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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The first A. O. S. Mid-Winter Meeting was held in Auburn on the week-end of February 21, with field activities confined to the observation of blackbirds. The members began to arrive early on Friday, and by evening our host, THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB, was on hand to welcome a large group. Following the evening meal, Dr. Maurice F. Baker lectured on the Blackbird Banding Project which he has supervised for two years, and explained the procedure for us to follow on the week-end field trips.

By eight o'clock in the evening we were in caravan formation headed for the blackbird roost to make a drive of birds. Our arrival was timed to give the roosting birds sufficient sleeping time to make them groggy. Only the adventuresome members of the group braved the hazards of darkness and unknown terrain to drive the birds into the trap which housed a battery of lamps of 5,000 watts. It was an eerie atmosphere as we silently stumbled along in the unknown darkness, listening to the creaking gurgles and the mechanical squeaks emitted by the unsuspecting birds. With the whine of the big generator, the blinding light came on and with much whistling, clapping of hands, and beating of the reeds, the frightened birds were driven toward the lights in the tent which would trap them and hold them for the observations and banding of the next day.

Saturday dawned a clear cool day. We had enough birds trapped for a full morning of banding. As we approached the tent we heard noises sounding like those from a chicken house, with much squeaking, clucking, and whirring of wings. The receiving cages were placed in a long row at one corner of the tent where the birds could filter-out from the tent into the cages and be held while banding proceeded. It was interesting to hold starlings, grackles, cowbirds, rustys, and red-wings in the hand and study them at close range. Each species was beautiful in its own black cloak. An iridescent spectrum of colors was produced as the sunlight struck and reflected from the black feathers. The cowbird was so patient that once placed on her back, she would lie patiently; she could even be laid on her back on the work table and one could continue to move about her for several minutes before she would realize that she was free to turn over and fly away. At the end of the morning we had seen about five hundred birds banded and released.

After lunch and the business meetings were concluded, we were free to take to the field. This time we were going to watch the return of the blackbirds to their roost. Oliver L. Austin in his BIRDS OF THE WORLD, noted, "The birds leave the roosts at dawn and travel as much as 30 to 50 miles in search of good foraging. By mid-afternoon they start heading toward the roost, and converge on it from all directions. The vanguard arrives several hours before dark and from then on flock after flock pour in until darkness."

The birds started coming to their roost, as the brilliant, late winter sun began to sink into the grey western sky. The roost was a bamboo experimental area in a small valley, north of Auburn. Dr. Baker had estimated that one-half million birds were using this roost at the peak of their roosting season. The orderly flight lines began to appear.

Some came from the East, some from the West, but always in formation and always increasing in numbers. Only when the lines were closest to the ground could one hear the whisper of the many wings and the occasional cluck of the grackle as he winged his way to rest in the surrounding trees. The silent leafless trees suddenly came to life with birds perching among the branches. The slightest movement of the birds gave the impression of the trees in full leaf swaying in a gentle breeze. When it was time for the birds to drop into the canes for their nightly positions the trees looked as though their leaves were falling slowly and systematically to the ground.

The voices from the reeds and the colors of the sky held us fascinated as darkness approached. The colors in the sky began to change almost as rapidly as those in a kaleidoscope. At first the sky to the east was a light blue and to the west a light green. Then in the east the blue added a tinge of pink and the green of the west a tinge of yellow. Over head the puffy clouds were a brilliant pink with hundreds of lines of blackbirds continuing to stream in from each direction. The voices of birds perched in the reeds developed to a din of songs and call notes. As the brilliance of the late afternoon heightened, so did the chorus of voices joined by other companions, the Cardinal, the Brown Thrasher, and the White-throated Sparrow. This crescendo continued to grow louder and louder as the sky burst into flame. Every branch of tree and bush became alive with thousands of blackbirds. There was a gentle roar of the masses of wings of the one-half million birds, swiftly coming from all directions and "pitching-in" to the roost.

