

fall, the pairing of towhees is probably indicative of their nature as they certainly are not a solitary bird. At no time during the fall season were the various songs of the towhee heard. With the male no longer singing in autumn, he does not advertise his whereabouts nor does he indicate to the other males of his species that he is occupying an area. During the time the male and female forage together, the typical towhee call may be heard, sometimes as an alarm note and other times as a recognition note to its mate. Both the female and male utter the call on occasion throughout the year. As previously reported (Lauden, 1954), small flocks were observed foraging, and pursuit-flying and fighting by bodily contact occurred during the fall of the year. The reason for these antics seemed that the male of the pair was definitely concerned about his mate and would not concede to the interference of another male accompanying them too closely on their foraging expeditions.

In the entire trapping operations during the fall season, as many as 20 towhees (10 males and 10 females) were captured on one of the ten territories. During the breeding season, another towhee was seldom observed within the boundaries of any of the territories studied. Winter territories are not established by these towhees.

#### Summary and Conclusions

The Alabama Towhee is a year-round resident in the vicinity of Auburn, Alabama. Of the 10 breeding pairs of Alabama Towhees, 14 were banded during the nesting season in spring, 1953. Four of these birds were retrapped on their spring-nesting territories during the autumn of 1953. The captured birds, two males and two females, were one each of four breeding pairs, representing four different territories. Of the 14 nestlings banded during the spring months, none were recaptured on the territories nor in any of the adjacent areas in which trapping was conducted. The recapturing of almost 30 percent of parent Alabama Towhees on their own territories in autumn, 1953, indicates that our resident towhees have relatively fixed home ranges.

Towhees are usually seen foraging in pairs, but small flocks may be observed feeding in relatively small areas. Although towhees are not a pugnacious species, fighting by bodily contact and pursuit-flying were observed during the autumn months. Life-pairing was concluded to be the reason for these skirmishes. Trapping records during the autumn season revealed that as many as 20 towhees were captured on one of the ten spring-nesting territories. Although winter territories are not established by the Alabama Towhees, they do forage in pairs and their call may be heard throughout the year.

#### Literature Cited

Burleigh, Thomas D., 1944. The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi. Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. La. State Univ., 20:329-490, 1 map, 3 figs.

Dickinson, J. C., Jr., 1952. Geographic Variation in the Red-eyed Towhee of the Eastern United States. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 107(5): 273-352.

Lauden, May S., 1954. The Territorial Range of the Alabama Towhee. Alabama Bird-Life 2:3-15.

Williams, George C., 1945. Do Birds Cross the Gulf of Mexico in Spring? Auk 62:90-110. 1950. The Nature and Causes of the 'Coastal Hiatus.' Wilson Bull. 62:175-182.

279 Bay Avenue,  
Glen Ridge, N. J.

#### AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE GULF COAST

By JULIAN L. DUSI and ROSEMARY T. DUSI

A visit to the Gulf Coast of Alabama, from September 6 through September 20, 1955, permitted us to make a number of interesting ornithological observations.

The weather was typical of summer, mostly clear and hot. It rained on September 12 over most of the area with a heavy downpour at Fairhope.

Two definite migrations were noted on the Bon Secour area. The first was on September 12 and 13, after the heavy rain at Fairhope. The second was on September 20.

We stayed at a court across from the post office at Gulf Shores. This was a good central location for studying several different ecological situations.

The beach and lagoon area at Gulf Shores is an excellent situation for studying many water birds and those associated with marshes. By following highway 182 west until the pavement ended and then continuing on the unimproved road until its end, a stretch of seven or eight miles of beach is available on one side and the marshy shore of the bay on the other. We visited this area almost every day.

By following the canal road east from Gulf Shores, the Orange Beach and Bear Point areas may be visited. Much of the habitat along this road is fairly open pine and grass lands. Red Cockaded Woodpeckers are found here. There are also a few swampy places where deciduous trees are thick and tangled

with vines. At Orange Beach there are some magnolias and oaks and trees such as these are also present at Bear Point, which is rather heavily wooded. We visited these areas on September 12 and 19.

The Bon Secour area is a rather large area north and west of Gulf Shores. It extends around Bon Secour Bay and Bon Secour River flows north from it. There are several roads into the area, all of which go through interesting habitat. We particularly like the one which goes to the Bon Secour Baptist Church. The habitat is open grass and pineland or farm land until the vicinity of the water is reached. There deciduous trees, characterized by live oaks, magnolias, and gums mostly replace the pines. This is good warbler habitat and it was here that we saw the most migration activity. The edge of the bay contains many marsh plants and would undoubtedly be good habitat for marsh birds. We visited the Bon Secour area on September 12, 13 and 20.

The Fort Morgan road parallels the gulf beach area highway 182 and extends for 20 miles out to the fort. The first portion of this road was once good deciduous forest habitat, but now it is either populated, or has been cut and cleared for building, or burned over, so that it is not very good for bird study. The rest of the road extends through rather desolate dune, scrub and pineland which is populated mostly by Shrikes and Mockingbirds. At the end of the road, the beaches at Fort Morgan are good water bird habitat. We visited this area on September 15.

