

IN MEMORIAM
MARK BROWN
1959 - 1991



On 13 January 1991, A.O.S. lost one of its most talented members. Dennis Mark Brown died at the young age of 31, but his enthusiastic interest in birds will long be remembered by all of us whose lives he touched.

Mark's was born 30 October 1959 in Decatur, Alabama, and it was

there that he developed his fascination for birds during his early childhood. When he was 14 years old, he began participating in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Counts.

During his high school and college years, Mark contributed significantly to birding data in Alabama, and his attention to detail and accuracy was impeccable. This was evident in every challenge he undertook. On 24 April, 1983, he and his friend, Dwight Cooley, produced 202 species of birds on a Big Day on the Coast of Alabama. This record has never been broken.

After he graduated from Auburn University, Mark lived in Houston, Texas, for several years. His records in that intensely birded state were numerous, and he established a new National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count area at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

Even as his health failed, Mark used his remaining energy in a positive way. He corresponded with many public officials and organizations that are working toward a safer environment for all wildlife, including birds. Hopefully, some of the ideas and suggestions he offered will be used in their plans for the future.

To Mark's family and friends, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. His bright spirit enriched the lives of many people, and his contributions will live on.

Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue has used up all of our backlog of articles. As a result, this will be the only issue of *Alabama Birdlife* published in 1991, rather than our customary two. This will also be my last issue as editor. It's hard to believe that four years has passed so quickly!

John Porter, our new president, will be doubling for a while as president and editor. This will be a big undertaking, so I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to support John and the AOS by sending in your articles for publication in *Alabama Birdlife*. As you know, it is the contributions of the membership that determine the quality and success of our journal. Articles should be mailed to: *Dr. John Porter, 803 Queen City Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.*

It has been a pleasure serving as editor and I wish all of you the very best birding in the years ahead. Don't forget to take time to write up your observations and send them to John so that the rest of us can share in your discoveries.

Bill Summerour, Biology Dept., Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL 36265.