

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (incl Chattahoochee R., sloughs managed for waterfowl, and Cowikee and Wylaunee Creeks--count limited to refuge area): Jan. 4; 6:00 AM to 4:45 PM. Participants: Neva Brunton, Julian L. Dusi (compiler); Rosemary T. Dusi, Thomas French, Michael Fuller, Susan Lancaster, Marjory D. Lyons, Jackie and Ron McKitrick, and Harriett and Tom Meadows.

Pied-billed Grebe-3; Great Blue Heron-80; Green Heron-1; Little Blue Heron-1; Great (or Am.) Egret-85; Black-crowned Night Heron-54; Am. Bittern-1; Canada Goose-25; Snow Goose (white phase)-4; Blue Goose (blue phase of Snow Goose)-15; Mallard-600; Black Duck-35; No. Pintail-87; Green-winged Teal-6; Am. Wigeon (or Baldpate)-10; No. Shoveler-61; Wood Duck-12; Redhead-15; Ring-necked Duck-3; Canvasback-7; Bufflehead-20; Ruddy Duck-3; Hooded Merganser-12; Turkey Vulture-1; Black Vulture-2; Cooper's Hawk-1; Red-tailed Hawk (1 Krider's)-15; Red-shouldered Hawk-2; Marsh Hawk-21; Osprey-2; Merlin (or Pigeon Hawk)-1; Am. Kestrel (or Sparrow Hawk)-4; Bob-white-75; Virginia Rail-2; Sora-2; Am. Coot-104; Killdeer-106; Com. Snipe-78; Greater Yellowlegs-3; Lesser Yellowlegs-1; Least Sandpiper-27; Dunlin (or Red-backed Sandpiper)-40; Herring Gull-2; Ring-billed Gull-98; Bonaparte's Gull-3; Rock Dove-6; Mourning Dove-104; Com. Ground Dove-11; Barn Owl-2; Screech Owl-1; Barred Owl-1; Belted Kingfisher-4; Yellow-shafted (Com.) Flicker-11; Pileated Woodpecker-4; Red-bellied Woodpecker-14; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-3; Downy Woodpecker-5;

Eastern Phoebe-7; Blue Jay-22; Com. Crow-23; Fish Crow-2; Carolina Chickadee-30; Tufted Titmouse-9; Brown-headed Nuthatch-9; House Wren-3; Carolina Wren-47; Short-billed Marsh (or Sedge) Wren-2; Com. Mockingbird-30; Brown Thrasher-5; Am. Robin-259; Hermit Thrush-6; Eastern Bluebird-2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-2; Golden-crowned Kinglet-5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-22; Water Pipit-14; Cedar Waxwing-15; Loggerhead Shrike-16; Com. Starling-5; White-eyed Vireo-1; Solitary (or Blue-headed) Vireo-1; Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warbler-121; Pine Warbler-7; Palm Warbler-4; Com. Yellowthroat-8; Eastern Meadowlark-478; Red-winged Blackbird-275; Com. Grackle-173; Cardinal-39; Purple Finch-3; Pine Siskin-1; Am. Goldfinch-56; Rufous-sided Towhee-27; Savannah Sparrow-470; Grasshopper Sparrow-2; Vesper Sparrow-132; Slate-colored (Dark-eyed) Junco-127; Chipping Sparrow-1; Field Sparrow-151; White-crowned Sparrow-2; White-throated Sparrow-159; Swamp Sparrow-150; and Song Sparrow-229. Within count week: Gadwall, and Lesser Scaup.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FEEDING HABITS
OF THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER
(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)

James V. Peavy, Jr.

It is a well-documented fact that Red-headed Woodpeckers will hawk for insects in a flycatcher-like fashion. For several years I have regularly observed them doing this at the Birmingham Zoo, which is where I work. In the late summer when insects hatch out in the zoo ponds, the Red-heads will congregate in several weeping willow trees and begin to forage in the typical manner; I have often seen eight or ten birds so engaged at one time. Another favorite pastime for these birds is to steal peanuts from the elephants. One or two birds will sit on a power pole near the elephants' lot, and, when a peanut is thrown to the elephants, a bird will swoop down, grab the nut and fly back to the top of the pole. The birds usually open the nut and eat it immediately; occasionally they carry it away.

The most unusual observation I have made at the zoo occurred on July 26, 1975, when I saw an adult Red-head fly down, catch a mouse by the tail and carry it to the top of a pole. The mouse was squeaking loudly, and this noise seemed to attract a young Red-head over. The adult bird moved to a tree limb, killed the mouse with a few pecks and flew off with the mouse; the young bird followed giving typical "feed-me" calls. This is the only instance of mammal predation by a Red-headed Woodpecker of which I have knowledge. A. C. Bent, in his Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers, quotes Mr. E. D. Nauman who relates an instance of a Red-head attacking a mouse, but the mouse escaped. It is interesting to note that, when carrying the mouse, the woodpecker used its beak rather than its feet; however, it did hold the mouse with one foot while killing it.

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