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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The third year of the Alabama Ornithological Society is now under way. It is a great pleasure and honor to serve as third president of this worthwhile society.

Alabama has been, for many years, what could be called an "in-between state" so far as scientific data is concerned. Many of the great Ornithologists of the past traveled through Alabama simply because of the necessity of getting from one place to another. This usually consisted of traveling from the Atlantic Coast or Florida, where they spent considerable time, to Louisiana, which was also considered a fertile field so far as gathering bird data was concerned. Fortunately, these men did record a few sight records while passing through this state.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, Dr. William Cushman Avery of Greensboro, Alabama, contributed more to Alabama ornithology than any other man. His excellent collection of bird skins was the first extensive collection of birds taken in Alabama. The only other work of importance on a statewide basis was the book, **Birds of Alabama,** by Arthur H. Howell in the early part of the present century. Howell recorded in his book data collected by avid amateur ornithologists who collected material in their own or adjoining counties. Were it not for these men, scientific bird data would be almost completely lacking in this state.

The objectives of the Alabama Ornithological Society appear to be made to order for furthering the study of birds in this state. The first three objectives as listed in the Constitution of the society are: 1. To promote scientific and educational activities in the field of ornithology; 2. To bring together those residents of Alabama who are interested in birds; 3. To coordinate and make available the findings from bird observations.

With these objectives in mind and the interest and cooperation of the members, Alabama need not ever have to take a back seat to any state in the field of ornithology.

NESTING OF THE CAROLINA WREN

By WALTER ROSENE, JR.

Some bird students prefer to travel away from home to make observations. Usually opportunities are present near at hand and such was the case when we studied the Carolina Wren (**Thryothorus ludovicianus**) in our backyard. When I say "we" I mean the entire Rosene family, my wife, Kathryn, and our two boys, Jimmy, age 12, and Walter Carl, age 6.

After building our house in the winter of 1951, we noticed wrens in our backyard so we provided cavities in our wood rack which we thought might be suitable for a nest. The wrens were not interested, but preferred to make their own selection. We made the mistake of leaving open the door which provides access under the house, and a pair chose a very dark situation on the foundation sill. We were concerned with this precarious position as the young could have fallen from the nest along the foundation below the door and not reached the outside. However, this nest was successful.

In the spring of 1953 we kept the door in the foundation closed and the pair of wrens was still with us. We had placed an old martin house on top of a pile of scrap lumber which we were keeping for use on odd jobs around the house. My wife wanted this "unsightly" lumber burned but I had been against her "proposal." The wrens liked the lumber pile and were on my side as they decided to use one of the compartments in the martin house for their first brood. This meant the lumber pile must remain virtually intact until they had finished activities. The first brood was a success. We watched four birds leave the nest one morning, while eating breakfast, between 7 and 8 a. m. We did not make any records on this brood.

Approximately 10 days later activities for the second brood started. Both male and female seemed to be interested in a flower box which was on the rail of our back porch. They were active around this site from June 3 to 6. On the morning of June 7, the wrens were at work building a nest in the box. Kathryn noticed the activity from the kitchen window at 6:30 a. m. At that time the nest was approximately half finished. We postponed breakfast and the four of us watched the wrens complete the job by 8:00 a. m. The nest was on top of the soil among the stems of growing plants, 18 inches from the house, 2 feet from the kitchen window over the sink, and where one passed within 8 inches of the nest when entering the kitchen door.

Both birds worked at construction. We could not determine sexes but assumed the female remained at the nest while the male brought building material. The structure was finished by

working from the inside only. The female would receive material from the male and drag it in. When she was placing the material around the inside, the nest would rock back and forth and expand as she formed the cavity. Literally, she "stretched" the nest as she worked. To make construction by this technique successful meant that outside material must be long enough and laid in such a way that in the "stretching" process the outside material would not fall apart.

The nest opening faced the yard and we could look directly into the hole each time we climbed the porch steps to enter the kitchen.

One egg was laid each morning, June 10, 11, 12, and 13, always before 7:00 a. m. Neither bird was seen near the nest during these days after that time. On the afternoon of June 12, Walter Carl thought the nest had been abandoned so removed it from the flower box. Kathryn replaced it in the same position after counting three eggs. The fourth egg was laid the next day.

Incubation began late in the afternoon of June 14. It was assumed the female carried on all the incubation. She left the nest only to feed and water in the early morning and late afternoon. During these short periods the nest was unattended. The male would come to the incubating female only in the later afternoon after she had fed. They would "talk" to each other for a short while, then he would depart.

This pair of wrens used over one-half acre of land, composed of woodland, shaded lawn, vegetable garden and shrubbery behind the house. Water was available in a branch on the rear of the lot.

Three young hatched in the morning on July 1. The incubation period was 16 days, 16 hours. The fourth egg was infertile. Incubation periods of birds have been erroneously reported, possibly due to the lack of an understanding as to when the timing should commence. Eggs may be deposited in a nest over a relatively long interval but embryological activity does not commence until body heat from the bird starts the processes within the egg. Bent (1948) gives the incubation period as 12 to 14 days. Nice (1953) says 16 days are required for the European Wren.

Both adults fed the young throughout the time they were in the nest. Each came and went independently of the other and sometimes were at the nest simultaneously. Their food gathering area was confined to the one-half acre range previously described.

