

After reviewing the literature and actively searching for colonies, I have come to the conclusion that the limiting factor controlling further expansion of the breeding range of the northern Barn Swallow in lower Alabama is the development of suitable nesting sites in the form of concrete bridges over water adjacent to large open areas and culverts next to lakes or large pastures.

I thank Gail Bader for helping me gather data.

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GREAT WHITE HERON SIGHTED AT MARION, ALABAMA

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A Great White Heron, Ardea herodias occidentalis, white phase of the Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias, was observed at Lakeland Farms, Marion, Alabama, on September 8, 1977. The bird was viewed for 30 minutes with a 20-power balscope at about 100 yards distance. The large yellowish-colored bill and pale yellowish legs were noted. In the same scope view was a Great Blue Heron and on the same lake was a Great Egret for comparison. The size of this heron, which stood in water near the Great Blue Heron, made a significant comparison of the larger size of the Great White Heron. Hurricane Babe passed through the Florida Keys striking the west coast of Louisiana on the night of September 4, 1977. The storm then moved inland in a northeasterly course passing through the Marion area near midnight of September 6. It is possible that this heron was picked up by Hurricane Babe and then carried by the resulting storm to this "alien land." Other observers in the party were Susan Holt, Helen Kittinger and Ann Miller.

TELEVISION TOWER CASUALTIES AT HUNTSVILLE

FALL, 1976

C. Dwight Cooley

In the fall of 1976, regular collections were made and daily records kept of bird casualties at WHNT television tower in Huntsville, Alabama. The tower is located east of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, atop Monte Sano Mountain and is of the needle-type construction. WHNT tower, supported by 12 cables, is 1000 ft. tall and reaches an altitude of approximately 2600 ft. above sea level.

Collections were begun on September 30 and terminated October 31. During this period of 32 consecutive days of collection, 42 individuals of 18 species were recorded. Table 1 depicts the species list, total number of birds and the collection dates. Since one cannot determine whether a bird fell before or after midnight, the morning collection dates are used.

The Magnolia Warbler spanned the longest period, being found from September 30 to October 17, with 7 individuals collected. The Bay-breasted Warbler was next, occurring from October 1 to October 14, with 9 individuals, 5 of these on October 1, representing the largest number of specimens for any one species.

The heaviest kill occurred on the night of September 30-October 1 with the passing of a rainy cold front and northerly winds. On that night, 15 individuals of 9 species were recorded. The next heaviest kill occurred on the night of October 13-14 with 9 individuals of 4 species being recorded. It is interesting to note that the night of October 13-14 was clear, but a dense fog covered the Tennessee Valley, possibly contributing to the kill.

Warblers constituted the bulk of casualties with 27 individuals of 8 species. These figures represent 64% of the total individuals and 44% of the species. These figures are to be expected since warblers are almost exclusively nocturnal migrants and, therefore, highly susceptible to structures such as communications towers and ceilometers.

It should be noted that no extreme dates were recorded possibly because collections were started well into migration and terminated before migration ended. The importance of tower casualties should not be underestimated. Much useful scientific data as well as museum specimens can be obtained from these collections.

I wish to express gratitude to several individuals. Many thanks go to the staff and management of WHNT-TV, especially Mr. Tom Purser, station manager, and Mr. Jerome Hall, station engineer. A special note of thanks to Mr. Michael Lee Bierly of Nashville, Tennessee, who prompted these collections and examined specimens.

TABLE 1: Species list, total numbers and collection dates. Numbers in parentheses indicate total on given date.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	<u>DATE COLLECTED</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Oct. 1
Gray Catbird	5	Oct. 4(2), 5(2), 17
Wood Thrush	1	Oct. 17
Swainson's Thrush	1	Sept. 30
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Oct. 1
Red-eyed Vireo	2	Oct. 14(2)
Tennessee Warbler	3	Oct. 1(2), 7
Magnolia Warbler	7	Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 14(2), 17
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	1	Oct. 21
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	Oct. 4(2)
Bay-breasted Warbler	9	Oct. 1(5), 7, 11, 14(2)
Kentucky Warbler	1	Oct. 14
Common Yellowthroat	1	Oct. 1
American Redstart	1	Oct. 1
Bobolink	1	Oct. 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	Oct. 1(2), 7
White-crowned Sparrow	1	Oct. 26
White-throated Sparrow	1	Oct. 21
TOTAL	<u>42</u>	

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