

Brownsboro (continued)

The Bander's Corner

In our opinions the most interesting catches of the year included a Black Skimmer at Dauphin Island; Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-wills, Least Flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireos, Connecticut Warbler and Wilson's Warbler at Brownsboro.

BIRMINGHAM

In 1962 I established a banding station on my property on Pike Road in Ensley, Birmingham, where I moved in December 1961. During 1962 I banded 528 birds of 61 species. I now operate up to 8 nets and 8 traps and now that I've banded in the same locality for a year, I am beginning to get returns and to find out who my steady customers are. Outside of Birmingham, I banded 80 birds on Dauphin Island during the Fall A.O.S. meeting. The following species were banded in greatest numbers: Whitethroat, 105; Cardinal, 51, Robin, 46; Towhee, 41; Savannah Sparrow, 34; Brown Thrasher, 24; Catbird, 23; Myrtle Warbler, 23; Field Sparrow, 19; Mockingbird, 17; Starling, 10; and White-eyed Vireo, 10. This total included a Screech Owl, 3 species of Empidonax and 73 Warblers of 19 species. I obtained 20 returns (birds recaptured at the same place after 90 or more days) but no bird more than a year from original banding because my station has not been operating long enough: Cardinal, 3; Towhee, 6; Whitethroat, 4; Field Sparrow, 3; Blue Jay, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Catbird, 1.

On November 3, 1962, James T. Aycock of Center Point (suburban Birmingham) visited his hunting lodge in Greene County 16 miles north of Eutaw and found a dead and dehydrated Black-throated Green Warbler with a band on it. Banding headquarters informs us that the bird was banded by Karl Bartel at Blue Island (suburban Chicago), Illinois on September 30, 1962. The condition of the bird indicated that it had been dead at least a week and apparently made the trip from Chicago in less than a month! (In 1948 a banded Myrtle Warbler made the trip from the Chicago area to Birmingham in 23 days!) On January 31, 1963 at Roberts Field, Birmingham, I caught a Savannah Sparrow that I had banded on November 22, 1958, over 4 years and 2 months earlier!

Tom Imhof

An adult Harlan's Hawk was collected on November 27, 1962 at Geiger, Sumpter County. This is, apparently, the first Harlan's specimen for Alabama.

Bob Skinner

1962 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

AUBURN, ALABAMA

The Christmas Bird Count was made at Auburn, Ala., December 20, 1962. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle was the Auburn Post Office. Composition of the area: mixed woods, 50%; pastures and open field, 30%; water and mud flats, 20%; Weather was clear. Temperature varied from 34 to 52 degrees F. Winds, 5-10 mph, westerly. 22 observers making 8 partial trips spent 51 party hours, drove 171 miles, walked 25 miles, by boat 3 miles.

The following species and numbers were seen:

Pied-billed Grebe	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Great Blue Heron	4	Brown-headed Nuthatch	46
Common Egret	1	Brown Creeper	11
Mallard	2	House Wren	1
Wood Duck	4	Winter Wren	1
Ring-necked Duck	53	Bewick's Wren	2
Hooded Merganser	2	Carolina Wren	47
Turkey Vulture	21	Mockingbird	85
Black Vulture	127	Brown Thrasher	19
Cooper's Hawk	1	Robin	139
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Hermit Thrush	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Eastern Bluebird	61
Marsh Hawk	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Sparrow Hawk	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet	34
Bobwhite	31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	168
Coot	25	Water Pipit	21
Killdeer	39	Cedar Waxwing	313
Woodcock	1	Loggerhead Shrike	25
Common Snipe	16	Starling	30,000
Mourning Dove	57	Blue-headed Vireo	1
Barn Owl	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Great Horned Owl	1	Myrtle Warbler	68
Barred Owl	1	Pine Warbler	26
Belted Kingfisher	2	Palm Warbler	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	38	House Sparrow	116
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Eastern Meadowlark	176
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	Red-winged Blackbird	540,000
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Rusty Blackbird	30,000
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	Brewer's Blackbird	100
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Common Grackle	270,000
Downy Woodpecker	19	Cowbird	30,000
Phoebe	10	Cardinal	203
Blue Jay	89	Purple Finch	17
Common Crow	58	American Goldfinch	138
Carolina Chickadee	77	Rufous-sided Towhee	107
Tufted Titmouse	29	Savannah Sparrow	23

Auburn Christmas Bird Count: (continued)

Vesper Sparrow	5	Fox Sparrow	8
Slate-colored Junco	264	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Chipping Sparrow	41	Swamp Sparrow	67
Field Sparrow	150	Song Sparrow	148
White-throated Sparrow	177		
		<u>Total Species</u>	81
		<u>Total Individuals</u>	903,559

