

The President's Page

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you my sincere thanks for your assurance of continued support and participation in our fine organization during the coming year.

Our organization is kept viable only through the diligent efforts of all of our membership and not by just a select few. We are fortunate indeed to have among our membership people from all walks of life. Many professions and occupations are represented among us, with each being capable of contributing in his own special way.

We are firmly bound together by a common interest. This interest is two-fold: first, to foster a greater knowledge of the birds of Alabama through observation, education, and publication; and second, to be a potent voice in the conservation of all of Alabama's natural resources, but especially of birds. All of our energies are centered upon a focal point that relates either directly or indirectly to the conservation of a renewable natural resource. The entire functional structure of the Alabama Ornithological Society is geared for our dual objective and offers to the membership myriads of opportunities to make significant contributions in the field of ornithology. Within the sphere of our activities one can find many ecological niches where assistance can be given.

I invite you to join with me in making our organization strong and productive. I look forward to birding and working with each of you this year.

Dan C. Holliman, President
Alabama Ornithological Society

SOME INTERESTING RECORDS FROM BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

FAIRLY CHANDLER

The following report is a summary of some unusual records from intensive field observations by the writer mostly since August, 1960 and includes some new nesting areas and some dates earlier in the spring or later in the fall than those reported by Imhof (Alabama Birds). All records are of observations by the writer unless otherwise noted.

Eared Grebe (Podiceps caspicus)

December 19, 1963 (2 birds, Gulf Shores, H. M. Stevenson).
Jan. 3, 1964 (2 birds, Gulf Shores, H. M. Stevenson).
Jan. 4, 1964 (5 birds, Gulf Shores, H. M. Stevenson and P. F. Chandler. One collected and in Florida State University collection).

Green Heron (Butorides virescens)

Winter of 1957-58 (one bird seen regularly on Magnolia River, P. F. C.).
Winter of 1963-64 (one bird seen regularly on Magnolia River, P. F. C.).

Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis)

Winter and early Spring records.
Jan. 18 and 31, 1962 (one bird on shoulder of Highway 98 at Greeno Road, P. F. C.).
March 31 and April 2, 1962 (seven birds, Magnolia Springs, P. F. C.).
March 9, 27, 1964 (five birds and one bird, Mobile Causeway, P. F. C.).
April 4, 1964 (forty, eight and five birds, Gulf Shores-Alabama Point, H. M. S. and P. F. C.).

Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis)

Winter record. Jan. 16, 1964 (one bird with broken wing on Mobile Causeway, P. F. C.).

Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)

Twenty days early. Sept. 30, 1963 (four at Corte Pond, P. F. C.).

Common Scoter (Oidemia nigra)

Early Fall. Nov. 2, 1963 (one female or immature bird on Magnolia River, P. F. C.).

Marsh Hawk (Circus cyaneus)

Late Spring. May 14, 1963 (one bird at Magnolia Springs, Ducie Barnard and P. F. C.).

Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis)

Dec. 17, 19, 1963 (twenty-five birds south of Foley, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith, C. P. Bianco, P. F. C.).