

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

spots on both wings and several places on her back. There were no injuries on the ventral surface of the body nor were there any bruises to indicate some type of impact trauma.

It is unlikely, given the nature of the wounds, and the fact that the bluebird had been seen fighting with the sparrows in the box, that the injuries occurred elsewhere and the bird made it back to the box where it was found dying. Apparently the female refused to give up her claim to the box and the sparrows pecked her to death. *Bill Summerour, Dept. of Biology, Jacksonville State Univ., Jacksonville, AL.*

Nighthawks linger into mid-December in Anniston. For at least the last two years (1987-88) Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*), have remained in Anniston until mid-December feeding on insects attracted to lights over the First National Bank building in downtown Anniston. This past winter, about a half dozen birds were seen as late as 14 December. The temperature dropped well below freezing on several occasions and as low as 23 degrees F on 5 December. The birds may be holding over late in other localities as well since a nighthawk was recorded by Buzz Peavy on one of the Birmingham Christmas Bird Counts. *Bill Summerour, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL.*

White Pelican seen on Guntersville Lake. On 16 January 1988, Ben Brown of Anniston observed a lone White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) on Lake Guntersville near the Jackson/Ogletree Park complex. Ben reports that the bird was swimming among a mixed raft of Redheads (*Aythya americana*), Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*) and Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). According to Linda Reynolds, Guntersville State Park Naturalist, another White Pelican, possibly the same one, was seen by a Michigan couple on 29 January 1988 near the park campgrounds. Imhof lists the White Pelican in *Alabama Birdlife* (1976) as uncommon inland in Alabama. *Ben Brown, 1009 Old Mill Road, Anniston, AL.*

Lark Sparrows observed on breeding bird survey. In Alabama the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) has bred in past years in the western part of the Tennessee Valley and Upper Coastal Plain. The first records during the breeding season in about a decade, however, were recorded in 1986-87 on the North Sumter Breeding Bird Survey Route in Sumter County where one bird was found on 14 June 1986 by Bob & Elberta Reid, and a pair on 21 June 1987 by Bob Reid and Richard Holland. Interestingly, both of these observations (which were visual and not merely heard) were at the same stop on the survey route, just a

few miles south of Gainesville in the chalk country overlooking the Tombigbee River Valley in Sumter County.

This sparrow is reasonably abundant in western open country, and these records in Alabama mark the eastern limit of its range in the southeast. Observers might be on the lookout in the prairie soil regions of our area for this western visitor with its pleasant song of buzzes and trills. *Bob Reid, 2616 Mountain Brook Pky., Birmingham, AL.*

Cliff Swallows expanding range in Alabama. On 18 April 1987 Bob Reid, Fred Alsop, and Jerome (Buddy) Cooper, discovered a "sizeable" colony of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), under an I-20 overpass over a railroad near the river at Riverside in St. Clair County. Thirty-five nests were counted on 7 May 1988. Bob feels that the colony is probably in its second or third year of occupancy. A colony on the Upper Coosa at Weiss Lake was established in the mid-70's (see map, Figure 3). The birds reached Mobile in '82, and the first nest in coastal Mississippi was noted in '86. Other colonies on the edge of the Piedmont in North Carolina and South Carolina were discovered in '85 and '86. *Bob Reid, 2616 Mountain Brook Pkwy., Birmingham, AL.*

