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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I should like to welcome all of you to what we hope will be another fine year for observing and learning about the many birds that Alabama is fortunate to have as breeders, migrants or winter visitors. Fall migration is now in progress, and there have already been many interesting reports. As noted by many of our past presidents, you will enjoy our wildlife heritage more through greater participation in ornithological and conservation activities. To suggest only a few, I am sure you will find it both enjoyable and worthwhile to attend the meetings and field trips of AOS and its affiliated local groups, to attend the wildlife film series that feature lecturers from the National Audubon Society, to participate in the seasonal bird counts, to encourage our birds by erecting bird houses, feeders and bird baths, and to interest others -- both old and young alike -- in the many wonders of nature and the need for their conservation.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of those who participated in the breeding bird survey this past summer. I believe Alabama can be proud of its response in staffing forty survey routes located throughout the state. In addition to the breeding bird survey and the now well-established Christmas bird counts, the Society last winter adopted the conducting of fall and spring migration counts as part of its program of surveying the distribution of birds in our state. The fall migration season is now upon us and, pursuant to the resolution adopted last winter, the fall migration counts are to be conducted during the month of October using the same circles of 15-mile diameter used in the Christmas counts. Selection of specific dates has been left to the various groups conducting the counts. Let me strongly urge each of our local groups to conduct such a count, for only in that way will we be able to collect adequate information on the distribution and abundance of our fall birds and to note changes in their populations in future years. All data, including both total species and number of each observed, should be reported to the editor of Alabama Birdlife.

I believe all of us have had occasion to know someone who is interested in wildlife or conservation and who would like to know more about the birds of our state, participate in the activities of the Society and receive its publications. Our Society can become a stronger organization through expansion of its membership, so let me ask each one of you during this coming year to interest at least one additional person in joining the Society. You will be doing both the member and the Society a favor. Application for membership and the appropriate dues may be forwarded directly to the Treasurer, and for your convenience an application blank will be attached at the end of the next edition of the Newsletter.

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to be serving as your president this year, and I appreciate the cooperation given by so many of the members of the Society. We shall all be looking forward to seeing all of you at our coming meetings.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

THE IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERS OF NESTS, EGGS AND NESTLINGS
OF SOME HERONS, IBISES AND ANHINGAS

Julian L. Dusi

Nesting colonies of herons and ibises are found with enough frequency in Alabama that bird students ought to be able to identify their nests, eggs and young, in order to prevent gathering inaccurate information.

Since 1953, the writer has been banding nestling herons and ibises and has accumulated the information on which this paper is based.

The most common species in heron colonies in inland Alabama are the Little Blue Heron (Florida caerulea) and, in the last several years, the Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis). Near the coast, White Ibises (Eudocimus albus) are often very numerous, or even the predominant species of the colony. Other species which might be present are the Snowy Egret (Leucophoyx thula), the Common Egret (Casmerodius alba), Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea). Occasionally a pair of Green Herons (Butorides viridescens) nests at the edge of a colony. The Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga) sometimes nests in ibis colonies. On the off-shore islands, the Louisiana Heron (Hydranassa tricolor) and Reddish Egret (Dichromanassa rufescens) replace the Little Blue Heron but are not usually found inland. Great Blue Herons (Ardea herodias) usually nest in isolated colonies in very high trees and are not usually easily available for study. The Louisiana Heron, Reddish Egret and Great Blue Heron will not be treated in this paper.

There is a large amount of variation in the physical make-up of the colonies. Those on off-shore islands are in low bushes. Those in coastal plain swamps are usually in bushes or trees 10 to 40 feet high, and those in upland situations are usually in spindly trees 30 to 60 feet high. The variation in the physical setting of the colony results in a variation of nest positioning and nesting material. Therefore, nests on shrubby off-shore islands are frequently so low that you bend over to reach them, and in inland upland colonies, you need a long extension ladder to reach them. The nests are made from twigs broken from the trees and bushes present and vary somewhat in appearance depending upon the nest materials available.

Identifications of nests, eggs and young, can usually be made from the information given following. If in doubt, it is best to wait unobtrusively until the adults return to the nest or young in question.

Little Blue Heron

This has been the most common species until the Cattle Egret appeared, and it has been the species most studied by the writer.

These herons arrive at the nesting colony area by mid-March and frequently nests are built by the 20th.

Nests.--Construction is of twigs or sticks 10-15 inches long, which the herons break from the deciduous trees and bushes of the nesting site. Dead twigs are usually used, or if live ones are obtained, they do not bear leaves at this time. Therefore, few, if any, leaves are present in the nests. The nests are loosely built, about 10-18 inches across.

