

REGIONAL WINGBEATS—(Continued)

Our marsh birds got off to a late breeding season, because of extremely high rivers. After the flood receded, Gallinules, both Purple and Florida, had good hatches. As late as August 19 I saw broods of very small Purple Gallinules, causing me to wonder if they were second broods.

All other marsh birds were plentiful and had good hatches.

Our shore birds did not fare as well. Jeeps and outboard motors have seriously disturbed their nesting areas. We recommend a rush program to set aside several small islands west of Dauphin Island causeway as sanctuaries for these species.

Black Terns and Brown Pelicans were almost non-existent in this area this summer. Bald Eagles, Mississippi Kites, and Ospreys were also hard to spot.

Let's all support our capable president, Harriett Wright, by attending the Dauphin Island meeting and each member bring some type of bird food to plant on Oct. 28th.

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

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD NUTHATCH

On December 29, 1954, I banded a Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) with band number 55-82501. This bird was retrapped once more in 1954, five times in 1955, one time in 1958, two times in 1959, and one time in 1960. On September 2, 1961, I again retrapped the same bird. Thus, this bird was in its eighth summer and must be at least seven years old. Due to the high rate of mortality among passerine species (40% or more per year, with heaviest mortality the first year), this is certainly an "old" bird, and must be considered an exception rather than the rule. For further information on longevity and survival rates in the Brown-headed Nuthatch see: Norris, R. A., 1958. Comparative Biosystematics and Life History of the Nuthatches *Sitta pygmaea* and *Sitta pusilla*. University of California Publications in Zoology, 56: 119-300.

—J. BOLLING SULLIVAN, III, 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham 13, Ala.

Welcome to New Members

We welcome as new members:

Mr. Archie B. McKay, 713 Terrace Avenue, Montgomery

Mr. Robert E. Waters, 505 Short Street, Hartselle

Address Changes

These new addresses have been reported to us:

Mr. Fred Carney, 3453 Blueberry Lane, Birmingham 13

Mr. Robert Skinner, Route 4, Box 46, Montgomery

Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 13, 14, 15.....G.O.S. Meeting, with Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club—Ida Cason Callaway Gardens

OCTOBER 28, 29.....A.O.S. MEETING — DAUPHIN ISLAND—Make your reservations and remember to plant some bird food.

Watch for publication date of "BIRDS OF ALABAMA" by Thomas Imhof. It won't be long, now.