	9		
Indigo Bunting	46	109	1		
Am. Goldfinch		17			
Rufous-s. Towhee	71	262	77	9	94
Seaside Sparrow				16	40
Richman's Sparrow	1		1		
Chipping Sparrow	13	77			
Field Sparrow	13	73			
Swamp Sparrow					7
Total Species:	74	86	73	53	110
Total Numbers:	1317	16729	2833	970	6734

Additional Notes From the Count Areas.

Auburn. The Auburn count was made earlier than last year and found most species nesting, and not too many young birds out. The Black and White Warblers apparently were not nesting, at least they were not seen in several repeat visits to the area. The techniques of a successful summer count need to be worked on. Maybe more than one day would be good. For sure, the observers need to know their observation areas before the day of the count.

Birmingham. Seen in the area within one week of the count: Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and an additional Coot.

It is difficult to compare only two summer counts. It will probably take several counts for most observers to know where to find certain species, what time of day they are most active, how to recognize the songs of those we don't hear too often and so on. Additional summer counts may uncover unsuspected seasonal variations in abundance of the year some birds are more difficult to locate. We learn all sorts of things about our birds, as long as we are learning something, whether facts or skills, the counts are worthwhile even beyond their recreational value. (Paraphrased from comments by T. Imhof in FLICKER FLASHES, Special Edition, June 1965.)

Bon Secour. Birds seen in count area during the count period, but not on the day of the count: Common Egret, Snowy Egret, White Ibis (2 immatures on June 27), Wood Duck, Mississippi Kite, Cooper's Hawk, King Rail, Screech Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Robin (Gulf State Park, June 10).

Relatively few birds were found inland, possibly due to drought conditions. All ponds and marshes above the tide line were dry. The small number of observers (2) may have affected the results. We found only one Yellow-throated Vireo, though we know there were four or more pairs in the area. The Yellow-throated Warbler is probably present in normal numbers though only one was found. The 2 Ospreys and 4 Pine Warblers probably reflect low numbers. The 7 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers may represent a fortunate find rather than an increase. Birds believed to show an improvement in status are the Eastern Bluebird and Hooded Warbler. Usually present but not found were: Gallinules, Ground Dove, and Barred Owl. Unexpected finds were: Reddish Egret, White Ibis, and Robin.

Dauphin Island. (Stevenson). The following shorebirds were observed, that, for the most part, are known to summer but not to breed in Alabama: Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Common Tern, Black Tern. One or more individuals of each kind that was observed were in full breeding plumage - usually an indication of their being migrants. The Bobolinks represent a latest coastal record, as did the Spotted Sandpiper. The Osprey was very tame or ill.

Mobile. Only 3 comments from the compiler - (1) the Least Bittern was nesting, and (2) the wood Thrush numbers were low, and (3) the Myrtle Warblers included young.

THE NEST CARD PROGRAM OF THE CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

The North American Nest Card Program is winding up the 1965 nesting season, and many cards have already been returned. There are still many cards in the hands of the individual recorders, however, and these should be returned as quickly as they are completed. The Laboratory of Ornithology is preparing the data for transferal onto IBM cards, and a large bulk of material is needed for the first run, to be started soon.

To those of you in Alabama who have such cards please return them to Dr. Julian Dusi, Department of Zoology, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830, as soon as you have filled in the data on the card. Dr. Dusi is acting as the clearing house for the Alabama information. He will forward them to the Laboratory of Ornithology.

AN UNUSUAL NORTHERLY FALL MIGRATION AND HURRICANE HILDA

Fairly Chandler

In early October, 1964, during the normal southerly migration, Hurricane Hilda approached and entered the Louisiana Coast bringing southerly winds to the Alabama Coast. In central Louisiana she turned approximately 90° and swept east across South Mississippi, North Mobile and Baldwin Counties in Alabama and on along the Alabama-Northwest Florida line bringing winds from the north.

On Sunday afternoon, October 4, as Hilda entered Louisiana and the Alabama Coast received southerly gale force winds we noted more than 100 Magnificent Frigate-birds at Lake Shelby in Gulf State Park and more than 50 were seen at Pensacola (Audubon Field Notes, 1965: 46). Few other birds were to be seen or heard in the park though many must have been present in protected shrubs. At about 9:00 P.M. Sunday as Hilda swept across Mobile and Baldwin Counties the wind changed to the North to 91 m.p.h. as recorded at Dauphin Island and evidently displaced many birds south of their normal penetration for that date. High winds continued from the north on Monday and few birds other than Brown Thrashers and Catbirds in protected shrubs were to be seen. The NORTHERLY MIGRATION-evident recovery from displacement by the winds-noted almost immediately Tuesday A.M., October 6, with winds still from the north at 15-25 m.p.h.

