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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

President Robert Waters has kindly relenquished this page to the Editor for this issue. As an editor, of course, we could go on for some time on most any subject, but there is one subject, THE SUMMER BIRD COUNT, that should be discussed.

About 2 years ago, Tom Atkeson suggested that The Society embark on an annual summer bird count to be conducted along the same lines as the Christmas Bird Count, except that it would be done during the breeding season of most resident breeding birds. The Council agreed that this was a worthy activity for the Society, and The Summer Bird Counts were begun in 1964, and continued in 1965. These counts were reported in ALABAMA BIRDLIFE for those two years.

These counts are interesting and, if continued over a period of years, would prove useful in noting changes in breeding populations that might occur in the future. This type of bird count, however, has some shortcomings when it comes to interpreting the results. Each local count covers an area of 15 miles diameter, centered at a selected point. It is, therefore, not a sample of any particular type of habitat or of any particular type of region. Also, the counters are naturally going to do their birding in places they know to be good birding, and largely ignore less desirable habitat. At least this is apt to be the case when the party doing the count is small and pressed for time. The usual bird count resolves itself into sort of a contest to see who can turn up the largest number of species and individuals. So, while Christmas and Summer Bird Counts are fun and useful, they fall short when the serious student of bird populations tries to apply statistical methods to the results. Such methods are essential if we try to describe population changes to non-birders.

Recently, we received a copy of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE which contained an article on a breeding bird survey that was done in Maryland during the past summer (1965). It seems that the Maryland birders have been thinking along the same lines as we have as to the need for a summer count, but they have embarked on a more detailed and painstaking survey. This article is reprinted in this issue of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE for your study and consideration.

You will note that this Maryland survey has some features different from the usual count. First, the census areas are routes that are driven in cars with regular stops. Second, the routes are randomly selected to sample the entire State, and third, considerable dependence is placed on identifying and counting birds by ear. Obviously, a count of this kind offers some challenges to birders.

Mr. Chandler Robbins, writer of this article, hopes that eventually a systematic breeding bird survey may be used throughout the country. This was also our hope when we started the Alabama Summer Count. Although we might not be able to sample all of the State the first time using Robbins' methods, with all the good birders we have in Alabama, we could certainly give it a try.

Maurice F. Baker

OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST FROM DAUPHIN ISLAND

Rev. Matthew Turk, S. J.

The following list includes one new record for the Alabama coast (the Phalarope), 10 extensions of the time of occurrence and several other records of interest.

<u>Northern Phalarope,</u>	2 birds in fall plumage,	8/27/64.
<u>Gray Kingbird,</u>	1 bird	, 6/30/64.
	2 birds	, 9/5/64.
<u>Western Kingbird,</u>	1 bird	, 8/29/64.
	2 birds	, 9/10/64.
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher,</u>	1 bird	, 8/29/64.
	2 birds	, 9/5/64.
	6 birds	, 9/12/64.
	1 bird	, 9/19/64.
<u>Worm-eating Warbler,</u>	1 bird, (extension)	, 3/25/64.
<u>Blackburnian Warbler,</u>	1 bird, (extension)	, 3/21/64.
<u>Prairie Warbler,</u>	1 bird, (extension)	, 3/11/64.
<u>Palm Warbler,</u>	(error: no extension)	, 3/15/64.
	1 bird, (extension)	, 8/29/64.
<u>Northern Waterthrush,</u>	1 bird, (extension)	, 3/15/64.
<u>Orchard Oriole,</u>	2 birds, (extension)	, 3/21/64.
<u>Indigo Bunting,</u>	7 birds, (extension)	, 3/21/64.
	6 birds, (extension)	, 3/25/64.
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak,</u>	1 bird	, 8/27/64.
	1 bird	, 8/29/64.
<u>Blue Grosbeak</u>	1 bird	, 8/12/64.
	1 bird	, 8/27/64.
	1 bird	, 8/29/64.
	1 bird	, 9/5/64.
	1 bird	, 9/12/64.
	16 birds	, 9/19/64.
<u>Lark Sparrow,</u>	1 bird	, 8/29/64.

Other local observers have reported seeing Gray Kingbirds all summer and in numbers as many as six. The same is true, since August, of the Olive-sided Flycatcher. The Gray Kingbird is believed to have nested on the Island, as might have the Olive-sided Flycatcher since several of them were immature birds.

808 Springhill Ave.
Mobile, Ala. 36602

NOTES ON YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS
ON DOG RIVER

Kathleen Yerger Johnstone

Dog River is a brackish tidal stream which enters Mobile Bay from the west about 10 miles south of the harbor. Exploring the river by boat from our home near the mouth of the river, my husband and I discovered a secluded place where we found many Yellow-crowned Night Herons in various stages of development on July 10, 1965. Thereafter, we checked the spot twice or three times a day for seven weekends and several times during the week. The birds were there from the first trip until August 3rd. We always saw one or two, usually four or five herons each trip. None was seen on the weekend of August 7th nor that of August 14th.

The birds were seen on a "creek" or "canal", an arm of the river, which came to a dead end in a marsh. This canal was separated from the river by a long, narrow, crescent-shaped island which would be awash at high tide. The island was fringed with marsh grasses and had a few fairly large trees but most of the growth was not over twenty feet high.

