

FALL A. O. S. MEETING

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its semi-annual meeting at Dauphin Island on November 6, 7, and 8, 1959. Nineteen members registered.

The business meeting was held after the dinner Saturday night at the Marina. Tom Imhof, the president, called the meeting to order and gave a report of the executive committee meeting held in September at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. The committee decided to try to publish four issues of Alabama Birdlife, in January, March, September and December, with material reaching the editor not later than the 15th of the preceding month. It was also proposed to change the fiscal year to the calendar year. This was put to a motion by Blanche Dean with the addition that dues not be delinquent if paid by the spring meetig. This motion was seconded and passed by the membership.

Blanche Chapman gave a report on Alabama Birdlife and said that regional reports of observations would be included in each issue, as well as longer scientific articles. The minutes and treasurer's report are also to be published. Prices for printing were submitted from six printing companies. Regional correspondents have been named as follows, with several others to be appointed:

Montgomery area—Jim Keeler

Gadsden area—Edith Clark

Tenn. Valley area—Margaret Robinson and Tom Atkeson

Birmingham area—Harriett Wright

Mobile area—Dr. Wilson Gaillard

The treasurer's report was read, after which suggestions were made for an increasing our revenue by securing new members. Also Blanche Dean made the suggestion that advertising space be sold in Alabama Birdlife.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. S. Blake McNeeley, president of the Dauphin Island Property Owners' Association, gave a very interesting account of the Island's history and plans for further development.

The meeting was concluded by compiling a list of birds seen during the weekend. A total of 138 species was recorded, including the following of special interest: Reddish Egret, Green Heron, White Ibis, Blue Goose, Bufflehead, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Ground Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sage Thrush (specimen), Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Bullock's ? Oriole (specimen), Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Pine Siskin, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Clay-colored Sparrow, and White-crowned (gambelii) Sparrow (specimen).

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Idalene F. Snead, Secretary

WILD TURKEYS

On October 29, 1959 while driving a "short-cut" from Skagg's Crossroads to Brownville in the southwest corner of Clay County, I came suddenly upon the female turkey and five half-grown young, crossing the road. There were others in the old pea patch beside the road which did not venture to come out while I waited for them to cross. This is a little used road with no houses for a mile or two and the farm upon which they ranged had only a garden plot cultivated this season. Due north of this land about 3 or 4 miles, several male turkeys were collected last year. I feel sure the turkey population in Alabama is increasing. Read the article in November-December issue of ALABAMA CONSERVATION on the wild Turkey in Alabama.

— Blanche E. Dean

PLOVER RECORDS FROM THE MID-TENNESSEE VALLEY

THOMAS Z. ATKESON

Following their normal fluctuation schedule, the Alabama reservoirs of the Tennessee Valley Authority are filled in March and April. They remain bank-full, or nearly so, until late summer. Mudflat edge seldom occurs before early August. The dry weather of late summer and early fall, increased power use, and the beginning of the flood-control drawdown cause a steady drop in water levels throughout the remainder of fall and early winter. This schedule results in good conditions for shorebirds in late summer and early fall, but little available habitat in spring, and helps account for the fact that the majority of the shorebird records from this area are made during the fall period.

The most common member of the plover group is the ever-present Killdeer, (*Charadrius vociferus*) reasonably common at all seasons. It is the only plover nesting in the Valley. Nests with four eggs have been found as early as March 30, and downy young have been seen as late as April 25.

The second most common member of the group is the little Semi-palmated Plover, (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), a regular and common spring and fall migrant. It has been recorded in spring from April 24 through May 26 and in fall from August 5 through September 18.

Arthur H. Howell's "Birds of Alabama" lists Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodius*) records only for the coast, but on September 9, 1955 David C. Hulse noted a flock of five or six of these birds on mud flats north of Decatur. They were watched for some time at fairly close range and through good glasses and were heard calling. Hulse considers the identification positive.

Howell gives no records of the Black-bellied Plover (*squatarola squatarola*) north of Greensboro and most of those listed are coastal. However, these plovers have been recorded on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge once in the spring, a single bird seen on Buckeye Slough on May 15, 1952 by Henry H. Grammer, and occur regularly in small numbers during fall migration. Fall records range from August 21 through November 22 and have been made by a number of good observers, including Thomas A. Imhof and Hulse.

Howell gives no records of the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola Squatarola*) north State. There have been several from various parts of Alabama since his book was published, including those made on Wheeler Refuge and adjoining areas by a visiting group of Alabama Ornithological Society members. This group on November 14 and 15, 1953 counted 26 of these birds and the number of good observers included Harold S. Peters, Albert Ganier, Ben Coffey, Imhof, and others. Golden Plovers may possibly visit the Refuge and adjacent parts of the reservoir regularly in fall, at least in small numbers, but pass unnoticed due to a lack of good observers.

— P. O. Box 1643

Decatur, Ala.

TREASURER'S REPORT 1958 - 1959

INCOME

Brought forward	\$207.84
Dues collected	146.00
Sales	13.55
Registration fees	6.50
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Total	373.89

EXPENSES

Dr. Julian Dusi	14.18
Postage, typing, etc.	
Post Publishing Co.	96.31
Post Publishing Co.	122.36
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Total	232.85
Balance	\$141.04

July, 1959

Clustie McTyeire, Treasurer

Editor's note: Since this report was made, another issue of Birdlife has been paid for. A few dues have come in, but the treasurer would appreciate your cooperation.