Participants were: Beth Baker, Maurice Baker, Sidney Baker, Steven Baker, Sue Chambliss, Mrs. Norman Davis, Julian Dusi (Compiler), Rosemary Dusi, William Goslin, Ann Grub, Walter Grub, Thelma Fay Guyton, William Helms, Kenneth Landers, Joanne Summerour, L. A. Wells, Robert Wells, J. P. Woodson, Mrs. J. P. Woodson.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

27th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Horned Grebe	2	House Wren	3
Pied-billed Grebe	40	(BHC, CMcT, high)	
Great Blue Heron	1	Winter Wren	10
Black Duck	6	Bewick's Wren	5
Gadwall	4	Carolina Wren	136
Green-winged Teal (C McT)	1	Long-billed Marsh Wren	2
Am. Widgeon (Highest)	11	(RH, WFC, 2 time)	
Redhead	10	Short-billed Marsh Wren	1(TAI)
Ring-necked Duck	271	Mockingbird	190
(highest since 45)		Catbird (EE feeder)	1
Canvasback	34	Brown Thrasher	43
Lesser Scaup	18	Robin (high)	2,500 plus
Bufflehead (FBD)	1	Hermit Thrush	31
Ruddy Duck	3	(highest since 55)	
Turkey Vulture	1	Eastern Bluebird	67
Cooper's Hawk	2	(highest in 3 yrs.)	
Red-tailed Hawk	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	46
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	118
(highest)		Water Pipit	44
Marsh Hawk (MFP)	1	Cedar Waxwing (low)	10
Sparrow Hawk	5	Loggerhead Shrike (high)	24
Bob-white	22	Starling	3,900 plus
Am. Coot	790	Myrtle Warbler	87
Killdeer	79	Pine Warbler	48
(low due to water levels)			
Am. Woodcock	2	Palm Warbler	5
Common Snipe	53	(AAW, MFP, High)	
Least Sandpiper	1	Common Yellowthroat	2
(FBD, 3rd time)		House Sparrow	754

Birmingham Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Ring-billed Gull	1	Eastern Meadowlark	208
(FBD, 3rd time)		Red-wing Blackbird	706
Mourning Dove	533	Rusty Blackbird	316
(highest)		Common Grackle (low)	38
Barn Owl	1	Baltimore Oriole	1
(AAW, 2nd time)		(feeder fide BHC)	
Screech Owl	3	Brown-headed Cowbird (low)	54
Great Horned Owl (AAW)	1	Cardinal (highest)	416
Barred Owl	7	Purple Finch	64
Belted Kingfisher	15	Am. Goldfinch	230
Yellow-shafted Flicker	85	Rufous-sided Towhee	381
(highest)		Savannah Sparrow	223
Pileated Woodpecker	11	(highest)	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	60	Vesper Sparrow (WFC)	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	39	Slate-colored Junco	536
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	28	(WFC, RHO)	
(high)		Chipping Sparrow	68
Hairy Woodpecker	10	Field Sparrow	300
Downy Woodpecker (highest)	64	White-throated Sparrow	778
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	4	Fox Sparrow (highest)	50
(FBD, DCH)		Swamp Sparrow	195
Eastern Phoebe (high)	8	Song Sparrow	339
Blue Jay (highest)	246	Unidentified Hawks	2
Common Crow (high)	145	Bachman's Sparrow	1
Carolina Chickadee	265	(highest) (WFC, RH)	
Tufted Titmouse	233	(highest)	
White-breasted Nuthatch	68	(highest) <u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>	92
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	(AAW, MFP)	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	155	(highest) <u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	
Brown Creeper	5		

16,311 plus

This is the 63rd annual Christmas Bird Count conducted jointly by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Birmingham's participation dates from 1934 and this is the 27th count we have submitted for publication in the April issue of Audubon Field Notes. Each year we compile a better list in many ways, and this is an indication of how well the Birmingham Audubon Society has developed as a group of expert bird-watchers. This year's count tied last year for variety, 92 species, but also this year was the first time we put 8 parties in the field and our coverage jumped to 81 party-hours from a previous high of 76. (Each party averaged a little over 10 hours in the field.)

