

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

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Alabama Birdlife

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

After traveling over much of the state this last year and visiting with various individuals and with local ornithological groups, one could not help but get the impression that we have tremendous potential in the field for forming local chapters of the Alabama Ornithological Society. Many individuals have expressed a desire for local bird groups to be established in certain small towns or communities. Usually these people have for a long time recognized an exact need or have been aware of certain existing problems involving ornithology or conservation in their own communities. At the same time, they realize that they need help in such a project and have simply felt that they could not accomplish this work without the aid of fellow birders. In most, if not all cases, this has been the genesis for our local existing ornithological clubs. In larger towns and cities, recruiting membership for local chapters poses no real problem. There are already active bird clubs in Anniston, Auburn, Birmingham, and Mobile. In all cases these bird clubs are well staffed with individuals who have a genuine interest in ornithology and conservation. Their monthly meetings are held in museums, institutions of higher learning, and in community centers, with people from all walks of life making up their membership rolls. Each of these groups has well planned calendars for the year. Included in their activities are monthly programs, regularly scheduled field trips, nature camps, conservation films, guest speakers, membership drives, serving as hosts for annual Alabama Ornithological Society meetings, and other worth-while, longrange projects whose objectives are to further the cause of ornithology in Alabama. Other valuable projects which might be considered by our local groups would include: 1) the establishment of bird sanctuaries; 2) the establishment of youth bird clubs for our youngsters; 3) the establishment of annual Christmas, Migration, and Summer bird counts; 4) the compilation of local bird lists and other information which could be distributed to other local bird clubs; and 5) the hosting of monthly visits from other chapters.

The value of these local groups cannot be over-emphasized. Not only do they encourage participation in a growing American activity and hobby, but they are, in many cases, strong conservational forces which can be instrumental in the preservation of our non-renewable natural resources. Alabama is a large state that is interestingly divisible into various life zones and geographical provinces. Our state has many towns and cities which could serve as the nucleus for additional local bird clubs. We need only to create an interest in ornithology.

Dan C. Holliman

Ross Partridge's Comments on the Spring Meeting - 1964

The twelfth annual meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was, indeed a birding holiday with 195 species being counted. This birder journeyed to Dauphin Island on Saturday to attend the meeting in high spirits but time was limited because of the small item known to most of us as earning a living, so I was only on the island for some five hours. In this short time, several things were evident to me and, when driving back to Mobile, several thoughts were pressing into my mind.

The thought most predominant was: what is the most important phase of birding? My mind quickly placed the subject into three categories.

The first is comprised of the "BBC's", that is, those who just watch birds. These birders are only interested in counting species and total birds. They have their BBC's (books, binoculars and check lists) and are running here, there and yond trying to spot one more species for the day. The only good I could see possible evolving from this group is IF their records are given to some scientific organization or other collecting agency for bird information then we could all reap the harvest of their findings. If nothing is done with the information then they are 100 percent free loaders and are not doing the birds one bit of good.

The second category I will call scientific and consists of those birders who count species and make censuses, collect life histories, and band birds. These birders are the ornithologists, the people who study birds. Their efforts do not help the birds today or tomorrow but, rather, help other birders to learn more on the subject and, thus produce a chain reaction in the spreading of knowledge on the subject of birds.

The third order of birders could be called the workers. This group does more for the birds themselves and, thus, makes it possible for the first and second category birders to exist. These workers build houses, establish feeding stations, plant trees that will help the birds in nesting and feeding, and help to develop land for a bird refuge. The workers are the real conservationists. They are the people who are seeing that years from now there will still be a bald eagle or that we will still have a dove or duck to hunt or, better yet we will still have the song birds in our yards. The workers do the most good for the birds themselves.

This writer arrived at one conclusion. The ideal birder is all three. Learn the birds by sight and sound. Collect your information purposefully and pass it on to the many good organizations. Help the birders in your area to build boxes. Help to establish parks and other areas as a refuge. Get others interested in birds.

