

they returned around the first of October. In addition, two Pied-billed Grebes were observed from the fourth week in May until joined by wintering birds in the autumn. Earlier in the year, during the fourth week in April, one grebe was observed apparently attempting to nest on some hay that had been dropped at the end of one of the spits extending into the lake. However, because of the proximity of dogs and people, this attempt was, as might be expected, unsuccessful. It may also have only been a demonstration of breeding instinct and not an actual attempt to nest.

While not seen on East Lake, flocks of Blue-winged Teals are regularly seen on migration near Birmingham; and the flocks observed on Lake Purdy, a relatively large lake about 12 miles from the city, during September and the first half of October, 1964, seemed to contain only female birds. However, in the eclipse plumage the male Blue-winged Teal is virtually indistinguishable in the field from the female. Consequently, while some of these migrating birds undoubtedly were females, others may well have been males in eclipse plumage.

Literature Cited

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A BREEDING POPULATION OF HORNED LARKS IN CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Charles W. Summerour

On May 22, 1955, Dr. William J. Calvert of Jacksonville State College, discovered a small population of Horned Larks, Eremophila alpestris Linnaeus, in an open area approximately one mile northwest of the Jacksonville city limits. Dr. Calvert had observed the same area for a number of years prior to 1955, but had never recorded Horned Larks outside their normal wintering period. He has since observed the birds each spring, including singing males, and concluded that Horned Larks were in all probability nesting in Calhoun County.

Following directions given by Dr. Calvert, the winter was successful in locating the nest of a Horned Lark on April 17, on Dean Edwards' farm, one mile northwest of Jacksonville. The nest was a neat cup of grasses lined with cattle hair and sunk into a depression excavated by the birds in a weathered cow dung pile. Bur clover hung over the mouth of the cup so that the three heavily incubated eggs were well hidden from above.

The following day, on April 18, Dick Ambrose, Jerome Couch, Jay Johnson and the writer visited the area and two additional Horned Lark nests were discovered, one by Dick Ambrose and the second by a combined effort of Couch, Johnson, and Summerour. The former nest contained three eggs and the latter two eggs and one newly hatched nestling. Pictures were taken of all the nests and the first, found on April 17, was collected for the Jacksonville State College Museum.

On April 24, two more nests, both under construction, were found by Dr. Calvert, the writer, and Gary Collier, a student at Jacksonville State College. However, both of these nests were thought to be re-nesting attempts or second broods by the pairs already noted. All five nests were located in dung piles. The soil in the area was shallow and hard and the manure piles evidently offered a spot where the birds could excavate a cavity in which to place the nest.

The area, totaling approximately 100 acres, was estimated to have ten nesting pairs of Horned Larks. These birds represent the southernmost breeding population of the Horned Lark in the State (Imhof, 1962: 358). No specimens have been collected so the local race remains an unsettled controversy among the local observers, but it presumably is E. a. praticola (Henshaw), since this is the subspecies listed by the American Ornithologists Union (1957:354) as nesting in or near Alabama.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologist Union. 1957. The A.O.U. checklist of North American birds. The Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Baltimore. 691 pp.

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