Eggs.--Color is a medium blue-green with a definite blue cast. In shape, the eggs have quite rounded ends, both ends being similar. Size varies (in 150 eggs measured) from the extremes of 41-51 millimeters in length and 31-36 millimeters in width. Examples of extremes are eggs which measured 51 X 34 and 41 X 31 millimeters. Clutch size is usually four but will vary from three to five, with rarely six. They are laid at intervals with incubation beginning after the first or second egg is laid. Because of this, an uneven aged brood results, with the eldest being about a week older than the youngest.

Young.--Several stages at which different characteristics are in evidence are given for this and other species in which distinct changes occur.

1. At hatching, the young have a very few white feathers growing from the major tracts, especially the dorsal. Their skin, legs and bill are pink.
2. Several days after hatching, primaries begin to appear and even in the sheaths they are darkly pigmented. Pigment also appears in the skin, especially on the legs, and is a medium green. The bill becomes dark on the tip and lighter in the middle.
3. At the age of one week, they are fairly well-feathered. Primaries are darkly pigmented, legs green, and the bill is black on the tip and lighter in the middle and at the base.
4. After one week, they slowly become fully feathered. No color characteristics change.

Behavior.--When the young become alarmed and cannot escape, they show the displacement behavior of regurgitation and defecation that is characteristic of many herons. Regurgitated food contains fish, amphibians and crayfish as the major items.

Cattle Egret

The Cattle Egret is becoming equally as abundant as the Little Blue Heron in most colonies. They arrive at the colony site at about the same time as the Little Blue Heron but don't begin nesting until early May, after the pastures have grown and there is abundant insect food.

Nests.--Construction is very much like Little Blue Heron nests. Frequently the twigs have leaves on them. They are usually in less choice spots and may be as close as one foot from another nest. Usually they nest close to associated species.

Eggs.--Color is very similar to Little Blue Heron eggs, except that the egret eggs are more green and slightly lighter. In shape, the eggs are slightly slimmer and more pointed. In 73 eggs measured, length varied from 41.3-49.0 millimeters, and in width they varied from 30.8-35.1. One large egg measured 48.8 X 34.2, and a small egg, 42 X 32 millimeters. The eggs in one clutch frequently showed great size variation. Clutches usually contained four eggs, but clutches varied from two or three to five. Egg laying and incubation were similar to those of the Little Blue Heron, resulting in uneven sized broods.

- Young.--1. At hatching, the young have a few white feathers growing from major tracts, pink skin and bills.
2. Several days after hatching, unpigmented primaries begin to appear. Greenish pigment is present in the skin. The bill becomes black with a yellow tip.
 3. At the age of one week, they are fairly well-feathered with no pigment on any feathers. Legs are green with a blackish wash appearing on the anterior and dorsal side of tarsals and toes.
 4. After one week, they slowly become full feathered. No feathers are pigmented. Legs become solid black and the bill is black with a yellow tip in most individuals. Occasionally, a yellow-billed individual is seen.

Behavior.--If they cannot hide or climb out of reach, the young are very belligerent. They may regurgitate and defecate. Items regurgitated are mainly insects, although toads, frogs and lizards have been found present occasionally.

Snowy Egret

Snowy Egrets arrive at the colony area shortly after the Little Blue Herons. Only a few pairs are present in most colonies. Usually they are to be found in the coastal area and the Tennessee Valley, but not in most mid-state colonies. So few are present that much needed data are missing from the writer's files.

Nests.--The nests are very much like those of the Little Blue Heron.

Eggs.--They are very similar to Little Blue Heron eggs, averaging slightly smaller.

Young.--Very much like the Little Blue Heron young in most respects. The primaries are not pigmented, however, and the toes are yellow.

1. At hatching, they are presumably like Little Blue Herons. The writer has no data at hand for this stage.
2. Several days after hatching, it is presumed that pigmentation begins, but no data are at hand to support this.
3. At the age of one week, they are fairly well-feathered. The feathers are all white. Legs are greenish and the toes are yellowish-green.

4. After one week, they slowly become fully feathered, remaining completely white. Toes remain yellow and legs become a darker green. The bill is like the Little Blue Heron's in color and color distribution.

Behavior.--Very similar to the Little Blue Heron in activity and foods.

Common Egret

These egrets arrive at the colony at about the same time as the Little Blue Heron. Many of them winter on the Gulf Coast and some are found inland, so they may winter not very far from the nesting area. Usually only a few pairs are present in a colony.