Which group of birders do you fall into?

(Reprinted by permission from the West Mobile News of May 7, 1964)

THE 1964 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

We are happy to report two new bird counts this year - a third one in the Mobile Bay Area and one from Anniston. The report this year describes each count, summarizes the results and tabulates the grand totals separately.

ANNISTON (An). Count made on December 29 within a 15-mile circle centered at the West Park Heights Church of the Eulaton community. Number of hours spent in each habitat: deciduous woods 3, mixed conifer and hardwood 6½, open fields and pastures 8, lakes and streams 4½, woodland border 3½, towns ½. Weather: clear, temperature 39° to 69°F., wind SE 5-13 mph. Total party hours 26. Total party miles 121 (15 on foot, 106 by car). Observers: Dick Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jerome Couch, John Hall, Mrs. A.T. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Johnson, Steve Johnson, William Summerour. Total species seen 65, total individuals 2227.

AUBURN (Au). Count made on December 30 within a 15-mile circle centered at the Auburn post office. Habitat composition of the area was: mixed woods 50%, pasture and open fields 30%, water and mud flats 20%. Weather was clear to slightly overcast, temperature 56° to 62°F., and the wind variable 0 to 5 mph. Ten party trips with a total of 34 party hours, driving 190 miles, walking 14 miles and rowing 3 miles by boat. Participants were: Maurice F. Baker, Sidney Baker, Steven Baker, Julian Dusi (compiler), Rosemary Dusi, Ann Grub, Walter Grub, W.E. Goslin, Jane Goslin, Robert Thatcher, Tim Thatcher, Robert Waters, Joe Waters from Auburn; Richard Ambrose and R.S. Johnson from Anniston; Sam Jones from Smith's Station; and L.A. Wells and B.F. Young from Columbus, Georgia.

BIRMINGHAM (Bi). Count made December 26. There was a complete overcast with temperature at 68°F. at daylight with light southerly winds; a cold front passed through at 11:30 A.M. with .07 inches of rainfall, gusty winds and a drop in temperature to 42°F. Twenty-eight observers in 11 parties spent 109 party hours from 1 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and traveled 530 miles by car and on foot. (No record of participants-Ed.)

BON SECOUR (BS). Count made January 3, 1965 with center of 15-mile circle at Bon Secour post office, 5:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., partly cloudy to cloudy with mist in P.M.; temperature 65° to 40°F., wind SE to NE, 10 to 20 mph. Eleven observers in 5 parties spent 43 party hours in the field and traveled 288 miles by car and on foot. Reported by Fairley Chandler.

DAUPHIN ISLAND and BELLINGRATH GARDENS AREA (D.I.). Count made January 2, 1965. Participants: Clara Caffey, Fr. J.L. Dorn, Fred and Evelyn Donaven, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Tuck Hayward, R.V. and Richard Horne, Tom and John Imhof, Harry and Kathleen Johnstone, Electa Levi, W.D. McDaniels, Louise McKinstry, Sam and Jean McMillan, Temple Seibels, Idalene Sneed, Ava Tabor, Fr. Matt Turk and Mike Wilkinson.

MOBILE (Mo). Count made December 26, 1964, 4:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., light rain at dawn but clearing rapidly, temperature 70° to 78°F., wind SW 5-15 mph., fog remained over bay and vicinity until late P.M. Reported by Fr. J.L. Dorn, S.J. No record of participants.