On the mainland side of the canal there were huge trees such as pines, magnolias, maples and black gums; and under them dense underbrush with many palmettos. This wooded area bordered the inlet for three-fourths of the way. The remainder was bordered by a marsh, as large as a city block, surrounded by trees. It was cut by natural ditches. Some shrubs grew in it as did one large pine.

When found, the herons were always standing in trees overhanging the water or at its edge. The pine in the marsh was a favorite perch. Only once did we see a bird on the ground, an immature walking on the island. When disturbed by our arrival, it flew from its perch near the entrance to this open spot.

A sudden noise would frighten the birds from the trees and occasionally they would flap away even when we took care to enter the canal silently, poling our boat or Indian-paddling a canoe. More often, however, we were able to glide within twenty feet and stay there as long as we pleased, time enough to make detailed observations.

Sometimes the bird under observation would side-step down the limb, or jump to another. On two occasions, we watched immatures preen themselves. One gave himself a casual grooming; the other put on quite a show. This latter bird was perched on a limb of a dead, sun-silvered cedar. With the trunk as a background, the slate-gray bird with its light markings was perfectly camouflaged. When we first saw it, the wings were held akimbo, the neck stretched full length. Slowly, the neck shrank, the head fell back, the eyes closed. It came to with a jerk, folded its wings, and preened thoroughly; then, spreading its wings, again ducked its head into the shade of one, and dozed again. It jumped when our gas can expanded with a sudden, metallic noise, but did not fly. If the birds did fly, they didn't go far. We were often

able to see them again further up or down stream, or in a pine across the marsh at the entrance to the creek.

We saw differences in the birds which may be worth noting. Of the immatures seen at close range, we found one with yellow-green legs; one with oyster-white legs; and one with legs described in my field book as "pale". The bills were slate-blue. On the yellow-legged specimen, the head was suffused with yellow around the bill. Its eyes were amber, with a dark pupil.

Birds that were probably slightly older, though spotted still, were more nearly the blue of the adults than slate-color. With these, the black surrounding the cheek-patch was well defined, but the "crown" was not. It appeared as a narrow, dirty-white stripe ending in a very wispy crest-feather.

Among the adults, one was without a doubt a mature male. It was intensely blue; the legs bright yellow; the "crown" a broad band, the color of old ivory, which ended in a substantial crest-feather. The bill was heavy and dark.

There was one apparent adult with blue legs, and one with bluish-white legs which were pink from the "knee" up. In neither of these last two was the crown stripe as well developed as that of the first adult described. Were these last younger adults or females?

To us, the "cheek-patch" looked more like a broad stripe than an oval as it is shown in Peterson.

Although the color variations may be quite normal, they proved that we were not seeing the same three or four birds on each visit. I believe there were many.

We saw no nest, so we have no proof that this was a rookery. Perhaps it was simply a resting area conveniently located for birds breaking away from the great rookeries up the Alabama River.

During the time of observation, we saw immatures feeding in the bay once in the late afternoon. One morning an immature lit on a log at the water's edge in front of our house and walked along the flat exposed by a low tide, and on another occasion we found an immature in our service yard.

In July and/or August of past years, it has been usual to see a solitary immature stalking fiddlers on our narrow beach; or, at high tide, walking on the retaining wall made of broken concrete for the same purpose. They have often stood on the wharf. On July 25, 1962, and July 8, 1963, we saw adults on the wharf.

2209 River Forest Drive
Mobile, Alabama

THE FALL BIRD COUNT AT MOBILE

The Mobile Chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society conducted a bird count on Saturday, October 16, 1965, at Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens area.

Those participating in the count were: Mary Louise Andridge, Fred Bowers, Clara Caffey, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Donaven, Fr. L. Dorn, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (Compiler), Sybil Hanks, Tuck Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Horne, W. D. McDaniel, Louise McKinstry, Bill Lee, Margret Miller, Ross Partridge, Alice Patterson, Elin Silsby, Alice Tait and Lib Toenes.

Birds seen during the day were:

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Reddish Egret, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, White Ibis,

Canada Goose, Blue Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser,

Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite,

King Rail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, American Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Kill-deer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling,

Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Black Skimmer, Mourning Dove, Ground Dove,

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Peewee, Vermillion Flycatcher,

Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow,

Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren,

Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling,

Mobile Bird Count (cont'd.)

White-eyed Vereo, Yellow-throated Vereo, Solitary Vereo, Red-eyed Vereo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart,

House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager,

Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous Sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Total Species: 155 Weather: Clear, Warm, Wind S. E. 5-10

Other species seen during the week of the count:

White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Common Gallinule, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Barn Owl, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Baltimore Oriole.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT DAUPHIN ISLAND

Rev. Matthew Turk, S. J.

On August 27, 1964, accompanied by Tuck Hayward, I observed a phalarope at Dauphin Island. Observation was made with the sun about 45 degrees from directly behind the observer and at an elevation of approximately 45 degrees with the aid of a Balscope Zoom (15X-60X) at a distance of about 150 yards. Identifying features noted included the following:

- the phalarope bill and patch,
- characteristic length of the wing stripe seen as both birds preened,
- contrast between wing stripe and wing color characteristic of the Northern Phalarope,
- Needle-like bill excluded the Red Phalarope,
- the forehead and crown were clearly white - the possibility of a white sheen was eliminated by observing color as the head was moved during preening.

Based on these observations the bird was identified as a Northern Phalarope. It was not seen when sought the next day or later.