At 7:00 A.M., Tuesday, in Magnolia Springs when we first noted the movement there were literally hundreds of small birds in waves one-fourth to 1 minute apart all flying North. In the poor light and high winds a large percentage of the birds could not be identified but of the ones which dropped into the trees to rest or could be identified by call note, flight pattern, silhouette, etc. they were in order of abundance: Magnolia Warblers, Yellow Warblers, flickers, Blue Grosbeaks, Red-eyed Vireos, Black-throated Green Warblers, and two early gold-finches.

Though we have approximate counts on these birds, we feel that only the relative numbers are of any consequence as there were obviously many, many more of these species seen which could not be positively identified. However we feel safe in saying that we saw more Magnolia, Yellow, and Black-throated Green Warblers that morning than we had previously seen in the combined Fall migrations in Baldwin County since 1960. This migration over Magnolia Springs though diminishing in numbers continued until at least 11:00 A.M. when we quit watching, but the same situation was noted again that afternoon over Mobile Causeway involving mostly Rough-winged Swallows.

It is difficult to reach any conclusions in regard to the Red-eyed Vireos and Blue Grosbeaks as they had been abundant in the area several weeks at the time. We began to see flickers in numbers above the normal residents on October 9. Aside from the many Magnolia Warblers seen October 6, only 14 others were seen during the Fall Season - much below normal. Previous to this display only 6 Yellow Warblers were seen in the two weeks before and 7 in the remainder of the season. The Black-throated Green Warblers were the first seen during the season and only 18 later. The two goldfinches were the first of the season and 14 days early (Imhof, 1962:539). No others were seen until October 24.

We do not feel that we have enough positive data on his migration to make a proper evaluation but there is some evidence that it was fairly extensive as John Ogden made notes on it at the same time near Tallahassee, Florida, some 200 miles to the East where it was a longer duration (though we do not know that it started at 7 A.M. in Magnolia Springs) and involved some of the same and some different species.

We would be interested to hear from anyone else on the Gulf Coast who might have seen it.

Literature Cited

Audubon Field Notes. February, 1965. Vol. 19, No. 1.
Imhof, Thomas A. 1962. Alabama Birds. Univ. of Alabama Press, Univ. Ala. 591 pp.

Magnolia Springs, Alabama

A BREAKDOWN ON THE ALABAMA COASTAL CHRISTMAS COUNTS - 1963

Fairly Chandler

A number of people have expressed an interest in a breakdown of the 1963 Alabama Coastal Christmas Counts, as the winter of 1963-64 was particularly interesting for the numbers of species present and especially for the presence of birds normally found farther north of west. All data are taken from Audubon Field Notes, April, 1964, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 208-210, or from Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 12, 1964, No. 1, pp. 4-7. In these sources more details on habitats, individual species, and numbers may be found.

In general, the Dauphin Island count circle consists of marine and related shore areas, Mobile, largely urban and brackish waters with related shore areas, and Bon Secour, largely farming and border areas. All three of these areas, two in Mobile County and one in Baldwin County are within a fifty-mile diameter circle and include a great variety of habitats, as reflected in the "Most Common Species" columns and the "Exclusive Species" columns below.

Column A below is the number of species seen on Count Day.

Column B is the number of species additional seen during the count period.

Column C is total species for the count period.

Column D is the total number of individuals on each count.

Column E is the number of exclusive species per count.

	Date	A	B	C	D	E
Dauphin Island	: December 28	: 142	: 5	: 147	: 12,633	: 11
Mobile	: December 26	: 154	: 4	: 158	: 834,547	: 20
Bon Secour	: December 19	: 112	: 3	: 115	: 40,782	: 7

Total individuals seen, 887,962.

Number of species common to all three counts, 99.

Total species seen, 172.