Synopsis of all Counts

Name of Bird	Number Seen by Localities					
	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Common Loon				59	19	1
Red-necked Grebe						1
Horned Grebe			3	48	220	10
Pied-billed Grebe	5	2	38	4	22	22
White Pelican						75
Gannet				31		
Double cr. Cormorant				21	83	2
Anhinga					2	
Great Blue Heron	1	4	2	19	12	18
Little Blue Heron						1
Common Egret			1	1	3	31
Snowy Egret						19
Louisiana Heron					4	5
Black-cr. Night Heron					3	
American Bittern				1		1
Whistling Swan						1
Canada Goose					18	1
White-fr. Goose					2	
Mallard		1	6		15	35
Black Duck					2	7
Gadwall			2		106	3037
Pintail						450
Green-w. Teal					29	6
Blue-w. Teal			1		3	17
American Widgeon			12		5	450
Shoveller						250
Wood Duck		4	2		27	6
Redhead			15		5	8
Ring-necked Duck	4	5	157	1	24	82
Canvasback			90		29	977
Greater Scaup				135	19	2
Lesser Scaup		8	68	11	117	160
Golden-eye				10	453	
Bufflehead		1	3	3	15	
Oldsquaw				52	3	
Ruddy Duck			3		19	59
Hooded Merganser				1	37	
Common Merganser					8	1
Red-br. Merganser				295	170	4
Unidentified Ducks			60	220		
Turkey Vulture	19	43	3	2	18	2
Black Vulture	3	9		37	2	6
Sharp-sh. Hawk		1	2		3	1
Cooper's Hawk		1				

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Red-tailed Hawk	12	5	8	54	2	12
Red-sh. Hawk	3	6	5		1	4
Broad-winged Hawk		1			1	
Rough-leg. Hawk				1		
Marsh Hawk	3	2		19	13	1
Peregrine Falcon					2	
Pigeon Hawk		1		1	2	
Sparrow Hawk	3	1	5	53	24	12
Bobwhite	2	59	45	26	43	50
King Rail					2	
Clapper Rail				1	33	
Virginia Rail					6	1
Sora				3	6	5
Purple Gallinule					1	
Common Gallinule					2	3
American Coot	10	11	725	160	45	5365
Am. Oystercatcher					11	
Semipalm. Plover					79	3
Piping Plover				1	48	
Snowy Plover					14	
Wilson's Plover					5	
Killdeer	53	51	146	215	78	25
Black-bel. Plover				1	173	
Ruddy Turnstone					99	
American Woodcock	12					2
Common Snipe		17	10	1	4	47
Spotted Sandpiper						3
Willet					90	
Greater Yellowlegs					10	18
Lesser Yellowlegs					32	15
Least Sandpiper		3			44	15
Dunlin					1140	12
Eastern Dowitcher					200	3
Semipalm. Sandpiper					40	150
Western Sandpiper					60	25
Sanderling				26	188	33
Jaeger				1		
Herring Gull				215	653	795
Ring-billed Gull				135	918	1479
Laughing Gull				61	766	90
Bonaparte's Gull				495	42	22
Forster's Tern				100	93	7
Common Tern				10	21	3
Royal Tern				6	572	
Sandwich Tern					9	
Caspian Tern				2	45	2
Black Skimmer					4	
Mourning Dove	93	60	669	120	251	295
Ground Dove						2
Barn Owl			1			
Screech Owl	2	1	3	1	2	
Great-horned Owl			3	1		1
Barred Owl			3			1