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FIFTY THOUSAND BIRDS
RECORDED ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Chandler S. Robbins

The Breeding Bird Survey that was conducted in Maryland and Delaware this summer by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Delmarva Ornithological Society was highly successful. The present report summarizes the results of the 50 routes that were covered in Maryland.

As explained in the June issue of Maryland Birdlife (21: 48-49), starting points of the 50 routes were picked at random; each route consisted of 50 three-minute stops spaced one-half mile apart; all birds heard during the three minutes were recorded; and all birds seen within one-fourth mile of the observer also were recorded. Coverage began one-half hour before official sunrise, and it took approximately four hours to complete each route.

Each of the 50 routes was covered once, and, in addition, most observers covered one of eight "check routes" that I had covered a few days earlier. This unique check route feature makes it possible to compensate roughly for the differences between observers--and thus compare not only each route with itself in future years, but also compare the relative abundance throughout the State of any of the more common species. Check routes were run for 46 of the 50 routes. One of the check routes was run five times by the same observer to determine the normal variation from day to day as well as the seasonal change from late May to mid-July.

The field records were put on punch cards at the Migratory Bird Populations Station in Laurel. The species totals and the maps presented herewith are compiled from the first of a series of tabulations to be made on a Univac 1401; these maps are all based on the actual figures reported by the observers, rather than on computed data.

A word of caution is in order because the figures recorded on this survey do not measure actual abundance. It is impossible to observe all of the birds at each of the 50 stops. We merely obtain a sample of population--and how good a sample we achieve depends upon the relative conspicuousness of each species. In general, large birds, brightly colored birds, those with loud songs, and those that sing or call most frequently will be observed in greatest numbers in comparison with their actual abundance. Those that continue to sing frequently throughout June and early July will appear to be more common than species such as the Brown Thrasher and some of the woodpeckers, which are quiet during much of June. Field birds are more easily observed than woodland birds, and a roadside survey tends to favor residential and field habitats rather than woodland, marsh and swamp. Furthermore, open country birds that have young on the wing early in June, such as Starlings and grackles, will be listed in disproportionately large numbers. Bear these limitations in mind when reading the following figures.

The twenty species recorded in the greatest numbers were:

Species	Individuals	No. of Stops	Species	Individuals	No. of Stops
Common Grackle	7,480	1,227	Eastern Meadowlark	1,176	597
House Sparrow	5,840	958	Indigo Bunting	1,077	788
Starling	4,948	973	Mourning Dove	1,074	633
Red-winged Blkbird	2,846	770	Chipping Sparrow	977	607
Robin	2,324	1,060	Wood Thrush	968	582
Bobwhite	2,129	1,192	Field Sparrow	967	639
Common Crow	1,642	876	Rufous-sided Towhee	853	565
Mockingbird	1,488	998	Catbird	771	416
Cardinal	1,218	821	Song Sparrow	722	494
Barn Swallow	1,196	340	Red-eyed Vireo	665	486

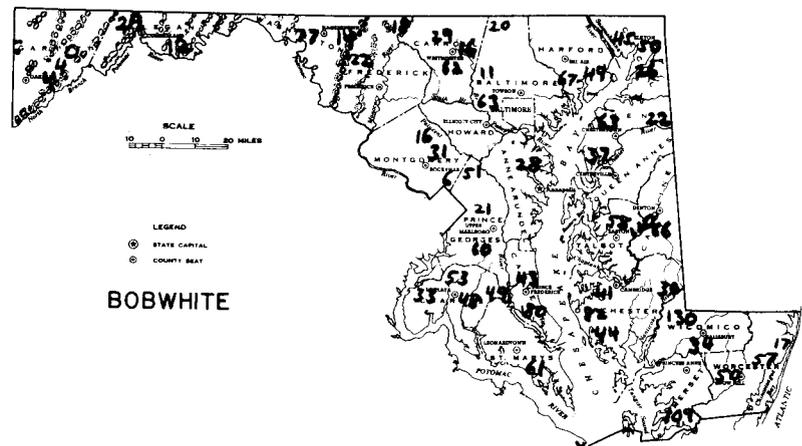
The total number of birds listed was 50,373, or an average of 1,007 individuals per route, or 20 per stop. The number of species per route averaged 55, with surprisingly little difference between observers. The total number of stops was 50 times 50, or 2,500, so the number of stops at which each species was observed can easily be converted to a percentage (49% for the Common Grackle, 19% for the Red-eyed Vireo, etc.). Thus an observer stopping for three minutes can expect to find one or more Common Grackles at one stop out of two, and one or more Red-eyed Vireos at one stop out of five.

The total number of species recorded was 153. Only nine species were found on all 50 routes: Mourning Dove, Common Crow, Robin, Wood Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow, Common Grackle, Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting. Eight others were found on 49 routes out of 50: Bobwhite, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

