

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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### POLLUTION IN PARADISE!

. . . . I found discarded beer cans and the ever-present aluminum twistoff tops. Under the palm trees on the black sand beach at the bay named for explorer Captain Cook, I saw picnic garbage discarded by thoughtless tourists. Our guide explained in dismay that a group of Americans had been there the previous day. Oliver S. Johnson

SEE YOU AT DAUPHIN ISLAND CONVENTION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 28-29-30

Published periodically by the Alabama Ornithological Society at Birmingham, Alabama 35204. It is sent to all members, or it may be obtained by subscription in the United States for \$4.00 per year.

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Action Printing Co. — Drawer 308 — Adamsville, Ala. 35005

### THE SEASON, WINTER (December—January—February) 1972

Compiler and Editor — Thomas A. Imhof

The year 1971 was cool and rather wet in Birmingham and vicinity, but Mobile and other coastal areas remained very dry through January. In Birmingham, December was the second warmest ever, and, except for a few cold snaps, it remained rather warm through January. February was cooler and wetter throughout the state. Normally, many birds listed around Christmas disappear—they either move farther south or succumb to the elements. This year it appears that many of these half-hardy birds could still be found in February, even those that were wintering farther north than usual. Certainly the thermometer dipped about as low as usual—to 7° on 16 Jan and 6 Feb—but apparently these spells were brief and the intervening warm spells were

longer and milder. To complete this picture of our winter birdlife, please refer to the excellent analysis of our Christmas Counts in this issue.

**LOON, GREBES** — The count of 130 Com Loons at Gulf Shores on 22 Jan (TI & JP) is a state max. Two Eared Grebes remained around Dauphin I. thru early Jan (LT, mob) and 2 were at Gulf Shores 8-22 Jan (FC, JP, TI). Estimates of flocks on both sides of Mobile Bay indicate that over 1000 Horned Grebes wintered in coastal Alabama (LT, TI, MAG, mob).

**FULL-WEBBED SWIMMERS** — Of the small flock of White Pelicans wintering in Mississippi Sound, 1 was found dead on Dauphin (Mr Harper) on 21 Nov with a band placed on it as a young bird this July in North Dakota (LT and others). This is the first winter since 1959 that we have had more than 6 Brown Pelicans reported from our coastline; 5-12 were noted on most birding trips on both sides of the Bay with a max of 26 on 19 Dec (MWG, LT, mob). An adult Blue-faced Booby—possibly 2 im. nearby—at Alabama Point on 22 Jan (TI, JP) is the 3rd for Alabama. Perhaps we should search more for Boobies in the colder months when the cooling of surface waters effects a strong upwelling of nutrients from the depths and the fishing is good. Further, Gulf Shores produced a count of 85 Gannets on 22 Jan (TI, JP) and Ft. Morgan 550 D-cr Cormorants on 23 Jan (TI, JP).

**HERONS** — Green Herons, which apparently winter every year on our coast, were noted often in Feb; Alabama Point on 8 Jan (CLK, mob); Magnolia Springs on 20 Jan and 17 Feb (FC); Fairhope on 6 Feb (LEG, MW); Dog R. Dec thru 14 Feb (LMc). Three winter Reddish Egrets were noted; 2 at Piney Pt on 15 Dec (TCO) & 1 white-phase on Cochrane Causeway on 12 Feb (LEG, mob).

**WATERFOWL** — The situation seems about normal or slightly above, and with few rarities. Up to 3 adult & 1 im. Whistling Swans wintered at Wheeler (TA) and 1 at Eufaula (JEK). Oldsquaws were noted at L. Oliver on 1 Dec (LAW); at Navy Cove on 8 Jan (CLK, mob); & at Cullman on 13 Feb TMW & MW).

**HAWKS** — The 2nd Swainson's Hawk for the Mt. Region was at L. Purdy on 3 Jan (HHK, AM). A pair of Golden Eagles wintered at Simpson Sanct., Clarke Co. (JEK). At Wheeler, 1-3 Bald Eagles lingered most of the period (TA) & an im. was at Pell City on 7 Jan (HHK, RM). Peregrines were noted at Fink's L., Calhoun Co. on 20 Nov (WC); near Eufaula Ref on 5 Feb (TM & HM); and on Dauphin on 15 Feb (LW & WW). On 24 Jan, 7 Sparrow Hawks were counted between Ft. Morgan and Gulf Shores (TI, JP).