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Chuck-will's-widow						1
Whip-poor-will						1
Common Nighthawk						1
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird					2	
Belted Kingfisher	8	10	19	10	38	4
Yellow-sh. Flicker	24	39	109	82	81	35
Pileated Woodpecker	5	4	18	6	6	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	32	82	43	27	24
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	1	37	1	2	3
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	12	13	30	24	8	4
Hairy Woodpecker	2	5	16	3	4	7
Downy Woodpecker	20	20	82	7	8	6
Red-cockaded W'pecker		2	8	2		
Eastern Phoebe	1	10	15	19	5	5
Vermillion Flycatcher				1		
Tree Swallow					545	44
Rough-winged Swallow					4	
Blue Jay	77	109	329	205	108	103
Common Crow	50	44	208	66	55	68
Fish Crow				118	285	69
Carolina Chickadee	48	55	306	20	1	5
Tufted Titmouse	40	62	395	10	4	14
White-br. Nuthatch	1	1	82			
Red-br. Nuthatch			14		4	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	3	48	80	34	68	18
Brown Creeper	4	3	12	6	2	1
House Wren	1		4	18	2	8
Winter Wren		11	3	1		2
Bewick's Wren		1	3			
Carolina Wren	34	30	152	51	59	58
Long-bill. Marsh Wren				14	14	
Short-bill. Marsh Wren				20	5	2
Mockingbird	45	44	209	200	66	77
Catbird				8	8	11
Brown Thrasher	7	27	76	44	33	18
Robin	21	97	365	10200	2183	415
Hermit Thrush	4	7	8	7	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	56	43	94	92	76	20
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher				5	4	2
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	14	53	23	2	3
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	8	57	111	50	38	45
Water Pipit	20	17	22	400	3	1
Sprague's Pipit	3				1	
Cedar Waxwing	30	176	352	18	30	460
Loggerhead Shrike	17	25	22	35	37	16
Starling	225	150000	785	1250	905	628
White-eyed Vireo		1		1		2
Solitary Vireo			3	4		2
Black & Wh. Warbler				1		
Orange-cr. Warbler			2	8	6	12
Parula Warbler					1	
Myrtle Warbler	4	35	15	1570	827	1775
Yellow-throated Warb.				2	2	1

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Pine Warbler	3	23	25	75	39	81
Palm Warbler			43	61	37	
Yellowthroat			1	17	11	6
House Sparrow	70	84	1028	215	286	1602
E. Meadowlark	155	144	259	145	161	33
Red-w. Blackbird	8	45000	519	80500	3137	1450
Rusty Blackbird	175	5000	221		10	
Brewer's Blackbird				317	2200	1500
Boat-t. Grackle				94	2	63
Common Grackle		150000	140	570	475	204
Brown-h. Cowbird	25	150000	130	10	910	527
Unidentified Bl. Birds			1040			
Cardinal	50	134	464	270	63	41
Dickcissel				1		
Purple Finch	17		3			1
Pine Siskin			10			
Am. Goldfinch	34	62	243	250	89	175
Rufous-s. Towhee	46	90	359	105	61	57
Savannah Sparrow	37	46	187	340	73	182
Grasshopper Sparrow				13		
LeConte's Sparrow					4	
Henslow's Sparrow						9
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				5	7	1
Seaside Sparrow					25	2
Vesper Sparrow	8	3	20	150	24	5
Bachman's Sparrow			2	6		
Slate-col. Junco	200	235	1139	3		9
Chipping Sparrow	4	156	139	135	83	285
Field Sparrow	180	62	509	70	11	45
White cr. Sparrow			2		2	
White-thr. Sparrow	93	182	822	680	199	1325
Fox Sparrow	13	18	14	10	1	2
Lincoln's Sparrow			1	1	3	
Swamp Sparrow	12	42	225	48	653	94
Song Sparrow	82	82	3641	77	46	59

SUMMARY OF 1964 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Participants	Party Hours	Party Miles	No. of Kinds Seen	Total Individuals Seen	
Anniston	9	26	121	65	2227
Auburn	21	34	207	77	502662
Birmingham	28	109	530	92	15362
Bon Secour	11	43	288	114	101503
Dauphin Island	23			147	21543
Mobile	14			134	25980
Totals			185		669,277

Comments by the Christmas Count Compilers

ANNISTON. As far as I can tell we had no uncommon sightings, but it was amusing to me that we sighted common birds not seen this winter in this area during the count day even though active field trips had been going on throughout the fall and early winter. I suppose it just takes a concentrated effort like this count to show all the birds in their respective habitats. Dick Ambrose

AUBURN. A rarity, White-eyed Vireo, 1, was carefully observed by L.A. Wells and Sam Jones. A wintering Baltimore Oriole was seen at the Dusi's feeder the day before and a Yellowthroat was reported from the day before by M.F. Baker.