Ten Most Common Species:

Dauphin I.	Mobile	Bon Secour
Robin 2,200	Red-w. Blackbird 800,000	Red-w. Blackbird 30,600
Myrtle Warbler 900	Am. Coot 15,000	White-th. Sparrow 1,700
D.-Cr. Cormorant 700	Starling 3,233	Com. Grackle 1,385
Ring-billed Gull 630	Common Snipe 1,200	House Sparrow 870
Herring Gull 600	House Sparrow 1,183	Am. Coot 800
Red-w. Blackbird 600	White-th. Sparrow 1,102	Robin 600
Starling 550	Killdeer 1,056	Myrtle Warbler 395
Am. Goldfinch 330	Dunlin 809	Killdeer 385
Sanderling 300	Green-w. Teal 704	Brewer's Blackbird 330
Tree Swallow 296	Mourning Dove 667	Water Pipit 290

Exclusive Species

Dauphin Island: Reddish Egret, Common Merganser, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, Whip-poor-will, Red-eyed Vireo, Parula Warbler, Harris Sparrow.

Mobile: Red-throated Loon, White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Black Duck, Mottled Duck, American Widgeon, Cooper's Hawk, Sharpshinned Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, American Avocet, Common Tern, Rough-winged Swallow, Winter Wren, Yellow Warbler, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow.

Bon Secour: Eared Grebe, Gannet, Green Heron, Sandhill Crane, Great-horned Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, White-crowned Sparrow.

The grand total of 172 species seen and the fact that only 99 were seen on all three counts gives a good idea as to the variety of habitats in the relatively small area and the richness of the Alabama Coast for winter birds. The additional fact that on the Bon Secour Count alone in 1964, seven species were seen that were absent from all three counts in 1963, indicates that the 172 total is still rather short of the winter potential for the area.

Magnolia Springs, Alabama

SUMMERING WATERFOWL IN BIRMINGHAM

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

During the summer of 1964, several species of waterfowl remained on East Lake which is approximately four miles from downtown Birmingham, Alabama. There have been other summer records of water fowl in and around Birmingham, but the summer of 1964 is probably unique in that individuals of three species of duck that normally migrate north were observed throughout the summer on this lake well within the city limits. East Lake is located in a small park most frequently visited by fishermen for whose convenience there are a number of spits extending out in the water. There is no boating and the waterfowl are protected to a degree from other disturbances by the fact that the park is located in a populated area. The lake, which is stream-fed and contains a sufficient amount of submerged vegetation to make it attractive to waterfowl, is usually host in winter to a reasonably large number of Canvasbacks, Ringnecked Ducks, American Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes.

Since the ducks stayed through the summer, there was an opportunity to observe some of their changes into and out of the eclipse plumage. This is a change in plumage unique to male ducks of the northern hemisphere; it does not occur in swans or greese or in ducks of the southern hemisphere. The change takes place just after the breeding season when the males lose their flight feathers, making them thereby virtually flightless, and acquire a plumage like that of the female of the species. The moult out of the eclipse plumage begins in the early autumn and takes place over a considerable period of time with the result that in many species the breeding plumage is not reacquired until well into the following winter. The moults into and out of the eclipse plumage are discussed in detail with color illustration in Kortright (1942:22-24 and 414-430).

The particular waterfowl observed in 1964 on East Lake were the following:

Shoveler

One male appeared in full breeding plumage the second week in February and, with a few exceptions, was noted on the lake until October. It was seen with a female on March 28. During the spring migration, it apparently visited other nearby bodies of water for it was observed only intermittently during April but was accompanied by a second male when seen on April 11. A single male was observed regularly, however, from the last week in April until the third week in October. During its stay at East Lake, it generally kept close company with a large white Pekin Duck that had been released on the lake. On the basis of information in Imhof (1962) this is the first record of a Shoveler summering in Alabama south of the Tennessee Valley.

There is a great difference between the plumages of the male and female Shoveler. The male in its eclipse plumage had taken on a mottled brownish color very similar to that of the female by the fourth week in July and still had that general appearance in October. By that time it

had acquired the semblance of a reddish breast but its head was dull, light brown with no sign of the bright green of the breeding male. Kortright (op.cit.:215-221) reports that the male does not begin to acquire its green head feathers until November and that most do not regain full breeding plumage until January.

Ring-necked Duck

Observed also throughout the summer was one male Ring-necked Duck (or ring-billed Duck as it might more appropriately be called because its conspicuous field mark is the ring on its bill rather than the indistinct ring on its neck). It stayed on the lake after the wintering and migrating birds had left during the second week in April. Apparently other ducks of this species may have been summering on nearby bodies of water, for two males were seen on the summer bird count conducted by the Birmingham Audubon Society on June 27, 1964.