Something hushed one part of the orchestra. The flaming red sky slowly turned to orange. Two stars, Venus and Jupiter, shone brightly in the western sky as the thousands of arriving blackbirds trickled to a few hundred stragglers. The Great Blue Heron came to perch in his usual tall pine tree and the din of voices softened until the voices of frogs could be distinguished above the call of the red-wings. The twilight had changed into night. The chilly air was heavy with the odor of feathers and uric acid. The voices remained loud and clear. The spring peepers provided the background music, the chorus frogs adding harmony, interspersed by the "who who" of the Great Horned Owl. Intermittently a blackbird would squeak or chirp as he was pushed from his perch by a companion.

Everything became a silhouette, just as the activities of A.O.S. for the past year have become history. The sky which at last has turned to grey, studded with brilliant stars, is like our A.O.S. membership, studded with potentialities for the coming year. The remaining glow of orange on the evening horizon must change to the new dawn for A.O.S. as potential activities are to develop into realities. Begin the new year by attending the Spring Meeting on Dauphin Island, April 24-26 with reservations at Holiday House Apartments, Mrs. Carolyn Hager, Manager.

Rosemary T. Dusi

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, ALABAMA, 1963

Auburn (column A of table). The Christmas Bird Count was made at Auburn, Alabama, December 30, 1963. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle was the Auburn Post Office. Composition of the area was: mixed woods, 50 per cent; pastures and open fields, 30 per cent; water and mud flats, 20 per cent. The weather was clear and the temperature varied from 32°F. at the start, to a high of 54°, and to 42° at termination. Winds were 0-10 mph., from the north to northwest. Seventeen observers, making 8 parties, spent 37 party hours, drove 102 party miles, rowed 2 party miles, and walked 43 party miles, in making the count. Total species, 78. Total individuals, 451,660.

Birmingham (column B of table), December 28, 1963; clear, but cloudy at dawn and dusk; temp 25° to 51°, wind NNE 6 to 16 mph, ice gone by 9 AM; no snow, no rain; one of the coldest Decembers in history; minimum for the season, 11° on the 19th; water levels low. Thirty-nine observers in 9 parties spent 95 party-hours afield from 2 AM to 5:30 PM and traveled 395.5 miles by car and on foot. Total species: 94 (record high); total individuals: 12,054.

Bon Secour (column BS of table) Count made December 19, 1963, 5:45 AM to 5:45 PM. Clear, temp 26° to 46°F., wind NW 5 to 15 mph. 15 mile diameter circle centered at Bon Secour post office. 40 per cent open fields and pastures, 30 per cent open waters of bay and gulf, 12 per cent dunes, marshes, lagoons, fresh and brackish streams, 12 per cent prairie and pine woods, 3 per cent pine-hard woods, 3 per cent residential.

Mobile (column M of table) Count made December 26, 1963, temp 35° to 69°F. 154 species and 834,547 individuals counted. 19 observers in 9 to 11 parties. No other data given.

Species	A	B	BS	M
Common Loon			82	2
Red-throated Loon				3
Horned Grebe	1		12	15
Pied-billed Grebe	9	57	33	15
Eared Grebe			2	
White Pelican				200
Gannet			2	
Double-crested Cormorant			12	2
Great Blue Heron	4	10	8	6
Common Egret				26
Snowy Egret				85
Louisiana Heron				13
Little Blue Heron				2
Yellow-crowned Night Heron				1
White Ibis				4
Mallard	1	4		260
Black Duck				6
Gadwall		6	5	275
Pintail				350
Green-winged Teal		15	16	704
Blue-winged Teal				74
American Widgeon		6		238
Shoveller	1		4	300

