

# Alabama Birdlife

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## Contents

THOMAS Z. ATKESON HONORED .....	13
MINUTES OF A.O.S. MEETING .....	13
THE AVERY BIRD COLLECTION .....	14
BALD EAGLE AT GULF SHORES .....	14
REGIONAL WINGBEATS	
DECATUR .....	15
HUNTSVILLE .....	15
BIRMINGHAM .....	16
MONTGOMERY & CONSV. DEPT. ....	16
GULF COAST .....	17
BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT LIVINGSTON .....	17
SONG SPARROW BREEDING IN DEKALB COUNTY .....	17
THE BANDERS' CORNER .....	18
HUDSONIAN CURLEW IN ALABAMA .....	19
BARN SWALLOW BREEDING IN DEKALB COUNTY .....	20
EVENING GROSBEAKS .....	20
OBSERVATIONS & REPORTS .....	Back Cover

## Alabama Ornithological Society

Founded May 17, 1952

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## THOMAS Z. ATKESON HONORED

The highlight of the spring A.O.S. meeting was the presentation of the American Motors Conservation Award to Thomas Z. Atkeson, biologist for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. We all know Tom as our friend and guide when we visit the refuge and rejoice with him in this recognition.

The presentation was made by Dr. A. L. Hershey, Vice President of the Alabama Wildlife Federation, who outlined the history of the American Motors Conservation Awards Program. This program, originally the Nash Awards Program, was begun in 1953 and was intended as a recognition of the fact that our renewable natural resources are a God-given heritage, to be used wisely and defended against waste and reckless exploitation.

The program consists of ten awards to professional conservation workers and ten to amateur conservationists. The awards to the professionals are accompanied by a gift of \$500 to be used by the recipient as he pleases.

Dr. Hershey, in pointing out the many qualities which Tom Atkeson possesses, had this to say:

"He is highly esteemed among his associates and conservation organizations in this and in many other states. He is devoted to his work and profoundly aware of his responsibilities. In spite of unfortunate physical handicaps, Mr. Atkeson has shown a willingness to perform his work and assist fellow workers, teachers, sportsmen, and organizations represented here tonight to a degree rarely exceeded by others.

"It is gratifying to know that his interest in conservation has been recognized by others and that Mr. Atkeson was nominated for an American Conservation Award."

Tom, we congratulate you. We, too, want to thank you for your outstanding contribution in the field of conservation in Alabama, as well as your personal help and inspiration to your many friends all over the area.

—IDALENE SNEAD (MRS. T. S.), 845 South 42nd Street, Birmingham, Ala.

## MINUTES OF A.O.S. MEETING APRIL 29-30, 1960

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its semi-annual meeting at Monté Sano State Park on April 29th and 30th, 1960. Thirty-four members and visitors were present.

The business meeting was held Saturday night after the smorgasbord dinner at George's Restaurant. The president, Tom Imhof, called the meeting to order and postponed the business until after the program since Gene and Adele West, who were our program, had to leave early. Mr. and Mrs. West presented a most professionally done film entitled "Glimpse of the Seasons" which, as the name implies, showed wild life during the various seasons. Most of the scenes were filmed in and around Chattanooga with the most familiar birds and scenes glamorized so that one felt these must not be the same ones that we knew. The filming was superb and could compete with the best of the Screen Tours. Adele's talk was equally as good as the pictures, and she explained how she had used this film to help familiarize the neophytes with some of our common dooryard birds. Anyone who missed this A. O. S. meeting certainly did miss one of our nicest programs in a long time.

In addition to the talented West team we had another rare treat—Tom Z. Atkeson the field biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was presented with the American Conservation Award by Dr. A. L. Hershey of Florence State Teachers' College. The American Motors Conservation Awards Program was begun in 1953 to recognize outstanding work in the field of conservation. We were all delighted to be present on this occasion when Tom was so honored. In addition to the plaque and citation there was also a cash award of \$500.

Blanche Chapman gave her report asking again that all material for Alabama Birdlife be turned in to her by the deadline.

The Nominating Committee, composed of Tom Atkeson, Edith Clark, and Mrs. Roy Brownlie, presented the slate of officers to be voted upon. The following people were elected: Tom Imhof for President, Dr. M. W. Gaillard for Vice President, and Mrs. James C. Robinson for Treasurer.

Plans for the fall A. O. S. meeting were discussed. It was decided that the fall meeting should be held between October 15 and November 10 on Dauphin Island, and that all future fall meetings are to be held at Dauphin Island.

