

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A. O. S. IS GROWING. With Chapters over the state, we can become a more able voice for conservation measures necessary to protect the birdlife of this state. The response and co-operation of members throughout the year signifies that a strong working organization is not only desired, but also attainable.

A. O. S. has reason to be proud of its first chapter in Mobile. Through Dr. Wilson Gaillard, this group has been instrumental in promoting the Audubon Bird Sanctuary on Dauphin Island. The formal opening is slated for March 17.

In the town where you live, even though your numbers are small, an A. O. S. chapter can be formed. The stimulation of sharing can further your own bird interest and knowledge in your immediate area as well as encourage new members. A reporter for Alabama Birdlife can regularly send seasonal data to the Editor, that members may know the bird situation in each area of the state. A news correspondent can relate to the President any member and idea news for the newsletter.

It is up to us as individual members who wish for the continued growth of A. O. S. as a strong, vocal organization to give the time and effort needed. A new president will be taking office soon. Let us not only give him our support, but also see that new chapters are formed in 1962. Thank you for the excellent co-operation you have shown, your worthwhile suggestions, and your fine spirit throughout the past year.

---HARRIETT WRIGHT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Once again, it is our happy privilege to welcome a number of new members to A. O. S. We hope to get better acquainted with them at the meeting in Birmingham next month. Welcome to:

Mr. & Mrs. Preston W. Barclift
328 Drummond Road, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama

Mr. Philip Kyle
2016 S.E. 13th Street
Decatur, Alabama

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, ALABAMA 1960

THOMAS A. IMHOF, J. L. DORN, S. J.

For description of count areas see Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 9, No. 1. Those taking part in the Mobile Count were Father Dorn, Dr. M. Wilson Gaillard, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Inge Johnstone.

The Birmingham Audubon Society conducted the Birmingham count, and was represented by seven groups with a total of 26 observers. These were: Elizabeth Archibald, Mr. & Mrs. Bates, Ruth Brunson, Walter F. Coxe, F. Bozeman Daniel, Mr. Eason, Mildred Ferris, Elberta Gibbs, Emmie Lou Grimley, Malcolm Harden, Dan Holliman, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Joseph A. Imhof, Lois McCullough, Clustie McTyeire, Morton H. Perry, Robert Perry, Margarete Persons, Millard F. Prather, Robert R. Reid, Dorothy Roberts, Grace Snead Ross, R. Allan Ross, Idalene F. Snead, Alfred A. Walker, III.

We regret that we have not been able to get a report on the Auburn count, but this will probably be included later.

SPECIES	BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE
Grebe, Horned	4	10
Pied-billed	60	5
Pelican, White	--	10
Cormorant, Double-crested	--	20
Anhinga	--	2
Heron, Great Blue	6	4
Egret, Reddish	--	1
Common	--	15
Snowy	--	10
Heron, Louisiana	--	1
Little Blue	1	3
Bittern, American	1	--
Ibis, White	--	3
Goose, Snow	1	8
Blue	--	4
Duck, Mallard	--	6
Gadwall	--	50
Pintail	--	20
Blue-winged Teal	--	10
American Widgeon	--	3
Wood	--	2
Redhead	20	1
Ring-necked	224	100
anvasback	61	

SPECIES	BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE
Duck, Lesser Scaup	50	150
Ruddy	--	4
Hooded Merganser	3	--
Red-breasted Merganser	2	10
Vulture, Turkey	1	8
Black	2	16
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	2	--
Cooper's	1	1
Red-tailed	7	3
Red-shouldered	8	3
Broad-winged	--	1
Eagle, Bald	--	1
Hawk, Marsh	1	2
Pigeon	1	1
Sparrow	6	2
Bobwhite	46	18
Rail, King	--	1
Clapper	--	1
Gallinule, Common	--	3
Coot, American	275	1000
Plover, Semipalmated	--	10
Killdeer	354	76
Plover, Black-bellied	--	45
Turnstone, Ruddy	--	63
Woodcock, American	1	1
Snipe, Common	46	75
Whimbrel	--	1
Sandpiper, Spotted	--	11
Yellowlegs, Lesser	--	1
Dowitcher, Short-billed	--	25
Dunlin	--	300
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	--	30
Western	--	85
Sanderling	--	3
Gull, Herring	--	500
Ring-billed	--	9
Bonaparte's	--	5
Tern, Forster's	--	15
Common	--	10
Royal	--	21
Caspian	--	15
Dove, Mourning	350	152
Ground	--	3
Owl, Barn	2	1
Screech	3	1
Horned	1	--
Barred	5	3