Species	A	B	BS	M
Wood Duck	2			13
Redhead	3	2		150
Ring-necked Duck	18	270	2	116
Canvasback	1	104	2	650
Lesser Scaup	12	75	35	600
Greater Scaup				2
Common Goldeneye		4	7	50
Bufflehead		3	20	75
Oldsquaw			3	6
Ruddy Duck		4	12	75
Hooded Merganser			5	20
Common Merganser			1	
Red-breasted Merganser	4	4	43	2
Turkey Vulture	2	4		19
Black Vulture	7	2	3	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1
Cooper's Hawk	1	2		1
Red-tailed Hawk	4	4	6	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	6	1	1
Marsh Hawk	1	1	6	4
Pigeon Hawk				1
Sparrow Hawk	5	13	18	10
Bobwhite	2	104	30	78
Sand Hill Crane			25	
King Rail				5
Clapper Rail			3	12
Virginia Rail			3	10
Sora			1	27
Common Gallinule				187
American Coot	25	578	800	15,000
Piping Plover				10
Killdeer	25	185	385	1,056
Semipalmated Plover				50
Black-bellied Plover			4	20
American Woodcock	2			8
Common Snipe	10	31	4	1,200
Spotted Sandpiper		1		2
Greater Yellowlegs				126
Lesser Yellowlegs				35
Least Sandpiper	2	10		305
Dunlin				809
Short-billed Dowitcher				4
Semipalmated Sandpiper				247
Western Sandpiper				29
Sanderling			4	2
Avocet				7
Herring Gull			80	108
Ring-billed Gull			150	154
Laughing Gull			2	76
Bonaparte's Gull			50	32
Forster's Tern			7	31
Common Tern				2
Royal Tern				15
Caspian Tern			11	3
Mourning Dove	12	575	125	667
Ground Dove			1	3

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Species	A	B	BS	M
Barn Owl		2	1	2
Screech Owl		3	3	1
Great Horned Owl		3	1	
Barred Owl	1	3		3
Belted Kingfisher		18	12	19
Yellow-shafted Flicker	16	107	29	28
Pileated Woodpecker	1	23	2	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	75	40	27
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	34	14	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14	33	17	8
Harry Woodpecker	1	15	1	3
Downy Woodpecker	13	51	10	5
Red-cockaded Woodpecker		9		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			1	
Eastern Phoebe	9	6	10	3
Tree Swallow				131
Rough-winged Swallow				3
Blue Jay	37	179	162	409
Horned Lark		37		
Common Crow	14	132	2	115
Fish Crow			210	6
Carolina Chickadee	26	201	7	6
Tufted Titmouse	13	177	19	25
White-breasted Nuthatch		59		
Brown-headed Nuthatch	12	44	14	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch		21	10	
Brown Creeper	3	12	1	5
House Wren		8	26	4
Winter Wren	9	8		1
Bewick's Wren		3		2
Carolina Wren	8	84	21	14
Long-billed Marsh Wren			6	16
Short-billed Marsh Wren			6	3
Mockingbird	11	153	103	89
Catbird		1	4	4
Brown Thrasher	9	48	55	33
Robin	460	251	600	178
Hermit Thrush	10	16	6	2
Eastern Bluebird	20	44	35	31
Veery	1			
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher			6	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet		23		15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	52	58	70	42
Water Pipit	6	57	290	2
Cedar Waxwing	48	401	41	45
Loggerhead Shrike	3	336	14	23
Starling	157,535	1,907	210	3,233
White-eyed Vireo				1
Solitary Vireo		2		2
Black & White Warbler			1	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	4		9	5
Yellow Warbler				1
Myrtle Warbler	34	24	395	55
Yellow-throated Warbler			1	1
Pine Warbler	3	25	25	32
Palm Warbler		10	22	9

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Species	A	B	BS	M
Yellowthroat	2		11	5
House Sparrow	20	545	870	1,183
Eastern Meadowlark	58	200	115	632
Western Meadowlark				2
Red-winged Blackbird	67,500	916	30,600	800,000
Rusty Blackbird	22,500	52	18	40
Brewer's Blackbird			330	172
Boat-tailed Grackle			26	150
Common Grackle	45,000	336	1,385	196
Brown-headed Cowbird	57,500	197	53	375
Cardinal	27	345	156	52
Purple Finch	21	88	6	3
Dickcissel				1
Pine Siskin		36	6	1
American Goldfinch		402	90	111
Rufous-sided Towhee	30	255	92	34
Savannah Sparrow	13	150	110	245
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				6
Seaside Sparrow				3
Vesper Sparrow		5	140	9
Lark Sparrow				1
Bachman's Sparrow		2	1	2
Slate-colored Junco	66	430	80	9
Chipping Sparrow	101	139	110	29
Field Sparrow	103	356	150	158
White-crowned Sparrow		1	2	
White-throated Sparrow	123	680	1,700	1,102
Fox Sparrow	3	26	8	6
Lincoln's Sparrow				2
Swamp Sparrow	24	159	121	623
Song Sparrow	18	251	54	32
Lapland Longspur		1		