The young left the nest on July 11 at 10:20 a. m., 10 days plus a few hours after hatching. They were not seen at any time on the edge of the nest prior to departure. Neither were they seen testing their wings for flight. The first young to leave

the nest appeared to be the strongest bird. He was "coaxed" to the edge by a call from the adults. He remained there for less than a minute, then made his first flight up and onto the roof of the house, approximately 25 feet from the nest. The next bird then came out and departed, and then the third one. The shortest first flight was by the third young, which flew up but only about 8 feet from the nest. Second flights of the young were down into thick portions of an adjoining vacant lot.

LITERATURE CITED

Nice, Margaret Morse, 1953, The Question of Ten-day Incubation Periods. Wilson Bulletin 65 (2): 81-93.

Bent, Arthur Cleveland, 1948, Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers and their Allies. United States National Museum Bulletin 195 Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., pp. 486.

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WHEN DO THE BIRDS OCCUR AT BIRMINGHAM

By THOMAS A. IMHOF

Many Alabama bird students want to know when to expect certain species. Still others are unaware of the abundance or scarcity of some species at certain seasons. It is important in making a convincing record of an unusual bird that the observer be aware at the time that it is unusual and thus give to the identification of the bird the care that it warrants.

These are some of the reasons for publishing the migration data listed below. For birds observed some distance from Birmingham a certain amount of latitude is needed when comparing them with this list. So, I hope to see in this journal articles that will show how Birmingham migration data compare with the rest of the state.

This list covers all of Jefferson County and small areas of Shelby County near Lake Purdy and Oak Mountain State Park that are regularly worked by local observers. This region is a hilly rather rugged oak-pine woodland and with about 40% pine. Man, of course, has altered it so that there are large urban and suburban areas, some artificial lakes, and relatively few farms and pastures. The few marshes and swamps are small in area. In short, the region is a paradise for woodland birds (particularly non-game), moderately attractive to field and farm-dwellers, but rather unattractive to most waterbirds and shorebirds.

Most of the records are based on observations of Dr. Henry M. Stevenson of Tallahassee, Fla. (5 years between 1933 and 1940) and the writer (8 years between 1946 and 1954). Other records

have the initials of the following observers: FTC Frederick T. Carney, BED Blanche E. Dean, FBD F. Bozeman Daniel, MHP Morton H. Perry, MFP Millard F. Prather, RS Ruth Schumacher, IFS Idalene Snead, and HW Harriet Wright. Many other members of the Alabama Ornithological Society and the Birmingham Audubon Society assisted and confirmed many of these records. But my especial thanks go to Dr. Stevenson for many helpful suggestions and a complete list of field data.

For the sake of completeness, 45 permanent resident species are listed at the beginning; thus with 193 for which migration dates are listed, we have a complete county list of 238. Anyone having knowledge of the occurrence within Jefferson County of birds not on this list or outside the seasonal limits mentioned should contact the writer or submit a short article to the Editor of Alabama Bird Life.

Nomenclature follows that used in Audubon Field Notes with certain obvious abbreviations to save space, hence scientific names have been omitted. Some permanent resident species are notably more common in winter or summer and have a W. or S, respectively, after their names to indicate this.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Red-Tailed Hawk W
Red-Shouldered Hawk
Bob-White
Turkey
Killdeer
Mourning Dove
Barn Owl
Screech Owl
Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Yellow-Shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecked
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Red-Headed Woodpecker S
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-Breasted Nuthatch
Brown-Headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher S
American Robin W
Eastern Bluebird
Loggerhead Shrike
Common Starling
Pine Warbler
House Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-Winged Blackbird
Purple Grackle
Brown-Headed Cowbird W
Cardinal
American Goldfinch
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow

BIRDS OTHER THAN PERMANENT RESIDENTS

(Some of these may be permanent residents as a species or as individuals but enough of them migrate for us to obtain migration dates. Some dates, i. e., spring departure and fall arrival dates for summer residents are for migrants in areas where the species is not not known to breed. The status plus a dash in the appropriate place will indicate this. Some winter residents are treated similarly. Note that some species below such as Sparrow Hawk, Bewick's Wren, and Eastern Phoebe are actually permanent residents. However, we have sufficient data on migrants of these species to include them in this list.)

SYMBOLS: P—Permanent, W—Winter, S—Spring, Su—Summer, F—Fall, R—Resident, T—Transient, V—Visitant, a—abundant—found in large numbers in its habitat in its season; c—common—can always be found in its habitat in season; fc—fairly common—can usually be found in its habitat in season; uc—uncommon—found but once or twice in its season, or common one season, absent the next, also many species with 3 to 10 records that are found in numbers, r—rare—found in limited numbers usually but 3 to 10 records; cas—casual—less than 3 records which usually means that this region is not part of its normal range or does not offer sufficient habitat for migrants to stop over. Dates in parentheses are considered abnormal.

Empidonax flycatchers not identified to species are listed after the others as "other **Empidonax Sp.** records.