The check list was compiled with a total of 81 species having been seen. Some of the interesting things were the Warbling Vireos, the numerous Redstarts' nests, and the Scarlet Tanager feeding in a garbage can just as if he were a Starling.

After this, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
IDALENE F. SNEAD, Secretary

## THE AVERY BIRD COLLECTION

DAN C. HOLLIMAN

There is presently deposited in the University of Alabama Department of Biology Collections a valuable and well-preserved series of birds. This assemblage consists mainly of Alabama birds which were collected by the late Dr. W. C. Avery of Greensboro, Alabama.

Dr. William Cushman Avery, son of Rev. John Avery, D.D., was born in Edenton, North Carolina, on September 21, 1831. He graduated from Burlington College, New Jersey, in 1852, and then went to the University of Pennsylvania to study medicine. After studying at the University of Pennsylvania he decided to go to Paris to complete his medical curriculum. While overseas he visited Italy, Germany, Spain and Switzerland and traveled on foot in these countries studying the natural history there. Upon completion of his education in Europe he returned to the United States and settled down in Marshall, Texas, where he practiced medicine. After a few years in Texas he returned to Alabama and remained in Selma until the outbreak of the Civil War. He patriotically enlisted in the Confederacy as a private but never knew the rigors of war, for he contracted measles and typhoid fever soon after reaching Virginia. Because of this complicated illness he was retired from the service and returned home to Greensboro, Alabama, where he spent the remainder of his life practicing medicine and studying ornithology.

It is interesting to consider the scope of his ornithological work and reflect upon the problems that confronted him. Upon examination of his field records it is obvious that he was restricted almost entirely to Greensboro, Alabama, and the surrounding territory. His only method of transportation was either by foot or by horse and carriage; and undoubtedly he did much birding while on a professional call. His field notes indicate that he made several trips to Anniston, Alabama, and at least one trip to Dauphin Island in Mobile County and Perdido Bay in Baldwin County. Dr. Avery swapped several skins with friends in New York, North Carolina and Arizona, but beside these out-of-state specimens the entire collection consists entirely of Alabama birds. It is also interesting to note that it wasn't until his 40th birthday that he became interested in collecting birds. The first entry in his catalogue was dated June 21, 1875 and his last entry was dated March 5, 1894. During this period of nineteen years he made a collection of 900 birds, prepared scientific skins of these birds, and compiled a set of very copious field notes. Dr. Avery used a .44 caliber revolver loaded with number 12 shot for most of his collecting. Dr. Avery was not only interested in birds but in small mammals such as rodents and spotted skunks, and made a series of collections of these mammals which are included with his bird collection.

The Avery Bird Collection consists mainly of land birds, and in comparison, is conspicuously short of shore and marine birds. Obviously, this was due to the fact that Dr. Avery did not have access to these types of habitats in Greensboro. However, he collected excellent series of the flycatchers, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers and sparrows.

The Avery Bird Collection was purchased by the Geological Survey of Alabama and is now in the University of Alabama Department of Biology Collections. This collection is being used for taxonomic and ecological work concerned with the avifauna of Alabama.

## LITERATURE CITED

Holt, Ernest G., 1921, Annotated List of the Avery Bird Collection. Museum Paper No. 4, Alabama Museum of Natural History, University, Alabama. Alabama Museum of Natural History, University, Alabama.

## BALD EAGLE AT GULF SHORES

On March 18, 1960, while staying in Cabin No. 16, on the east shore of the lake at Gulf Shores State Park, an adult Bald Eagle was seen flying over the lake. The eagle came into the lake shore with legs down about one fourth mile from the cabin. It reappeared shortly, and flew to the east end of the lake and over the swamp a short distance to a tall pine tree in which a bulky nest was readily visible at about ½ mile distance. With 7x50 binoculars the bird could be seen at the nest, but no young could be seen. The eagle was seen once again that day when it perched for some time in a tree near where it was first seen. Time and facilities did not permit a closer examination of the nest.

One could locate this nest quite readily by following these directions: stand in front of the cabin (No. 16), facing directly away from it. From this position, look at an angle of about 45 degrees to the left. The nest is easily visible in one of the several tall pine trees about ½ mile away.

—MAURICE F. BAKER, Wildlife Research Unit, Auburn, Ala.

## REGIONAL WINGBEATS

DECATUR—The record cold and snows of February and March changed abruptly into spring with the beginning of April. The shorebird flight seemed normal. On March 27, Margaret and Jim Robinson spotted a lone Marbled Godwit on mudflats northeast of the Decatur Boat Harbor, the second Godwit record for Wheeler Refuge.