EARLY RESULTS OF BLACKBIRD BANDING AT AUBURN, ALABAMA, 1963*

Maurice F. Baker

Information on movements and longevity of birds may be obtained from three sources after a trapping and banding operation. First, some bands may be recovered during the trapping from birds banded elsewhere. These are called foreign retraps. Second, birds banded during trapping and banding may be recovered at points removed from the banding site. These are called recoveries. Finally, retrapped birds previously banded at the same location will yield information on longevity. These are called returns. It is the purpose of this report to bring readers of Alabama Birdlife up to date on foreign retraps, recoveries, and returns from trapping by the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in 1963.

From January 16 to February 25, 1963, a floodlight trap (Mitchell, 1963) was operated intermittently at Auburn, Alabama, to obtain blackbirds for banding. This type of trap was developed by personnel of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which also provided funds for trap operation.

Keeler (1960) briefly described a floodlight trap operated by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife biologists at Montgomery, Alabama, in January of 1960. Biologists of this Bureau also operated a floodlight trap in Montgomery during the winter of 1961-62, and at Auburn, Alabama, in January of 1962 (Dusi, 1962). Several thousand Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Starlings were thus banded in the Montgomery-Auburn area before trapping began in 1963.

The floodlight trap used in 1963 consisted of a funnel-shaped net supported by two steel towers, each 30 feet tall, arranged so that the open end was approximately 30 feet high and 50 feet wide. This funnel led back to a cloth tent approximately 8 by 10 by 12 feet, in which a battery of six 1000 watt lights powered by a portable generator was placed. The trap was operated at night by turning on the lights and driving the birds from the roost toward the trap. Under favorable conditions, numbers of birds would fly into the tent where they could be captured by closing the front of the tent.

Table 1 summarizes the results of this trapping operation. Birds listed as "dead" are trap casualties, except for the Starlings which were gassed and disposed of rather than being banded or released. Trap casualties increased markedly in percentage of total when more than about 1,800 birds were caught. Also, it proved difficult to band more than 1,800-2,000 birds in one day. For these reasons it was desirable not to exceed a catch of about 2,000 birds.

*A contribution of the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Auburn University, Alabama Department of Conservation, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute, cooperating.

A total of 19,890 blackbirds were caught in 16 trapping operations. This figure includes 186 previously banded birds not included in Table 1. Of these, 14 were foreign retraps, 36 were returns from the 1962 banding, and the remainder were repeats of birds banded during the current banding operation. In addition, 65 recoveries had been reported by about July 1, 1963. Thus, 251 banded birds have yielded some information during the banding operation and in the succeeding 4 months.

Table 1. Summary of the results of floodlight trapping at Auburn, Alabama, January and February, 1963

Species	Banded	Dead	Released	Total
Brown-headed Cowbird	7631	180	1460	9271
Starling	1424	407	13	5511
Red-winged Blackbird	789	60	0	849
Common Grackle	3563	7	0	3570
Rusty Blackbird	0	132	371	503
Totals	13,407	4,453	1,844	19,704

There is more to bird banding than simply catching the bird and placing a band on its leg. Without an organization to store the banding data, and to retrieve it when called for, the actual banding would be meaningless. This organization is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Bird Banding Office of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland. Band numbers, together with appropriate data on species, age, sex, date, and location of banding are reported to Patuxent. Here, they are processed by automatic data-processing machines and filed for future reference. If a band is found on a dead or trapped bird, and if the finder sends the band number to Patuxent, then the banding pays off. When this happens both the finder and bander are notified -- the bander learns where and when the bird was found, and the finder learns where and when the bird was banded.