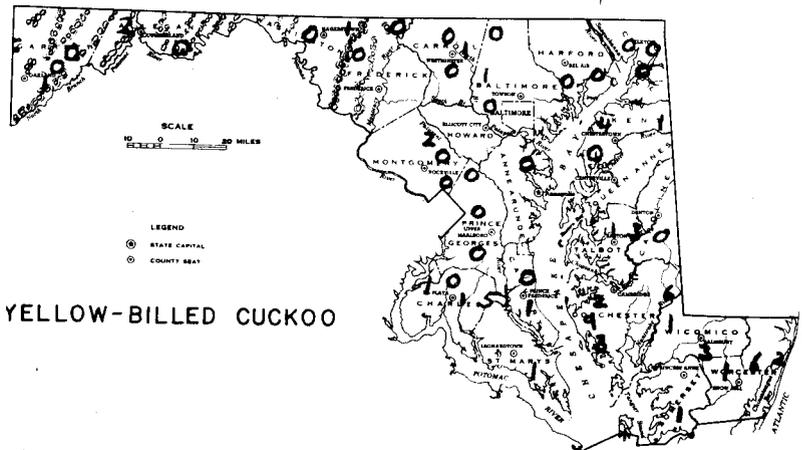
Totals for a few of the less common species may be of interest:

Species	Individuals	No. of Stops	Species	Individuals	No. of Stops
Cattle Egret	30	4	Eastern Bluebird	103	71
Ring-necked Pheasant	106	54	Worm-eating Warbler	29	21
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	49	39	Hooded Warbler	21	20
Pileated Woodpecker	14	11	Scarlet Tanager	210	174
Traill's Flycatcher	6	5	Blue Grosbeak	100	87
Veery	69	39	Grasshopper Sparrow	352	244

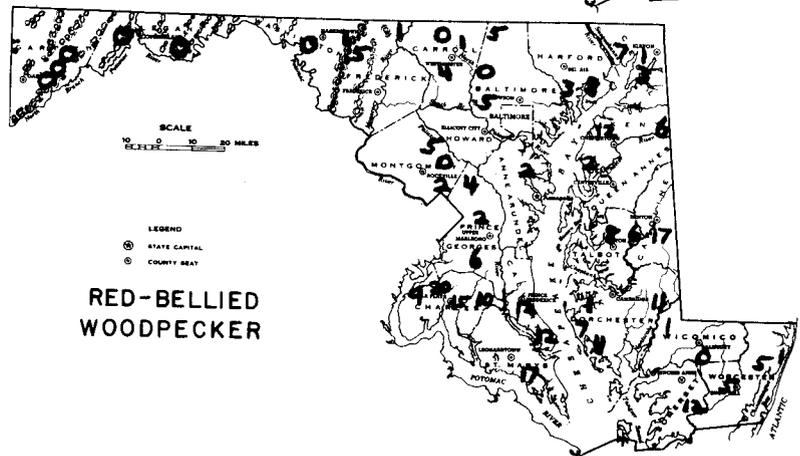
The twelve maps illustrate changes in abundance throughout the Maryland breeding range of selected species. The Bobwhite reaches its greatest abundance on the Lower Eastern Shore and is scarcest on the Allegheny Plateau. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo shows a most peculiar distribution this year because it did not arrive in numbers until late June and early July--after most of the routes had been covered. The Red-bellied