Bill Depreast checked the nesting colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, located on Wheeler Refuge near the Triana community, and found them present on April 8, the earliest local record by several days. A recheck on May 20 showed at least five active nests with at least 12 young present.

David Hulse checked the Beulah Bay colony on May 3 and found nine Snowy Egrets and some 30 pairs of Little Blue Herons present, with birds of both species incubating. However, this was a decline compared with 1959 use, and no Black-crowned Night Herons used the colony this year.

Demett Smith, of Huntsville, prowling the northern part of the Refuge on weekends, came up with a number of interesting small-bird notes that filled several gaps in the Wheeler records. Among these were a Blackburnian Warbler on May 7, the second spring and only May record; A Canada Warbler on May 7, the only Refuge spring record; a Cape May Warbler on May 7, the second spring record; a Tennessee Warbler on May 15, the second spring record, and a Wilson's Warbler on May 15, the second Refuge record and the only spring record.

Twenty-six geese, no doubt cripples, remained on the Refuge throughout the summer, though there was no sign of nesting. Among these was a big gray goose, evidently a barnyard fowl, that had been noted keeping company and flying with Canada Geese here for the past two years.

Although no Trichomoniasis, the messy dove sickness, was noted or reported among local doves this spring or summer, dove numbers here are not high. No significant changes were noted in the behavior or numbers of other birds.

—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama

HUNTSVILLE—We don't know whether the late cold weather kept the spring migrants south of Huntsville for a week or so, or whether we just missed seeing them on our field trips. The only first arrivals to beat our past records were one Black and White Warbler and one Chimney Swift on March 30, Routh-winged Swallows on April 3, and 2 Nighthawks on April 7.

We had what we thought to be our latest record for a White-crowned Sparrow on May 9, but found another on May 14, at Maysville, Alabama, about 13 miles northeast of Huntsville.

February 22 seemed to be a good day for the hawks heading north. We saw 10 Red-tailed Hawks, 6 Sparrow Hawks, 5 Marsh Hawks, and 1 Sharp-skinned Hawk between Huntsville and Decatur. The trip usually yielded only 2 red-tails and 1 Marsh Hawk.

At the spring meeting, Tom Imhof told us to be on the lookout for a Cerulean Warbler's nest at Monte Sano. He said that a nest had never been reported from Alabama. We looked all spring and found it quite frustrating to see and hear the birds all around us, yet not be able to find a nest. On June 18, right off Bankhead Parkway leading to Monte Sano Park, we heard some young birds making the usual noises they make while being fed. After a long search we located the nest about 50 feet off the ground in an elm tree. It was not long before a female Cerulean Warbler returned to the nest. While we watched, both the male and the female came to feed the young birds. Perhaps one thing which makes finding the nests of these birds so difficult is the fact that neither parent bird ever called or sang while in the vicinity of the nest. Collecting the nest will be quite difficult, but we plan to get it.

Our very casual observations for the past 4 years have failed to turn up any Whip-poor-wills in Madison County during the breeding season. On the one organized Whip-poor-will hunt conducted in the area on June 19, 1960, the authors and Mr. Demett Smith left Huntsville and traveled east on Highway 72, stopping occasionally to listen. This procedure was carried out to a point about 3 miles east of Gurley, where the road turned north on a country road into Jackson County. Approximately 5 miles north, as the moon rose about 11:30 p.m., the only Whip-poor-will of the evening was heard. This northern route was pursued through Jackson County into Tennessee, where we turned east. At Elora, Tenn., the route turned southward into Madison County where most of the northeastern portion of the county was covered. This trip covered about 130 miles and took over 4 hours, with frequent stops along the way.

(Continued on next page)

Although many Chuck-will's-widows were heard, only the one Whip-poor-will was heard, and it was in Jackson County. This somewhat scanty evidence seems to bear out the northwestern limit of the breeding range of the Whip-poor-will in Alabama as given by Howell's "Birds of Alabama", published in 1928.

We have moved from town to a 5-acre, mostly wooded lot 8 miles east of Huntsville. Finally, we have more in our yard than mockingbirds, starlings and English Sparrows. So far we have seen or heard 40 species right around the house since July 1. This does not include 18 of the most common species of this area. We have put out feeders, have made a shallow pond and have set our nets and traps. We anticipate doing much banding this fall and winter, and we hope to be able to make many worthwhile contributions to this journal.

—JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON, R.F.D., Brownsboro, Alabama

(Ed. note—Not only do we look forward to hearing more from the Robinsons, but thank them for past service, both as treasurer and local managers for the spring A.O.S. meeting.)

**BIRMINGHAM**—Although the migrants arrived on the Gulf Coast on time, the continued cold of March caused migration to be later this year. March temperatures were 9.6 degrees below normal with freezes occurring on seventeen mornings. March 23rd marked the date of the last freeze of the winter. With April's warm days (mean 64.3 degrees) migration progressed on schedule.

Since spring Tom Imhof has continued to see a pair of Woodcocks near Robert's Field and the writer observed one June 5th near Camp Horner on the Cahaba River. This indicates that in spite of this Birmingham area being 11 inches below normal rainfall for the year (as of August 9) the Woodcocks have found necessary food to remain.

The last date of a White-throated Sparrow for spring was May 19th at Mrs. Frank Wingate's. The misplaced White-throated Sparrow that has spent two summers ('58 and '59 near the Kenneth Grimley's house has not been seen since June 19th when they left on vacation.

The Finch family's propensity to albinism was observed at the Frank Wingate's where on May 18th a male English Sparrow was observed feeding two completely albino young.

Bo Sullivan, Jr., collected a White Ibis on the golf course of the Mountain Brook Country Club.

On July 31st the writer visited Lake Purdy which is usually low this time of year providing mud flats attractive to shore and water birds. There were 8 adult and 25 immature Little Blue Herons, 7 immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 3 Green Herons, 1 Great Blue, 8 Pectoral Sandpipers and 1 Spotted Sandpiper (still with spots). On August 9th the number of adult Little Blues had diminished, but 20 immature remained, along with 1 adult and 1 immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and two Pectoral Sandpipers. Again on August 13th at Purdy there was a flock of 24 immature Little Blue Herons, among them 1 Snowy Egret, 3 Green Herons, 1 immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron and 2 Spotted Sandpipers.

The week of August 8th the water works reservoir atop Shades Mountain provided an attendant American Egret standing sentinel between the two pools.

(He was still there on August 19.—Ed.)

—HARRIETT H. WRIGHT (MRS. D. O.), 2749 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, Ala.

**MONTGOMERY AND CONSERVATION DEPT.**—A total of 1,368 birds were banded by personnel of the Department of Conservation during the first half of 1960. Of this number, 1,012 were Mourning Doves, 46 Wood Ducks, 6 Common Snipe, 4 Common Egrets, 84 Little Blue Herons, and 216 White Ibis.

A Little Blue Heron nesting colony was found one mile east of Mountain Creek, in Chilton County by the writer during June. The colony is small, with approximately 75 nests. Twenty-five Little Blue Heron nestlings were banded on this area. The White Ibis—Little Blue Heron nesting colony located 8 miles south of Opp, Covington County, was visited three times during June and 216 nestling White Ibis, 59 Little Blue Herons, and 4 Common Egrets were banded on this area. This area is ideal for banding nesting birds. All nests are located above water and the area is clean and cool with an abundance of small trees growing out of the water.

Sixteen Cattle Egrets were seen by the author on July 6, 1960, on County road No. 75, 4.3 miles south of Pansey, Houston County, Alabama. These birds were feeding in association with a herd of cattle. The buff-colored patch on the lower throat region was very conspicuous. It is quite possible that these birds were or had nested in the southern part of that county.

—JAMES E. KEELER, Dept. of Conservation, Montgomery, Alabama

**GULF COAST**—While on vacation in August some material for this report was gathered. Field trips were made along the coast, the upper delta, and the river swamps of Clark and Monroe Counties. Bird life was abundant in all areas, except for a few species. A check list of 93 species was obtained.

About 75 White Pelicans remained in this area until the last week of July, considerably later than usual. Coots also stayed later and one pair nested at Gulf Shores. The adults and 3 chicks were seen again this week. There have been reports for several years of nesting coots, but this is the first I have found.

Black Terns, adults and immatures, have been seen all summer. I feel certain they are nesting locally, although I have as yet no positive proof. Several years ago I found hundreds of young on Petit Bois Island that were too young to have migrated far. Perhaps next year we can find a nesting colony.

Not a Brown Pelican has been seen this year. Also, the Frigatebird has been missing, probably killed in large numbers by the same storm of last year which did so much damage to the pelicans.

Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites have been numerous, but Bald Eagles and Ospreys are hard to find this summer. Wild turkeys, Bob-Whites and Mourning Doves have had an excellent breeding season in this area. A pair of Ground Doves nested in my yard at Gulf Shores. Our dry spring was no doubt a helpful factor in what seems to have been a wonderful breeding year for bird life.

—M. WILSON GAILLARD, D.D.S., 1508 Merchants Nat. Bank Bldg., Mobile, Ala.

## NESTING OF BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT LIVINGSTON

Arthur H. Howell in his book "Birds of Alabama" (1928) stated that the Baltimore Oriole bred sparingly in the northern half of the state. He quotes Dr. W. C. Avery to the effect that at Greensboro, Alabama, the bird bred prior to 1870 but by 1890 was not to be found except in autumn migration. Roger Tory Peterson in his book "A Field Guide to the Birds" intimates the bird (in breeding) is absent on the southeast coastal plain.

Livingston, the county seat of Sumter County, Alabama, is in the south half of Alabama and on the southern edge of the middle coastal plain or Alabama Black Belt.

It was not until 1958 that I became aware of the probability of the nesting of the Baltimore Oriole in Livingston. I had seen a pair of the birds through the first week of June and again the middle of August and thought I had heard them between those dates. When the leaves had fallen I began my search for the nest but did not find my first one until in February, 1960, in the center of the territory where I had seen and heard the birds most. To date I have found five nests in four different sections of town, some appearing to be four or five years old. Three have been in Pecan trees, one in a Durand Oak and one in a Chinkapin Oak. All of them are made almost entirely of light colored horse hair with some bits of wrapping twine woven in, and swung from the ends of small branches from fifteen to thirty feet up.

Two of the nests have been of this summer (1960). The last one that I found contained little birds just hatched. When the young were only a week old the mother disappeared, apparently the victim of some tragedy. The male bird however "carried on" alone and at the end of the second week the little birds successfully left the nest.

—JENKINS JACKSON, Livingston, Ala.

(Ed. note—A picture of one of these nests was submitted, but unfortunately the organization's funds would not permit its inclusion.)

## THE SONG SPARROW BREEDING IN DEKALB COUNTY

Many of us recall the day in June, 1954, when a group of us from Blanche Dean's Nature Camp discovered a Song Sparrow at Valley Head carrying food. This was the first positive proof of the breeding of the Song Sparrow in Alabama. Next year a singing bird was discovered in Fort Payne, 12 miles down the valley. The following year a second singing bird was found in Fort Payne right at the south end of the railroad station in the center of town. All of these birds were located in dense weeds within a few feet of the main line Southern Railway tracks and Wills' Creek.

Since 1954 I have traveled U. S. Highway 11 up and down this valley at least once or twice each summer. I have stopped at many likely-looking places along the highway to listen for Song Sparrows but never heard any. This July 9 (1960) I stopped for a traffic light in Collinsville, 15 miles south of Fort Payne, and sure enough a Song Sparrow was singing to the east, right along Wills' Creek and close to the railroad tracks.

It appears that the Song Sparrow has worked its way as a breeder south along Wills' Valley to near the Etowah County line but only in the center of towns. Is the next step Attalla, 22 miles southeast?

THOMAS A. JEFFERSON

## THE BANDERS' CORNER

## 1959 BANDING REPORT—J. BOLLING SULLIVAN, III.

During the year 1959 I banded 1,031 birds of 70 species. Of these, 8 were banded at Dauphin Island, 482 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and the remainder at my home in Birmingham, Alabama. With the exception of 10 Starlings which were captured at night with hand nets, all of the birds were either trapped or mist netted. At the time of their capture, they were banded, measured, and weighed. Plumage notes were taken in most cases.

The birds captured in greatest numbers were: White-throated Sparrow, 246; Chipping Sparrow, 121; Grackle, 96; Cardinal, 72; Wood Thrush, 72. It is interesting to note that I captured all 4 species of *Empidonax*, commonly occurring in the East, in the early part of September. The two Trail's Flycatcher captures constitute the bulk of Alabama's fall inland records. A Western Sandpiper and a Black Skimmer were captured at Dauphin Island.