Foreign retraps and returns of Brown-headed Cowbirds. The cowbird data are interesting because there were actually more foreign retraps (13) than recoveries (8). This is accounted for by the 8 individuals that had been banded at Montgomery, Alabama, in the winters of 1960-61 and 1961-62 and retrapped during the 1963 operation. There were 13 repeats from the 1962 banding operation. The 8 recoveries reported through June, 1963, are too few to permit conclusions; however, they indicate that few, if any, of the wintering birds were local breeders, for all of the recoveries are from areas to the north and northeast of Auburn as far as Ontario, Canada, and Maine. The oldest Brown-headed Cowbird taken was one that was originally banded in March, 1958, making it at least 5 1/2 years old when retrapped.

Recoveries of Starlings. The Starling recoveries came from near the banding site and scattered to the northeast as far as Connecticut. The recoveries from near the banding site were scattered in time into June, 1963, suggesting that the banded birds were local breeders as well as migrants. It is of interest that no foreign retraps of Starlings occurred, even though 1000 Starlings were reported by Keeler (1960) to have been banded at Montgomery in January, 1960. Twenty-one Starlings banded at Auburn in 1962 were retrapped.

Recoveries and foreign retraps of Common Grackles. There were 35 recoveries and one foreign retrap of Common Grackles. All three of the local recoveries were taken during the trapping period and before the breeding season indicating that these winter birds do not breed locally. Recoveries of Common Grackles came from farther west than for Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds and as far north as Ontario. The one foreign retrap came from Port Huron, Michigan, the end point of the travels of one of our banded Grackles. Only one repeat from 1962 was taken.

In summary, of 13,407 bands placed and 19,704 birds handled, there were 251 banded birds that yielded information on movement or longevity. Migration of Starlings and Cowbirds from the roost tended to be to the northeast, whereas Common Grackle movements tended to be more nearly straight north. Cowbirds apparently exchange between the Montgomery and Auburn roosts, but there is no evidence that Starlings and Grackles do so.

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ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND A SPECIMEN OF THE EARED GREBE IN ALABAMA

Henry M. Stevenson

On December 19, 1963, I located two Eared Grebes (*Podiceps caspicus*) at the east end of Little Lagoon (Baldwin County), Alabama. This was my first observation of the species in winter plumage, and the obvious differences between it and the Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*) surprised me. The great extent of gray on the head and neck gave the bird more of the dull color of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) than of the contrast of black and white shown by the Horned Grebe. The Eared Grebe also gave the impression of having longer, more slender necks than does the Horned Grebe.

Realizing that there was no specimen of the Eared Grebe for Alabama, I made arrangements with owners of two boats to help me attempt the collection, but was not able to approach within range at the time. Two weeks later (January 3, 1964) I found two individuals at the same spot, however, and arranged with Fairly Chandler, of Magnolia Springs, to make another attempt the next morning. At that time (January 4) three of these birds were present, and Chandler's skill in handling the boat was a great asset in the collection of the first specimen for Alabama, now in the collection of Florida State University. After returning to land we visited an arm of Lake Shelby and were surprised to see two more Eared Grebes. In this instance we had both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes present for comparison.

Tom Imhof (*Alabama Birds*, p. 63) cited as the only previous record for the state an Eared Grebe seen at Little Dauphin Island (Mobile County), by Ava Tabor, Electa Levi, and Michael Caldwell on January 1 and March 26, 1960. A perusal of subsequent issues of *Audubon Field Notes* revealed no additional records.

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AN UNUSUAL VISITOR

William S. Clark

Fink's Lake, located in Calhoun County, Alabama, about three miles north of Anniston, has a very good variety of birds. Naturally I do quite a bit of birding there.

November 11, 1963, early in the morning, found me there. While I was watching some blackbirds, a small sandpiper-like bird almost flew into me and disappeared around the lake. Checking a list I have for our area, I supposed that it was probably a Least Sandpiper, occurring at this time of year. But I went on to check.

Further around the lake, as I stopped to identify some gulls (Herring), I looked down into the water and saw a strange little bird. He was only 10 feet away! Pulling out my Peterson's Field Guide I frantically started the search for his identity. After ten hectic minutes I was no closer to identification than when I had first spotted him. And still he was swimming and feeding peacefully, directly in front of me. Then I noticed the introduction to the section in my field guide on "Phalaropes". It said they were equally at home swimming or wading. Quickly turning to the pictures, I narrowed my bird down to either a "Northern" or "Red".

