

SPECIES LIST FOR STATE MEETING AT GULF SHORES, ALABAMA

April 13,14,15, 1973

Feeling it best to repeat these recordings, Harold, along with Richard Bays, set about finding a second owl on January 11 at 9:30 am with the temperature standing at twenty-six degrees. They promptly found one, but he proved a bit less torpid than the first. He also showed a body temperature of 100.4 degrees, but a respiration rate of twenty breaths per minute and a heart rate of only forty-eight beats per minute. Checking further, they promptly found a second owl and checked it at a body temperature of 101.0 degrees, a respiration rate of twenty-four breaths per minute, and a heart rate of sixty beats per minute.

Thoroughly confused, we duly recorded all this data and mailed it to Dr. Austin. His reply indicated that the owls must be exhibiting a merely sound daytime sleep, since, had this been true torpidity, the body temperature should have approximated the outside temperature. So much for the hope that we had discovered another example of bird hibernation, but we enjoyed our experience whole-heartedly with those soundly sleeping Screech Owls and feel that we learned a bit.

Harold now has his own explanation. During the course of the most recent nest box check, a semi-sleeping owl was fished from a box, shaken awake, and released. It promptly flew directly into the hole of a nearby box, struck the backboard with a resounding thump and dropped, sleeping, to the bottom. "Maybe," Harold says, "our sleeping owls are merely those that have knocked themselves 'coo-coo' by flying into nest boxes without first letting their flaps down."

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 1643, Decatur 35601

One hundred eighty-one (181) species of birds were seen at the AOS Spring Meeting at Gulf Shores April 13,14,15, 1973 (area in Baldwin County South of County Road 12). Considering the early date and beautiful weather, we were generally pleased with the variety, if not abundance, of bird life. Many people were happy with the number of Least Bitterns and both species of Gallinules that were seen. All are invited back any time to beautiful Baldwin County. A complete species list follows with notations by those of special interest.

Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron (1 adult, Louise McKinstrey), Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Glossy Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite (1, Harriett Wright), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey (3), Merlin (1, Fairly Chandler, Mini Nonkas), American Kestrel, Bobwhite, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Coot.

American Oystercatcher (1, has become regular at Alabama Point), Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Snowy Plover (2), Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Whimbrel, Upland Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper (7-11), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet (2, showed a sharp increase in the area; 50 seen a few days earlier by Chandler and Peter Quinn), Black-necked Stilt (6, showed a sharp increase in the area), Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Caspian Tern.

Rock Dove, White-winged Dove (3, at Fort Morgan), Mourning Dove, Ground Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren (1, Henry Stevenson), Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin.

Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo (1, banded by Tom Imhof and photographed), Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager.

Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Evening Grosbeak (1, at feeder on Boggy Branch; seen again April 16 by Chandler and Emmie Lou Grimley), American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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