During the year I recaptured 110 birds which had previously been banded by myself, and which were classified as returns, (not having been caught within the past 90 days). They are listed below by species and by the number of years since their initial banding. Downy Woodpecker 1—1 yr., 2—3 yr.; Blue Jay 1—1 yr.; Carolina Chickadee 2—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Tufted Titmouse 9—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—5 yr.; White-breasted Nuthatch 3—1 yr.; Brown-headed Nuthatch 1—1 yr., 1—5 yr.; Carolina Wren 2—3 yr., 1—4 yr.; Catbird 1—1 yr.; Brown Thrasher 1—1 yr.; Robin 1—1 yr.; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1—1 yr.; White-eyed Vireo 1—1 yr.; Pine Warbler 2—1 yr.; Kentucky Warbler 1—1 yr.; Yellow-breasted Chat 1—2 yr., 1—4 yr.; Hooded Warbler 2—1 yr.; Cardinal 13—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Purple Finch 3—1 yr., 2—3 yr.; Rufous-sided Towhee 4—1 yr.; Slate-colored Junco 5—1 yr., 3—2 yr.; Chipping Sparrow 8—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—3 yr., 1—4 yr.; Field Sparrow 10—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 1—4 yr.; White-throated Sparrow 5—1 yr., 6—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Fox Sparrow 1—1 yr.; Song Sparrow 1—1 yr.

Three birds which I banded at 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham, Alabama, have been recovered outside the state. They are as follows:

52-67641 Purple Finch. This bird was banded on the 11th of February, 1956. It was found dead in Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada, on the 2nd of July, 1957.

59-72363 Purple Finch. This bird was banded on the 31st of March, 1958. It was trapped and released at Cumberland Mills, Maine, on the 4th of April, 1959.

562-13016 American Robin. This bird was banded on the 28th of June, 1958. It was found dead in the grill of a truck at Perkinston, Mississippi, on the 8th of December, 1958.

—J. Bolling Sullivan, III, 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham 13, Alabama

## BANDING FOR 1959—THOMAS A. IMHOF

During the calendar year 1959, I banded 1,321 birds of 66 species. Of these, 583 were trapped Chimney Swifts and the balance (738) were mist-netted. In the vicinity of Birmingham, I banded 1,062 birds of 39 species and on Dauphin Island, 259 birds of 49 species. Besides Chimney Swift, the top 5 banded in quantity were: Savannah Sparrow, 316; Indigo Bunting, 50; Catbird, 33; and Magnolia Warbler, 31. Seven other species of which I banded 10 or more are: Am. Redstart, 23; Field Sparrow, 21; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 18; Eastern Meadowlark, 17; Common Yellowthroat, 16; Grasshopper Sparrow, 16; and Ovenbird, 10. These 12 species accounted for 1,134 individuals or all but 87 of the 1959 total.

Other interesting species banded were: Black Skimmer (adults), Common Snipe, all 4 species of *Empidonax*, Bobolink, Painted Bunting, and a total of 17 species of warblers.

Returns (banded birds recaptured at or near the place of banding after an interval of at least 90 days).—Chimney Swift, 6; Rufous-sided Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 21; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1.

Recoveries (banded birds recaptured 5 or more miles from the place of banding, or found dead anywhere, and at any time interval after banding).—Mourning Dove banded Dauphin Is., Oct. 16, 1959; shot at Jay, Florida, Dec. 9, 1959. Loggerhead Shrike banded Dauphin Is., Oct. 31, 1958; found dead there, winter, 1959. Common Nighthawk banded B'ham., Oct. 6, 1959; found injured in storm same place, same date, several hours later about a mile away. Starling banded B'ham., Mar. 18, 1955; found dead B'ham., June 4, 1959, one block away.

## BANDING REPORT—BIRMINGHAM—HARRIETT H. WRIGHT

Of the 266 birds banded in 1959, there were 19 species represented. There were 41 returns of which 8 had one previous return. The greatest number of one species banded was the Purple Finch, with 52; next, Chipping Sparrow, 38; Cardinal, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 32; Rufous-sided Towhee, 25. Of the returns, several birds proved to be 5 years old: 3 Cardinals, 2 Tufted Titmice, 1 Field Sparrow. One White-throated Sparrow was 4 years old.

## BANDING REPORT—GADSDEN—EDITH CLARK

From mid-March to mid-April, 1960, I had just a little time for banding, the total number being 86. There were 29 White-throated Sparrows, 1 Song Sparrow, 29 Purple Finches, and 1 Catbird. Others were permanent residents. I saw many banded birds during the winter months. Fox Sparrows remained "trap-shy".

I had these returns: 1 Catbird banded May 2, 1956; 1 White-throated Sparrow March 22, 1957; 1 Rufous-sided Towhee banded March 1, 1957; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 30, 1957; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Apr. 29, 1956; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 19, 1959; Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 30, 1957; 1 Carolina Chickadee banded Feb. 6, 1959; 1 Purple Finch banded Jan. 19, 1959; 1 State-colored Junco banded Jan. 12, 1959.