BIRMINGHAM. A female Baltimore Oriole spent the last week in January at the feeder of Josephine Wood. Oldsquaw at Lake Purdy, one female on February 6 and two females on February 7 (Robert Reid and others). Common Merganser at Lake Purdy, a female on January 24 and February 7 (Reid and others). Bob saw the bird at very close quarters and described it to me well. Least Sandpiper, up to 5 have again spent the winter at Lake Purdy. This is about the 4th time they have wintered here. Tom Imhof.

BON SECOUR. Thanks to excellent help from Birmingham, Pensacola and Tallahassee we had a good count in spite of the weather. Some of the more interesting birds seen were: Gannet, 31; Red-tailed Hawk, 54, including 2 Kriders; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Oldsquaw, 52; Parasitic Jaeger, 1; Dickcissel, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, 13; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1. We missed the Sandhill Crane, most of the ducks and some of the usually more northern and western birds that we had last year but still beat last years count by one. Fairly Chandler.

DAUPHIN ISLAND and BELLINGRATH GARDENS. Seen in area during count period but not on day of count: Brown Pelican; Snowy Egret; Blue Goose; Shoveller, Ground Dove; Winter Wren. M.W. Gaillard.

MOBILE. Birds of special interest; Red-necked Grebe, Whistling Swan, American Bittern, Common Merganser, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Henslow's Sparrow. All of these species were most carefully and accurately studied. Actually I did not need binoculars to identify the Grebe. However, three of us leisurely observed all details with binoculars and 20x scope.

The fog along the causeway considerably reduced our total number of species and we also missed some land birds that normally are easily found. However, the four unusual finds were a pleasant surprise. Fr. J.L. Dorn, S.J.

AN ALBINO ROBIN NEAR MOBILE

Kathleen Yerger Johnstone

Hearing of a strange bird which had been seen on Mon Louis Island, south of Mobile, four of us went in search of it on the afternoon of March 22, 1965. After crossing Fowl River, we stopped at a small store on the west side of Dauphin Island Parkway, to ask the whereabouts of the bird, which according to report, many of the local residents had seen and tried to catch with cast nets. Our informant said to go to a small, plowed field with a gate just beyond the third house from his store on the "black top"; adding that the bird had been in or around the field for about a week.

Just past the third house we found a driveway blocked by a sagging gate, beyond which was the plowed field. About fifty feet across the field there was a large fallen tree, and perched on top, as if awaiting inspection, was the much-talked-of bird. It was about 8½ - 10½ inches long, white from head to tail except for a buffy tinge on the head, wing tips, and tail and a "brick-red" breast. The legs were black and rather long; the bill yellow. Without a doubt it was an albino Robin.

The bird was closely observed on the fallen tree, in flight to a nearby tree where it perched in full view; in flight again to another plowed field where it fed for five minutes before flying to a group of trees some distance away. No other Robins were around and none had been observed on the way from my residence near the mouth of Dog River to the field. A week before a "white Robin", in a flock of ordinary Robins, had been reported at Spring Hill, but the observers were not known to be experienced birders.

The report of the "white Robin" on Mon Louis Island came from Dr. Leslie Taylor, who lives nearby on Fowl River. The three observers who accompanied the writer were: Harry Inge Johnstone of Mobile, Lt. and Mrs. Yerger Johnstone of New River, North Carolina.

2209 River Forest Drive
Mobile, Alabama

NOTES

Notes from Marengo County, Alabama. On January 29, 1965, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were observed constructing a nest in a Tupelo Gum. Upon closer observation it was determined to be last years nest being repaired. This seemed rather early for nest construction.

A pair of Red-tailed Hawks were seen in mating flight and territory established the first week in February.

We have had two immature Golden Eagles in the area most of the winter. One was approached to within 40 yards before taking flight. I have only one record of the Bald Eagle there this winter. Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Game & Fish Division, Montgomery.