The Dauphin Island area is quite far from Gulf Shores, traveling by automobile, and we visited it once on September 14, because we had never before been there. It is now vegetated by many tall pine trees on the main part of the island. Along the shore east of the causeway there are a few shrubs and marsh grasses and sedges. The southern shore is beach and the northwestern shore is marshy. The northwestern part seemed to have the most birds. A great amount of real estate development is taking place on Dauphin Island. This will destroy much bird habitat and we can expect it to become less and less desirable.

Following is an annotated list of the birds with their abundance, dates and places of occurrence listed.

Pied-billed Grebe. Consistently seen each day along the beach area at Gulf Shores. Three to five could be seen in the lagoon areas along the road.

Brown Pelican. Common along the beach at Gulf Shores, Fort Morgan, and Bear Point. Many were seen also at Dauphin Island.

Man-O'-War Bird. One was seen at Dauphin Island, Sep-

tember 14, and two were seen at Gulf Shores beach area September 20.

Great Blue Heron. This was undoubtedly the Ward's subspecies. Three to five were seen each day and some were seen at all localities studied.

American Egret. One or two were seen each time the Gulf Shores beach area was visited. Two were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14, and one at Bon Secour, September 12.

Snowy Egret. Two or more were seen each time the Gulf Shores beach area was visited. Fourteen were seen at Dauphin Island, September 14, and two at Bear Point, September 19.

Louisiana Heron. Two were seen at each visit to the Gulf Shores beach area.

Little Blue Heron. One or two were seen on trips to each of the areas including Dauphin Island.

Green Heron. Two to five individuals were seen on each visit to the Gulf Shores beach area. Two were also seen at Bon Secour on September 13.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Three immatures were seen on each visit to the Gulf Shores beach area.

White Ibis. Two immatures were seen at the Gulf Shores beach area on September 10.

Blue-winged Teal. A group of as many as eight individuals was seen on each visit to the Gulf Shores beach area.

Turkey Vulture. Several were seen at Bon Secour, Bear Point and along the Fort Morgan road.

Black Vulture. Seen at Bon Secour on several occasions.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Seen at Bear Point on September 12 and 19.

Marsh Hawk. One was seen at the Gulf Shores beach area.

Sparrow Hawk. Two or more were seen each trip to the Gulf Shores beach area and at Bon Secour, September 13.

Bob White. One covey of seven birds was flushed at Bon Secour on September 12.

Clapper Rail. One was seen at Dauphin Island on September 14.

Virginia Rail. One was found wounded by an automobile on the Gulf Shores beach road.

Sora. Fairly common in the sedges on the bay side of the Gulf Shores beach road.

American Oystercatcher. Two were seen feeding along the causeway to Dauphin Island, September 14.

Piping Plover. Twelve were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14.

Semipalmated Plover. Ten were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14.

Black-bellied Plover. Two were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14 and two to four were seen each trip to the Gulf Shores beach area, on the bay side.

Spotted Sandpiper. Two to five were seen on trips to the Gulf Shores beach area. Seen also on Dauphin Island.

Solitary Sandpiper. One was seen on September 20 at the Gulf Shores beach area.

Willet. Fourteen were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14, and several were seen on the Gulf Shores beach area.

Greater Yellow-Legs. One was seen on Dauphin Island, September 14, and one was seen along the canal road to Bear Point, September 19.

Least Sandpiper. A group of six was seen on the Gulf Shores beach area on September 20.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Ten were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14.

Western Sandpiper. Thirty were seen on Dauphin Island, September 14, and two were seen on the Gulf Shores beach area on September 20.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. One was seen on the bay side of the Gulf Shores beach area on September 12.

Sanderling. Common on the beach at Gulf Shores and Dauphin Island.

Herring Gull. Common at Gulf Shores, Fort Morgan and Dauphin Island.

Ring-billed Gull. Common on Dauphin Island.

Common Tern. Common on Dauphin Island and the Gulf Shores beach area.

Least Tern. Fairly common on Dauphin Island and the Gulf Shores beach area.

Royal Tern. Common on Dauphin Island.

Black Tern. Common on Dauphin Island.

Black Skimmer. Twenty-one were seen on Dauphin Island, fourteen at Gulf Shores beach area.

Mourning Dove. Seen on all areas except Dauphin Island. At least fifteen were seen each trip on the Gulf Shores beach area road (Rt. 182).

Nighthawk. One was seen in Bon Secour on September 12, three on September 13.

Chimney Swift. Seven were seen along Fort Morgan road, September 15.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Two were seen September 12, one September 19, at Bear Point. Two were seen at Bon Secour, September 13.

Belted Kingfisher. Two to four were seen on all the areas. Flicker. One or two were seen on each trip to Bon Secour, Bear Point, and along the Fort Morgan road.

Pileated Woodpecker. Seen on the Bon Secour area and along the canal road to Bear Point.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Seen on the Bon Secour area, at Bear Point, and along the Fort Morgan road.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Seen on the Bon Secour area and at Bear Point.

Hairy Woodpecker. Seen on the Bear Point road and along the Fort Morgan road.

Downy Woodpecker. Seen only along the Bear Point road on September 19.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Seen only along the Bear Point road.

