

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Volume 42 No. 1 1995



# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Published by the Alabama Ornithological Society  
to Record and Further the Study of Birds in Alabama  
and Northwest Florida

Vol. 42

No. 1

1995

*Editor:* Daniel J. Drennen, Eufaula NWR,  
Rt. 2 Box 97-B, Eufaula, AL 36027

## ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 17 May 1952

### OFFICERS

*President:* Gerald Moske, 702 Royce Circle,  
Huntsville, AL 35803

*Immediate Past President:* Dr. John F. Porter, P.O. Box 848,  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

*Secretary:* Dee Patterson, 1920 Monticello Road,  
Florence, AL 35630

*Treasurer:* Sue Moske, 702 Royce Circle,  
Huntsville, AL 35803

*Newsletter Editor:* Mike Queen, Rt. 2 Box 148-A,  
Falkville, AL 35622

*Seasons Editor:* Dr. Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35244

### A.O.S. MEMBERSHIPS

*Alabama Birdlife* is a publication of the Alabama Ornithological Society. Membership in the society includes a subscription to *Alabama Birdlife*.

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Active           | \$10.00  |
| Student          | \$5.00   |
| Family           | \$15.00  |
| Sustaining       | \$20.00  |
| Life, individual | \$200.00 |
| Life, family     | \$300.00 |

Dues are payable on 1 January of each year and should be mailed to the treasurer.

Typeset by Monica Moats

Printing by Williams Printing and Office Supply, Inc.

Cover: Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) colony pirated by Cattle Egrets  
(*Bubulcus ibis*), June 1995, Fort Deposit, Lowndes County.  
J.L. Dusi photographer  
See accompanying article on page 3.

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## VERMILION FLYCATCHER (PYROCEPHALUS RUBINUS) IN BIRMINGHAM

Billy F. Gilliland and Mary Roll

The Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus) breeds across the Southwestern U.S. from Southern California to Central Texas and south to Central and South America. In the U.S. it winters from Southern California across the southwestern states, the Gulf Coast east to southcentral Florida (American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. 6th ed. Washington D.C., Am. 2nd Ornithol. Union).

At 1530 on 27 December 1993, in Block 44 of the Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, while conducting the Birmingham Christmas Bird Count, Mary Roll spotted and identified a male Vermilion Flycatcher. Others who observed the bird over a period of three days were Dr. Thomas A. Imhof, Billy and Jody Gilliland, Dick Landry and Antony Piazza. The bird was spotted perched atop a small tree about 98.4 ft (30 m) from the observer and appeared to feed on flying insects and on the ground. Twelve photographs were taken by the senior author. These may be the first photos of the species taken in the wild in inland Alabama (Tom Imhof, pers. comm.).

The bird was an adult male, appearing about the size of an Eastern Wood-Pewee (Cantopus virens) approximately 15 cm in length. The body structure, wings, tail, head and bill were also similar to the Pewee. Its crown and underparts were flaming vermilion in coloration. The bill was black and

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

there was a dark gray or black streak through the eye. The upper parts and tail were dark gray to black. Its feeding methods were similar to that of an Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe). It perched mostly in small shrubs and trees no more than 9.4 ft (3 m) above the ground and fed on insects it caught in the air and on the ground. Many times it would perch on tombstones or on dead weeds a foot or less high.

This species is rare in migration and in winter on the Alabama Gulf Coast and occasional in winter on the Upper Coastal Plain. As recent as 1976, there were no records of occurrence in the Mountain Region or Birmingham area of Alabama (Imhof, T.A., 1976, Alabama Birds. University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama). **Billy Gilliland**, P.O. Box 150, Empire, AL 35063 and **Mary Roll**, 709 81st Street South, Birmingham, AL 35206.



Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus), December 1993, Elmwood Cemetery, Block 44, Birmingham, AL (Jefferson County). Billy F. Gilliland photographer.

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## A CLASSICAL EXAMPLE OF THE CATTLE EGRET (*BUBULCUS IBIS*)

### PIRATING LITTLE BLUE HERON (*EGRETTA CAERULEA*) NESTS IN ALABAMA

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary D. Dusi

The Cattle Egret, (*Bubulcus ibis*), has been observed pirating Little Blue Heron, (*Egretta caerulea*), nests at several colony sites in Alabama (Dusi 1968; McKittrick 1975).

