

FALL OBSERVATIONS, 1953

The French Mulberry, *Callicarpa americana* L., seems to have an especial attraction for birds. From the time the berries began turning violet color in September and October until all have been consumed, a constant line of bird traffic in regular peck order at the shrubs in our yard is to be expected. The mocking birds keep steady watch over the ripening berries, but other regular visitors manage a feast each day. Towhees, field, chipping, and English sparrows, goldfinches, jays, doves, and starlings, and robins are among these. On September 23, 28, and October 4, from three to five female summer tanagers, and on October 1, three female scarlet tanagers were observed feeding on the berries. The yellow-throated and white-eyed vireos, the yellow-breasted chat, pine warbler, wood pewee, and crested flycatchers also pay visits to the bushes, probably seeking insects. Observations show that the blue birds, Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, chickadees, brown-headed and white-breasted nuthatches, and flickers visit the *Callicarpa*, but as far as I can observe, I do not believe they eat the berries. They are possibly curious about what attracts the other species. A total of 25 species was observed this fall on the shrubs.—Lillian Gatchell and Blanche E. Dean, Birmingham, Alabama.

SCARLET TANAGERS

The scarlet tanagers nested at my home on the Gordon Place, seven miles north of Goodwater, Alabama, in the spring of 1938. This is on the very southern edge of Clay County and must be near the edge of its range for nesting. We have moved from this place, so I am not certain whether it has continued to nest there for the past few years.—Eulalia Johnson, Goodwater, Alabama.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL

The great horned owl was seen many times last year back of my home which is within the Birmingham city limits. A pair would come and sit in a dead pine and hoot. This year on October 11, the pair was back. Some interested observer should be able to find the nest near by.—Elizabeth Eddy, Birmingham, Alaabama.

EDITORIAL OBSERVATIONS

The scientific publication of our society, *Alabama Bird-Life*, was established in order that we might be able to publish authentic scientific articles and field notes pertaining to the ornithology of Alabama and to publish articles furthering education in ornithology. The founders of our society felt that this would be a very desirable means of consolidating information of interest to the ornithologists of Alabama and that it would likewise be a service to them as a means of quickly publishing the articles they would submit. This would be a great advantage to them because most scientific publications have a delay period in publishing of at least a year. *Alabama Bird-Life* could publish their articles within three to six months.

Two disturbing factors affect the proper functioning of the publication: a scarcity of funds and a paucity of material to print. By carefully using our money and by additional efforts to secure funds, the first problem can be fairly well controlled as long as we apply ourselves. The scarcity of material to print most greatly concerns your editor, because the reason for having a publication is to provide an outlet for ornithological articles. If they are not submitted, then the need for such a journal ceases.

There is, however, a wealth of ornithological information to be published for this state, but only a few people seem interested in reporting their findings. Our first issue of *Alabama Bird-Life* contains some very basic information regarding the breeding birds of Alabama. Mr. Imhoff has given us a starting point from which to work. If each of us would carefully examine this article and then see whether he already has additional records to contribute, or could do some field work to establish new information, he could build on this basic information and make more complete our total knowledge of the breeding birds. Many of us have records of bird migrations or are in the process of collecting new ones. Unusual records make good field notes. Migration records from one or a number of spring or fall seasons make desirable articles. These would be extremely helpful in making the patterns and paths of migrations better understood.

At this time of year one might make an interesting study of the winter residents of an area. Many can be seen in our yards and fairly near our homes. If a whole local group would work together and pool their information, much could be learned in a season. This could be published as a short article, or several seasons' data could be compiled into a more comprehensive paper.

These are but a few suggestions as to how much good data about our birds may be secured and how your editor's problems of

obtaining material to print can be solved. We all enjoy studying birds and by a little planning can extend our enjoyment to others by publishing our findings so that all can read them.

EDITORIAL POLICY OF ALABAMA BIRD-LIFE

The editorial policy of **Alabama Bird-Life** is to publish authentic scientific articles and field reports pertaining to Alabama ornithology and to publish articles furthering education in ornithology.

To be acceptable, manuscripts should be written in a direct, clear, concise style. Refer to past issues for examples. If references are made in the text, they should be cited at the end of the article in alphabetical order; for example:

Text—

By careful reference to his field guide (Peterson, 1947), the writer was able to identify the birds. They were trapped by Kutz, 1945, method.

Citations—

KUTZ, H. L., 1945, An improved game bird trap. *Journ. Wildl. Mgt.*, 9(1):35-38.

PETERSON, R. T., 1947, A field guide to the birds. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, pp. 290.

The authenticity of records is of outstanding importance. Do not submit records which are uncertain. Any unusual record should be verified by the observation by a reliable ornithologist and preferably by the collection of the specimen by an authorized person. For unusual records, state clearly the circumstances under which the bird was observed and by whom and, if collected, where the specimen is placed.

Submit manuscripts to the editor typed on one side only, on unlined 8½" x 11" paper, double spaced (tables included). Omit tables wherever possible. Photographs and drawings will be published only at the author's expense.