46.	Common Loon	ucSFT	3-30-49— 5-26-46		11-14-35—12-19-48
47.	Red-Necked Grebe	casWV	(2 birds at L Purdy MFP)		—12-27-42
48.	Horned Grebe	ucSFTWV	— 2- 2-46 (5-10-52)		11-15-47—
49.	Pied-Billed Grebe	aWRrSuV	— 5-30-52		8- 3-36 (summered 48, 49 & 50)
50.	Double-Cr. Cormorant	rSFT	— 3-15-47		11- 3-49— 1- 2-48
51.	Great Blue Heron	cWR	— 5-12-37		8-19-36 (prob. pres. in Su)
52.	Am. Egret	rSTcSuV&FT	4- 5-52		(6-22-50)
					7- 3-36— 9-27-49
53.	Snowy Egret	rFT			7-31-48— 9-14-46
54.	Little Blue Heron	rSTcFT	4-25-47		6-25-53— 9-26-36
55.	Green Heron	fcSuR	4- 1-49		— 9-25-53 (10-10)
56.	Black-Cr. Night Heron	rSFT	3-28-35— 5- 2-49	(7-8?)	7-31-48—10-26-49
57.	Yellow-Cr. Night Heron	rSTfcSuV&FT	4- 5-49		6- 3-50— 9-23-50&54
58.	Am. Bittern	rST	3- 9-52— 4- 7-47		
59.	Least Bittern	rST	4-12-47— 4-30-47		
60.	Wood Ibis	casSuV			7-24-35 (L Purdy HMS)
61.	Canada Goose	fcSFT	Feb.-Mar.		10-25-49—12-26-36
62.	Snow Goose	casFT			10-25-49 (Hi Line TAI)
63.	Blue Goose	rFT			10-25-49—11- 9-35
64.	Mallard	fcSFTWR	— 2- 2-46		11- 3-54—

65.	Black Duck	ucSFT	3-19-54— 3-30-54	12-26-48
66.	Gadwall	fcFT		10-18-52—12-26-48
67.	Am. Widgeon	cSFT	3- 2-47— 4-11-36	10-16-49—12-26-48
68.	Pintail	fcWV	— 3-20-50	10-30-54
69.	Green-Winged Teal	fcWR	— 4- 2-36	10- 3-52
70.	Blue-Winged Teal	cSFT	3-14-37— 5-22 (6- 5-50)	8-19-36—10-27-49
71.	Shoveller	ucSFT	— 4- 2-36	10-31-36—11-22-47
72.	Wood Duck	ucSuR	3- 2-48	—11- 3-54
73.	Redhead	ucWV	— 4- 5-52	11-13-49
74.	Ring-Necked Duck	aWR	— 4-24-37 (5-8-49)	10-11-49
75.	Canvass-Back	fcWR	— 3-18-37	12- 9-34
76.	Lesser Scaup	aWRrSuV	— 5-29-36 (6-6-53) (7-3-36)	10-27-49
77.	Am. Golden-Eye	ucWV	— 4-24-37	12- 6-52
78.	Buffle-Head	ucWV	— 4- 4-49	11-22-47
79.	Old-Squaw	rWV	1-25-35— 3- 2-47	
80.	Ruddy Duck	fcWR	— 4- 5-52	10-27-49
81.	Hooded Merganser	fcSFTWR	— 4-18-50	11- 9-49
82.	Am. Merganser	rSFTWR	2- 9-46— 4- 3-37	12-24-44 & 12-26-43
83.	Red-Breasted Merganser	ucSFT	3-27-49— 5- 8-53	11-14-35 & 11-15-47
84.	Mississippi Kite	casSV	3-29-46 (Edgewater after tornado TAI)	
85.	Sharp-Shinned Hawk	fcSFTucWR	3-17-46— 5- 4-40	9-20-52—11-20-46
86.	Krider's Red-Tail	casSV	4-17-53 (Midfield TAI)	
87.	Broad-Winged Hawk	cST&SuRaFT	4- 3-54— 4-11-53	9- 1-46 & 47—10-17-35
88.	Bald Eagle	casSFT	Late Mar.	—11-16-46
89.	Marsh Hawk	cWRSFT	4-11-53— 4-13-50	8-29-36—Oct.
90.	Osprey	cSTucFT	3-27-49— 5-26-46	9-13-37—10- 2-39
91.	Peregrine Falcon	ucFT&WV		9-18-54— 9-20-52
				12-26-53—12-30-49
92.	Pigeon Hawk	rSFT&WV	1-30-46 & 4- 2-50	9-13-47—10-12-35
93.	Sparrow Hawk	cWRfcSuR	— 3-30-50	8-19-54
94.	Virginia Rail	cWRrSuV	— 5- 4-53 (6- 5-49)	8-13-50—(every mo. but July)
95.	Sora	cWRSFT	— 5- 8-53	8-29-36
96.	Florida Gallinule	casSuV	— 6-28-51 & 7-29-50	(Bayview L. TAI)
97.	Am. Coot	aWRrSuV	— 4-26-48 (5-23; 6-27-50; 7-3 to Sep.)	10- 6-35
98.	Piping Plover	casFV		9-13-37 (L Purdy HMS)
99.	Ringed Plover	rSFT	5-12-37 & 46 — 5-16-46	8-12-36— 9-18-37
00.	Am. Golden Plover	casST	3-22-47 (Robt. Fd MHP, TAI)	
01.	Am. Woodcock	rSuVFT		6-30-54—12-15-41 (MFP)
02.	Wilson's Snipe	cWR	— 4-27-54	(9-2) 9-26-36
03.	Upland Sandpiper	rSTfcFT	3-23-37— 5- 6-53	7-14-36— 9- 1-36 (10-6-54)
04.	Spotted Sandpiper	cSFT	4- 8-46— 5-29-54	7-15-35—10-20-35
05.	Solitary Sandpiper	cSFT	(3-16-37) 3-28 — 5-19-48	(7-3-36) 7-15-35—10-22-35
06.	Willet	casFT		8-19 & 8-29-36 (HMS)
07.	Greater Yellow-Legs	ucSFT	3-19-40— 4-24-37	8- 4-36—11-22-47
08.	Lesser Yellow-Legs	ucSFT	3-30-40— 4-27-54	8- 8-36—10- 2-46

