

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Huey, B; Gina Imhof, B; Thomas Imhof, B; Greg Ippolito, B; Greg Jackson, GS; Bettye James, B; Joyce Johnson, GS; Alice Johnston, GS; Lan Jones, WA; Jim Keeler, Mg; Charles Kennedy, Mg; Curtis Kingsbery, GS; Helen Kittinger, B, GS; Paul Kittle, Wa; Richard Landry, B; Ira Kupferberg, Mg; David Larsen, B; Eric Lefstad, GS; Wilma Lindberg, B; Jan Lloyd, GS; Frank Logan, GS; Mike McMillan, GS; Andrea Menyhert, Mg; Buzz Merchlewitz, GS; Pat Meyer, GS; Daryl Michael, GS; Ann Miller, GS; Howard Morris, Mg; Sue Morris, Mg; Barbara Munson, B; Larry Neill, Wa; Jane Newell, Wa; Victor Nichols, GS; Minnie Nonkes, GS, MT; Phyllis Nofzinger, Wa; Dee Patterson, Wa; James Peavy, GS; James Pfeiffer, GS; Bill Phillips, Mg; Ned Piper, Wa; Pat Price, B; Eloise Rafferty, B; Elberta Reid, B, GS; Robert E Reid, GS; Robert R Reid, B, GS; Bill Rogers, Wa; Ila Roose, GS; Miriam Rueger, B; Michael Russell, B, GS; Jenisa Ryals, MT; Bob Sargent, GS; Martha Sargent, GS; Maureen Shaffer, B, GS; Floyd Sherrod, Wa; Don Simbeck, Wa; Maude Skiba, MT; Idalene Snead, B; Donna Spencer, B; Jody Springer, Wa; Julie Strong, Mg; Betsy Tetlow, GS; Phil Tetlow, GS; Mary Tiller, GS; Ralph Tiller, GS; Therese Tonitis, B; Helen Thigpen, B; Wayne Tubberville, Mg; Lisa Vera, MT; Susanne Wadsworth, Wa; Mary Wakefield, Wa; Ralph Wallace, Wa; Steve Ward, Mg; Donald Ware, GS; Ted Weems, GS; Jerry Weidler, Mg; Mary Weidler, Mg; Chan West, GS; Carter Whatley, Mg; John Winn, MT; Jimmy Woolbright, Mg; total 133.

A SUMMARY OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AT AUBURN, ALABAMA, 1954-1990

Julian L. Dusi

Christmas bird counts have been taken in the Auburn, Alabama area since 1954. Some of the counts were recorded in *Alabama Birdlife*; others are just recorded in my field journals. Unfortunately, counts could not be made every year. Many participants took part in the counts. However, the number of participants was never great enough to cover the entire area, so the counts each year covered the north university pond area, the campus area, and various spots in the city, staying within the 7.5 mile radius of the center of Auburn and were done within the Audubon count period.

Many fluctuations in species and numbers can be seen in Table 1. Often fluctuations can be attributed to the date and weather of the count day and that preceding it; often to the abilities of the participants. The

chance that an owl would answer a recording playback, a Woodcock would flush from a thicket, or a Sandhill Crane fly over the participants, was quite small. The waterfowl decrease is representative of population trends throughout North America. In addition, activity around the north Auburn ponds has greatly increased and this has caused waterfowl to leave. The vulture populations are attracted to the dead fish from fisheries experiments. Both Black and Turkey Vultures roost near the ponds and gather each day to retrieve fish that have died. Also, they have fed on the piles of dead fish that were discarded after ponds were drained to determine their productivity. The Bobwhite has decreased because rowcrop farming has been replaced by pine plantings and no special Bobwhite management has been practiced. Rock Doves have increased greatly around livestock barns and in the cities of Auburn and Opelika. Woodpecker numbers have declined as has the number of old oak trees along the streets of Auburn and on the A.U. campus. Fewer reports of backyard and feeder birds has resulted in a decrease in numbers reported for the Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Chipping Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. The American Robin number fluctuations depend upon when the large winter flocks arrive in Auburn. In 1990, they were late for the December 29 count, but were abundant by January 11, 1991. Starling, blackbird and cowbird numbers have declined, since the large winter blackbird roost was destroyed by the cutting of the bamboo plots, adjacent to the north ponds. Changes in trespass laws and the great influx of deer hunting have kept birders out of a number of good birding areas. Finally, part of the decrease in numbers reported can be attributed to the increases in the ages of the participants, whose efforts have been reduced.