**SANDHILL CRANE** — The flock wintering at Gulf Shores was tallied at 27 on 22 Jan (FC, TI, JP) and 24 on 19 Feb (T, mob).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Six Oystercatchers remained near Dauphin thru 8 Jan (LT) when they probably sought a more sheltered spot. At Alabama Point 4 Snowy Plovers were present on 22 Jan (JP, TI). The Golden Plover present at Marion on 13 & 19 Sep (JP, mob) was omitted from the fall report. A max of 10 Am Woodcock was reported from Wheeler on 12 Feb (MB, AOS mob). Near Phenix City on 12 Dec, Spotted Sandpipers were noted at L. Harding and Goat Rock Dams (JM, LAW); 1 at Wheeler on 12 Feb (MB, AOS mob) is the first in winter in the Tennessee Valley; and the Dauphin I. bird was still present on 13 Feb (LT). Knots, wintering again in numbers on Dauphin, reached a max of 66 on 24 Dec and dwindled to 12 on 13 Mar (LT). One Marbled Godwit remained at the n. end of Little Dauphin thru 8 Jan (LT) and 4 others were on Cochrane Causeway on 11 Dec (FC). A second species of phalarope was recorded from

L. Purdy this winter when a Red stayed from 5 to 9 Jan (JP, BASmob, photo HHK, HHW).

**GULLS** — Over 100 Ring-billed Gulls were at Goat Rock Dam near Phenix City on 5 Mar (JM). At Gulf Shores and Ft. Morgan 1400 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted on 22 & 23 Jan (TI, JP).

**DOVE, COCKOO, OWL, HUMMINGBIRD** — On Dauphin on 6 Feb, 2 White-winged Doves were flushed (EBM). At Gulf Shores on 21 Jan, the 2nd winter Black-billed Cuckoo for the state was seen well (AN). The Burrowing Owl that wintered on Dauphin was last reported on 28 Feb, (JS & GS). Hummingbirds, probably Ruby-throated, were noted in Magnolia Springs, 1 on 22 Jan and 2 on 24 Jan (DB).

**FLYCATCHERS, MARTIN** — A W. Kingbird remained on Dauphin to 22 Dec (MWM) and a Scissor-tailat Bayou La Batre thru 15 Dec (CM). First-reported Purple Martins were: 25 Jan at Magnolia Springs, 1 (DB); 5 Feb, 15 at Cuba, Sumter Co (RB & SB); 7 Feb at Mobile (DW); 16 Feb, 4 at Indian Springs, Shelby Co (JAM).

**WRENS, CATBIRD, THRUSHES** — A House Wren at Wheeler on 13 Feb (MB, AOSmob) is the first Tennessee Valley record for that month. At the other end of the state, a Carolina Wren was feeding young in the nest at Magnolia Springs on 28 Feb (FC). Catbirds, numerous on the coast, provided a max of 22, 7 banded, on 23 Jan, Gulf Shores to Ft Morgan (TI, JP). Robins were abundant in many places and throughout the period; about 50,000 roosted near Lane Pk, Birmingham in Jan (JP); 5300 were estimated at Gulf Shores on 22 Jan (JP, TI). At Tuscaloosa, 25 E. Bluebirds were counted on 4 Dec (JCT); and between Kewanee, Ms and Tuscaloosa, 26 were counted (RB & SB).

**GNATCATCHER, PIPIT, WAXWING** — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were especially common in south Baldwin Co thru Jan (FC); 1 in Birmingham on 10, 21 & 24 Dec (Kittingers) is the only winter record north of the Fall Line. Water Pipits were scarce to absent nearly throughout the state and the period and were missed on the Birmingham Count! Cedar Waxwings were notably abundant during the colder weather; 2000 on 12 Jan in 1 part of Birmingham (TI) also 2000 on 25 Jan in another part of Birmingham (GH); 90 at Ft Morgan on 23 Jan (TI, JP); 1000 at Spring Hill on 25 Feb (JD, MAG); 600 at Dog R. on 9 Mar (MAM); 600 more in Mobile, same week (REH).

**VIREO, WARBLERS** — A Solitary Vireo on 12 Feb at Crumley's Chapel, Birmingham (TI) indicates good winter survival. Our farthest north winter Orange-crowned Warbler, 1 at Decatur since Dec, is still present in Mar (CRG, photo). A count of 4600 Myrtle Warblers at Gulf Shores on 22 Jan (TI, JP) barely shows how abundant was this species on the coast this winter.

**ICTERIDS** — Each winter more Orioles seem to be attracted to Alabama feeders; a slice of orange seems the best attractant. A few of this season's records: a female Orchard in Crestline, Birmingham on 16 Jan, temp 7<sup>o</sup> (JRB); Baltimores, a female in Birmingham on 7 Dec (RT); a male in Birmingham on 4 Jan (ES); a male & 2 females in Montgomery on 11 Mar (JB, MB, RB). Five Brewer's Blackbirds at Wheeler on 12 Feb (MB, AOSmob) are unusual in late winter in the Tennessee Valley.

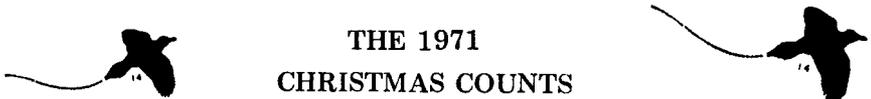
**FINCHES** — A female Black-headed Grosbeak at a Roebuck feeder on 25 Feb (GH) is the 5th inland, 2nd for Birmingham area. Evening Grosbeaks,