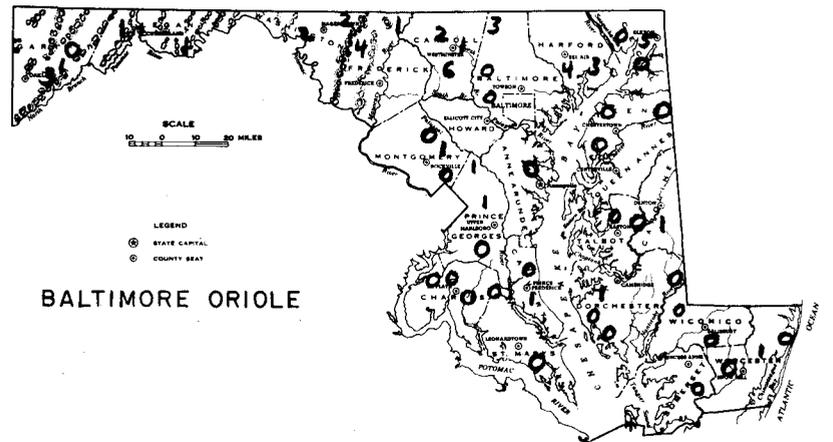
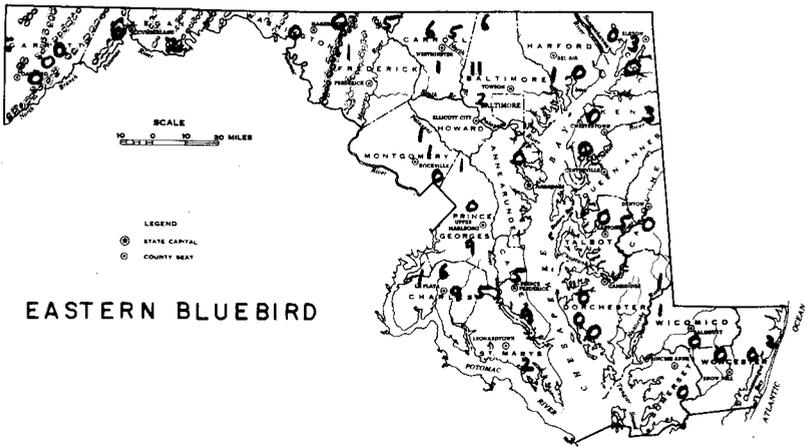
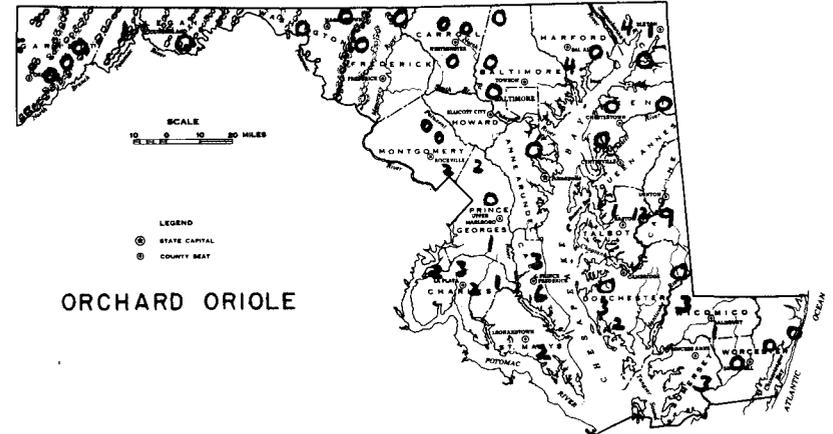
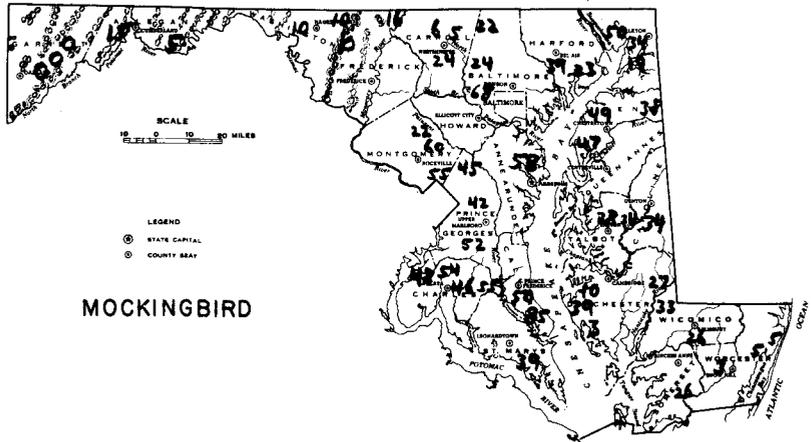
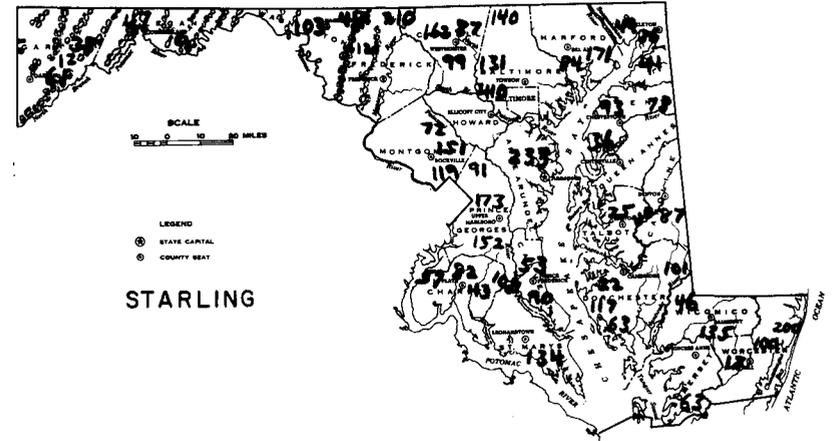
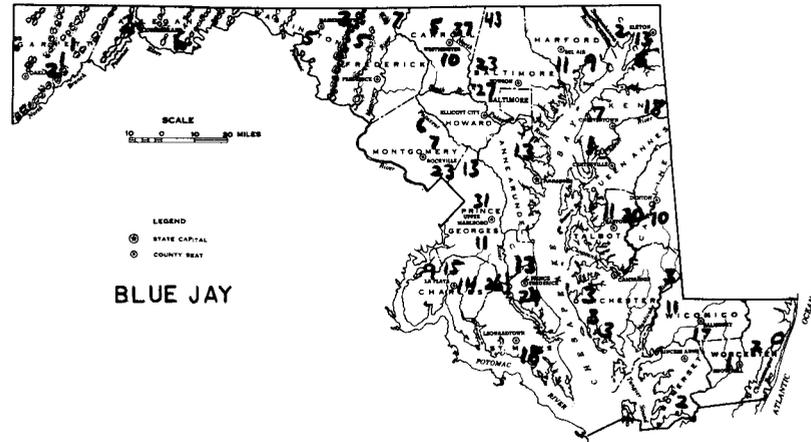
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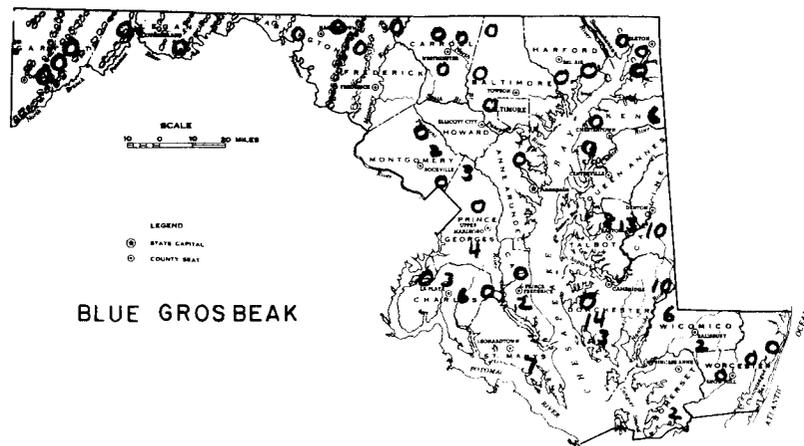


YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

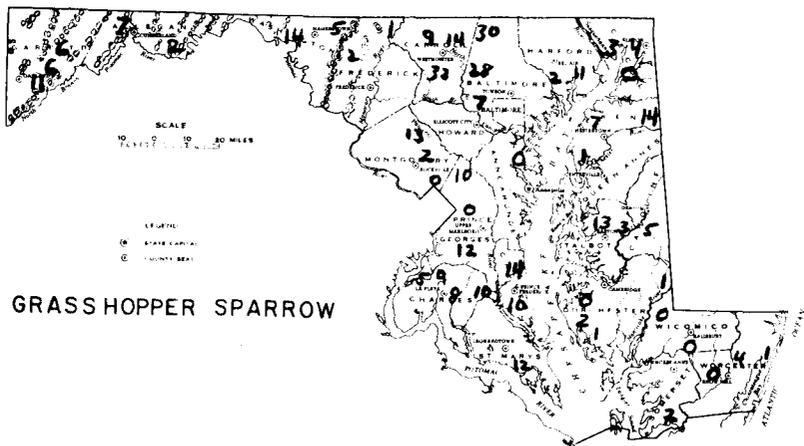


RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

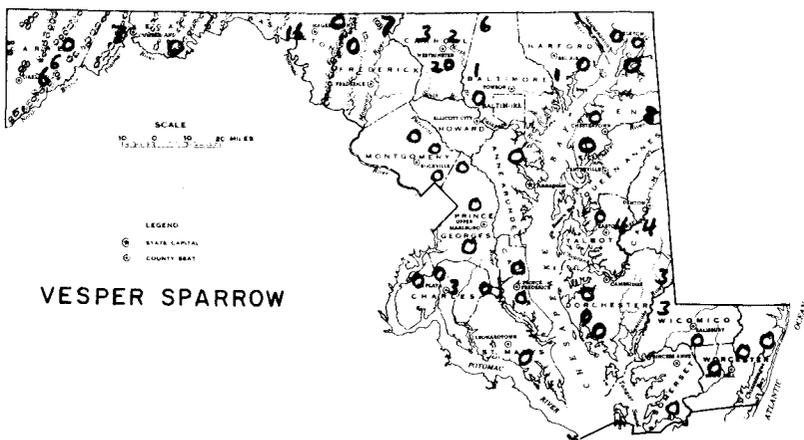




BLUE GROSBEAK



GRASSHOPPER SPARROW



VESPER SPARROW

Woodpecker becomes gradually scarcer as it approaches the limit of its range just above the Mason-Dixon Line. The Blue Jay is scarce at both extremes of the State, but is surprisingly well distributed elsewhere even on the uplands of the Eastern Shore. Mockingbird numbers are remarkably consistent in counties bordering on the Bay and the lower Potomac. The Eastern Bluebird is well distributed only in Southern Maryland and the upper Piedmont; it is strangely absent from most of the Eastern Shore.

The ubiquitous Starling is abundant except in the more heavily wooded areas of Western Maryland. The Orchard Oriole is well distributed through the southern half of the State, but is replaced by the Baltimore Oriole in the Piedmont and in the Appalachians. The Blue Grosbeak reaches its greatest numbers in upland areas of the Central Eastern Shore. The Grasshopper Sparrow nests in all parts of Maryland, but favors the upper Piedmont. The Vesper Sparrow reaches its southern limit in the Piedmont except for a small, but consistently distributed, population in upland areas of the Central Eastern Shore.

Interesting as the above findings may be, the greatest value of the Survey will be realized in subsequent years when repeated coverage will enable us to measure any important increases or decreases in the breeding populations of individual species. Since the trial run this year in Maryland and Delaware proved so successful, we plan to expand the Survey to other States in 1966.

We wish to thank the 35 observers and 25 assistants whose wonderful cooperation made this survey a success. The following observers covered two or more routes in Maryland or Delaware, in addition to running one of the check routes: Glenn Austin, Richard Banvard, A. D. Braeuninger, David Bridge, Paul Bystrak, Carl W. Carlson, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, W. Russell DeGarmo, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Dr. Bertram Haines, Hank Kaestner, Richard Kleen, Vernon Kleen, Miss Marcia Lakeman, John T. Linehan, Peter P. McLaughlin, Terry S. Moore, Charles Mullican, Dr. J. William Oberman, Dr. Robert L. Pyle, Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Carol E. Scudder, Dr. William N. Shirey, Dr. William J. L. Sladen, Dr. Turner L. Smith, Dr. Karl Stecher, Jr., Allen Stickley, Dr. Thomas Valega, and T. Van Velzen.

The following ran one survey route each: Edward Addy, Samuel H. Dyke, Don Meritt, Edgar Reynolds, and Mrs. Cynthia Turner.

These people assisted in the capacity of drivers, record keepers, navigators or trainees: Mrs. Sarah S. Baker, A. D. Braeuninger, P. Brody, Danny Bystrak, Dr. W. S. Clark, Mrs. Ethel Cobb, Mrs. Arlene Delario, Mrs. Mary J. Haines, Kit Hannon, Melvin Kleen, Mrs. Betty J. Linehan, Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhall, Donald Meritt, E. Monaghan, Miss Marcia Nelson, Mrs. Alpha Reynolds, Mrs. J. Ropes, Ed Rykiel, Pat Slavin, Mrs. Jane D. Smith, P. Sonnet, Ted Stiles, Robert Sundell, and Dr. Frank Williamson.

Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 19-21, 1965

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur, Alabama, on November 19-21, 1965. Headquarters motel was the Holiday Inn on U. S. Highway 31 south of Decatur and near the refuge headquarters. A total of 48 members and guests registered for the meeting, fifteen of whom were from outside the state - nine from Georgia and six from Tennessee.

Friday Night Program

The program began with a slide showing at the Holiday Inn on Friday evening, November 19. Excellent color slides were presented by Dr. Julian Dusi on waterfowl and the varying types of habitat found on Dauphin Island, by Jim Keeler on wild flowers of Alabama and other southeastern and plains states, and by Helen Kittinger on birds observed at feeders in suburban Birmingham, including her prize-winning picture of the Cardinal and slides of the Village Weaver that appeared there last summer.

Field Trips

Field trips under the expert organization and direction of Tom Atkeson, Director of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and his staff of Emmett Waldrep, Leo Derden and Cecil Davis were taken to various parts of the refuge on Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning. Among the areas visited were Garth Slough, Cain's Landing, Flint Creek Island, Beaver Dam Peninsula and Rock House and Buckeye Sloughs. Assisting Mr. Atkeson and his staff in leading the various trips were Paul Robinson, Julian Dusi, Gene West and Jerome Couch. Members also had the opportunity of observing the excellent stuffed specimens of birds and animals found on the refuge that are displayed in the headquarters building.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 1:45 P.M., November 20, on the lawn in front of the Wheeler Refuge Headquarters Building. Those present were: Mr. Robert E. Waters, President; Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., Vice-President and Secretary; Mr. Frank D. Huttlinger, Treasurer; Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Director and Librarian; and Mr. James E. Keeler, Director and Co-Editor of the Newsletter. Several other members of the Society also attended the council meeting. The minutes of the council meeting of April 24, 1965, were read and approved.

The President read a letter from Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor of Alabama Birdlife, requesting approval to print an article that appeared in Maryland Birdlife on the breeding bird survey conducted in Maryland and Delaware this past summer under the direction of Chandler S. Robbins of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That survey was based on statistically controlled observations along 25-mile routes located in each

geographical unit into which the states were divided, and it is hoped that that survey technique can be extended to all states east of the Mississippi this coming summer. The council approved the printing of the Maryland article or a resume of it and also gave its opinion that the Editor of Alabama Birdlife might reprint any articles he felt of interest to the study of ornithology in Alabama or to the members of the Society even though they might not deal with birds in Alabama. The items of business to be brought before the Society at its business meeting, including the reports of the various officers, the memorial resolutions and the resolution on routing Interstate Highway 65 away from the Garth Slough area, were then discussed. Upon motion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Business Meeting

The business meeting of the membership was called to order by the President at 2:20 P.M. on the lawn in front of the Wheeler Refuge Headquarters Building. Thirty-eight members were present. The minutes of the spring business meeting held on April 24, 1965, were read and approved. The Treasurer reported receipts of \$138.00 and disbursements of \$220.15 for the period since the spring meeting, leaving a balance in the Society's checking account of \$264.49. It was noted, however, that disbursements usually exceed receipts for the latter portion of the year since the bulk of the dues are received earlier. A balance of \$262.11 in the Society's life membership fund was also reported. The Treasurer then stated that 1966 dues would become payable on January 1 and could be paid at the meeting for the convenience of those wishing to pay them at that time. The President then urged each member of the Society to publicize its activities and to try to interest at least one other person in joining the Society during the coming year.

Dr. Dusi reported on the progress of the North American Nest Record Program administered by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. He stated that approximately 200 nest record cards were submitted from Alabama this past summer and that the nests reported were reasonably well distributed over the state. He urged greater participation in the program this coming summer. Dr. Dusi also reported that copies of certain back issues of Alabama Birdlife were needed for the Society's library and that a list of the issues needed would be published in the next newsletter.

The President then read a report from Dr. Baker on the issues of Alabama Birdlife published thus far in 1965. There have been two issues, the second and third quarterly issues being combined, with a total of 36 pages. There have been five major articles, and the remainder of the space was devoted to shorter articles and notes of ornithological interest, reports of bird counts (Christmas and summer) and reports of meetings.

The Secretary stated that since the Society's spring meeting, it had lost two of its most loyal friends and avid ornithologists in Mr. Henry K. Toenes and Mr. Joseph A. Friedhoff. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the memorial resolutions appearing at the end of these minutes were unanimously adopted.