The 23 observers were: Raymond D. Bates, Lucie Barclift, Georgette Canterbury, Frederick T. Carney, Blanche H. Chapman, Walter F. Coxe, F. Bozeman Daniel, Blanche E. Dean, Mildred Ferris, Emmie Lou Grimley, Robert Hard, Malcolm E. Harden, Jr.,

Birmingham Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Dan C. Holliman, Joseph A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (Compiler), Clustie McTyeire, Margarette Persons, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, M. F. Prather, Alfred A. Walker, III, Adele West, Eugene M. West. (Birmingham Audubon Society and guests.)

MARION, ALABAMA (Perry County)

All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Court House in Marion, including U.S. Fish Cultural Station, drainage and swampland Cahaba River, Marion Cemetery and Lakeland Farms.

Deciduous woods 20%, open fields and pastures 20%, swamps and marshes 20%, farmyards, cemetery and home yards 10%, lakes, ponds, streams, river and shores 50%. December 31: 7:15 a.m. 59 5:30 p.m.--Clear--Temperature 27 to 50 degrees. Wind SW-NE 5-15 mph; Heavy frost, ground frozen in shade, ice in shade. 3 observers in 1-2 parties. Total party hours 11. (8 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 54 (10 on foot, 44 by car).

Pied-billed Grebe	6	E. Bluebird	23
Great Blue Heron	19	B. Gray Gnatcatcher	2
Common Egret	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Green-w Teal	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	26
Ring-n Duck	25	Water Pipit	236
Canvasback Duck	1	Cedar Waxwing	14
Turkey Vulture	1	Loggerhead Shrike	26
Black Vulture	95	Starling	75
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Orange-cr. Warbler	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Magnolia Warbler (Dean)	1
Sparrow Hawk	1	Myrtle Warbler	530
Bob-white	12	Pine Warbler	7
Killdeer	148	House Sparrow	415
Common Snipe	154	Eastern Meadowlark	332
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Eastern Redwing	60
Least Sandpiper	10	Rusty Blackbird	22
Semi-palm Sandpiper	52	Brewer's Blackbird	13
Mourning Dove	11	Purple Grackle	1
Belted Kingfisher	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	25
Yell-s Flicker	21	Cardinal	57
Red-bell Woodpecker	12	Goldfinch	39
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	Rufous-s Towhee	23
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	5	Savannah Sparrow	55
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Vesper Sparrow	10
Downy Woodpecker	2	Pine-w. Sparrow	4
Eastern Phoebe	9	Slate-colored Junco	41
Horned Lark	160	Chipping Sparrow	10
Blue Jay	24	Field Sparrow	78

Marion Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Common Crow	18	White-thr. Sparrow	347
Carolina Chickadee	27	Fox Sparrow	1
Tufted Titmouse	9	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Winter Wren	2	Swamp Sparrow	83
Bewick's Wren	1	Song Sparrow	126
Carolina Wren	27		
Mockingbird	34	<u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>	73
Brown Thrasher	13		
Am. Robin	99	<u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	3722
Hermit Thrush	8		

Observers: Blanche E. Dean, Christine Leake, Lois McCullough. Lois McCullough, compiler.

DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALA.

15 mile diameter circle centered on southern tip of Mon Luis Isle, including Cedar Point, Coden, Bayou La Batre, Bellingrath Gardens, all but westernmost 4 miles of Dauphin Island, pine - hardwoods, 33%; mud, sand, and shell flats, 17%; pine woods, 14%; salt water, 13%; salt marsh, 12%; farms and towns, 8%; fresh ponds and marsh, 3%.

December 29, 1962, 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Cloudy and raining A.M. - clear P.M. NW wind 18-25 mph. 18 observers in 7 parties.

Common Loon	5	Red-shldrd. Hawk	1
Horned Grebe	11	Broad-winged Hawk	1
Pied-billed Grebe	10	Marsh Hawk	3
Double-cr Cormorant	77	Sparrow Hawk	20
Great Blue Heron	6	Bobwhite	16
Common Egret	5	R H Pheasants	3
Snowy Egret	4	King Rail	1
Louisiana Heron	6	Clapper Rail	5
Blue Goose	4	Virginia Rail	1
Mallard	14	American Coot	2
Gadwall	2	Piping Plover	25
Blue-winged Teal	3	Snowy Plover	3
Am. Widgeon	50	Semipalm Plover	40
Wood Duck	3	Killdeer	3
Greater Scaup	40	Black-b. Plover	75
Lesser Scaup	55	Ruddy Turnstone	17
Am. Goldeneye	4	Am. Woodcock	4
Ruddy Duck	4	Common Snipe	3
Hooded Merganser	2	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Red-br. Merganser	6	Willet	18
Turkey Vulture	3	Greater Yellowlegs	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Lesser Yellowlegs	1
Red-tailed Hawk	7	Least Sandpiper	7