scarce before Christmas, have become widespread north of the Fall Line; Hartselle, Jan thru Mar (CRG); Scottsboro, 4-20 daily 15 Jan to Mar (BGW); Birmingham high counts 50 at Crestline on 14 Jan (BJB) and 50-100 in Mt Brook on 21 Feb (NDP); farthest south so far reported this season, Marion on 1 Feb (DA). Purple Finch is THE finch of the winter, especially around Birmingham—highest ever on Christmas Count and 300 daily in Hoover alone 20 Jan—Mar (OP); even near the coast it became common after 15 Jan (FC). The HOUSE FINCH became the first addition to the Alabama list for 1972 when 5, 1 red, were seen on 2 Jan in Birmingham (TI). (In Columbus, Ga, 5 were seen on 5 Mar by JM.) This species was released on Long Island, NY about 10-15 years ago by cage-bird dealers getting rid of evidence of illegal traffic in native songbirds. A Redpoll was noted at a Roebuck feeder in early Jan & 6 Feb during very cold weather (GH); we now have 7 records for the state, all northern half during severe cold. Pine Siskins were common early, dropped off for about a month, then since about 20 Jan have been widespread and locally abundant, especially in the Mt Region. On 4 Dec, 50 were in Bluff Pk, Birmingham (NGB) and 60 at Tuscaloosa on alders (JCT); only 20 were listed on the Birmingham Count; 25 were in Pell City on 7 Jan (HHK, RM); Hoover, Birmingham, an estimated 40 were present from 20 Jan into Mar (OP); about 1 Feb, one Mobile feeder seemed to have all the local birds, 150 (TF); in Brighton, Birmingham on 15 Feb, 163 were counted (TI); birds were at Marion on 11 Feb (DA) and Fairhope on 20 Feb (LT, LA).

**SPARROWS** — Netting operations around Birmingham indicate that weeds play a major role in winter survival of sparrows. For years now large numbers of sparrows and other seed-eaters concentrate on an abandoned dump turned weedy field where seeds are available in enormous quantities. Field counts and number of birds banded—187 Dec. to Feb—indicate that one 11-acre field at Thomas Creek sustained at least 600 sparrows, mostly Whitethroat, Song, Swamp, Field, Savannah, and Fox. The Clay-colored Sparrow is fast providing evidence of annual occurrence; at least 11 records, 9 coastal, & 5 birds banded, since the first known bird was seen in Nov 1959. One in Foley on 18 Jan (FC) is the latest ever. An im. Harris' Sparrow, still at a Mt Olive feeder since 13 Jan (HM, BASmob, photo many) becomes the 4th record—6th bird—for Alabama, 2nd in Mt Region. In Birmingham, the northeasternmost Alabama wintering locality for the Lincoln's Sparrow, several were seen at Thomas Creek throughout the period and 2 were banded, 13 Dec & 21 Feb (TI).

**OBSERVERS** — Alabama Ornithological Society, Lois P Archer, Thomas Z Atkeson, Diane Argyle, J Russell Bailey, Bobby Jean Bailey, Naomi G. Banks Raymond and Sara Bates, Ducie Bernard, Michael L Bierly, John, Margaret and Ralph Bitter, Birmingham Audubon Society, W. J Calvert, P Fairly Chandler, Rev J L Dorn SJ, Tony Friedhoff, Mary A Gaillard, M Wilson Gaillard, Carolyn R Garrett, Lyman E Goodnight, Gaynell Hayward, Richard E Hayward, Thomas A Imhof, Helen H Kittinger, Richard J Kittinger, Ronald D Kittinger, James E Keeler, Curtis L Kingsbery, Mary Agnes March, Roger Maner, Helen Mann, Chuck Mayhew, Mary W Mayhew, Eddie B Mays, Louise McKinstry, Tom and Harriett Meadows, Ann L Miller, James Miller, Mrs John A Morton, Albert and Mini Nonkes, Thomas C Olsen, James V Peavy, Olivia Pittman, Norman D Pless, Jim and Genevieve Spafford, Elaine Saunders, James C Thompson, Lib R Toenes, Rollin Tyrrell, L A Wells, Lee and Wiley Wilkerson, Mozelle and T McRae Williams, Maleta Wenicke, Betty G Worley, Harriett H Wright, D Wyrosdick.

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## THE 1971 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

With the expansion of the AOS area to include Northwest Florida, a record nine counts were conducted. The new area contributed three—Pensacola, Bay County (Panama City), and Marianna—which featured a number of significant observations for winter on the Gulf Coast, including a Barn Swallow at Pensacola, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Sandwich Tern in Bay County, and a Swallow-tailed Kite and two immature Broad-winged Hawks at Marianna. The status of all these species ranges from rare to accidental on the Alabama and Northwest Florida Gulf Coast in winter, their regular wintering grounds being in South or Southwest Florida and below the U. S. border.

The most noteworthy observation in the area was probably the five House Finches carefully observed at Birmingham by its indefatigable compiler, Mr. Tom Imhof. As those familiar with developments in eastern birdlife know, this finch (which is in the same genus as the Purple Finch) was released on Long Island, has spread down the eastern seaboard, reached Atlanta in 1970 and this year found its way to Birmingham.