Notes from The Tennessee Valley. The winter period was a wet one, but there were only 2 light snows and only a few days when the reservoir was ice-locked. Throughout the fall and winter of 1964-65, Wheeler Refuge's duck numbers were approximately equal to those of the previous season, peaking at 56,000. Canada Goose numbers, on the other hand, showed a sharp drop of over 20 percent and reached a peak of 46,000 in early December. There was a definite movement of these birds from this locality that began during the last week of December and continued through January. Blue and Snow Goose numbers were unchanged.

The public waterfowl hunt, held on a portion of the refuge, proved successful. There was no slaughter, but hunters did bag 1,011 Canada Geese and 404 ducks and made the manufacturers of small arms ammunition considerably richer.

As for unusual bird notes, there were almost none. David Hulse spotted an adult White-winged Scoter on January 23. This was the first adult male noted here. All previous records have been females or immature birds. Bald Eagles reappeared on Wheeler Refuge after a 2 year absence. The first was noted in late November and the birds remained until mid-February. At least two, an adult and an immature, were seen regularly and there may have been others. Thomas Z. Atkinson, Jr., Decatur, Alabama.

Unusual Junco from Jacksonville. On January 20, 1965, the author collected a specimen of junco in Jacksonville, Alabama, which had characteristics similar to Junco o. oregonus. The skin was sent to the National Museum in Washington and identified by Lester L. Short, Jr., Chief, Bird Section, as Junco hyemalis montanus x hyemalis. Mr. Short recently spent four months re-working the junco collection in the National Museum and was in a position to readily identify the specimen. He regards the dark-eyed junco populations as comprising one species, J. hyemalis, as interbreeding between "hyemalis" and "oreganus" populations is massive and its effects far reaching. He does not recognize "cismontanus" (J. o. oregonus x J. h. hyemalis) for it is a hybrid population and notoriously unstable. The author's specimen would formerly have been classified as Junco oregonus montanus x hyemalis but is now

written Junco hyemalis montanus x hyemalis. It was Mr. Short's guess that the Jacksonville bird was hatched in southwestern or west central Alberta. He had one other specimen very much like it in the national collection which was collected in December at Lawrence, Kansas. Both birds were subadults. Charles W. Summerour, Jacksonville, Alabama.

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 9-11, 1964

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 9-11, 1964. Headquarters motel was the St. Francis Hotel Courts located on U.S. Highway 31 in Homewood. Thirty-two members and 10 guests attended the meeting.

The program began on Friday evening, October 9, with a planetarium show at Birmingham-Southern College, narrated by Dr. W.E. Glenn, Director of the Birmingham-Southern College Planetarium. Saturday morning, after an early field trip led by Harriett Wright to the home of Dr. Hathaway on the Cahaba River and a trip to the banding site set up by Tom Imhof, registration was held at 8:00 A.M. at the Shades Cahaba School in Homewood. Afterwards, field trips were made available to Lake Purdy, the Cahaba River Valley and Oak Mountain, led by F. Bozeman Daniel, Walter Coxe and Raymond Bates, respectively. In addition, Mr. Imhof, Julian and Rosemary Dusi and Jim and Margaret Robinson set up netting and banding stations, which could be visited by the members and guests.

A business meeting of the membership was called to order by the President at 2:15 P.M., October 10. Twenty-six members were present. The minutes of the spring business meeting held on April 25, 1964, were read and approved. The Treasurer reported that the membership of the society was 148 and its bank balance was \$132.48.

The President reported on the summer bird counts that had been inaugurated this year, stating that they had been held in Birmingham and Auburn and that they had produced informative data on our summering bird populations. He urged that the counts be expanded in the future to cover additional areas.

The President commended Mr. Jerome B. Couch and Mr. J.W. Johnson for their excellent publication of the society's newsletter. He also announced that the Calhoun County Bird Club had been organized and desired to affiliate with the AOS and that the executive council had approved its affiliation. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the affiliation of the Calhoun County Bird Club with the Alabama Ornithological Society be approved.