## BANDING REPORT—CONSERVATION DEPT.

For totals of birds banded by the Conservation Department, see the Regional Wingbeats report.—Ed.

## BANDING TOTALS—BROWNSBORO—JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON

Dates—May 14, 1960—Aug. 12, 1960.

Total number of birds banded—43. Of these we had 11 Cardinals, 2 Loggerhead Shrikes, 1 Mockingbird, 8 Field Sparrows, 1 Catbird, 2 Tufted Titmice, 6 Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Hooded Warblers, 2 Carolina Chickadees, 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, 2 Wood Thrushes, 2 White-eyed Vireos, 2 Kentucky Warblers, 1 Black and White Warbler.

Thirty-nine of these birds were banded in our yard between August 6 and August 12, 1960. On August 8, 1960, we had a return of a female Towhee banded April 9, 1959.

## RECENT RECORD FOR HUDSONIAN CURLEW IN ALABAMA

The Hudsonian Curlew or Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*, breeds in the Arctic regions and migrates along the coast to its South American wintering grounds. However, nonbreeding individuals may be found in the summer along the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Ecuador. Occasionally, sight records have been made in Alabama as the Whimbrel stops over to and from its breeding and wintering quarters. Howell (1928), lists a Whimbrel record on July 27, 1913, from the west point of Dauphin Island. Atkeson (1959), reports sight records from the Wheeler Refuge on August 26, 1940 and again on August 18, 1947, with the most recent record being February 13, 1959.

Between the period of July 14 through July 30, 1960, the author studied marine ecology at the State Department of Conservation Seafoods Division Laboratory at Cedar Point, Alabama. Only July 16 at the western end of Dauphin Island, a Whimbrel was observed feeding on a mud flat which extended into a tidal pool. Feeding with the Whimbrel were 7 Common Egrets, 1 Snowy Egret and 2 Louisiana Herons. The Whimbrel allowed the author to get within 75 yards before flying, but even then he flew to the opposite side of the tidal pool. Examination of the author's field notes indicates that a Whimbrel was seen at the same tidal pool on August 13, 1955. It is highly probable that this bird is more common than is realized, and additional sight records could be turned up by closer scrutiny of the proper habitats during the late summer and early spring months.

## LITERATURE CITED

Atkeson Thomas Z., 1959, Godwit and Curlew Records from Wheeler Refuge. Alabama Wildlife, Vol. 7, No. 1-2; pp. 10-11.  
Howell, Arthur H., 1928, Birds of Alabama. Birmingham Printing Co., Birmingham, Ala., p. 111.

## THE BARN SWALLOW BREEDING IN DEKALB COUNTY

The northeast-southwest running valleys between Sand Mountain and Lookout Mountain in northeast Alabama seem to be migration highways for swallows. So, the presence of a few Barn Swallows the first week of June 1950-1958, 5 miles north of Fort Payne was not taken as a certainty that the species bred nearby. However, this region was closely watched with the result that in June, 1958, I discovered a newly-fledged brood of Barn Swallows along U. S. Highway No. 11, 5 miles north of Fort Payne. This was the first instance of the breeding of the Barn Swallow in Alabama away from the Gulf Coast and the Tennessee Valley.

In the following two years, Barn Swallows have been discovered at 4 more localities north along U. S. 11 to the Georgia line. Small groups, probably one to three pairs, occupy barns located in extensive pastures. The birds are seen to enter the barns frequently, but it could never be determined whether or not they were carrying food or nesting material, nor was there time to get permission to investigate the barns for nests.

The isolated Gulf Coastal Barn Swallow colonies provide an interesting example of a disjunct breeding range. Will we in our day witness a linking of the main population with its Gulf Coastal outliers? In the last 40-odd years, the American Robin and then the Brown-headed Cowbird entered Alabama from the north as breeding birds, and the Robin reached Dauphin Island this year as a breeder, while the Cowbird reached the coast as a breeder in 1954.

This is just another example of why birds with their dynamic capabilities make to many the most fascinating subjects in all natural history.

—THOMAS A. IMHOF

## EVENING GROSBEAKS

From various parts of the state we find increasing reports of Evening Grosbeaks. As reported in Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 7, Nos. 3-4, they were seen in the Monie Sano State Park area by the Robinsons and the Gadsden area in the early winter of 1959-60. Reports from Edith Clark in Gadsden had provided many of our birders with an opportunity of seeing them more or less regularly at her feeders the previous winter.

