

## HOUSE FINCH BREEDING IN AUBURN, ALABAMA

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary D. Dusi

House Finches, Carpodacus mexicanus, have been present on our feeders in Auburn in the winters of 1980 and 1981. One pair did not leave in 1981 but remained in Auburn, coming to our sunflower seed feeders throughout the spring and the summer.

At mid-summer, two fledged young appeared at the feeders with the adults and begged for food. They have subsequently appeared at the feeders so that we have seen the adults and young together a number of times.

We were not able to locate the nest but feel that the young appearing with the adults is adequate to confirm a breeding record.

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## AUBURN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary D. Dusi

The Auburn Christmas Bird Count, 1981, was held on December 26, using the Auburn Post Office as the center of the area.

Weather was overcast with the clouds no more than 1,000 m most of the time. Temperature was about 44° F and wind was northerly 5-10 km/h.

One party of five walked about 2 km and drove 68 km. The count lasted 9 h, starting at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. The party was composed of: Julian L. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary D. Dusi, Gert Hoganboom, Lorne Malo, and Katrice Seemann.

Sixty species (6.7/hr) and 1145 individuals (127.2/hr) were counted, with no rare sightings.

Great Blue Heron-12, Mallard-1, Wood Duck-12, Lesser Scaup-1, Unidentified ducks-30, Turkey Vulture-20, Black Vulture-150, Red-tailed Hawk-2, Marsh Hawk-2, American Kestrel-2, Bobwhite-2, Killdeer-6, American Woodcock-1, Common Snipe-4, Rock Dove-14, Mourning Dove-42, Screech Owl-1, Belted Kingfisher-6, Common Flicker-12, Pileated Woodpecker-8, Red-bellied Woodpecker-7, Red-headed Woodpecker-8, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-5, Downy Woodpecker-5, Eastern Phoebe-5, Blue Jay-24, Common Crow-26, Carolina Chickadee-8, Tufted Titmouse-4, Brown-headed Nuthatch-12, Brown Creeper-2, Carolina Wren-8, Mockingbird-5, Brown Thrasher-1, American Robin-104, Eastern Bluebird-5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet-3, Cedar Waxwing-18, Loggerhead Shrike-2, Starling-28, Yellow-rumped Warbler-33, Pine Warbler-6, Common Yellowthroat-3, House Sparrow-8, Eastern Meadowlark-2, Redwinged Blackbird-322, Common Grackle-15, Brown-headed Cowbird-15, Cardinal-11, Purple Finch-4, House Finch-1, American Goldfinch-8, Rufous-sided Towhee-10, Savannah Sparrow-6, Dark-eyed Junco-4, Chipping Sparrow-3, Field Sparrow-28, White-throated Sparrow-26, Fox Sparrow-1, Swamp Sparrow-11, and Song Sparrow-21.

The paucity of northern species which usually winter in the area as common species was very noteworthy.

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