The President then urged the submission of articles for publication in the Newsletter and in Alabama Birdlife.

Mr. Tom Imhof then reported on banding activity, noting particularly the banding of 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, a Yellow Warbler (which was a late record for the Birmingham area) and 32

White-eyed Vireos. At 2:45 P.M., upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the business meeting was adjourned.

Following field trips to the same areas as in the morning, a banquet was held in a private dining room at the King's Inn in Homewood. Several handsome door prizes were awarded. Mr. Thomas Z. Atkinson, Director of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, reported on the problem of waterfowl mortality from lead poisoning as a result of eating lead shot. He pointed out that it had been estimated that 3 million waterfowl died each year from lead poisoning contracted in that manner and that legislation was in the process of being introduced to forbid the use of lead shot and, thus, in effect to require that steel shot be used in the manufacture of shot-gun shells.

The principal speaker of the evening was Mr. M.L. (Jack) Miles of Selma. His very entertaining and inspiring talk centered about his trips to Central and South America, principally under the sponsorship of Louisiana State University, observing and collecting bird species of those areas.

The President expressed the appreciation of the AOS to the Birmingham Audubon Society, which had acted as host for the meeting, and particularly to its president, Mr. Raymond Bates.

On Sunday after a morning of field trips followed by light refreshments at the ford below the Lake Purdy Dam, Mr. Robert Waters conducted a compilation of the birds observed. A total of 101 species was recorded.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 30, 1965

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Alabama Ornithological Society was called to order by the President at 1:00 P.M. on January 30, 1965, at the Holiday Inn in Oxford, Alabama. The meeting was held in conjunction with the regular mid-winter meeting of the society. Those present were:

Dr. Dan C. Holliman	President
Mr. Robert E. Waters	Vice-President
Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr.	Secretary
Mrs. Rosemary T. Dusi	Immediate Past President
Dr. Maurice F. Baker	Editor, <u>Alabama Birdlife</u>
Mr. Jerome B. Couch	Co-Editor, Newsletter
Mr. J.W. Johnson	Co-Editor, Newsletter
Dr. Julian L. Dusi	Director and Librarian
Mrs. Harriett Wright	Director
Mr. James E. Keeler	Director

The minutes of the executive council meeting of October 10, 1964, were read and approved.

Committees and Spring Meeting. The President appointed the following members of the society to the following committees: Nominating Committee to select nominees for officers to be elected at the spring meeting: Blanche Chapman, Chairman, Clustie McTyeire and Margaret Persons; Auditing Committee to audit the treasurer's books for the current year: Robert R. Reid, Jr., Chairman, James E. Keeler and J.W. Johnson. Plans for the annual spring meeting were discussed and, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, it was resolved that the 1965 annual spring meeting of the society would be held on April 23-25 at Dauphin Island, Alabama.

Alabama Birdlife. Dr. Baker reported that Volume 12 of Alabama Birdlife (the 1964 volume) was published in three issues with a total of 48 pages. There were six major articles reporting original research and two shorter research notes. The remainder of the space was devoted principally to notes of local interest, reports of bird counts, (Christmas and Summer) and minutes of meetings. The total cost of the three issues was \$208.81. Dr. Baker reported a need for more articles, both long and short, on results of ornithological research and, while noting that the society must lean heavily on professional biologists for such articles, he hoped other members of the society would contribute articles covering their observations. He also stated that regional reports from the various sections of the state are solicited and would add interest and value to the publication.