The addition of Northwest Florida resulted in five counts for the Gulf Coast area and a number of observations of wading birds that rarely winter this far north. The population expansion of the Cattle Egret probably accounted for its first count records at Eufaula Refuge (7), even farther north in the Alabama Coastal Plains and at Mobile (3), a high count (5) for Dauphin I., and a single bird at Pensacola. Pensacola also featured its second winter record for Yellow-crowned Night Herons—an adult and 8 immatures (the other record being on its 1970 Christmas count), and adult birds were seen at Mobile and Dauphin Island. Rounding out the normally only summering wading birds were Green Herons at Mobile, Pensacola and Bay Co. and a White Ibis within the count period in Bay Co. Also in the wading bird category were 59 Black-crowned Night Herons at Eufaula Refuge, the highest known state record for Alabama, and two Common Egrets at Wheeler Refuge where a few winter approximately every other year.

In the endangered raptor category, it is comforting to note three immature Bald Eagles at Wheeler Refuge, Peregrine Falcons at Pensacola and Eufaula Refuge, and an Osprey in Bay Co. In addition, the 11 Brown Pelicans at Dauphin I. was a small increase over last year and 7 were observed in Bay Co.

Probably the outstanding shorebird observation was the Marbled Godwit that has been wintering at Dauphin I. Other interesting birds of the water and shore included 9 Am Oystercatchers, 4 Knots and 3 Eared Grebes at Dauphin I., the Am. Avocets for the eighth out of the last nine Christmas counts at Mobile, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs observed as far north as Wheeler Refuge for a Tennessee Valley record, 3 Whistling Swans within the count period there, and 3 Gull-billed Terns at Bay Co. In abundance of water birds, Dauphin I. reported a record 3,000 Double-crested Cormorants, and there were 78 White Pelicans at Bay Co. High although not record counts for waterfowl were noted for the Redhead in Bay Co. (2,050) for the Blue Goose (2,000—possible a record) and Pintail (almost 3,700) at Wheeler Refuge. The Gulf Coast is, of course, the place to see Common Loons and Horned Grebes in winter as indicated by the number of the former at Pensacola and the latter both there and at Dauphin I.

Leading the non-passerine land bird category were the dark-phased Rough-legged Hawk at the Birmingham Airport, its second count record and the third for a dark-phased bird in Alabama, and a western visitor, the Burrowing Owl at Dauphin I. Energetic nighttime counting resulted in 7 Screech Owls at Birmingham and 6 in Bay Co. A Ringed Turtle Dove, reported as now breeding around Panama City, was recorded for the third time in the last five Christmas count periods on the Bay Co. count, which also reported a high number of 26 Ground Doves. In Birmingham a record 24 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was reported, and 6 more were found at Jacksonville. The Birmingham figure may be a nat-

ional record for the 1971 counts since it equals the all-time record set last year at Charleston, S.C. Birmingham also reported high counts for Flickers (164) and Red-headed Woodpeckers (83), while at Wheeler Refuge the 24 Sparrow Hawks were only one short of last year's Christmas count record for inland Ala.

In the passerine category, one of the leading reports was of another western visitor—two Western Kingbirds at Dauphin I. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was notable in two respects—the first winter record for the Mountain Region being reported within the count period at Birmingham, and a high count of 49 being recorded at Pensacola. For the second consecutive year, and Oregon Junco was painstakingly picked out of a flock of Slate-coloreds on the Birmingham count, which also for the second consecutive year recorded a Lincoln's Sparrow and a high count for Cedar Waxwings (the state record having been set there last year). Passerines that winter in rare to uncommon numbers on the Gulf Coast included the Dickcissel on the Spring Hill College Campus at Mobile (its third record for the last five Christmas counts), three Rough-winged Swallows also at Mobile and a Yellow-breasted Chat within the count period there, a Parula Warbler within the count period at Pensacola, two Black-and-White Warblers at Bay Co., Yellow-throated Warblers at Dauphin I. and Bay Co., a Baltimore Oriole within the count period at the latter, and White-eyed Vireos at Bay County and Marianna. Also of interest at Mobile were the two Henslow's Sparrows and on the Wheeler Refuge count a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds, uncommon and local in winter in the Tennessee Valley, that were feeding with a flock of cowbirds. Marianna recorded record numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes (59) and Chipping Sparrows (681), it being reported, however, that large flocks of the latter are not uncommon in winter in that area. Also of interest at Marianna were the good numbers of Eastern Phoebes (28) and Turkey Vultures (62) and the large concentration of 4,000 Fish Crows.

This seems to have been a good winter for Robins in the AOS area since Christmas count records were set at Wheeler Refuge, Birmingham, Dauphin I., Pensacola and Bay Co. The House Wren also seems to have done well with one being observed as far north as Wheeler Refuge where it is rare in winter and good number being recorded in Mobile (12) and Bay Co. (16). Also doing well were the Myrtle Warbler with high counts at Dauphin I. (A Gulf Coast record), Mobile and Bay Co., and the White-throated Sparrow with record counts at Birmingham and Wheeler Refuge. The winter of 1971-72 might be considered only a moderate "finch" year. Evening Grosbeaks were observed on two counts—Birmingham and Jacksonville, where the 122 was a count record; but there were large numbers of Purple Finches as evidenced by the record 454 at Birmingham. On the other hand, observed in comparatively low numbers in count areas were the Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Eastern Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow, the reduction in numbers reported for the last two undoubtedly being due to destruction of available habitat around urban areas where most of the counts are conducted.