Checking the texts in Peterson and "Guide to American Wildlife",* I at last recorded a Northern Phalarope.

That afternoon I returned and again found him in the same location.

Early the next morning, Dr. William Calvert of Jacksonville, Alabama, and I were at the spot, but, alas, no Phalarope. We watched other birds for about a half-hour when a small shore bird flew by and landed near. "It might be him", I told Dr. Calvert. I could see the excitement in his eyes as we walked (probably ran) over to check. Sure enough, there was our little friend, swimming nonchalantly around. With a quick check of Peterson, Dr. Calvert confirmed that our phalarope was indeed a Northern. It was a life first for us both.

* Collins, Henery Hill, Jr. 1959. Complete Field Guide to American Wildlife. Harper and Brothers, New York.

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NOTES

Vermillion Flycatcher Collected Near Selma, Alabama on January 29, 1964. I saw a male Vermillion Flycatcher 10 miles west of Selma, Dallas County, Alabama, -- a first for me. He was perched on a fence post near a barn and occasionally flew down, apparently to catch an insect in flight. I watched him through the binocular about six minutes. During that time, he flew down several times, appeared to catch insects in the air, and returned to either the same post or one nearby.

On February 1, 1964, I returned to this spot and collected a male Vermillion Flycatcher within 150 yards of the above observation. (Probably the same one.) The wind was rather high at the time, and the bird was feeding over and near a farm pond. The pond was partially sheltered from the wind by cedar trees. Feeding was similar to that in note above. The bird was donated to Alabama Department of Conservation. Robert E. Waters, Selma, Alabama.

Notes from the Selma Area. I counted waterfowl on Dallas County Public Fishing Lake two times during January. Birds observed were:

1-18-64 - 109 Ruddy Ducks, 15 Buffleheads, 8 Canvasbacks, 4 Coots, and 1 Pied-billed Grebe;

1-25-64 - 121 Ruddy Ducks, 14 Buffleheads, 3 Mallards, 5 Gadwalls, about 200 Ring-necked Ducks, 4 Coots, and 1 Pied-billed Grebe.

1-22-64 - I stopped on the highway between Marion and Marion Junction (Perry County). While stopped, I heard a Western Meadowlark. I saw it fly up from a pasture into a sweetgum tree. I watched it through the binocular for several minutes, during which time it gave the Western Meadowlark song several times.

We had a good many Robins during early January, but most of them have moved on through.

I drove from Selma to Wedowee on February 3, 1964. I didn't count the Eastern Bluebirds, but there must have been at least 35 or 40 along the way. Robert E. Waters, Selma, Alabama

Livingston Field Notes. Since reporting last from this area I have added three more species to my Sumter County Bird List bringing it to a total of one hundred ninety-six species to date. At this time for a single county it has now become a matter of "scraping the bottom of the barrel" and any new bird is almost necessarily a rare discovery. My list for 1963 has been unusually exciting in number and in rarity. In the Spring I added the Painted Buntings and the Purple Gallinule (previously reported) and in the fall was added a male Wilson's Warbler, a male Common Goldeneye Duck, and Cooper's Hawk, all of which would be rare for this area, except the Cooper's Hawk.

The Purple Gallinule stayed with me from April 30th to September 17, 1963. One of its wings had been practically lost and it could not fly. I thought this bird would be with me the rest of its life, but when migration time came it disappeared. It would certainly be interesting to know definitely how it accomplished this. My pond is located near a creek which flows to Succarnotchie River which in turn flows to the Tombigbee River and this would give a swimming route to the Gulf Coast, which may be the means by which the bird migrated. Jenkins Jackson, Livingston, Alabama.

Pyrrhuloxia in Alabama. Herbert Brandt in his ARIZONA BIRDLIFE says, "A bird I always like to meet afield is the pyrrhuloxia. It has such an exotic air of action and appearance that one is pleasantly surprised that he is in the land of the unusual Its high extended crest, droll, parrotlike expression and lacy film of fiery brilliance all seem to sway the mind toward fancy rather than reality." This was the feeling of the members of the Birmingham Audubon Society on a regular field trip to Marion, Alabama, March 23, 1963, when we observed the Pyrrhuloxia in Alabama.