109.	Pectoral Sandpiper	ucSFT	3-22-47— 5- 9-35	7-24-35—11-16-46
110.	White-Rumped Sandpiper	casFT		8-29-36 (HMS)
111.	Least Sandpiper	ucSFTrWR	5- 4-53— 5-16-36&46	7-11-35—11-16-46 (12-6 to 20-52)
112.	Dowitcher	rFT		7- 3-36— 9-28-35 (Oxmoor)
113.	Semipalmated Sandpiper	ucSFT	5-14-48— 5-28-49	8-29-36— 9-26-36
114.	Western Sandpiper	casFV		9-11 & 9-12-35 (E Lake HMS)
115.	Sanderling	rSFT	5- 9-36— 5-12-46	9- 7-35—10- 3-35
116.	Herring Gull	ucWV	(After rain)—2-23-46	11- 2-47
117.	Ring-Billed Gull	ucWV	(After rain)—3-13-50	(9-25-52 MHP) 10-30-54
118.	Bonaparte's Gull	casFV		11-16-46 (L Purdy)
119.	Forster's Tern	casFV	(4 birds after hurricane)	8-31-50 (Bayview L TAI)
120.	Common Tern	rSFT	4-29-37	8- 8-36— 9-10-50
121.	Least Tern	casFT		7-31-48 (Bayview L TAI)
122.	Caspian Tern	casFV	(1 bird after hurricane)	8-31-50 Bayview L TAI)
123.	Black Tern	ucSFT	5- 2-35 (Oxmoor)	7- 3-36— 9-13-37 & 47 & 48
124.	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	cSuRaSFT	(4-9-47, 4-13-49) 5- 2-49	—10- 7-50 (10-19-54 IFS)
125.	Black-Billed Cuckoo	ucSFT	5- 9-48— 5-25-47	9-19-48—10-10-53
126.	Chuck-Will's-Widow	cSuR	4- 7-46	— 7-26-54 (HW)
127.	Whip-Poor-Will	rSFT	4- 7-34 & 5- 4-40	— 9-30-33 (HMS)
128.	Common Nighthawk	cSuR	4-20-37	—10-20-35
129.	Chimney Swift	aSuR	(3-27-49) 3-31-54	—10-21-35
130.	Ruby-Thr. Hummingbird	cSuRaFT	4- 8-36	—10-31-54 (11-2-54 FBD)
131.	Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	cWR	— 4-21-34	—10- 2-35
132.	Eastern Kingbird	cSuR	(4- 4-53) 4-10-37	— 9-22-53
133.	Crested Flycatcher	cSuR	(3-25-52, 3-29-49, 3-30-54) 4- 6-54	— 9-22-53
134.	Eastern Phoebe	cWRfcSuR	— 4-18-53 (4-26 & 5-2-40)	— 9-11-54
135.	Yellow-B. Flycatcher	casST	5-12-37 & 5-24-40(HMS).	
136.	Acadian Flycatcher	cSuR	4-19-37	— 9-14-47
137.	Least Flycatcher	rSFT	4-20-36— 5- 8-48	— 9- 9-53
Other	**Empidonax Sp.** Records	rSTucFT	5- 4-53— 5-24-40	8-14-46—10- 8-54 (10-26-54)
138.	Eastern Wood Pewee	cSuR	4-14-37	—10-22-35
139.	Olive-Sided Flycatcher	rSFT	Late Apr.— 5-15-54	9-16-54—10-20-35
140.	Horned Lark	ucWV	1-24-40	11-11-46—12- 4-35
141.	Tree Swallow	ucSFT	4- 2-36— 5- 8-53	7- 8-49— 9-25-53
142.	Bank Swallow	rSFT	5- 4-40	7-26-49— 8-29-36
143.	Rough-Winged Swallow	cSuR	3-18-46	— 9-14-47 (9-25-53)
144.	Barn Swallow	cSFT	4- 5-46 & 52—5-28-54	8- 7-49—10-10-53
145.	Cliff Swallow	ucSFT	4-20-47— 5-16-36	8-19-36— 9-18-54