SPECIES	BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE
Kingfisher, Belted	11	20
Flicker, Yellow-shafted	65	20
Woodpecker, Pileated	28	1
Red-bellied	60	14
Red-headed	48	3
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	28	7
Woodpecker, Hairy	14	1
Downy	40	2
Red-cockaded	1	--
Phoebe, Eastern	5	3
Flycatcher, Vermillion	--	1
Swallow, Tree	--	600
Rough-winged	--	5
Jay, Blue	232	109
Crow, Common	104	90
Fish	--	5
Chickadee, Carolina	206	5
Titmouse, Tufted	177	8
Nuthatch, White-breasted	31	--
Red-breasted	9	--
Brown-headed	76	2
Creepers, Brown	9	1
Wren, House	2	1
Winter	9	1
Bewick's	3	1
Carolina	98	24
Long-billed Marsh	1	2
Short-billed Marsh	5	2
Mockingbird	164	37
Catbird	2	1
Thrasher, Brown	74	13
Robin, American	4,850	700
Thrush, Hermit	12	1
Swainson's	1	--
Bluebird, Eastern	40	2
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	--	2
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	111	3
Ruby-crowned	114	19
Pipit, Water	33	17
Waxwing, Cedar	384	150
Shrike, Loggerhead	19	11
Starling	38,800	1,000
Vireo, White-eyed	--	1
Solitary	--	1
Warbler, Orange-crowned	1	5
Myrtle	128	76

SPECIES	BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE
Warbler, Yellow-throated	--	3
Pine(lowest in 18 yrs)	7	7
Palm	--	2
Yellowthroat, Common	2	3
Sparrow, House	661	325
Meadowlark, Eastern	315	102
Blackbird, Red-winged	4,214	5,049
Rusty	1,580	3
Brewer's	--	215
Grackle, Boat-tailed	--	55
Common	6,350	250
Cowbird, Brown-headed	1,940	15
Cardinal	259	12
Finch, Purple	99	43
Siskin, Pine	14	--
Goldfinch, American	486	42
Towhee, Rufous-sided	493	11
Sparrow, Savannah	37	375
Grasshopper	--	1
LeConte's	--	1
Sharp-tailed	--	4
Seaside	--	6
Vesper	20	35
Bachman's	1	1
Junco, Slate-colored	811	3
Sparrow, Chipping	24	115
Field	614	75
White-crowned	1	--
White-throated	919	151
Fox	13	--
Lincoln's	--	1
Swamp	199	6
Song	<u>456</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Species	92	141
Total Individuals	67,000	13,651

Compilers: THOMAS A. IMHOF - FR. J. L. DORN, S.J.

Notes: Found in Mobile area during count period--Common Loon, Mottled Duck, Bufflehead, Sora Rail, Least Sandpiper, Greater Horned Owl; and along the Causeway, 12 American Avocets.

Birmingham count reveals 33 species that either equal or surpass previous count records.

REGIONAL WINGBEATS

DECATUR--Since the last issue of Birdlife, the witches' brew of winter has poured over the Tennessee Valley, and the pot included two floods, a six and a half inch official snow-fall, sub-zero temperatures, an ice-locked reservoir, spittings of sleet and much rain. Though the weather gave us wide variety, bird life gave us little that was unusual. The most note-worthy event took place on November 11 when David Hulse, with his usual penchant for the unusual, shot down a drake Cinnamon Teal in the Limestone County backwaters of Wheeler Reservoir near the mouth of Swan Creek. After examining the specimen, Wheeler Refuge employees air expressed it to the National Museum where its identity was confirmed.

Despite the Continental waterfowl shortage, the wealth of food produced by the vegetation-grown mudflats of Wheeler Reservoir brought in unusual waterfowl numbers. On Wheeler Refuge, duck numbers jumped to an all-time high, and exceeded by 20 per cent the number present during the fall and winter of 1960-61. Coot numbers, too, were the highest ever recorded and were several hundred per cent in excess of any previous count. Geese were a different story. Canada Goose numbers were slightly lower than those of last year, while Blue Goose and Snow Goose numbers dropped sharply. Doubtless because of the unusual quantity of underwater food, diving ducks made up a far higher proportion of the total duck numbers than usual. Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaups, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, and Old Squaws were fairly common throughout the late fall and early winter.

A few Common Egrets remained until they were driven off or killed by the below-zero temperatures of early January. Probably due to cold weather, Common Loons and Horned Grebes were more in evidence than usual. David Hulse states that he has seen more Horned Grebes than ever before, and spotted one flock of 15 on February 9. Eagle numbers increased, and at least 7, possibly more, used the refuge regularly. All but one were immature, and it is possible that some of these so-called Bald Eagles are really Golden Eagles, but this could never be ascertained.

--THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR.

HUNTSVILLE (BROWNSBORO)--Large numbers of Slate-colored Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Cardinals, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Field Sparrows have frequented the feeders here.