In Alabama, Cattle Egrets arrive in colony sites later than Little Blue Herons. Little Blue Herons already have nests built and some eggs laid, or hatched, when Cattle Egrets arrive. Piracy occurs when a large group of Cattle Egrets in breeding condition comes into a Little Blue Heron nesting colony. Instead of building their own nests in the remaining less choice sites, the Cattle Egrets pirate, or take-over, Little Blue Heron nests. If the Little Blue Herons are still egg-laying, the egrets wait until Little Blue Herons leave their nests and then occupy the nests. The Little Blue Herons are not aggressive enough to force the Cattle Egrets to leave. When young Little Blue Herons are present in a nest, the Cattle Egrets pick the young birds and force them from the nest and then occupy the nest (Dusi 1968; McKittrick 1975). This pattern of nest piracy does not appear to be typical of all Cattle Egret/Little Blue Heron colonies. Weise (1976) and Parsons (1995) reported Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons nesting in the Pea Patch Colony in Delaware, with no piracy activity.

In Alabama, the Cattle Egret has been observed taking-over Little Blue Heron nests at several colony sites: Pansey colony site, Houston County,

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Tuskegee colony site, Macon County, and most recently the Fort Deposit colony site, Lowndes County (Dusi 1968; McKittrick 1975).

The Fort Deposit colony site, discovered by Fred Bassett, had been occupied by Cattle Egrets in 1994. On 22 May 1995, he called to tell us that he had just returned from the colony site and was surprised at seeing 27 Little Blue Heron nests and only about four Cattle Egrets (not nesting) present. The next day (23 May) we drove to the site to photograph this rare Little Blue Heron colony. Instead, we found about 30 Cattle Egret nests, with about 40 Cattle Egrets present. Only ten Little Blue Heron nests remained. One nest contained two Cattle Egrets sitting, with two Little Blue Herons standing adjacent to the nest, making no attempts to reclaim it. Other Little Blue Herons were standing by other apparently recently pirated nests occupied by Cattle Egrets.

On 9 June 1995, we returned to the Fort Deposit colony site to find 106 Cattle Egret nests in incubation stages and three Little Blue Heron nests, with large young ready to leave the colony site.

This is a classical example of how a Little Blue Heron colony can be pirated and become a Cattle Egret colony in a 24-hour period. This also may explain decreasing numbers of the Little Blue Heron in Alabama. **Julian L. Dusi**, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849 and **Rosemary D. Dusi**, 560 Sherwood Dr., Auburn, AL 36849

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## Literature Cited

Dusi, J.L. 1968. The competition between Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons. Alabama Birdlife 16(1): 4-6.

McKittrick, S. R. L. 1975. Growth and development of nestling Cattle Egrets, Bubulcus ibis, and Little Blue Herons, Florida caerulea, in an upland heronry in Macon Co., Alabama. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Auburn University.

Parsons, K. C. 1995. Heron nesting at Pea Patch Island, upper Delaware Bay, USA: abundance and reproductive success. Colonial Waterbirds 18(1): 69-78.

Weise, J. H. 1976. A study of the reproductive biology of herons, egrets and ibis nesting on Pea Patch Island, Delaware. Delmarva Power and Light Co., Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Mass.

## POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PREY CAPTURE IN THE GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (MYIARCHIS CRINITIS)

George W. Folkerts

Cases in which birds cooperate to capture prey are rare. The classical example is that of the extinct New Zealand Huia (Heteralocha acutirostris), in which the chisel-like beak of the male was used to expose grubs which were extracted by the thinner curved beak of the female (Soper 1972).

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Social foraging involving cooperation also is known in a number of raptors (Ellis et al. 1993). Sullivan (1984) observed cooperation between Laughing Gulls (Larus atricilla) in which one individual uncovered horseshoe crab eggs and another ate them, later regurgitating the eggs and sharing with the other bird. Pruett-Jones (1980) reported cooperative prey capture and prey sharing in Parasitic Jaegers (Stercorarius parasiticus). White Pelicans (Pelicanus erythrorhynchos), Double-crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus), and other piscivorous birds are known to cooperate to corral fishes (Thorpe 1963). Although social foraging is common in passerines, no instances of cooperative capture of prey have been reported in this group.