On the 1971 counts, 189 species were recorded (including the Rock Dove initially reported last year) and 6 additional species were seen within the count period. Four of the region's ornithological areas were sampled—Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (WWR) in the Tennessee Valley; Birmingham (Bhm) and Jacksonville (Jvl) in the Mountain Region; Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (EWR) in the Coastal Plain; and five counts on the Gulf Coast, Mobile (Mob), Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (DI), Pensacola (Pen) Marianna (Mar) and Bay Co. (BC). For other counts in Florida and nearby counts in the adjacent states of Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee that would be of interest to AOS observers, see Vol. 26, No. 2 of American Birds (now incorporating Audubon Field Notes). Birds seen on the AOS counts were as follows, those indicated by the symbol \* being reported during the count period (December 18 through January 2) but not on the count date:

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EVR	Moh	DI	Pen	Mar	BC
<u>Loons</u>									
Common Loon	-	2	-	-	12	24	247	-	67
<u>Grebes</u>									
Horned Grebe	-	1	-	-	34	250	345	5	134
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	3	49	40	1	15	65	23	7	66
<u>Pelicans and Allies</u>									
White Pelican	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	78
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	7
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	4	3,000	99	-	171
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
<u>Wading Birds</u>									
Great Blue Heron	33	8	1	150	20	26	50	1	26
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	11	2	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	7	3	5	1	-
Common Egret	2	-	-	33	65	8	-	7	4
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	60	9	-	-	-
Louisiana Heron	-	-	-	-	29	14	*	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	-	-
Am. Bittern	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	*
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u>									
Whistling Swan		*(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	31,000	-	-	8	-	-	*	-	-
Snow Goose	100	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Goose	2,000	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	7,094	4	6	34	28	5	-	-	23
Black Duck	2,031	-	7	-	2	-	1	-	15
Mottled Duck	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	470	-	1	-	71	6	-	-	4
Pintail	3,693	-	-	5	35	-	-	-	2
Green-winged Teal	280	-	-	5	150	5	-	-	10
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8
Am. Widgeon	1,639	6	22	450	100	8	-	-	1
Shoveler	79	-	-	100	300	6	-	-	6
Wood Duck	6	1	-	15	1	8	1	2	2,050
Redhead	-	-	-	10	1	10	1	-	5
Ring-necked Duck	36	167	-	200	4	2	-	-	3
Canvasback	*	47	-	6	49	3	-	-	332
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	104
Lesser Scaup	19	17	-	23	60	30	62	3	13
Common Goldeneye	1	2	-	-	6	24	-	-	161
Bufflehead	2	-	-	31	1	3	108	-	10
Ruddy Duck	2	12	-	20	42	-	-	-	6
Hooded Merganser	111	-	-	1	2	5	3	7	120
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	6	142	180	2	1
<u>Hawks</u>									
Turkey Vulture	-	-	7	1	*	4	1	62	1
Black Vulture	-	-	7	-	-	5	-	46	6
Swallow-tailed Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	3	-	-	*	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	44	12	7	10	8	6	4	10	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	16	1	2	-	2	*	4	7
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Hawk	13	-	4	16	3	7	8	3	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Pigeon Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Sparrow Hawk	24	3	5	3	13	27	21	13	15
<u>Quail and Allies</u>									
Bob-white	68	93	65	1	38	44	11	50	11
<u>Rails and Allies</u>									
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	12	3	5	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sora	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1
Common Gallinule	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	3
Am. Coot	100	117	151	450	8,000	21	7	300	750
<u>Shorebirds</u>									
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	2	13	3	-	3
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	3	28	*	-	-
Killdeer	374	106	28	51	73	83	32	11	22
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	20	62	25	-	34
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	23

