

ler, C; Prairie Warbler, C; Palm Warbler, A; Ovenbird, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, C; Yellowthroat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4; Hooded Warbler, C; American Redstart, C; House Sparrow, C; Eastern Meadowlark, C; Eastern Redwing, C; Orchard Oriole, C; Purple Grackle, 4; Brown-headed Cowbird, C; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, C; Cardinal, C; Blue Grosbeak, 5; Indigo Bunting, 11; Painted Bunting, 2; Eastern Goldfinch, C; Rufous-sided Towhee, C; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Pine-woods Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, C; Field Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, C; Swamp Sparrow, 1.—Dan Speake, Auburn, Alabama.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Some Nesting Records from Cleburne County, Alabama

The following observations were made during the 1957 nesting season: On June 24, a Bobwhite Quail nest was located by road crews working in the Management Area. Apparently this disturbance caused the birds to desert the nest containing 12 eggs. The nest was located in **Andropogon** stubble at the edge of a dirt road.

A young chick, less than 24 hours old with dried blood still on its beak, was caught and examined on July 4. Both parents were nearby and called and displayed constantly while I remained in the vicinity.

On July 9, a cock was seen leading approximately 8 to 10 recently-hatched chicks along the forest edge. When approached, the chicks hid and the parent displayed with a broken-wing routine and eventually flew onto a low branch. Of this same group, both parents and 13 chicks were seen on July 26. This would place the age of the chicks, which were capable of short flights, at 17 to 19 days.

A cock and 6 young were flushed in a pine clearing atop a high ridge on July 16. The chicks were estimated to be about two weeks old and capable of short flights.

A young Blue Jay, capable of flight and with nearly-completed juvenile plumage, was seen perched on a pine limb on July 1.

The nest of a Brown Thrasher was first noticed on June 15. The clutch contained four eggs and the nest was placed in a honeysuckle thicket six feet above the ground. Three of the eggs hatched on June 17 and the young birds were gone from the nest on June 25.

Two full-feathered juvenile Red-eyed Vireos were seen and heard calling incessantly in an oak tree on July 2.

On June 12, a female Pine Warbler was seen feeding two flightless young that had recently left the nest and dropped to the ground (Figure 1). The male parent was perched and singing in an adjacent pine tree.—William H. Adams, Jr.

Coturnix Quail Observation

On August 29 while driving the Cut-Off to Columbiana in the early morning, I flushed two Coturnix quails.

They were in the weeds by the roadside, flew up suddenly and disappeared into cover in an uncultivated field by the road. They were not as large as bobwhite, but similar in color. They were nearer the size of meadowlarks, but did not have the white feathers.—Blanche E. Dean.

Summer Record of Junco

At least four Carolina Juncos spent the summer around my home this year in the southern part of Clay County near Goodwater. Whether they were a family, a pair which nested raising two young, or not, I am not able to state. I had seen Juncos all the winter, but suddenly became conscious to the fact that it was summer and the Juncos were still here. One day, Blanche Dean was at my home and was quite surprised to see the Juncos. She conferred with Mr. Imhof, who says he has no record of their nesting or spending the summer in Alabama. My neighbor, Mrs. Runyan, and I have seen them almost every day, sometimes singly or pairs or the four of them together. Mrs. Dean saw and identified them at least twice on July 24 and August 11, 1957.—Eulalia Johnson (Mrs. Otis).

Oriole Observations

On December 7, 1956, a neighbor, Mrs. Gayle Riley, alerted me that a bird, possibly an oriole, was in our vicinity. December 9th the unusual bird appeared at the feeder. It was an immature Baltimore Oriole, but not until April did the bird begin to brighten into male plumage. The oriole was a daily visitor at the feeder and was banded on February 9, 1957. After March 12 the oriole was an intermittent visitor appearing for a few days following an absence of a week or more. This Oriole was last observed on April 19, 1957.—Harriett Wright.

Ticks (Four in Three Days)

At dusk on October 29, 1957, Mrs. Gayle Riley brought a Mockingbird to me that had a swollen tick on the left side of the throat. The Mockingbird had become so weakened that Mrs. Riley had caught the bird with her hands. The tick was removed and the bird was banded. The bird was released the following morning and flew to a high perch in an oak tree,

after which it flew away with no apparent impairment.

On October 30, 1957, a female Cardinal was observed at the feeder with a swollen tick at right eyebrow level.

While banding on October 31, 1957, two birds were trapped with a swollen tick in the same identical spot, just below the right eye. One was an immature White-throated Sparrow; the second a male Cardinal. Both birds were banded and flew away without difficulty.—Harriett Wright.

Cattle Egret Records

On April 26 two Cattle Egrets were found on Dauphin Island by Lovett E. Williams, Jr. One of them was collected by Dan Speake for the Alabama Wildlife Research Unit Museum.

I collected a Cattle Egret at Boatyard Lake on May 7. Measurements are as follows: Length, 505 mm; wing, 191 mm; tarsus, 74 mm; Culmen, 60 mm; weight, 13 oz.; Gonads, Left 8 mm and Right 7mm; sex, male. The stomach contained numerous grasshoppers, coleoptera, etc.—Robert Skinner.

Birds and Snakes

On May 23, 1958, a four-foot gray rat snake was collected by the author near Tallassee in Elmore County and was taken home and placed in a wire cage for future use and study.

On the afternoon of May 24, upon checking the cage I found that the snake was missing. The following night at approximately 8:30, a rasping cry of a bird in fear was heard behind the house. Upon checking an orchard oriole nest 25 feet up in an elm tree, I found it was wrapped up in snake.

After erecting a ladder, I pulled the snake from the nest and the partially disgorged, and very dead, female oriole from the mouth of the rat snake. The four young birds were left in the nest unharmed.

It was previously noted that the male bird had taken an active part in the feeding of the young. Observation showed that the male fed and cared most diligently for the young birds for four more days, at which time the nest was deserted by the parent and no more cries of hunger were heard from the young. Evidently the task of feeding and caring for the young birds had become too great and the ants took over.

The snake refused to eat in captivity and two days after being pulled from the nest it died of unknown causes.—Robert W. Skinner.

Breeding Record for Dickcissel

On May 16, 1958, the writer found a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) exhibiting territoriality in a clover-field in Wilcox County, Alabama. This bird was observed from time to time for the next three days, but was not seen with a mate. My next visit to the area was June 2. On June 3 a female was found and after considerable searching, a nest containing one large fledgling and one unhatched egg was found. The male bird was collected as well as the nest, egg, and fledgling. The adult and fledgling are preserved in the collection of the Wildlife Research Unit at A.P.I., Auburn.

This record constitutes the southern-most known breeding of the species in Alabama.—Lovett E. Williams, Jr.

White Crow

On September 7, 1957, Robert Skinner observed a white crow in Autauga County.

Virginia Rail—Fall Migration Date

On September 4, 1957, Ralph Allen saw a Virginia Rail near Montgomery.