Library Exchanges. Dr. Dusi reported that the society had established exchange programs under which copies of Alabama Birdlife are made available to other ornithological organizations in return for copies of the publications of those organizations that can be placed in our library, which is kept in the library at Auburn University. Such exchange programs have the advantages of making Alabama Birdlife available to other ornithological groups and placing it in their libraries where it will be preserved for reference and of placing the publications of these other organizations in the AOS Library, thereby making them available to members of AOS, who may borrow them by applying at their local libraries for inter-library loans of the publications desired. Exchanges are presently in effect covering the following publications:

The Auk, American Ornithological Union
The Wilson Bulletin, Wilson Ornithological Society
The Living Bird, Cornell University, Laboratory of Ornithology
EBBA News, Eastern Birdbanding Association
The Oriole, Georgia Ornithological Society
Migrant, Tennessee Ornithological Society
Raven, Virginia
Maryland Birdlife, Maryland Ornithological Society
Atlantic Naturalist, Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States
Cassinia, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club
Sandpiper, Pennsylvania

ASWP Bulletin, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
The Redstart, Brooks Bird Club, Wheeling, W. Va.
Call Notes, Huntington W. Virginia Bird Club
New Hampshire Quarterly, New Hampshire Audubon Society
Indiana Audubon Quarterly
The Passenger Pigeon, Wisconsin Ornithological Society
Minnesota Bird Bander, Minnesota
Iowa Birdlife, Iowa Ornithological Society
Nebraska Bird Review, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union
Blue Jay, The Saskatchewan Natural History Society
The Nature Conservancy News

Additional exchanges are in the process of being arranged. Most of the exchanges start with the issues of 1964; however, the issues of The Oriole are complete and those of The Wilson Bulletin and The Auk go back to about 1941. Dr. Dusi stated that he will be glad to receive for the library any back numbers of the above publications or ornithological books that anyone might care to donate to the library. Books donated as memorials will be appropriately marked.

Blackbird Control. Mr. Keeler, of the Alabama Department of Conservation, reported that the department strongly desired that any control program found necessary be handled at blackbird roosts rather than through distributing avicides to farmers and others as this would permit the control program to be administered by professional biologists and would provide for more effective supervision of it. The unanimous consensus of the council was in accord with the view of the department.

Seasonal Bird Counts. The President urged that summer bird counts be extended to cover additional areas in the state and that all local ornithological groups also consider spring and fall counts for their areas. He reported that last year summer counts were held in Birmingham and Auburn and this year the Birmingham Audubon Society proposes to conduct spring, summer and fall counts in addition to the regular Christmas count. Dr. Holliman stated that counts held during each season in different areas of the state would be productive of much desirable ornithological information, particularly by way of comparisons of the differences between the seasonal bird populations in the different areas of the state.

Lead Poisoning of Waterfowl. Dr. Holliman reported that the problem of waterfowl mortality from lead poisoning resulting from eating lead shot was under consideration by the society and that he had made a survey of the current literature on this problem.

Constitutional Amendment. A proposed constitutional amendment designed to make it clear that the assets and receipts of the society would always be devoted to charitable, scientific or educational purposes

and would not inure to the benefit of any private individual or group was discussed. It was pointed out that other non-profit conservation societies had adopted similar provisions. Thereupon, it was, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, resolved that an amendment to the Constitution of the AOS by adding thereto a new Article IX, reading as follows:

Article IX. Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any meeting, regular or special, provided that 30 days written notice of the proposed dissolution be given to each voting member. Upon dissolution of the Society, all of its assets and accrued receipts shall be distributed by the Executive Council to one or more organizations formed and then being operated for charitable, scientific or educational purposes and eligible for qualification as tax-exempt organizations under the United States Internal Revenue Code.

be approved and that there be presented for adoption at the business session of the regular spring meeting of the society a resolution proposing said amendment.

North American Nest Record Program. Dr. Dusi reported that a nest record program had been set up by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. The goal of the program is to accumulate as much nesting data as possible on each species from all parts of its range and to centralize that data for study much as is done in the bird-banding program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No permits would be required and all serious bird observers are urged to participate. While even single nest observations would provide desirable information, additional observations over a period of time would increase the value of the record. The laboratory will provide the nest cards, which in our area may be obtained from Dr. Dusi.

The members of the Calhoun County Bird Club were commended by the President and all members of the Executive Council for their excellent job in serving as hosts for the mid-winter meeting and preparing such an interesting and enjoyable program for it. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.