

A TEXAS BOOK REVIEW

"Alabama Birds" by Thomas A. Imhof recently was reviewed by Noel Pettingell for Outdoor Nature Club of Houston, Texas. The following is part of his lengthy and complimentary review:

"Alabama Birds" was undertaken by Thomas Imhof at the direction of the Department of Conservation in January 1955 and covers observations up through August 31, 1961. Mr. Imhof's personal field work extended into 64 of the State's 67 counties and William C. Holland, Jr., Chairman of the Bird Book Committee of the Alabama Department of Conservation (Game and Fish Division) gives full credit where it is due in the Forward, in which he states (in part):

"The author has clearly demonstrated that he has done extensive research, not only in published sources, but through interviews with other ornithologists and co-operators. The time spent by the author in the field seeking and collecting data for the book is shown by the large number of arrival and departure dates of the various species he has observed. Assembling and keeping up-to-date records of Alabama's 352 species of birds was a tremendous task and required nearly as much time and effort as the actual writing of the book."

"Alabama Birds" is an excellent example of the ideal State bird guide and is certainly one of the finest books of its type to be published within the past decade. Only ten States comprise the list of those possessing guides comparable in quality and scope to Mr. Imhof's magnificent volume - excluding all books published over ten years ago. These "Top Ten" States are as follows (along with year latest guide was published):

Alabama (1962)	Minnesota (1955)
Alaska (1959)	New Mexico (1961)
Florida (1954)	North Carolina (1960)
Georgia (1958)	Texas (1960)
Louisiana (1960)	Washington (1953)

The above review coming from the great state of Texas with its many wonderful Ornithological groups, should make us very proud. And we are indeed proud, not only of our author, but also our Department of Conservation.

## Birmingham



For the year 1962, 527 birds of 24 species were banded by trap method at our home, Birmingham, Ala.

Those species captured in the greatest number were: Purple Finch 165, Myrtle Warbler 59, Chipping Sparrow 56, Evening Grosbeak 50, Rufous-sided Towhee 44, White-throated Sparrow 32, Cardinal 27 and Field Sparrow 25.

There were 42 returns represented by 17 species. Of these, 24 were one or more years old. Of special note was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet banded February 2, 1962, returned December 26, 1962. A red-bellied Woodpecker and 1 Cardinal were 2 years old. 7 were 3 years old: 3 Blue Jays, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 1 Summer Tanager, 1 White-throated Sparrow, and 1 Tufted Titmouse. Of the 4-year olds, there were: 2 Field Sparrows, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 1 Summer Tanager, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 1 Tufted Titmouse. 2 Cardinals made the 6-year mark and 1 Chickadee banded as an adult June 2, 1956 continues to thrive.

Harriett Wright

## Brownsboro

During the year 1962 we banded a total of 2253 birds of 101 species. All these were banded at Brownsboro (5 miles east of Huntsville) except 8 at Birmingham and 19 at Dauphin Island. The great majority of the birds were caught with mist nets; the remainder with Alabama Quail traps. All birds were measured (wing chord), checked for fat, and banded. There were 175 returns--birds recaptured after a period of 90 days or more. There were no foreign retraps at our stations, and only 1 recovery of our birds was recorded (a Slate-colored Junco near Columbus, Ohio).

Although the number of birds banded was considerable, amount of net hours required was extremely high--at a typical time during the height of migration (Oct. 1 through 7), a total of 116 birds were caught out of 550 net hours, more than 4.7 net hours per bird. Compared with reports of banding records from other areas, this seems discouragingly high. When the many days of little bird movements are considered, one realizes what a fantastic number of net hours are required to capture 2000 birds. I think we can safely conclude that our banding location must be situated near a null point between migratory routes.

Brownsboro (continued)

The Bander's Corner

In our opinions the most interesting catches of the year included a Black Skimmer at Dauphin Island; Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-wills, Least Flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireos, Connecticut Warbler and Wilson's Warbler at Brownsboro.