Eastern Kingbird. Common on the Bon Secour area and along the Bear Point road.

Gray Kingbird. Three were seen in the magnolia trees along the Fort Morgan road on September 15.

Crested Flycatcher. Seen along the Gulf Shores beach road and at Bear Point.

Wood Pewee. Seen at Bon Secour and along the Fort Morgan road.

Rough-winged Swallow. Four were seen on wires along the Bear Point road on September 19.

Barn Swallow. Fifteen were seen on the road between Bon Secour and Magnolia Springs, September 13. This was the first group seen. After that date groups were seen at Gulf Shores and many migrants were seen along the road between Gulf Shores and Robertsdale.

Blue Jay. Present on all areas including Dauphin Island.

Fish Crow. Three were definitely seen at Gulf Shores.

Carolina Chickadee. Seen on the Bon Secour and Bear Point areas and along the Fort Morgan road.

Tufted Titmouse. Seen on the Bon Secour and Bear Point areas and along the Fort Morgan road.

Brown-headed Nuthatch. Seen on the Bon Secour, Bear Point and Fort Morgan areas and also on Dauphin Island.

Carolina Wren. Seen at Bon Secour, along the canal road to Bear Point, and on the Fort Morgan road.

Mockingbird. A very common bird on all areas and especially

on the desolate scrub areas on the Fort Morgan road. Seen also on the Dauphin Island trip.

Catbird. Seen only on the Bon Secour area.

Brown Thrasher. Seen on all of the areas except Dauphin Island and the Gulf Shores beach area.

Olive-backed Thrush. One collected on the Bon Secour area September 13.

Bluebird. Common on all areas except Dauphin Island and the Gulf Shores beach area.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Seen on the Bon Secour area and along the Fort Morgan road.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. One was seen on the Bon Secour area on September 12 when a group of migrant birds was being studied.

Loggerhead Shrike. Very common except on Dauphin Island. Starling. Seen only in the towns.

White-eyed Vireo. Seen at Bon Secour, Bear Point, and along the Fort Morgan road.

Red-eyed Vireo. Four to twenty were seen on visits to Bon Secour, Bear Point and along the Fort Morgan road. They were much more abundant than the white-eyed vireos.

Black and White Warbler. Seen only on the Bon Secour area. Eight were seen September 12 and 17 seen September 13.

Prothonotary Warbler. One was seen along the road to Bear Point, September 19, and one was seen at Bon Secour, September 20.

Golden-winged Warbler. One was seen during a warbler migration at Bon Secour on September 13.

Yellow Warbler. Five were seen at Bon Secour on September 20.

Magnolia Warbler. One seen September 13 on the Bon Secour area.

Blackburnian Warbler. A heavy migration was seen on September 12 when 40 individuals were observed at Bon Secour. On September 13, 8 individuals were observed on the Bon Secour area much to the north of the area studied the previous day.

Pine Warbler. Present in suitable habitat on all the areas except Dauphin Island and the Gulf Shores beach area.

Prairie Warbler. An immature female was collected on the Gulf Shores beach area, September 11. The bird was hiding in the sedges on the bay side of the beach strip and resembled a Seaside Sparrow in behavior.

Northern Water-thrush. One individual was watched from a distance of 20 feet for several minutes on September 13 on the Bon Secour area.

Yellow-throat. Six individuals were seen in a group of migrating birds at Bon Secour on September 20.

Redstart. Two were seen September 13 at Bon Secour.

English Sparrow. Seen in most communities and towns.

Meadowlark. Present on the meadows of all areas except Dauphin Island.

Red-winged Blackbird. A large flock of about 200 individuals was seen at Bon Secour on September 13. Several were seen on the Gulf Shores beach area on September 20.

Orchard Oriole. Two were seen in a migration at Bon Secour, September 20.

Baltimore Oriole. Four males were seen at Bon Secour, September 20.

Boat-tailed Grackles. Seen commonly along the Gulf Shores beach area.

Summer Tanager. Seen on the Bon Secour area and along the Fort Morgan road.

Cardinal. Common except on the beach areas.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A female was carefully observed on the Bon Secour area, September 12.

Blue Grosbeak. One female was seen September 20 at Bon Secour.

Towhee. Present on all bushy areas. Not found on Dauphin Island or on the beach areas.

It was interesting to note that no true sparrows were seen. While we did not exhaustively search for them inland, we carefully walked the areas of grasses and sedges at Gulf Shores. These areas are usually heavily populated in the winter and spring, so we were quite surprised when no sparrows were found.

We certainly overlooked some species that probably are not too common, especially among the waterbirds. While the list is not complete, we feel that it is representative of the species and numbers present in late summer. The migrants were ever present surprises which made the birdwatching much more exciting and lured us into spending many more hours in the field.

347 S. College St.,  
Auburn, Alabama.

## REPORT OF THE A.O.S. FALL MEETING, 1955

By HARRIET WRIGHT

Thirty-two attended the semi-annual meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society at Gulf State Park, September 23, 24 and 25.

Members and guests registered at park headquarters Saturday morning. Field trips were substituted for "Operation Recov-