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TABLE 1. RECORDS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1954 - 1990, AUBURN, ALABAMA

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	6	3	4	9	2	4	4	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Double-cr. Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Great Blue Heron	4	1	4	4	4	1	5	1	2	9	5	8	8	6	10
Great Egret	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Duck	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	4	1	4	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	1
Redhead	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	45	25	53	18	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	10	0	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Species	Years															
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90	
Turkey Vulture	22	3	21	2	0	3	5	7	5	63	7	5	19	2	14	
Black Vulture	70	24	127	7	9	4	2	20	1	26	26	51	16	21	58	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	9	4	5	2	5	7	5	4	4	4	8	5	2	
Red shouldered Hawk	9	3	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Northern Harrier	4	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Merlin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
American Kestrel	6	3	11	5	1	1	3	2	4	0	3	5	3	0	0	
Bobwhite	2	6	31	2	59	17	15	107	15	0	11	0	0	0	0	
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sandhill Crane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
American Coot	1	1	25	25	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Killdeer	55	16	39	25	51	25	19	16	8	13	12	21	10	12	40	
American Woodcock	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	
Common Snipe	1	15	16	10	17	12	13	4	2	4	4	7	4	0	5	

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Spotted Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	25	27	140	30	90	355
Mourning Dove	77	31	57	12	60	5	88	72	10	72	33	147	19	55	127
Common Ground Dove	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barn Owl	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Screech Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Great Horned Owl	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barred Owl	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	5	3	2	5	10	9	2	5	2	5	5	6	2	4	4
Common Flicker	26	11	38	16	39	10	11	22	6	5	7	10	2	1	2
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	2	1	4	2	2	4	0	2	1	3	0	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	32	7	21	20	32	8	9	16	5	4	3	6	2	3	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	2	1	7	14	13	5	8	6	1	2	2	1	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	9	2	5	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downy Woodpecker	10	1	19	13	20	8	7	21	0	4	1	5	1	3	3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Eastern Phoebe	7	8	10	9	10	5	14	7	1	2	5	5	0	0	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Jay	45	8	89	37	109	28	48	42	14	14	2	36	8	5	35
American Crow	82	35	58	14	44	17	39	61	7	10	11	16	9	26	12
Carolina Chickadee	23	13	77	26	55	12	60	51	4	3	2	16	1	4	7
Tufted Titmouse	20	2	29	13	62	14	21	29	5	2	6	9	4	2	7
White-br. Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Brown-headed Nuthatch	10	15	46	12	48	16	23	29	4	20	7	19	8	1	6
Brown Creeper	3	6	11	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
House Wren	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Winter Wren	4	0	1	9	11	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bewick's Wren	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina Wren	35	13	47	8	30	16	11	35	6	4	4	10	5	5	10
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N. Mockingbird	20	20	85	11	44	26	23	30	10	12	3	26	8	3	9
Gray Catbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Brown Thrasher	20	10	19	9	27	9	18	28	2	5	1	8	3	0	2

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
American Robin	73	145	139	460	97	42	38	69	18	124	34	279	37	67	5
Hermit Thrush	10	0	8	10	7	2	6	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	0
Veery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Bluebird	40	8	61	20	43	25	29	10	3	19	13	3	10	6	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden-cr. Kinglet	68	14	34	0	14	2	1	8	0	0	5	7	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	44	16	168	52	57	7	32	32	6	20	2	17	4	3	5
Water Pipit	34	3	21	6	17	3	81	2	1	1	30	2	0	0	7
Cedar Waxwing	26	3	39	48	176	120	0	45	135	109	0	6	0	150	0
Loggerhead Shrike	9	6	1	3	25	2	9	9	2	0	3	5	1	1	2
Starling	83	20K	30K	158K	150K	37K	550K	90K	74	157	21	248	65	2	112
White-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solitary Vireo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	2	68	34	35	17	37	27	37	20	40	55	12	2	26
Pine Warbler	19	6	26	3	23	9	54	5	0	4	2	0	8	1	14
Common Yellowthroat	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
House Sparrow	28	41	116	20	84	4	37	57	0	2	5	31	0	1	56

Species	Years															
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90	
Eastern Meadowlark	243	25	176	58	144	14	137	41	40	5	31	130	4	0	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	1K	150	540K	70K	45K	257K	185K	360K	52	897	87	1K	0	0	170	
Common Grackle	17	5K	270K	45K	150K	64K	50K	90K	20	150	50	12	202	11	6	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1.5K	50K	30K	58K	150K	290K	210K	60K	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Cardinal	56	32	203	27	134	16	141	71	10	22	5	39	16	3	26	
Purple Finch	0	0	17	21	0	5	11	3	0	2	2	33	26	2	20	
House Finch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	6	6	2	3	
American Goldfinch	84	78	138	0	62	37	105	38	48	11	4	55	1	3	17	
Rufous-sided Towhee	102	25	107	30	90	21	67	48	6	11	6	17	6	2	5	
Savannah Sparrow	41	25	23	13	46	15	31	17	0	2	30	15	2	0	8	
Vesper Sparrow	9	0	5	0	3	9	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Bachman's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Northern Junco	87	13	264	66	235	1	190	76	4	3	7	23	4	0	6	
Chipping Sparrow	70	30	41	101	156	23	285	110	201	0	1	18	30	0	0	
Field Sparrow	43	50	150	103	62	43	237	88	2	10	1	13	55	11	4	
White-thr. Sparrow	204	40	177	123	182	37	144	106	15	5	19	52	10	6	16	
Swamp Sparrow	23	9	67	24	42	13	22	5	0	2	6	0	0	1	4	
Song Sparrow	66	6	148	18	82	16	66	43	1	24	98	35	6	2	12	

(Note: K indicates thousands of birds.)