## BIRMINGHAM

In 1962 I established a banding station on my property on Pike Road in Ensley, Birmingham, where I moved in December 1961. During 1962 I banded 528 birds of 61 species. I now operate up to 8 nets and 8 traps and now that I've banded in the same locality for a year, I am beginning to get returns and to find out who my steady customers are. Outside of Birmingham, I banded 80 birds on Dauphin Island during the Fall A.O.S. meeting. The following species were banded in greatest numbers: Whitethroat, 105; Cardinal, 51, Robin, 46; Towhee, 41; Savannah Sparrow, 34; Brown Thrasher, 24; Catbird, 23; Myrtle Warbler, 23; Field Sparrow, 19; Mockingbird, 17; Starling, 10; and White-eyed Vireo, 10. This total included a Screech Owl, 3 species of Empidonax and 73 Warblers of 19 species. I obtained 20 returns (birds recaptured at the same place after 90 or more days) but no bird more than a year from original banding because my station has not been operating long enough: Cardinal, 3; Towhee, 6; Whitethroat, 4; Field Sparrow, 3; Blue Jay, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Catbird, 1.

On November 3, 1962, James T. Aycock of Center Point (suburban Birmingham) visited his hunting lodge in Greene County 16 miles north of Eutaw and found a dead and dehydrated Black-throated Green Warbler with a band on it. Banding headquarters informs us that the bird was banded by Karl Bartel at Blue Island (suburban Chicago), Illinois on September 30, 1962. The condition of the bird indicated that it had been dead at least a week and apparently made the trip from Chicago in less than a month! (In 1948 a banded Myrtle Warbler made the trip from the Chicago area to Birmingham in 23 days!) On January 31, 1963 at Roberts Field, Birmingham, I caught a Savannah Sparrow that I had banded on November 22, 1958, over 4 years and 2 months earlier!

Tom Imhof

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An adult Harlan's Hawk was collected on November 27, 1962 at Geiger, Sumpter County. This is, apparently, the first Harlan's specimen for Alabama.

Bob Skinner

## 1962 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

## AUBURN, ALABAMA

The Christmas Bird Count was made at Auburn, Ala., December 20, 1962. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle was the Auburn Post Office. Composition of the area: mixed woods, 50%; pastures and open field, 30%; water and mud flats, 20%; Weather was clear. Temperature varied from 34 to 52 degrees F. Winds, 5-10 mph, westerly. 22 observers making 8 partial trips spent 51 party hours, drove 171 miles, walked 25 miles, by boat 3 miles.

The following species and numbers were seen:

Pied-billed Grebe	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Great Blue Heron	4	Brown-headed Nuthatch	46
Common Egret	1	Brown Creeper	11
Mallard	2	House Wren	1
Wood Duck	4	Winter Wren	1
Ring-necked Duck	53	Bewick's Wren	2
Hooded Merganser	2	Carolina Wren	47
Turkey Vulture	21	Mockingbird	85
Black Vulture	127	Brown Thrasher	19
Cooper's Hawk	1	Robin	139
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Hermit Thrush	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Eastern Bluebird	61
Marsh Hawk	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Sparrow Hawk	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet	34
Bobwhite	31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	168
Coot	25	Water Pipit	21
Killdeer	39	Cedar Waxwing	313
Woodcock	1	Loggerhead Shrike	25
Common Snipe	16	Starling	30,000
Mourning Dove	57	Blue-headed Vireo	1
Barn Owl	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Great Horned Owl	1	Myrtle Warbler	68
Barred Owl	1	Pine Warbler	26
Belted Kingfisher	2	Palm Warbler	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	38	House Sparrow	116
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Eastern Meadowlark	176
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	Red-winged Blackbird	540,000
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Rusty Blackbird	30,000
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	Brewer's Blackbird	100
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Common Grackle	270,000
Downy Woodpecker	19	Cowbird	30,000
Phoebe	10	Cardinal	203
Blue Jay	89	Purple Finch	17
Common Crow	58	American Goldfinch	138
Carolina Chickadee	77	Rufous-sided Towhee	107
Tufted Titmouse	29	Savannah Sparrow	23