On 16 June 1994, in an open wooded area within the city limits of Auburn, Lee County, Alabama, what was apparently cooperative prey capture was observed in a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers (Myiarchus crinitis). A search for the source of a snapping sound and associated whirring noise in a sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) tree revealed an adult flycatcher with a large cicada (Tibicen sp) in its beak. As I watched, the bird repeatedly turned its head to the side and with a rapid whipping motion and struck the cicada against the surface of the lateral branch on which it perched. As it continued this, an impact dislodged the cicada which immediately flew away, apparently unharmed.

The bird immediately flew after the escaped cicada and caught the insect in the air just after the cicada flew beyond the crown of the tree, whereupon it returned to the same branch and commenced striking the cicada

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

on the branch. Again, one of the impacts dislodged the insect and it flew away, seemingly without impairment. The adult gave chase, but as the insect left the crown of the tree, another adult Great Crested Flycatcher, that had not been noticed, took wing from near the end of a branch, higher and on the opposite side of the tree. This individual flew out toward the flying cicada, causing the insect to veer in its flight path whereupon it was caught by the first individual who had given chase. The second adult returned to its original perch without attempting to follow the bird that had re-captured the insect. The flycatcher with the cicada returned to its former perching site and again began to strike the insect against the branch. Once again, impact dislodged the cicada and it flew away. Again, the second individual flew out toward the flying cicada, causing the latter to change its flight path, enabling the original bird to again re-capture it. It seemed clear that the actions of the second bird did not merely represent its own attempts to unsuccessfully capture the cicada. Both birds again returned to the same perches. This time, the bird with the cicada succeeded in stunning the insect and began to peck at it, apparently trying to dismember it. The second bird evinced interest, but never approached. At this time I was forced to leave the area, making further scrutiny impossible.

Although these events can be interpreted in a number of ways, it appeared that the second bird was assisting the original bird by corralling the flying insect in a way that facilitated re-capture by the first bird. It could be contended that the second bird was positioning itself to capture the prey,

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

should the other individual not have been able to do so. This would still be a type of cooperation. Cooperative behavior between Great Crested Flycatchers would probably not be necessary with most types of prey. However, cicadas are known to be eaten by this species (Bent 1942), and it is possible that the capture of a large cicada by one member of a pair elicits watchful and, if needed, cooperative capture behavior on the part of the other individual. Cicadas are tough-bodied and heavily sclerotized insects, seemingly hard for birds to stun or kill. They would be difficult to hold because of their slick body surface and stridulatory vibrations they produce when captured.

Whether or not the two Great Crested Flycatchers were a mated pair is not known, but both were adults. It is likely that they were the parents of fledgling Great Crested Flycatchers noticed in the area a few weeks later. The fate of the cicada is unknown. In order for this example to be true cooperative hunting in the sense of Ellis et al (1993), the cicada would have to have been shared by the two individuals. Nevertheless, if the cicada were fed to the young, or consumed by one member of a monogamous pair, the fitness result would be functionally similar and the concept of true cooperative hunting should probably still apply.

This observation represents only a single instance of what may be cooperative behavior. Nevertheless, the circumstances point to the possibility that attempts to capture certain types of prey may evoke behavioral responses otherwise seldom observed in a species.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

James Armstrong, Debbie Folkerts, Geoff Hill, and Ralph Mirarchi made helpful comments on the manuscript. **George W. Folkerts**, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849-5414.

### Literature Cited

Bent, A. C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies. Bull. U. S. National Museum, No. 179.

Ellis, D. H., J. C. Bednarz, D. G. Smith, and S. P. Fleming. 1993. Social foraging classes in raptorial birds. *BioScience* 43:14-20.

Pruett-Jones, S. G. 1980. Team hunting and food sharing in Parasitic Jaegers. *Wilson Bull.* 94:524-526.

Soper, M. F. 1972. New Zealand birds. Whitcombe and Tombs, Christchurch.

Sullivan, K. A. 1984. Cooperative foraging and courtship feeding in the laughing gull. *Wilson Bull.* 96:710-711.

Thorpe, W. H. 1963. Learning and instinct in animals. Methuen, London.