The male seen throughout the summer reached its eclipse plumage by August. In this plumage it was generally all dull brown, being darker on the head and back. By October, when joined by other Ring-necked Ducks arriving from the North, it had acquired most of its breeding plumage so that it might then be clearly recognized as a male.

Lesser Scaup

One male appeared the fourth week of April and was noted throughout the summer. As was the case with the preceding species, apparently other ducks of its kind summered nearby for two males were seen the fourth week in May and second week in June.

The bird observed during the summer had reached full eclipse plumage by the fourth week in July. In the early stages of the eclipse, when it spread its wings showing the white stripe along the rear edge of the secondaries, the lack of some of the primary flight feathers was noticeable. When in the eclipse, the bird retained a semblance of the barred back feathers of the breeding male but acquired a white face patch like the female and otherwise turned generally brown, darker above than below. As noted in Kortright (op.cit.:252-259), the male diving ducks when in eclipse retain more traces of the breeding plumage than do the pond ducks, which in the eclipse plumage may be almost indistinguishable in the field from the females.

By October the scaup too had regained most of its breeding plumage so that it would be clearly recognized as a male. It was joined the third week in October by a female, and the two were observed on the lake into the winter when several other birds of this species arrived. It is interesting to note that the two diving ducks, thus, regained their breeding plumage earlier than the Shoveler which was still in eclipse the last part of October.

Others

Two American Coots also were noted on East Lake from the time the wintering coot population left around the last of April until

they returned around the first of October. In addition, two Pied-billed Grebes were observed from the fourth week in May until joined by wintering birds in the autumn. Earlier in the year, during the fourth week in April, one grebe was observed apparently attempting to nest on some hay that had been dropped at the end of one of the spits extending into the lake. However, because of the proximity of dogs and people, this attempt was, as might be expected, unsuccessful. It may also have only been a demonstration of breeding instinct and not an actual attempt to nest.

While not seen on East Lake, flocks of Blue-winged Teals are regularly seen on migration near Birmingham; and the flocks observed on Lake Purdy, a relatively large lake about 12 miles from the city, during September and the first half of October, 1964, seemed to contain only female birds. However, in the eclipse plumage the male Blue-winged Teal is virtually indistinguishable in the field from the female. Consequently, while some of these migrating birds undoubtedly were females, others may well have been males in eclipse plumage.

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A BREEDING POPULATION OF HORNED LARKS IN CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Charles W. Summerour

On May 22, 1955, Dr. William J. Calvert of Jacksonville State College, discovered a small population of Horned Larks, Eremophila alpestris Linnaeus, in an open area approximately one mile northwest of the Jacksonville city limits. Dr. Calvert had observed the same area for a number of years prior to 1955, but had never recorded Horned Larks outside their normal wintering period. He has since observed the birds each spring, including singing males, and concluded that Horned Larks were in all probability nesting in Calhoun County.

Following directions given by Dr. Calvert, the winter was successful in locating the nest of a Horned Lark on April 17, on Dean Edwards' farm, one mile northwest of Jacksonville. The nest was a neat cup of grasses lined with cattle hair and sunk into a depression excavated by the birds in a weathered cow dung pile. Bur clover hung over the mouth of the cup so that the three heavily incubated eggs were well hidden from above.

The following day, on April 18, Dick Ambrose, Jerome Couch, Jay Johnson and the writer visited the area and two additional Horned Lark nests were discovered, one by Dick Ambrose and the second by a combined effort of Couch, Johnson, and Summerour. The former nest contained three eggs and the latter two eggs and one newly hatched nestling. Pictures were taken of all the nests and the first, found on April 17, was collected for the Jacksonville State College Museum.

On April 24, two more nests, both under construction, were found by Dr. Calvert, the writer, and Gary Collier, a student at Jacksonville State College. However, both of these nests were thought to be re-nesting attempts or second broods by the pairs already noted. All five nests were located in dung piles. The soil in the area was shallow and hard and the manure piles evidently offered a spot where the birds could excavate a cavity in which to place the nest.