Dauphin Island Christmas Bird Count (continued)

REGIONAL WING BEATS

Red-b. S. Dunlin	53	Sedge Wren	1
Eastern Dowitcher	18	Mockingbird	74
Semipalm Sandpiper	78	Catbird	6
Western Sandpiper	30	Brown Thrasher	33
Sanderling	37	American Robin	300 plus
Herring Gull	1000(plus)	Hermit Thrush	6
Ring-billed Gull	154	Eastern Bluebird	17
Laughing Gull	82	Golden-cr. Kinglet	12
Bonaparte's Gull	6	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	45
Forster's Tern	3	Water Pipit	1
Common Tern	60	Cedar Waxwing	29
Royal Tern	51	Loggerhead Shrike	26
Caspian Tern	7	Starling	52
Black Skimmer	1	Solitary Vireo	1
Mourning Dove	98	Orange-cr. Warbler	9
White-w. Dove	2	Myrtle Warbler	326
Belted Kingfisher	25	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Yellow-s. Flicker	29	Pine Warbler	37
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	Palm Warbler	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Yellowthroat	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	House Sparrow	63
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Eastern Meadowlark	380
Downs Woodpecker	4	Eastern Redwing	4,445
Eastern Phoebe	10	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Tree Swallow	206	Purple Grackle	39
Rough-w. Swallow	2	Br.-hd. Cowbird	12
Blue Jay	52	Cardinal	66
Common Crow	24	Purple Finch	2
Fish Crow	4	Eastern Goldfinch	65
Carolina Chickadee	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	45
Tufted Titmouse	22	Savannah Sparrow	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Sharp-t. Sparrow	13
Brown-headed Nuthatch	53	Seaside Sparrow	9
Brown Creeper	1	Pine-w. Sparrow	2
House Wren	9	Chipping Sparrow	8
Winter Wren	2	Field Sparrow	20
Bewick's Wren	1	White-throated Sparrow	435
Carolina Wren	23	Swamp Sparrow	126
Marsh Wren	1	Song Sparrow	6

TOTAL SPECIES 124 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 9,616 plus

Observers: Fr. Dorn (compiler), Mary Gaillard, Will and Clara Caffey, Henry and Lib Toenes, Tom Trawick, Joe Friedhoff, Blanche Chapman, Lee Ola Dewberry, Mildred Ferris, Lois McCullough, Max McGill, Mrs. Edith Peller, Harry and Kathleen Johnstone, Fairly Chandler, Wilson Gaillard.

DECATUR, ALABAMA

The late fall and winter brought none of river floods that four times last winter covered all lowland, but did bring snow, sleet and shivery temperatures. On several occasions the thermometer hovered near or below the zero mark and ice-locked all local water except the main river channel and a few smoky springholes.

Wheeler Refuge's Canada goose count climbed week by week until it reached a record peak of over 46,500 in early January. The waxies leveled off with 800 blues and 70 snows present. Duck numbers were never spectacular and the top count was 47,000. Pintails, black ducks and ringnecks were especially numerous and redheads and ruddy ducks were noticeably rare. Due probably to the severe cold, golden-eyes and buffleheads were common, old squaws present and there were at least a few greater scaup around. One came into the hands of a local taxidermist, while David Hulse noted that another made the Decatur boat harbor its happy home from January 24th through February 3rd. During the latter days of the hunting season, a local youngster shot a mallard drake on the Swan Creek Hunting Area that may well be a record. This king-size papa, larger than some geese, tipped the scales at 5 lbs. 2 ounces. The small bird find of the winter came during the extreme cold of January 24th when David Hulse noted a flock of 10 or 12 Pine Siskins in trees near his home, a first local record. David also found a Gray-cheeked Thrush, always rare here, dead in his yard on December 31st. Purple Finches were reported around several of the bird feeders in the Decatur vicinity. The Iranian Pheasants, stocked by the State on Wheeler Refuge in early November, are still around.

At this writing few signs of a long-awaited spring are here, but there are a few. Goose, duck and crow numbers are dwindling as these birds move out of the Valley and waves of Pintails and Shovelers are already moving through.

Thomas Z. Atkeson
February 14, 1963

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

In Birmingham, the outstanding weather events of the past 3 months were the record-breaking lows of 1 above zero on December 13 and 2 below zero on January 24. These lows were attended by below freezing for 3 to 5 mornings and about 48 hours of continuously freezing temperatures. How well the birds survived these severe spells may be a while in determining. Of course, we do know that birds move around a lot and we usually cannot prove conclusively that a bird seen after