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVEMENT OF DUCKS ALONG THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA-ALABAMA COASTS

Robert A. Duncan

On 21 March 1995, between 7:45 and 10:15 a.m., I watched line after line of ducks move west in the Gulf of Mexico from surf line to a few hundred yards offshore from my vantage point at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Escambia County, Pensacola, Florida. The movement was comprised predominately of Blue-winged Teal (Anas discors) with a good number of Northern Shovelers (Anas clypeata) mixed in. One line contained scoters (Melanitta sps) and another line had two large orange-tan ducks with white crescents at the base of the tail bringing up the rear, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (Dendrocygna bicolor). The lines were made up of about 50 birds on average, spaced about three to four minutes apart. I estimated 1800 to 2500 ducks passed by while I was there. Movements tapered off toward the end of the observation period.

On 22 March 1995, I stationed myself at the end of the Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama, fishing pier between 6:30 and 8:45 a.m. expecting a duck "bonanza." It failed to materialize. However, Phil and Betsy Tetlow (pers. comm.) observed about 300 Blue-winged Teal at Ft. Pickens moving west between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. I proceeded to Ft. Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama, where I watched offshore from about 10:30 a.m. Ducks began appearing about 11:00 a.m. and continued to about noon, again in about the

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

same numbers and intervals as seen at Ft. Pickens the previous day. I estimated 750 to 1000 birds passed by during that time. All birds appeared to keep moving west toward Dauphin Island, Mobile County, Alabama, and not moving north toward the Mobile Bay delta.

These movements have been observed in previous years along our coasts but not in the magnitude experienced in 1995. Flocks paralleling the coastline have been observed as far east as St. Marks, Leon County, Florida (Stevenson, H.M. and Anderson, B.H., 1994, *The Birdlife of Florida*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL). It is possible that the large numbers of ducks in 1995 are a result of increased breeding success from habitat improvement as a result of the midwest flooding during the summer of 1992 (Field Notes, 1994, 48:5). I learned from a fisherman who fished every morning from the Gulf Shores fishing pier that the duck movement had started 17 March. On 4 April 1995, between 2:30 and 3:30 pm, I observed about 800 to 1000 Blue-winged Teal resting on the surface of the Gulf in rafts of 50 to 100 birds along a five mile stretch of beach along Santa Rosa Island, Escambia County, Florida. Sporadic movements of teal continued into mid-April.

Blue-winged Teal winter from North Carolina and the Gulf Coast south to Argentina and the West Indies (Stevenson and Anderson, 1994). The movements along our coasts were always westerly toward the Central or Mississippi Flyways. Ducks are both diurnal and nocturnal migrants (Gill, F.G. 1990, *Ornithology*, Freeman and Company, N.Y.) and the timing of observations at Ft. Pickens and Ft. Morgan on 22 March suggests that the birds

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

seen earlier in the morning at Ft. Pickens and reaching Ft. Morgan by midday were nocturnal migrants originating their journey the night before from somewhere in peninsular Florida. These birds could have wintered there or stopped over from movements out of the West Indies or South America.

**Robert A. Duncan**, 614 Fairpoint Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### JOHN FINDLAY III, 1920 - 1995

John Findlay III, born in Wakefield, Massachusetts, was such an anticipated son (after the birth of many girls), that in his honor a local street was named "Findlay Street." Seventy-five years later, true to form, "John Findlay III Drive" was the name given to the main road through Oak Mountain State Park, the largest state park in Alabama. This time the road was so named because his Bluebird Trail and dedication had made a real difference in the recovery of the Bluebird population in the northern Shelby County area.

When a child in Massachusetts, Boy Scouting was the vehicle that developed his interest in birds. John won an award for identifying the most species of nesting birds in the area. His adult life took him to Michigan and Illinois, where he became a member of both Audubon Societies. As a salesman supporting a wife and three children, he nevertheless expanded his knowledge of birds and began his first Bluebird Trail in Illinois with seven nest boxes. In 1977, in Alabama, he again began a Bluebird Trail with seven nest boxes, which increased to 180 nest boxes before his death in January, 1995. His trail

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

has produced more than 6300 fledglings, and he and his wife Harriet banded over 3200 Bluebirds. Their combined love of birds and photography helped. John created his program, "Help Bring Back the Bluebird" which he presented to numerous garden clubs, children's groups and civic organizations in the state. No wonder he was affectionately called "Mr. Bluebird." His awards and recognitions include:

Member of Peoria Academy of Science

Kelly Mosely Environmental Award, 1985

Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington proclaimed Dec. 6, 1985 "John Findlay III Day"

Individual award winner for Alabama's entry in "Take Pride in America," 1986

Featured as "Hometown Hero," July, 1990 on NBC-TV in Birmingham

Elected to North America Bluebird Society Board of Directors for three years, 1986

Received "Special Award" at North American Bluebird Society convention in Gettysburg, October, 1990

Named "Hero of the Month" by WZZK radio, Birmingham, August 1990

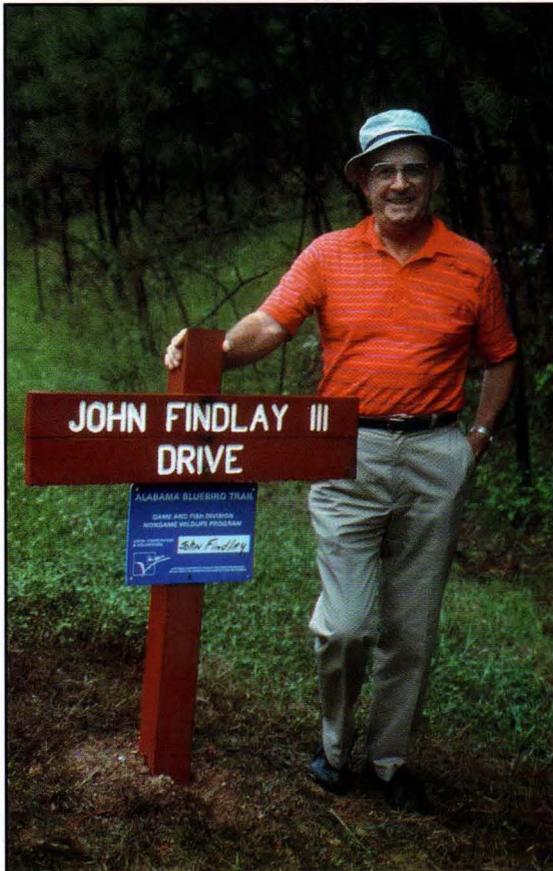
Received "Iva Stover Award," November, 1990, Jefferson County Alabama Office of Senior Citizen Activities

Author of widely distributed brochure about Bluebirds

Regular contributor of articles to North American Bluebird Society publication, *Sialia*.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

A local group of Bluebird devotees will continue to monitor the John Findlay III Bluebird trail with financial assistance from Birmingham Audubon Society John Findlay III Bluebird Trail fund. His program, "Help Bring Back the Bluebird" will still be presented in his name. **Barbara Munson**, 1149 N Shadesview Terr., Homewood, AL 35209



John Findlay, III

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## IN MEMORIAM

### CURTIS L. KINGSBERY, 1918-1995

The birding community of Florida and Alabama suffered a great loss with the death of Curtis Kingsbery on 18 May, 1995. He was a past president of the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society in Pensacola and its field trip chairman for more than twenty years. He was also a board member of AOS; Regional Reporter for Northwest Florida for *Audubon Field Notes/American Birds*; and compiler of the Pensacola Christmas Bird Count and other surveys, including the Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After retiring from the insurance business seven years ago, Curtis developed and taught three weekly birding classes under the auspices of Pensacola Junior College. He encouraged his students to become concerned environmentalists and led them on field trips to various birding locations in the Southeast United States. He also initiated birding and nature trips to Alaska, Costa Rica and Arizona. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a devout Christian. He served on the administrative board of his church, the United Cerebral Palsy Board and on the Escambia County Girl Scout Council.

As Miriam Jennings wrote of him in the F.M. Weston Audubon Society Newsletter, *The Skimmer*: "Our memories of Curtis will recall a man of infinite patience, enthusiasm, and unfailing gentleness and civility: a man of extraordinary fits who guided us along much more than nature trails and taught us lessons beyond bird lore. We have indeed lost a cherished friend."