The area, totaling approximately 100 acres, was estimated to have ten nesting pairs of Horned Larks. These birds represent the southernmost breeding population of the Horned Lark in the State (Imhof, 1962: 358). No specimens have been collected so the local race remains an unsettled controversy among the local observers, but it presumably is E. a. praticola (Henshaw), since this is the subspecies listed by the American Ornithologists Union (1957:354) as nesting in or near Alabama.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologist Union. 1957. The A.O.U. checklist of North American birds. The Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Baltimore. 691 pp.

Imhof, Thomas A. 1962. Alabama Birds. Univ. of Ala. Press. 591 pp.

MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 23-25, 1965

The regular spring meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Dauphin Island, Alabama, on April 23-25, 1965. Headquarters motel was the Holiday House, and 75 members and guests registered for the meeting.

Field Trips

Field trips were held on Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning and included the following locations: Indian Shell Mounds (Leader, Blanche Dean); Alabama Port to Pelican Point, Dauphin Island (Leaders, Father J. L. Dorn, Father Matt Turk and Bob Waters); West End of Dauphin Island (Leader, Fairly Chandler); and the Bird Sanctuary and Bellingrath Gardens (Leader, Dr. Wilson Gaillard). In addition, Jim and Margaret Robinson, Julian and Rosmary Dusi and Tom Imhof set up netting and banding stations, which could be visited by the members and guests. Some of the Indigo Buntings netting were shipped via air express to the University of Michigan for some migration studies being conducted there.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council at 12:10 P.M., April 24, at the LeMoyne Restaurant on Dauphin Island. Those present were: Dr. Dan Holliman, President; Mr. Robert E. Waters, Vice-President; Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., Secretary; Mr. Frank D. Huttlinger, Treasurer; Mrs. Rosmary T. Dusi, Immediate Past President; Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor, Alabama Birdlife; and Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Director and Librarian. Upon motion, the reading of the minutes of the January 30, 1965, meeting of the executive council was dispensed with and the same were approved. The business to be brought before the Society at the business meeting that afternoon was discussed, particularly the North American Nest Record Program, the nomination of Blanche Dean for the Alabama Wildlife Federation Conservation Award, and the proposed resolution on blackbird control. Upon motion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Business Meeting

The business meeting of the membership was called to order by the President at 1:25 P.M. at the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory on Dauphin Island. Thirty-six members attended the meeting. The President complimented the members of the Mobile Bird Club for their excellent work in acting as hosts for the meeting and stated that the Society would like to encourage the establishment of local chapters which could perform valuable work in conservation programs and the study of ornithology. He also urged the continuation and expansion of seasonal bird censuses -- the Christmas, Summer, and Spring and Fall Migration counts. The minutes of the fall business meeting held on October 10, 1964, were read, and the figure for membership of the Society contained in those minutes was corrected to read 160 members. The minutes as so corrected were then approved.

Alabama Wildlife Federation Conservation Award

The Secretary stated that the Alabama Wildlife Federation gives annually an award of "Conservationist of the Year" to an outstanding conservationist in the state and that Mrs. Blanche E. Dean had been nominated for that award by the Birmingham Audubon Society. He further stated that the members of the executive council at its meeting held earlier today had agreed it was desirable for AOS to second and support her nomination. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanche E. Dean had been nominated by the Birmingham Audubon Society for the award of "Conservationist of the Year" given by the Alabama Wildlife Federation;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dean has contributed greatly to the knowledge of natural history and advancement of the cause of conservation through her authorship of a number of books, including Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of Dixie, The Ferns of Alabama and Let's Learn the Birds in Alabama, through her twelve years of work in organizing and leading the Alabama State Nature Camp, and through the introduction to Birmingham of the Audubon Wildlife Film Lectures, while serving as President of the Birmingham Audubon Society;

WHEREAS, during her many years as a teacher of biology in the Birmingham city schools and for the American Youth Foundation, she has instilled in her students an interest in conservation and natural history;

WHEREAS, she has been a member of many other clubs and organizations and has very generously given of her time and efforts in support of conservation and natural history programs; and

WHEREAS, the members of this Society feel that Mrs. Dean has made an outstanding contribution to the cause of conservation in the State of Alabama and desire to support her nomination for the award of "Conservationist of the Year" in 1965;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its annual spring meeting held on April 24, 1965, that this Society does hereby second and fully support the nomination by the Birmingham Audubon Society of Mrs. Blanche E. Dean for the 1965 award of "Conservationist of the Year" to be given by the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and that in evidence thereof a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to said federation.