Jenkins Jackson of Livingston reports them in 1958 as follows:

"About 15 or more of these birds divided between mature males and females or immatures appeared on my farm 1 mile west of Livingston, on April 10th, 1958. They were loudly chattering as they ate the staminate flowers of a White Ash tree. They paid little attention to me as I stood under the tree observing them with binoculars for about 45 minutes. They left in a northeasterly direction. As far as I know, this establishes the southernmost and southwesternmost point for them east of the Mississippi River."

Harriet Wright sends reports from the Birmingham area for the 1959-60 winter season. Two flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, 14 and 20, were seen in Bessemer from February 13th to April at the feeders of Mrs. Rex Davis and Clustie McTyeire. This is the first time a flock has ever been observed for so long a period of time in this area. On February 24, 1960, Elizabeth Eddy saw an Evening Grosbeak; November 21, 1959, Pat Riley had one Evening Grosbeak visit her feeder.

Besides the winter reports for Gadsden, Edith Clark reports that Bill Bates had a female Evening Grosbeak in their backyard on July 11th this year. The Bates' feeder was the gathering place for one of the flocks this winter.

This seems to be one of the birds that is extending its range. Records from other parts of the state would be welcome.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome as new members:

Mrs. Martha Bradley, 4929 Avenue I, Birmingham 8, Ala.

Mrs. E. R. (Pearl) Henson 1045 Grant Street, Decatur, Ala.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notice your treasurer's new address.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Robinson, R.F.D., Brownsboro, Ala.

Also moved:

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. West, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS

On March 20, at Courtland airfield, 20 miles west of Decatur, we found a burned-over area of about 10 acres between landing strips that was literally covered with Lapland Longspurs. We drove the car through this area and found the birds would not even leave the ground until we were within 10 feet of them. We made a conservative estimate of 3,000 Lapland Longspurs. On March 27, we returned to the airfield and found only 8 Longspurs. This is a late date for Lapland Longspurs in Alabama.

While returning from the Wilson Society meeting at Gatlinsburg on May 8, we found a Western Kingbird on U. S. Highway 11, just inside Alabama from Rising Fawn, Ga. Tom Imhof was on the road ahead of us, so we overtook him and asked him to go back to verify the sighting. He said this was the first inland spring record for the state.

We have found the State Management Area at Swan Creek Refuge, north of Decatur, to be an excellent spot to observe migrating shore birds. We would like to know whether the 4 Upland Plovers and 14 White-rumped Sandpipers we saw there on June 18 were going North or South.—JIM and MARGARET ROBINSON

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From Gadsden Edith Clark reports that she has been having a hard time keeping up with the demands of her Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Since the summer has been so dry, flowers are in short supply, making her feeders more popular than ever. She says, "I have had them feeding so late it was too dark to see whether it was male or female."

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Clustie McTyeire reported a white-headed Cardinal coming to a feeding station at Hueytown High School, during the week of March 7. On March 21, a similarly colored bird appeared at the feeder of Mrs. Bruce, in Gardendale—a distance of perhaps 30 miles. In both cases the bird was fought off as an intruder by other birds.

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Blanche Chapman reports that the Bluebirds residing in their box at Chap-O-Lee, 25 miles from Birmingham, are trying to replenish the depleted population for that species. On the 16th of August, they were busy feeding the third brood for the season. Several of the young of the two previous broods are still in evidence.

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Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be not only tolerating people, but enjoying the hospitality of feeders. They have been reported at suet feeders in the Birmingham area by Harriet Wright, who entertained both adult and young; Pat Riley; Blanche Dean and others.

Those who attended Nature Camp in June at De Soto State Park had a wonderful opportunity to see both adult and young of this species. The nest was about 20 feet up in a tall pine tree right by the road leading to the lodge. The two young were frequently visible and the feeding schedule was interrupted a number of times as still another person wanted to get a good look. The fledglings left the nest become camp adjourned.

From Blanche Dean we get a report of Fairley Chandler's observation of parents feeding young in Magnolia Springs. "As the young would stretch eagerly toward the parent bird, the parent assumed an almost perpendicular angle and thrust the beak down, down almost to the eyes, not only depositing the food but tamping it down for good measure."

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Our thanks to Blanche E. Dean for use of the cover cut.

## NOTICE

The regular fall meeting of the A. O. S., will be held at Dauphin Island on October 14, 15, and 16. Details will be found in the accompanying sheet.