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EVR	Moh	DI	Pen	Mar	BC
<u>Shorebirds (cont.)</u>									
Am. Woodcock	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Common Snipe	57	14	-	-	-	12	2	4	2
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Greater Yellowlegs	11	-	-	-	-	1	52	14	14
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Knot	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	2
Least Sandpiper	*	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	20	5	-	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	10	30	10	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	30	11	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	50	31	-	-
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	*	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Am. Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	2	33	95	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142
<u>Gulls and Terns</u>									
Herring Gull	36	-	-	10	25	103	352	-	372
Ring-billed Gull	67	-	-	35	187	235	300	-	345
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	2	133	246	-	161
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	4	4	319	-	268
Gull-billed Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	6	26	92	51
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	3	105	18	8
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	80
<u>Pigeons and Doves</u>									
Rock Dove	34	342	9	-	1,000	-	411	-	90
Mourning Dove	786	818	28	44	56	43	113	104	136
Ringed Turtle Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ground Dove	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	26
<u>Owls</u>									
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
Screech Owl	1	7	1	-	2	-	1	*	6
Great Horned Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Burrowing Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Barred Owl	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
<u>Kingfishers</u>									
Belted Kingfisher	3	26	7	3	9	25	22	17	30
<u>Woodpeckers</u>									
Yellow-shafted Flicker	52	164	40	7	48	29	61	32	49
Pileated Woodpecker	16	30	4	-	1	1	1	6	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	42	80	10	11	16	13	24	21	28
Red-headed Woodpecker	9	83	14	-	1	2	1	2	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	19	34	33	7	5	11	14	13	16
Hairy Woodpecker	6	8	-	-	3	2	-	-	1
Downy Woodpecker	26	68	14	2	2	10	1	1	3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	-	24	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Flycatchers</u>									
Western Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Phoebe	4	17	2	14	4	10	14	28	8
<u>Larks</u>									
Horned Lark	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Swallows</u>									
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	30	93	97	-	6
Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<u>Jays and Crows</u>									
Blue Jay	187	400	95	37	69	97	97	53	160
Common Crow	30,000	300	170	14	75	52	1	403	21
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	3	87	413	4,000	82
<u>Titmice</u>									
Carolina Chickadee	101	267	18	17	16	6	34	35	16
Tufted Titmouse	18	229	20	2	18	4	21	18	31
<u>Nuthatches</u>									
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	118	-	8	8	40	5	7	18
<u>Creepers</u>									
Brown Creeper	6	6	1	-	1	3	-	-	-
<u>Wrens</u>									
House Wren	1	1	-	-	12	3	2	8	16
Winter Wren	8	16	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Bewick's Wren	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	55	175	15	16	13	26	22	26	37
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-					

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EWR	Mob	DI	Pen	Mar	BC
<b>Thrashers</b>									
Mockingbird	69	217	55	9	43	117	116	50	107
Catbird	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	2	14
Brown Thrasher	37	70	13	6	18	15	19	19	17
<b>Thrushes</b>									
Am. Robin	1,922	5,019	32	10	1,535	8,250	4,808	409	2,700
Hermit Thrush	15	11	2	10	2	2	2	13	6
Eastern Bluebird	9	48	39	3	3	27	19	76	23
<b>Gnatcatchers and Kinglets</b>									
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	2	-	49	-	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	49	168	16	6	11	2	4	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	35	141	7	15	26	30	77	45	33
<b>Pipits</b>									
Water Pipit	25	*	-	120	1	1	-	1	2
<b>Waxwings</b>									
Cedar Waxwing	273	1,772	344	55	287	80	96	146	4
<b>Shrikes</b>									
Loggerhead Shrike	26	18	8	7	6	12	17	59	5
<b>Starlings</b>									
Common Starling	180,353	2,300	963	1	500	178	61	12	121
<b>Vireos</b>									
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Solitary Vireo	-	1	-	-	4	1	4	4	1
<b>Wood Warblers</b>									
Black-and-White Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	5	15	6	1	-
Parula Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	36	47	-	60	1,757	2,170	779	136	1,400
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Pine Warbler	-	60	1	2	22	7	80	22	46
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	8
Common Yellowthroat	-	3	-	2	1	2	3	1	13
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Weaver Finches</b>									
House Sparrow	389	889	55	2	350	150	106	49	286
<b>Blackbirds</b>									
Eastern Meadowlark	253	241	209	76	17	45	66	133	55
Red-winged Blackbird	27,400	945	7,690	5,235	2,784	1,980	136	955	112
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	58	444	72	-	15	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	2	-	-	-	12	25	-	-	-
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	31,617	4,263	16,225	-	295	595	64	1	2,200
Brown-headed Cowbird	5,337	830	1,007	-	60	48	2	-	37
<b>Finches and Sparrows</b>									
Cardinal	235	476	62	6	68	44	44	194	162
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	59	122	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	73	454	8	20	13	12	-	7	2
House Finch	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	20	-	-	3	1	3	-	-
Am. Goldfinch	136	378	222	27	75	126	94	95	63
Rufous-sided Towhee	149	274	26	24	25	28	54	40	104
Savannah Sparrow	7	47	2	31	93	130	30	2	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	4
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	11	-	20	40	2	6	96	5
Bachman's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Slate-colored Junco	113	819	33	-	5	2	-	47	2
Oregon Junco (mearns race)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	7	50	-	180	3	14	27	681	27
Field Sparrow	149	299	111	131	9	2	18	40	14
White-crowned Sparrow	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	1,184	1,407	51	43	215	62	283	170	144
Fox Sparrow	31	63	1	-	2	1	-	-	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	155	177	24	14	33	34	59	29	44
Song Sparrow	86	359	19	46	6	9	17	11	21
<b>Total Individuals (b)</b>	<b>363,746</b>	<b>26,324</b>	<b>28,265</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>19,480</b>	<b>19,714</b>	<b>11,263</b>	<b>8,916</b>	<b>15,360</b>
<b>Total Species on count</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Total Species within count period</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>128</b>

Notes:

(a) Up to three Whistling Swans at Wheeler Refuge in month of December.  
 (b) Total individuals include the following, unidentified as to species: Wheeler Refuge--32,534 ducks reported from aerial survey, and one buteo hawk; Birmingham--one owl; Marianna--5 scaup, and 20 crows; and Bay County--912 scaup, 2 swallows, and 35 crows.