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

**Merilu Sands**, 508 Quail Nest Lane, Pensacola, FL 32514.



Curtis L. Kingsbery

### IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Thomas A. Imhof, 1920—1995**

Tom had a deep love of birds that was reflected in a lifetime of achievement — elected Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union; author of *Alabama Birds*; co-founder, Past-President and board member of the Birmingham Audubon Society, Co-Chairman of the Committee on "Partners-In-Flight" and teacher of ornithology at the Audubon Mountain Workshop in Mentone, Alabama; Past-President and board member of the Alabama Ornithological Society; member of the initial Board of Directors of The Alabama

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Conservancy; chairman of ornithological surveys for the Bankhead Forest Wilderness and proposed wild and scenic river status for the Cahaba River; recipient of an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Alabama; coordinator of Breeding Bird Surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alabama, with personal routes in Alabama and Florida; Alabama State Reporter and Regional Christmas Count and Spring Season Reporter for *American Birds* (formerly *Audubon Field Notes*); organizer and/or compiler of numerous Christmas and migration bird counts, including West Jefferson County, Dauphin Island, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Bankhead National Forest, North American Migration Count for Jefferson County, Jefferson County Spring and Fall Migration counts and notably the Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count, which he compiled for almost 50 years; member of the Wilson Ornithological Society and of the North American Bird Banding Association. Incidentally, Tom banded over 25,000 birds since receiving his banding license in 1939.

Tom called St. Patrick's Day his "anniversary," having taken advantage of that school holiday to observe gulls and shorebirds as a boy on Long Island. Janie, Tom's wife, declared that birds were in his genes, recalling that Tom's grandfather in England would skip school to go birdwatching. Indeed, if he inherited his love of birds from his ancestors, Tom devoted his life to careful observation, note-taking and meticulous recordkeeping so that he might instill in and pass on that love to others. Always a student, at age 70+ Tom traveled Europe (where his binoculars were blessed by the Pope!), to Africa and to Costa

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Rica. Always a teacher, his appreciation for God's creation was shared with those of us touched by his life. Tom was deeply devoted to his church, to his wife of 50 years, Janie, and to his children and grandchildren. Whether you only knew him by reputation or whether you were fortunate enough to have birded with Tom, you knew he was special. Thank you, Tom. Your presence and wisdom are deeply missed. **Sharon Hudgins**, 5660 Pine Street, McCalla, AL 35111-9238



Dr. Thomas A. Imhof

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Articles submitted should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation or other related topics.

Articles must conform to the guidelines listed below. All articles will be reviewed by the editor and two anonymous reviewers for clarity, brevity and composition. Editor reserves the right to reject or modify articles that do not correspond to the stated guidelines. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year: deadlines for submitting articles are **1 June** and **1 November**. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with the hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred).

Submit manuscripts typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch typing paper.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color prints and slides are acceptable. *Convert slides to prints before submitting article.*

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*).

The author's name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). To save space, scientific names are not necessary in extensive lists such as Christmas Bird Counts and Seasonal Summaries.

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use the metric system only for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

The title of tables should be in CAPS and placed above the table.

The description of figures should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in this issue for the correct way to state references.

Three or less references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, *Alabama Birds*) or Dusi (1994, *Alabama Birdlife* 41 (1)).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.

# *Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society*

Vol. 42

No. 1

1995

## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| VERMILION FLYCATCHER (PYROCEPHALUS RUBINUS)<br>IN BIRMINGHAM <i>Billy F. Gilliland and Mary Roll</i> .....   | 1  |
| A CLASSICAL EXAMPLE OF THE CATTLE EGRET (BUBULCUS IBIS)<br>PIRATING LITTLE BLUE HERON (EGRETTA CAERULEA) NESTS<br>IN ALABAMA <i>Julian L. Dusi</i> ..... | 3  |
| POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PREY CAPTURE IN THE GREAT CRESTED<br>FLYCATCHER (MYIARCHIS CRINITIS) <i>George W. Folkerts</i> .....                                | 5  |
| AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVEMENT OF DUCKS ALONG THE<br>NORTHWEST FLORIDA-ALABAMA COASTS <i>Robert A. Duncan</i> .....   | 10 |
| IN MEMORIAM - JOHN FINDLAY III<br><i>Barbara Munson</i> .....  | 12 |
| IN MEMORIAM - CURTIS L. KINGSBERY<br><i>Merilu Sands</i> .....   | 15 |
| IN MEMORIAM - THOMAS A. IMHOF<br><i>Sharon Hudgins</i> .....   | 16 |

Alabama Birdlife  
Rt. 2 Box 97-B  
Eufaula, AL 36027-9294