146.	Purple Martin	cSuRaFT	2-27-54	— 9-20-52
147.	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	ucWR	(Not every year) — 4- 6-54 (4-28-49)	(9-26-54 FTC) 10- 7-45
148.	Brown Creeper	cWR	— 4- 5-49 (4-6 to 4-28-40 cripple)	10- 5-35
149.	House Wren	ucWRfcSFT	— 5- 4-40	9-17-46
150.	Winter Wren	fcWR	— 4-18-50	10- 9-35
151.	Bewick's Wren	fcWRrSuR	— 5- 8-47	(8-31-46) 9-20-46 & 49
152.	Long-B. Marsh Wren	ucSFTrWR	3- 9-52— 5- 6-53	9- 1-54—11- 2-40
153.	Short-B. Marsh Wren	rST&WV	5- 4-53— 5-23-37	12-20-52 12-28-39
154.	Catbird	cSuRrWR	4- 7-54 (FBD)	—10-31-53 (11-2-40) (12-20-47 & 12-26-53 BHC)
155.	Wood Thrush	cSuR	(3-25-49) 3-28-46	—10-19-49
156.	Hermit Thrush	cWR	— 4-28-37	10-10-53
157.	Olive-Backed Thrush	cSFT	4-19-47— 5-20-50	(9-4-54) 9- 9-53—10-19-49 (10-25-49)
158.	Gray-Cheeked Thrush	cSFTcasWV	4-28-36— 5-17-40	9-19-46—10-19-49 (12-31-49 & 1-1-51 BED)
159.	Veery	ucSFT	4-23-47— 5- 6-53	9- 7-48—10- 8-54
160.	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	cSuR	3-17-36 & 46	—10- 4-48
161.	Golden-Cr. Kinglet	aWR	— 4- 7-48 (5-4 & 5-7-47)	10- 8-35
162.	Ruby-Cr. Kinglet	aWR	— 5- 7-35 (5-10-47)	(9-27-47) 10- 4-48
163.	Water Pipit	cWR	— 3-30-54 (4-22-37)	10-13-47
164.	Cedar Waxwing	aWRrSuR	— 5-22-52 (6-4-35) bred 46 & 47	(9-11-33) 9-22-53
165.	White-Eyed Vireo	cSuR	3-25-48	—10-21-54 (11-2-47)
166.	Bell's Vireo	casSFT	4-28-36 (Irondale HMS)	8-19 to 8-31-32 (Elmw HMS)
167.	Yellow-Throated Vireo	cSuR	3-24-37	—10- 8-54 (10-13-46)
168.	Solitary Vireo	ucSFTrWR	3- 7-49— 4-22-50 (5-9-35)	9-14-46—11- 9-35 (11-30-46)
169.	Red-Eyed Vireo	aSuR	(3-28-36) 4- 1-36	—10- 8-54 (10-12-49)
170.	Philadelphia Vireo	ucSFT	4-19-50— 5- 4-53	9-21-48—10- 8-54
171.	Warbling Vireo	rSFT	5- 3-37— 5- 4-35	9-21-48
172.	Black and White Warbler	cSFT&SuR	3-20-54— 5-24-40	(6-13-49, 6-24-54) 7- 8-36 & 49
173.	Prothonotary Warbler	rSuRucSFT	4- 6-36— 4-22-36	—10-25-35 8-17-34— 9- 1-36
174.	Swainson's Warbler	casFT		— 9- 4-54 (MtB TAI)
175.	Worm-Eating Warbler	ucSuRfcSFT	4- 6-36 & 47 — 5- 8-53	—7-19-34 —10-8-54

176.	Golden-W. Warbler	ucSFT	4-19-47— 5- 4-40	8-19-32— 9-29-48
177.	Blue-Winged Warbler	ucSFT&SuR	4- 1-36— 5- 8-53	8-22-49— 9-21-47 (10-8-54)
178.	Bachman's Warbler	casSV	4-9 to 4-13-36 (Irondale HMS)	
179.	Tennessee Warbler	aSFT	4- 5-37— 5-15-54 (6-9-54 FBD)	9- 4-54—11- 8-39 (11-22-49 MHP)
180.	Orange-Crowned Warbler	cSFTucWR	(2-17-50) 2-23-46— 4-25-49 (5-1-40)	10-25-52—Dec.
181.	Nashville Warbler	ucSFT	4-30-34— 5- 4-40	9-21-48—10-25-48
182.	Parula Warbler	ucSTcFT(SuR?)	3-28-50— 5-23-34	(6-24-54) 7- 4-36 & 50 —10- 8-35
183.	Yellow Warbler	fcSuR	4- 2-35	— 9- 1-54 (9-25-53)
184.	Magnolia Warbler	cSFT	4-24-37— 5-23-40	9- 2-49—10-26-47
185.	Cape May Warbler	ucSFT	(4-5-35) 4-14-47— 5-10-37	10-15-54 & 10-16-49
186.	Black-Thr. Blue Warbler	rSFT	3 recs 4-25-54 (FBD,RS)	5- 4-40 (HMS) —10- 4-48(TAI
187.	Myrtle Warbler	aWR	— 5-10-47 & 52 (5-15-54)	10- 7-46
188.	Black-Thr. Green Warbler	cSFTcSuR	3-19-49— 5-15-40 & 54	(7-8-49) 7-25-49—10-29-49 (11-2-47)
189.	Cerulean Warbler	cSFTcSuR	(3-28-50) 4- 1-36— 5- 4-40	(7-3-54) 8-11-46— 9-21-48
190.	Blackburnian Warbler	cSFT	4- 1-54— 5-30-52 (6-11-54)	(7-25-49) 9- 4-50—10-25-48
191.	Yellow-Thr. Warbler	cSFTcSuR	3-14-53— 4- 7-48	(6-12-50) 7- 8-49— 9-23-33 (10-16) (12-27-34 HMS)
192.	Chestnut-Sided Warbler	cSFT	4-16-47— 5-20-36	(8-8-36) 8-23-48—10-22-35
193.	Bay-Breasted Warbler	ucSTcFT	4-28-50— 5-18-40	9-13-48—10-29-35
194.	Black-Poll Warbler	fcSTrFT	4-19-34— 5-24-34 & 40	9- 7-48 & 9-21-46
195.	Kirtland's Warbler	casST	5- 7-36 (MunAirpt HMS)	
196.	Prairie Warbler	cSuR&SFT	3-30-48— 5- 4-40	7-20-36—10- 7-46
197.	Palm Warbler	cSFTucWR	(2-8-49) 2-14-50— 5-12-49 & 54	9-17-52—Nov.
198.	Ovenbird	cSFT	4- 6-40— 5-12-54 (5-23-40)	(7-5-49?) 8-23-48—10-22-35 & 54
199.	Northern Water-Thrush	fcSFT	(4-9-36) 4-20-35— 5-12-37	8-24-34—10-17-35
200.	Louisiana Water-Thrush	cSuR&SFT	3-14-35— 5- 1-40	7-12-35— 9-29-48 (10-22-35)
201.	Kentucky Warbler	cSuR	4- 5-37	—10-10-46
202.	Connecticut Warbler	rST	5-17-40— 5-20-35	
203.	Mourning Warbler	casST	5-22-54 & 5-24-40 (TAI & HMS)	
204.	Common Yellowthroat	cSuRucWR	3-14-49	—10-26-54 (nearly every winter)
205.	Yellow-Breasted Chat	aSuR	4-14-48	—10- 8-54 (10-20-35)