Constitutional Amendment

The Secretary then stated that the executive council at its mid-winter meeting had approved an amendment to the constitution of the AOS and that notice of the amendment had been given on March 18 in the Newsletter sent to all members of the Society. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Alabama Ornithological Society to make it clear that the assets and receipts of the Society will always be devoted to charitable, scientific or educational purposes and will not inure to the benefit of any private individual or group; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Society on March 18, 1965, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Society, cause notice to be given to all voting members of the Society of the following amendment to the Constitution of the Society providing for the distribution of such assets and receipts in the event of its dissolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society that the Constitution of the Alabama Ornithological Society be amended by adding thereto a new Article IX reading as follows:

Article IX. Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any meeting, regular or special, provided that 30 days' written notice of the proposed dissolution be given to each voting member. Upon dissolution of the Society, all of its assets and accrued receipts shall be distributed by the Executive Council to one or more organizations formed and then being operated for charitable, scientific or educational purposes and eligible for qualification as taxexempt organizations under the United States Internal Revenue Code.

North American Nest Record Program

Dr. Dusi reported on the nest record program being administered by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. He stated that in order to accumulate a sufficient amount of data over a reasonably small period of time, the cooperation of large numbers of competent observers was necessary. He stressed the necessity for accuracy and stated that although continuous nest observations were preferable, single observations would provide desirable information. Observers were cautioned not to disturb the nests in the course of their observations. Dr. Baker added that nesting failures were to be reported as well as successful nestings. Dr. Dusi is in charge of coordination the distribution and collection of the record cards in Alabama.

Membership Committee

Mr. Huttlinger, co-chairman of the Membership committee, reported that 41 new members had joined the Society since September 1, 1964, twenty-seven of them from Mobile and seven from Anniston. The present total membership is 201. Mr. Huttlinger urged that local groups establish drives for membership in the Society.

Auditing and Nominating Committees

Mr. Reid, chairman of the committee to audit the Treasurer's books for the current year, reported that the books were found to be in order, and the report of the auditing committee was unanimously approved.

The President stated that under the By-laws of the Society, Mr. Robert E. Waters, its present Vice-President would automatically succeed to the presidency for the coming year. In the absence of Miss Blanche Chapman, chairman of the committee to nominate other officers, Mrs. Blanche Dean presented the report of the nominating committee proposing the following to serve as officers of the Society for the year 1965-66: Robert R. Reid, Jr. - Vice-President; and Frank D. Huttlinger - Treasurer. The President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor, and there were none. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report of the nominating committee was approved and the persons so nominated were declared elected.

Blackbird Control

Discussion was had of the administration of any blackbird control program that might be found necessary, after which the following resolution was, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it is understood that a program of blackbird control is under consideration by the United States Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, it is the considered opinion of the Alabama Ornithological Society that the only effective means of administration and supervision of any such program would be through the use of qualified technical personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its annual spring meeting held on April 24, 1965, that this Society does hereby recommend and state its unanimous opinion that, if any control program of blackbirds be found necessary, it be administered under the supervision of qualified technical personnel and not be the distribution of avicides to members of the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior of the United States.

Dr. Baker mentioned that it would be desirable to have the names of the officers of local ornithological groups in the state published in either Alabama Birdlife or the Newsletter so that persons visiting the areas where those local groups operate might be able to contact the appropriate persons in those areas. A representative of the Mobile Bird Club welcomed the members of the Society to the Mobile area and invited all members to join the Mobile Bird Club. Dr. Holliman was then commended for his excellent and energetic service to the Society as its President for the past year. Upon motion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Dinner and Paper Session

Dinner was held Saturday evening at Bayley's on the Bay Road. Mr. Huttlinger supervised the drawing of several fine door prizes: Dr. Oliver L. Austin's Birds of the World; Tom Imhof's Alabama Birds; Blanche Dean's The Ferns of Alabama and Let's Learn the Birds in Alabama; and a Martin house and two Bluebird houses of handsome and sturdy construction made by Mr. Joe Friendhoff. After the dinner the following papers were presented:

Hurricane Hilda and an Unusual Fall Migration--
Fairly Chandler

Our Present Knowledge of the Cattle Egret in
Alabama -- Dr. Julian L. Dusi

The Scarlet Ibis in Alabama -- Rosmary T. Dusi

Changes in Status of Birds in Alabama since
Publication of Alabama Birds (May 1962) --
Thomas A. Imhof

Status of Wintering Blackbirds in Alabama --
James E. Keeler

Summering Waterfowl in Birmingham -- Robert R.
Reid, Jr.