We had explored the area of the fish hatcheries before noon and then went to Lakeland Farms for lunch. Soon thereafter, we continued birding, coming eventually to the open pasture where we usually find the White-crowned Sparrow. As we neared the farthest side of the field which is bordered with a dense growth of trees and shrubs, the birds began to move. Suddenly, we stopped dead in our tracks for we realized the birds ahead were not all cardinals! As they flew from tree to fence to tree again we knew we were looking at the Pyrrhuloxia although they were with cardinals. They were smaller, had yellow bills, not red like the cardinals, grey backs, not red of the cardinals, and they had red breasts with light color on each side of the red. We followed them as closely as they would permit, studying them with high powered binoculars, as they moved up and down the fence rows. When they flew into the adjoining field, Walter Coxe and Robert Reid routed them out of the thicker shrubs and trees. The others in our group sat quietly under a pine tree and watched with binoculars as the Pyrrhuloxia and Cardinals flew back to their former places. Without a doubt, these were Pyrrhuloxia whose nearest range is given as Southeastern Texas. After close examination from three quarters of an entire group felt convinced of their identification. They would never be sure of exactly how many, but we know there were two, and we think more, male Pyrrhuloxia in their perky hats and jaunty spring suits.

Earlier in the month there had been storms from the west. In checking with the U.S. Weather Bureau, March 19 there was a stormy day with winds 60 to 70 m.p.h.; March 20 was clear but gusty winds up to more than 40 m.p.h.; March 21 and 22, were clear with winds up to 37 m.p.h. The 23rd was a perfect day. Birmingham Audubon Society, Leader: Blanche E. Dean

Business Meeting
Alabama Ornithological Society
February 22, 1964

A business meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was called to order by the president at 1:40 PM, February 22, 1964, at the Heart of Auburn Restaurant, Auburn, Alabama.

The president introduced the following new members: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reid of Birmingham, Mr. Stanley Rhodes of Jacksonville, Alabama, and Mr. William Clark of Atlanta.

Minutes of the business meeting of November 17, 1963 and the treasurer's report were read. The treasurer reported a balance of \$244.00.

The president announced that she was going to appoint an auditor for the treasurer's books and that the auditor would make a report at the Annual Meeting on Dauphin Island, April 24-26.

The president called upon the chairman of the Cattle Egret committee for a report. Dr. Holliman reported that the committee plans to solicit cooperation from county chapters of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association as well as from individual garden clubs in getting the Cattle Egret placed on the protected list.

The president called upon Mr. C. W. Summerour, Auburn graduate student, for a report on his Cattle Egret study. Mr. Summerour reviewed his study and asked for cooperation in reporting dates on which Cattle Egrets arrive at various places within the State.

The president called upon the chairman of the summer-bird-count committee for a report. Dr. Holliman reported that the period, June 4 to July 4, had been selected for making the summer population counts and that bird groups on other states had shown an active interest in the counts.

The president announced that she had appointed a committee to nominate a treasurer and vice-president for 1964-65 year. Those appointed were: Mrs. W. H. Persons, Chairman; Mrs. Harriet Wright; and Miss Blanche Chapman.

The president asked Dr. Baker for a report on blackbird banding activities that occurred earlier in the day. He reported a total of 441 new birds banded, plus several retraps, and a good many Starlings.

The president announced that \$50.00 life membership fee had been deposited in the Society's checking account through mistake. She proposed that it be withdrawn from the checking account and deposited in the savings account where it belongs. Mrs. Margaret Robinson moved that the transaction be made. Dr. Baker seconded it. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Robert E. Waters, Secretary
Alabama Ornithological Society

OBITUARY

CECIL HORNADY

Cecil Hornady, well known member of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, died suddenly on December 14, 1963, at Talladega, Alabama. He was 60 years old and a native of Birmingham.

Mr. Hornady was active in ornithological work throughout the State. He was a member of Alabama Ornithological Society and the Birmingham Audubon Society. He contributed regularly to the "Regional Wingbeats" for the Alabama Birdlife.