3.	Hooded Warbler	cSuR&SFT	3-28-53— 5- 6-40	7-30-35—10- 8-49 & 54 (10-22-35)
7.	Black-Capped Warbler	rSTucFT	5-13-52 & 5-14-36	8-23-48—10- 8-54
8.	Canada Warbler	ucSTfcFT	4-24-37— 5-23-40	8-23-48—10- 8-54
9.	Am. Redstart	cSFTcSuR	4- 1-36— 5-17-40	7-30-35—10-22-35 (12-17-39 HMS)
0.	Bobolink	fcSTucFT	4-19-40— 6- 1-49	8-26-53—10- 8-54
1.	Orchard Oriole	cSuR	(3-30-36) 4- 4-48	— 8-14-46 (8-22-47, 9-1-46)
2.	Baltimore Oriole	ucSFT	4-24-37— 5- 7-53	8-31-36— 9-21-48 (10-8-54)
3.	Rusty Blackbird	cWR	— 4-18-35 (4-23-37)	10-22-35
4.	Brewer's Blackbird	rWV	1-28-50— 3- 4-50	
5.	Scarlet Tanager	cSFTrSuR	(3-30-53) 4- 8-46— 5-15-54	9- 5-40—10-26-46 (11-3-46)
6.	Summer Tanager	cSuR	4- 4-35	—10-20-35 (10-26-46)
7.	Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	cSFT	4-19-50— 5-15-54	9-17-40—10-31-35 (11-28-36 HMS)
8.	Blue Grosbeak	cSuR	4-19-50	— 9-28-47
9.	Indigo Bunting	aSuR	4- 5-37	—11- 4-53 (11-11-46)
0.	Dickcissel	ucSuRrFT	4-19-50—Jul.	10- 8-54 (2 birds)
1.	Purple Finch	cWR	— 4-19-49	—10-25-48
2.	Pine Siskin	fcWR	(not every year) — 5- 4-53 (5-12-54)	—12- 6-49
3.	Savannah Sparrow	cWR	— 5-18-40	9-22-37
4.	Grasshopper Sparrow	fcSuRcasWV	(3-25?) 4- 3-49	—10-13-47 (12-20-52 BED)
5.	Henslow's Sparrow	rSFT	5- 4-53	10-30-54 & 11-4-53 (TAI)
6.	Vesper Sparrow	cWR	— 4-20-40	10-24-54
7.	Lark Sparrow	casSV	4- 7-35 (E. Lake HMS)	
8.	Pine-Woods Sparrow	cSuRfcWR (prob. PR)	singing males on terr.	3-11-50—10-19-49
9.	Slate-Colored Junco	aWR	— 4-16-47 (4-21-34)	10-10-54
0.	Harris' Sparrow	casSV	4- 7-53 (Midfield TAI)	
1.	White-Crowned Sparrow	ucWR (rST prior to 52)	— 4-21-54	10-30-54
2.	White-Throated Sparrow	aWR	— 5-21-40	10-12-40
3.	Fox Sparrow	fcWR	— 3-13-50	11-14-34
4.	Lincoln's Sparrow	rST	4-11-37— 5- 4-40	
5.	Swamp Sparrow	aWR	— 5- 1-50 (5-5-37)	10-10-53
6.	Song Sparrow	aWR	— 4-12-47 (5-2-49)	(9-22-49) 10-10-46 & 53
7.	Lapland Longspur	casWV	1-12-54 (Robt Fd TAI)	
8.	Snow Bunting	casWV	1-24-40 (E. Lake HMS)	

BIRDS TO BE LOOKED FOR THAT HAVE BEEN SEEN IN NEARBY COUNTIES. White Pelican (fall), Water-Turkey (summer), Louisiana Heron (summer), White Ibis (summer), European Widgeon (spring), White-winged Scoter (winter), King Rail (summer), Black-bellied Plover (fall), Ruddy Turnstone (fall), Am. Knot (fall), Hudsonian Curlew (fall), Red-backed Sandpiper (fall and winter), Stilt Sandpiper (fall), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (fall), Royal Tern (after hurricane), Ground Dove (summer), Short-eared Owl (winter), Long-eared Owl (winter), Western Kingbird (fall), Alder Flycatcher (spring), Redpoll (winter), Red Crossbill (winter), and Am. Tree Sparrow (winter).

SUBSPECIES. The following subspecies have been identified in the county: **Ardea herodias wardi** (tentative in field), **Hylocichla minima Bicknelli** (specimen Oct. 8), **Lanius ludovicianus migrans** (caught in banding trap, used tail measurement, no specimen. Jan.), **Dendroica petechia rubiginosa** (tentative in field 9-25-53), **Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea** (in field on migration), **Dendroica dominica albilora** (tentative in field Aug. 8 and Oct. 16), **Seiurus novaboracensis notabilis** (specimen Oct. 8), **Junco hyemalis carolinensis** (tentative in field).

307 38th Street, Fairfield, Ala.
November 4, 1951.

A VISIT TO A HERON ROOKERY

By W. H. ALLEN, JR.

While visiting in Geiger, Sumter County, Alabama, last June, I had one of the most unique and interesting experiences that it has been my privilege to have in a long time.