Following the field trips on Sunday morning, Mr. Robert Waters conducted at the headquarters motel a compilation of the birds observed during the meeting. A total of 159 species was recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Reid, Jr., Secretary

BIRDS SEEN DURING
SPRING MEETING
DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA
APRIL 23-25, 1965

Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-b. Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-cr. Cormorant, Anhinga, Magnif. Frigate-bird, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, American Bittern, Least Bittern, White Ibis, Blue-w. Teal, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-br. Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Broad-w. Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Piping Plover, Semipalm. Plover, Wilson's Plover, Killdeer, Black-b. Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Wimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-b. Dowitcher, Semipalm. Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-n. Stilt, Herring Gull, Ring-b. Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-b. Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-b. Cuckoo, Black-b. Cuckoo, Chuck-will's widow, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-s. Flicker, Red-bell. Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yell.-b. Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker.

Eastern Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, G. Crested Flycatcher, E. Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-w. Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Short-b. Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheek Thrush, Veery, E. Bluebird, B.-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Logger head Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-thr. Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-w. Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow-Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Bl-th. Green Warbler, Yellow-thr. Warbler, Bay-br. Warbler, Black-pollled Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellowthroat, Yellow-br. Chat, Hooded Warbler, Am. Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Br.-hd. Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-br. Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Rufous-s. Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-t. Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-thr. Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

ATTRACTING BIRDS

Conservation Bulletin No. 1, ATTRACTING BIRDS, is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C., for fifteen cents. It includes many useful ideas for attracting birds about the house, but does not include instructions for building nest boxes.

NOTES

Notes From the Tennessee Valley. Spring, in the Valley of the Tennessee, was cold and wet until early April. A drought began in mid-April and continued until the second week of June, but there have been regular rains since. Bird life seemed without spectacular changes.

An Iranian pheasant's nest containing 11 eggs was found in a Wheeler Refuge field on May 3. On May 7, Game Management Agent Harley Peirson sighted a Common Gallinule along the White Springs dike, the earliest record we have for this bird, always uncommon here. On June 3, Richard Bays, the Refuge Forester, sighted a single Woodcock, though it gave no indication of nesting. Between June 2 and June 8, Richard and other refuge employees found three Chuk-will's widow nests. Each contained two non-flying young, and these varied from the downy state to some fully feathered. On June 10 and 11, Doctor and Mrs. J. L. Dusi visited the refuge and banded young little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Cattle Egrets in the colony on the Swan Creek Public Hunting Area. They reported the colony somewhat smaller than in 1964, due probably to the spring drought. They sighted a Prairie Warbler on June 11, a late spring record for this locality. White Ibises were noted on the refuge on June 6 through June 22 and may still be present. A number of Canada Geese, perhaps as many as fifty, are still seen on the refuge. These may be cripples resulting from the heavy shooting of last hunting season, though some appear normal. There are reports of a white goose, possibly a Snow Goose, using with one of these smaller Canada Goose flocks, though refuge employees have been unable to verify its identify. The number of duck broods, and especially of Mallards, appears higher than usual. Some coots are still around at this writing, i.e., June 25, but there is no indication of nesting. Thomas Z. Atkeson, Refuge Manager, Wheeler Refuge, Decatur.

Banding Notes From Magnolia Springs. On March 13, 1964, we started a banding program on our property in Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama, employing a sparrow trap and on occasion mist nets. During the year we banded 219 birds of eight species as follows: White-throated Sparrow - 128, Redwinged Blackbird - 49, Cardinal - 32, Blue Jay - 3, Tufted Titmouse - 1, Purple Finch - 3, Wood Thrush - 1, Rufous-sided towhees - 2.

Of 27 White-throats banded between March 13 and April 12, we had eight returns in October, November, and December. One, October 7, was four days before the previous early Fall date for White-throats on the Alabama Coast. The original banding station of a foreign retrap of a White-throat - band no. 102-106654 - on December 25 has not been reported to us from Patuxent as this writing. The Wood Thrush and a pair of the Cardinals nested on our property and though we see numbers of the banded Cardinals only one has entered our traps after 90 days. Fairly Chandler, Magnolia Springs, Alabama.

ERRATUM. In the report on the Anniston winter bird count, Vol. 13, No. 1, we reported 12 American Woodcocks. It should have been 12 Common Snipe. The Ed.

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

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