Discussion was then had of the problem presented by the proposal of the Bureau of Public Roads to route Interstate Highway 65 through that portion of Wheeler Refuge known as Garth Slough. The loss of the investment of time and expense in developing a wildlife management and conservation area that would result from that proposal was noted as was the fact that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had proposed an alternate route that would not damage the Garth Slough area and would still provide adequately for routing that interstate highway. After conclusion of the discussion, the following resolution was, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it is understood that the Bureau of Public Roads in the U. S. Department of Commerce, acting in conjunction with the State Highway Department of the State of Alabama, is considering routing Interstate Highway 65 through that portion of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge known as Garth Slough, bordering the channel of the Tennessee River;

WHEREAS, the members of the Alabama Ornithological Society are familiar with the wildlife management and conservation work being carried on at said refuge and the importance to that work of the Garth Slough area, which has over the years been developed for wildlife management and conservation and is an integral part of the program being carried on at said refuge;

WHEREAS, the routing of said highway through the Garth Slough area will cause the loss of an area developed for wildlife management and conservation that cannot be replaced and in which a considerable investment in time and expense has been made over the past quarter-century and, in addition, will endanger the only large wintering concentration of wild geese to be found in Alabama;

WHEREAS, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed an alternate route for Interstate Highway 65 running east of the Garth Slough area that will not damage that area and will still provide adequately for the routing of interstate and access traffic around and into the City of Decatur, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, it is the considered opinion of the Alabama Ornithological Society that said alternate route should be followed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its regular fall meeting held on November 20, 1965, that this Society does hereby strongly urge and recommend and state its unanimous opinion that Interstate Highway 65 should not be routed through the Garth Slough area of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge or through any other similar wildlife management or conservation area but, instead, that the alternate route for said highway as proposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be selected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable John T. Connor and the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretaries of Commerce and of the Interior, respectively, of the United States, to the State Highway Department of the State of Alabama, and to each of the United States Senators and Representatives from the State of Alabama.

The President announced that the spring meeting of the Society would be held at Dauphin Island on the week-end of April 22-24, 1966, and that the Society was planning to hold its mid-winter meeting during the first part of February at the newly-established Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge if arrangements could be made with the manager of that refuge for holding the meeting there at that time. Upon motion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Banquet and Saturday Night Program

The banquet on Saturday evening was held at the Holiday Inn. The tables were decorated most attractively by Mrs. Pearl Henson assisted by Mrs. Warren. Mr. Huttlinger supervised the drawing of several fine door prizes: The bird song record keyed to Peterson's Eastern Field Guide; a copy of Tom Imhof's Alabama Birds; and several attractive paper weights, ashtrays and other accessories with an ornithological motif donated by Mr. Paul Robinson of Decatur.

After the dinner Mr. Atkeson spoke to the meeting on the history of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and some of the activities currently being carried on there. Mr. Keeler then reported on the recent conference in Atlanta on the black-bird control problem sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, the National Audubon Society and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The principal program for the evening was an excellent wildlife film presented by Adele and Gene West of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The film, which was accompanied by a most interesting and informative narrative, was entitled "The Big Bend" and portrayed the wildlife and scenery of Big Bend National Park in magnificent photography, especially the close-ups of birds of that area.

Compilation

Following the field trips on Sunday morning, Dr. Dusi conducted at the refuge headquarters a compilation of the birds observed during the meeting. A total of 76 species was recorded although it must be noted that the observers concentrated on water birds and, thus, the list is not representative of the total number of species inhabiting the refuge in late fall. The most impressive observations were of the thousands of Canada Geese wintering on the refuge as well as the large flocks of Blue and Snow Geese, including blue-snow hybrids, Mallards, Black Ducks and Baldpates. Also noteworthy were the relatively large numbers of Great Blue Herons (55), Greater Yellowlegs (18), and Dunlins (14), the latter, together with a Black-bellied Plover observed on the Tennessee River, being late migrants for the area.

List of birds seen: Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Green Heron,

Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose (including blue-snow hybrids), Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Baldpate, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, American Merganser,

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Eastern Quail,

American Coot, Kill-deer, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin (or Red-backed Sandpiper),

Herring gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove,

Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker,

Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin,

Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Myrtle Warbler,

Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird,

Cardinal, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Robert R. Reid, Jr. Sec.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The article on night herons by Mrs. Johnstone (p. 46) is an excellent example of careful observation and good reporting. In their observations the Johnstones observed and recorded some combinations of plumages and leg colors in Yellow-crowned Night Herons that are not listed in Palmer's Handbook of American Birds. Palmer implies that there are some gaps in our knowledge on this subject, and it is through careful observing of this kind that we can fill these gaps.

Maurice F. Baker, Ed.

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Friedhoff of Mobile, Alabama, was for many years a member of the Alabama Ornithological Society;

WHEREAS, he generously gave of his time and efforts toward promoting conservation and encouraging the development of and an interest in birdlife in Alabama and toward assisting the endeavors of this Society; and

WHEREAS, his untimely death on June 7, 1965, was a great loss to the members of this Society and the purposes fostered by it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its fall meeting held on November 20, 1965, that this Society, for itself and its members, does hereby express its extreme regret upon Mr. Friedhoff's death and the loss of his friendship and assistance and does hereby extend its deepest sympathy to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his immediate family.

WHEREAS, Henry K. Toenes of Mobile, Alabama, was for many years a member of the Alabama Ornithological Society and its Secretary for the current year and was also Vice-President of the Mobile Bird Club, its affiliate in Mobile;

WHEREAS, he generously gave of his time and efforts toward promoting conservation and encouraging an interest in birdlife in Alabama and toward assisting the endeavors of this Society; and

WHEREAS, his untimely death on September 18, 1965, was a great loss to the members of this Society and the purposes fostered by it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its fall meeting held on November 20, 1965, that this Society, for itself and its members, does hereby express its extreme regret upon Mr. Toenes' death and the loss of his friendship and assistance and does hereby extend its deepest sympathy to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his immediate family.