When I arrived in Alabama late in May, several people told me about the heron rookery that was nearby. Having long been interested in wild life of all kinds and particularly in birdlife I was naturally anxious to visit the Herons at their nesting site as soon as possible so that I could see for myself how these interesting birds nest and rear their young. Consequently, I arranged to visit the rookery during the early part of June.

The rookery was located in a small cedar grove that was surrounded by open pasture land. It was interesting to me that the closest body of water of any kind was about a mile away. Since herons are water birds I had always supposed that they would nest around the edge of streams or lakes or that at least they would rear their young reasonably close to water. Such is not the case, however. They nest at considerable distances from the streams, rivers, and lakes where they obtain their food. They

fly back and forth between their nesting grounds and their feeding grounds every day.

I arrived at the rookery during the middle of the afternoon and stayed until dark so that I could see the birds returning to their nests to feed their young and then go to roost for the night. As I approached I could see the large birds flying in all directions around the cedar grove. Some were coming in to feed their young and some were returning to their feeding grounds.

In the grove there were literally hundreds of nests in the cedar trees. Some nests were low enough in the trees so that you could look into them without climbing at all while others were higher up and some were in the very tops of the trees. Each tree contained several nests.

I noticed two things almost immediately. One was the horrible, almost overwhelming stench that pervaded the whole area. The herons feed, and feed their young, on small fish, crayfish, frogs and even small water snakes. The ground under the trees was littered with bits of flesh from their food and these bits were in varying stages of decomposition. The odor was almost overpowering at first but I soon began to grow accustomed to it.

The other thing that I noticed was that the birds were not all of the same kind but that there were several different kinds of herons nesting here. I finally recognized, after some consultation with the bird guide book, that there were Snowy Egret, American Egret, and Little Blue Herons all nesting together here. This was surprising to me too. I had expected that only one kind of heron would be found nesting in a particular rookery.

There were young birds in all stages of development in the rookery too. Some of the nests contained eggs or newly hatched chicks while the young in other nests were almost full grown.

As it grew later more and more of the adult birds began to return to their nests. They came from all directions. They came singly and by twos, threes, fours. As darkness approached the returning groups seemed to increase in size until finally all of the birds were in just before dark.

At dark I left the rookery with the feeling that I had been given the privilege of witnessing one of the rare sights of nature.

Pikeville College
Pikeville, Kentucky

NORTHERN ALABAMA NOTES ON THE CASPIAN TERN

(Hydroprogne caspia)

Look on a map of central Asia and you will find the Caspian Sea, a briny inland sea bordered on the south by Iran, on the west by the Ukraine, and surrounded in parts by the Caucasian Mountains. The Volga river empties into it. This sea has its name given to one of our birds, the Caspian Tern. This cosmopolition fellow ranges over Europe, Asia, and North America. One of our largest terns, he is nearly the size of the Herring Gull, with a black cap, a bright red bill, and a shallowly forked tail.

In North America he breeds along the shores of Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence, locally around the Great Lakes, and, rarely, on the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and winters from there south. While Howell's Birds of Alabama and Oberholser's, The Bird Life of Louisiana, give no inland records, Caspian Terns arrive each fall on the Wheeler Reservoir of Northern Alabama with almost clocklike regularity and remain for a few weeks until colder weather drives them to the Gulf.

The odd factor, where the northern Alabama records are concerned, is that for the past four years, the arrival dates for these birds have varied only from August 23 to September 2, and that the first arrivals are always noted on the same spot, a remote gravel bar in the reservoir northwest of Decatur. Four or 5 individuals make up the first flock each fall but numbers increase until, in mid September, 15 or 20 of these birds are using the Decatur locality. These remain until early October and the latest known record for occurrence is November 1, when only a single bird was seen.

While a few records have been made on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge covering the middle third of Wheeler Reservoir, the majority of the sight records have come from the vast stretch of open back water lying north and west of Decatur. Here, they have been observed feeding on schools of small shad. Evidently, these birds are purely transients, pausing to rest and feed during fall migration. Despite a diligent watch, they have never been noted on Wheeler Reservoir in spring. Since they do occur regularly in northern Alabama from late August to early November, they should occur on other large inland bodies of water in Alabama during the same period. A careful watch may turn up other interesting records for the state.—Thomas Z. Atkeson, Box 1643, Decatur, Ala., and David C. Hulse, 619 Moulton St., E., Decatur, Ala.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER ADDED TO ALABAMA LIST

The first Alabama record of the Vermilion Flycatcher (**Pyrocephalus rubinus**), appearing in **Audubon Field Notes** (vol. 3, p. 21), was not specifically assigned to that State, but the locality was referred to as "20 miles west of Pensacola." The record was made by Francis M. Weston, of Pensacola, on November 6, 1948. In a recent communication Weston states that this bird, a male, was at a dairy pond beside the Pensacola highway two miles east of Elberta. Three other observers who were with Weston concurred in the identification.

A second State record of this distinctive species was made recently by M. H. Fisher, who has suggested that I submit it for publication. This individual, an adult male, was near the picnic area of the Gulf State Park east of Gulf Shores, "around the middle of January," 1954. Fisher has a broad background in field ornithology, is familier with the present species in Mexico, and displays all-around competence in the field of identification of birds. These two records are in line with the general increase of this flycatcher in the Southeast in recent years.—Henry M. Stevenson, Department of Zoology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

NOTES ON CLARKE COUNTY MIGRANTS

Throughout the winter months my wife and I maintain three separate feeding stations for the birds. One is on a ledge, just outside a dining room window, one is a shallow box suspended from a horizontal pecan limb and only a few feet from the window, and the third is a plot of ground. They are so aligned that we can watch all three from our table.