For full descriptions of the count areas, see *American Birds* or, for the Alabama counts, Volumes 17 and 18, No. 1 of *Alabama Birdlife*. Details reported for the counts (all taken in circles of 15-mile diameter except where indicated) and participants (names of party leaders underscored where reported) were as follows:

**Wheeler Wildlife Refuge:** Dec. 18; 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM (plus additional night hours). Clear; 18° to 40°; wind NW, 5-15 mph, gusty, cold front passed through. 40 observers in 6-8 parties; 68 party-hours (38 on foot, 27 by car, 1 by airplane, 2 by boat); 450 party-miles (16 on foot, 354 by car, 70 by airplane, 10 by boat). Habitat mainly sloughs managed for waterfowl, Tenn. River, fields and pastures. Substantiating field marks reported for Lesser Yellowlegs (including two-noted calls--MW,HHW), House Wren (in honeysuckle and brush at 30' in bright sun--MLB,BGM), Brewer's Blackbirds (RRR,FBT,HJ) and Whistling Swans. Participants: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. (refuge manager), J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Richard Bays, Michael L. Bierly (compiler), J. Homer Blackwood, Jack M. Caruso, Steve Caruso, Lynn P. Childers, Helen and Lloyd W. Clayton, John A. Dougherty, W. Cecil Davis, Carolyn Garrett, Henry H. Grammer, John F. Harsh, Roger O. Harshaw, Harold Johnson, Helen H. Kittinger, Ronald D. Kittinger, John R. Lester, Renee and Robin McDonald, Bobby G. Meadows, Ann L. Miller, Charles and Mike Owsley, John Padgett, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., F. Bob Truett, Pat and Paul van Rossen, Thomas P. Sandlin, Emmett N. Waldrep, George Williams, Jr., Morris Williams, Harriett H. Wright, and Joe Wright.

**Birmingham:** Jan. 2; 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM (plus additional night hours). Cloudy after rain, mostly before dawn, and cooling; 45° to 58°; wind NW, variable avg. 5.5 mph; 2nd warmest Dec. on record. 47 observers in 13 parties; 115 party-hours (98 on foot, 17 by car); 407 party-miles (55 on foot, 352 by car). Habitat mainly oak-pine woods, lakes, rivers and ponds, and residential. Substantiating field marks reported for Rough-legged Hawk (including hovering flight--GBC,0CC), Solitary Vireo (EGR), House Finch (TAI), Oregon Junco (TAI,JMI), Lincoln's Sparrow (TAI,JMI) and others. Participants: Gussie Arnett, J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Naomi G. Banks, Raymond D. Bates, Robert E. Burks, Jr., G. Bradley Carlisle, Gregory C. Carlisle, Frederick T. Carney, Dale J. Carruthers, Walter F. Coxe, Bruce Crider, John F. Harsh, Carole Hocutt, Dan C. Holliman, Ruth R. Horsley, Donald J. and Billie Sue Hulsey, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Greg Jackson, Helen H. Kittinger, Ronald D. Kittinger, Christine Leake, Donnie Lee, John R. Lester, Ronald W. and Becky Lewis, Wilma J. Lindberg, Roger Maner, Ann L. Miller, James V. Peavy, Jr., Lee N. Peavy, Morton H. Perry, Olivia Pitman, Millard F. Prather, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., James W. Shepherd, Idalene F. Sneed, Helen B. and Percy L. Thigpen, Virginia R. Thrasher, F. Bob Truett, Marietta Truett, Arthur and Becky Tyson, and Harriett H. Wright.

**Jacksonville:** Dec. 23; 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Clear; 39° to 50°; wind ENE, 14 mph. 6 observers in 3 parties; 21 party-hours (17 on foot, 5 by car); 113 party-miles (14 on foot, 99 by car). Habitat 75% woodland edges. Participants: Richard E. Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jr., Jerry A. Clonts, John Hall, Lin Jennings, and C. William Summerour.

**Eufula Wildlife Refuge:** Jan. 8. Clear; 35° to 45°; wind NE, 5 mph. 12 observers in 3 parties; 21 party-hours; 26 party-miles (3 on foot, 23 by car). Habitat includes cropland, woods, marsh or swampland, and Chattahoochee River; count conducted on refuge area. Participants: Julian E. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary T. Dusi, Ted Ellis, Florence Lynn, William Matheny, Ron McKittrick, Harriett and Tom Meadows, Fred Milton, Frank Peterson, Robert Terhune, and Barry Witte.

**Mobile:** Dec. 31; 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Cloudy AM, clear PM; 65° to 71°; wind N to NE, 8-18 mph. 13 observers in 7 parties; 52 party-hours (23 on foot, 29 by car); 306 party-miles (19 on foot, 287 by car). Habitat includes Mobile Bay, rivers and ponds, marshlands and beaches, upland mixed woods, fields and pastures, and residential. Substantiating field marks reported for Yellow-crowned Night Heron (REH,JLD,MWG et al) and Dickcissel (JLD,LD,WD). Participants: Fred E. Bowers, Clara L. Caffey, Leo and William Denton, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, M. Wilson Gaillard, Richard E. Hayward, Jr. (compiler), Elin Kincaid, Louise N. McKinstry, Margaret E. Miller, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, and William Tonsmeire.

**Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens:** Dec. 18; 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Clear; 36° to 65°; wind N, 10-20 mph. 17 observers in 8 parties; 70 party-hours (23 on foot, 47 by car); 532 party-miles (32 on foot, 500 by car). Habitat includes mixed and pine woods salt and brackish water, mudflats, and marshes. Substantiating field marks reported for Yellow-crowned Night Herons (MWG,REH,MFW). Participants: Fred E. Bowers, Leo and William Denton, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, M. Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Richard E. Hayward, Jr., Elin Kincaid, Charles, James and Mary Wayhews, Max P. McGill, Louise N. McKinstry, Margaret E. Miller, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Elizabeth R. Toenes, and William Tonsmeire.

**Pensacola:** Dec. 18; 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Clear; 48° to 63°; wind SW to N, 15-24 mph. 27 observers in 8 parties; 75 party-hours (34 on foot, 41 by car); 359 party-miles (28 on foot, 331 by car). Habitat includes Pensacola Bay and shoreline, deciduous and pine woods, pastures and edges, city and suburbs, marshes, and beach. Substantiating field marks reported for Yellow-crowned Night Herons (AFW,FB), Peregrine Falcon (observed perched, in flight and while making a stoop--LEH,FPB,EB,AK) and Barn Swallow (DHT,SG,AS), all under good light conditions. Participants: Katharine T. Beck, Cheryl Belitsky, Elaine Bidstrup, Frank Bray, Bob and Lucy Duncan, Amy, Ted and Vance Furnans, Sherlie Gade, Agnes H. and Harold E. Gaither, Goldwyn Gary, Lyman E. Goodnight, Florence P. and Leroy E. Healy, Charles J. Kahn, Albert Keyser, Curtis L. Kingsbery (compiler), Marjorie McWair, Cosette Poliso, Paul Ramirez, Charles W. Saunders, Alan Sheppard, David H. Turpin, Fred Wernicke, and A. F. Wicke, Jr.

**Marianna:** Dec. 18; 6:00 AM to 8:30 PM. Cloudy AM, clear PM; 48° to 50° (30° drop in temp. over previous 12 hrs); wind NE, 15 mph; very dry. 13 observers in 6 parties (plus 1 at feeder); 35 party-hours (8 on foot, 23 by car, 4 by boat); 159 party-miles (9 on foot, 146 by car, 4 by boat). Habitat includes pine woods, scrub oaks, fields and pastures, lakes, and cypress swamps. Substantiating field marks reported for Swallow-tailed Kite (in swamp near Chipola River—GT,DT) and immature Broad-winged Hawks (directly above, 500-600' soaring over mill pond—SJS,RA,JIG). Participants: Richmond Anderson, Lillian Cook, Jeff I. Gray, Marion W. Gray (compiler), Mary Gray, Elizabeth and William A. Hearn, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Donald and Frances Scott, Stephen J. Stedman, and David and Gladys Todd.

**Bay County:** Dec. 31; 5:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Rainy AM, clear PM; 66° to 74°; wind W, 0-5 mph; season unusually warm. 23 observers in 10 parties; 75 party-hours (26 on foot, 40 by car, 9 by boat); 328 party-miles (22 on foot, 246 by car, 60 by boat). Habitat mainly open water, pine woods, swamps and marshes, and towns. Substantiating field marks reported for Sandwich Tern (including yellow tip on black bill—SJS,RA) and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (GT,EC). Participants: Richmond Anderson, Edna Collins, Jim Dodds, Betty Friedman, Marion W. and Mary Gray, Roy Hallman, Fred Jones, Lib Knight, Vicki Milam, Mary Ann and Terri Olson, Audrey Parker, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Louis Robertson, Donald Scott (compiler), Frances Scott, Stephen J. Stedman, David and Gladys Todd, and Anna and Tom Watson.

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## RUFF AND HOUSE WREN RECORDS

Julian L. Dusi

On 10 Aug 1971, an unusual-appearing shorebird was seen on the mudflats of Houston Bottoms, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. The bird was observed carefully for several minutes at about 100 feet and then two color photographs were taken using a 600 mm telephoto lens. The bird could not be identified as anything but a Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*. Later, when R. T. Peterson was in Columbus, Georgia, 30 Sept, he and Earle Greene, of 600 Club fame, confirmed the identification from the color transparencies. (Ed. note: A Ruff, present in Atlanta for about 2 weeks, disappeared on 31 Jul during heavy rains.)

This report of three nesting attempts of a House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon* is from Steve H. Adams, a zoology graduate student. The wrens nested under the cover of the L.P. gas tank by his mobile home in Auburn. Nesting started in late May with eggs noted the first week end in June. None had hatched by 27 June. Some eggs were removed, but 3 were left in the nest. The second nesting attempt started by 4 Jul and by 10 Jul, 10 eggs were present. None had hatched by 31 Jul. All eggs but 1 were removed. The third nesting started in early Aug and 5 eggs were added to the nest. None hatched by the second week in Sept when the nest was removed and the tank filled with gas.

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