The one hanging from the pecan limb is kept well supplied with pecan nuts which I first smash with a brick. One noon in the past midwinter my wife excitedly called for me to come to the window—that there was a new bird on the box. Sure enough there was one I had never seen before. His head and body were black and orange with conspicuous white splotches on the wings. I looked him over carefully at close range as he ate his fill of the pecan meats. His size and shape were those of an oriole, so I turned to the orioles in my "Birds of America."

The only description that seemed to fit at all was that of Bullock's oriole, a Western species, and it fit perfectly. I wrote Dr. Arthur A. Allen at Cornell of what I had seen and in time he replied that it probably was a Bullock Oriole—that they had been seen as far east as Thomasville, Georgia, and that one was then wintering in Massachusetts.

So far as I know, this one visit was the only one made to my feeding station.

I had another experience this spring which gave me quite a thrill. On two different mornings I heard a hermit thrush sing. I was out turkey hunting the latter part of March and the weather was unusually warm for that time of year. The first time I heard the song the bird sang only briefly, which left me in doubt, but two or three mornings later I was back in the same vicinity and this time he gave me quite a concert. I didn't see the bird but I know from my recordings of bird songs that it was the hermit thrush doing the singing.

As a matter of fact, there would be nothing unusual about this. Probably I had heard it before but it failed to register, as I had never had the opportunity of hearing the recorded song of the bird until recently. During periods of migration in the spring I have seen and heard sing the rose breasted grosbeak, the Baltimore oriole, the scarlet tanager, the robin, and others. So if the stirrings of romance cause these birds to break into song, there is no reason why the hermit thrush shouldn't be similarly stirred.—George A. Carleton, Grove Hill, Alabama.

BIRD MORTALITY AT BIRMINGHAM CEILOMETER

List of birds picked up dead around the Ceilometer at Birmingham Municipal Airport, Alabama, October 8, 1954, by Thomas A. Imhof and F. Bozeman Daniel:

1.	Tennessee Warbler	198
2.	Olive-backed Thrush	135
3.	Ovenbird	135
4.	Chestnut-sided Warbler	119
5.	Magnolia Warbler	118
6.	Indigo Bunting	103
7.	Red-eyed Vireo	102
8.	Scarlet Tanager	52
9.	Gray-cheeked Thrush	41
10.	Philadelphia Vireo	39
11.	Bay-breasted Warbler	39
12.	Common Yellowthroat	32
13.	Wood Thrush	28
14.	Black and White Warbler	27
15.	Canada Warbler	19
16.	Black-throated Green Warbler	14
17.	Blackburnian Warbler	14
18.	Am. Redstart	13
19.	Yellow-throated Vireo	11
20.	Catbird	7
21.	Nashville Warbler	6
22.	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6
23.	Kentucky Warbler	4
24.	Hooded Warbler	4
25.	Veery	2
26.	Worm-eating Warbler	2
27.	Northern Water-thrush	2
28.	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
29.	Bobolink	2
30.	Summer Tanager	2
31.	Dickcissel	2
32.	Sora	1
33.	Flycatcher	1
34.	Blue-Winged Warbler	1
35.	Black-capped Warbler	1
36.	Baltimore Oriole	1
	Total individuals	1,283

I estimate that I got 80% of the birds and that the total involved was about 1,600 birds. All the Tennessees were thoroughly searched for possible Orange-crowns. Three of the Gray-cheeks were saved which were the smallest (7 in.) and will probably prove to be Bicknell's. The two Northern Water-Thrushes are different, one being very yellow and the other very white on the belly. One of them will probably prove to be a Grinnel's. The Flycatcher is probably a Least. The big surprise was the Dickcissels (very late) and the Philadelphia Vireos show how easily a species can be overlooked as we had 2 previous records in Fall for the Birmingham region. Except for the above two species most are listed in about the order of abundance we have found them here in the field at this season. The following proved to be later than ever recorded here: Veery, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-capped Warbler, Canada Warbler, Baltimore Oriole and Dickcissel.

Everything indicates that the birds were blinded by the ceilometer and flew into the ground. All birds examined showed head injuries. The ceiling was from 3,000 to 2,400 ft., wind varied from ENE to ESE from 6-12 mph., Temp. 65° to 54°.—Thomas A. Imhof, 307 38th St., Fairfield, Ala.

OBITUARIES

GRACE HALL REGAR

Grace Hall Regar (Mrs. H. Severn), a charter member of the A.O.S., passed away at Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, on May 8th, last. She was born at Farmington Falls, Maine, on October 25, 1886, and later resided in Brockton, Mass., graduating from Brockton High School, and then attended Northfield Seminary. On June 20, 1911, she was married to H. Severn Regar, also a charter member of the A.O.S., of Norristown, Pa. They moved south 25 years ago to Anniston, Alabama, bringing with them The Regar Museum of Natural History, which they presented to the city. It is housed in a specially-built addition to the Carnegie Library there. Her husband and two married daughters survive her.

BERT C. WILLIAMS

Dr. Bert C. Williams, Professor of Biology, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died on July 6, 1954, after an extended illness. He was a charter member of A.O.S. and was currently District 4 Regional Director.

Dr. Williams was born at Greensburg, Indiana. He received his degrees at De Pauw and University of Indiana. He taught in the Indiana high school system and at the University of Alabama. He was a member of several professional societies and was known in the field of botany for his work in plant anatomy.