Nests.--The nest is of similar construction to that of the Little Blue Heron, but it is larger and usually is placed higher.

Eggs.--The same blue-green as the Little Blue Heron eggs but the size is considerably greater and the ends more pointed. Reference is made to Bent, A.C., 1926, "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds." for average egg dimensions: 56.5 millimeters in length and 40.5 millimeters in width. Clutch size is usually three or four.

Young.--The young have a much longer development period than the smaller herons. After several days, they appear colored like the adults, with white feathers, yellow bill and black legs.

Behavior.--They are very belligerent. Careful handling is necessary to avoid being struck in the face or eye with the bill. The young are clumsy and frequently fall into the water in escape attempts.

Black-crowned Night Heron

This species is occasionally found in inland colonies and is common in the colony at the Swan Creek Shooting Area, Decatur, Alabama.

Nests.--Location is high in the trees, above Little Blue Heron nests but of similar construction.

Eggs.--The eggs are large and light bluish-green. One egg measured was 52.6 X 39.5 millimeters. Clutch size is usually four.

Young.--They are slow in development and ungainly like Common Egret young. Color is streaked and spotted shades of light and dark brown. The bill and legs are dark. The only similar young would be those of the Green Heron and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Behavior.--The young try to hide in the nests or perch rigidly near the nest. They are slow and stupid. They regurgitate fish that are sometimes quite large.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

These birds usually nest in separate colonies, or isolated from the rest of a mixed colony. They have not been observed, by the writer, in the same colonies with Black-crowned Night Herons.

Nests.--They are built like Black-crowned Night Heron nests.

Eggs.--The eggs closely resemble those of the Black-crowned Night Heron in size, color, and number.

Young.--The young look very much like young Black-crowned Night Herons, except that feather colors are generally darker.

Behavior.--They are rather slow and stupid. They are frequently seen on the Gulf Coast beaches in late summer and usually can be approached without being easily alarmed. The writer caught one of these in an insect net one evening.

Green Heron

Pairs occasionally nest at the edge of a heron colony. Usually they are well separated from the rest of the colony. They nest slightly later than Little Blue Herons.

Nests.--The small stick nest, six to twelve feet above the ground or water, resembles a Mourning Dove nest.

Eggs.--Much smaller than those of the other herons, these eggs are the same light blue-green and both ends are bluntly rounded, equally, like Little Blue Heron eggs. One measured 37 X 29 millimeters. The usual clutch size is four eggs.

Young.--The young are small and develop rapidly, some leaving the nests by mid-May. Coloration is shades of brown and greenish-black on the dorsal surface with striped underparts. Legs and bill are yellow, with the legs additionally having a greenish cast. They so totally resemble the adults that there is little possibility of misidentification.

Behavior.--They are quite agile climbers and try to escape, if they are fairly well grown. They are not belligerent, nor do they frequently regurgitate.

White Ibis

This is the only ibis commonly nesting in Southern Alabama. Colonies are known from the vicinities of Dothan, Opp, Florida and Stockton, not all of which are presently active. They arrive early, sometimes in late February, but do not nest quite as early as the Little Blue Heron.

Nests.--These are usually positioned a little higher than the Little Blue Heron nests. Leaves are present in the nests in addition to

twigs. The diameter of the nest is about 10-12 inches, the same size or slightly smaller than Little Blue Heron nests. They frequently are close together and may be grouped in one part of the colony.

Eggs.--The eggs are larger than Little Blue Heron eggs. The color is a darker bluish-green with speckles or blotches of brown. They are decidedly more pointed at one end. Two eggs measured 58.0 X 38.0 and 58.0 X 39.2 millimeters. Clutch sizes are usually four, with three eggs commonly found also.

Young.--The young develop fairly rapidly. They are much more massive birds, however, and the total development period is longer than that of the Little Blue Heron.

1. At hatching, they have black down on them. The bill is pink with a black tip and the legs are pink.
2. Several days after hatching, size increases rapidly and some contour feathers appear.
3. At the age of one week, the contour feathers cover much of the down. Primaries and tail feathers are slowest to appear. The bill develops an intermediate black band and the base darkens. It elongates and becomes slightly decurved. Legs become almost black.
4. After one week, feathering continues slowly.

Behavior.--The nestlings are slow and awkward, in part because of their rapidly increasing weight. They try to hide or escape when disturbed. They defecate and regurgitate readily. Food regurgitated frequently contains the remains of crayfish, insect larvae and small fish.

Anhinga

A pair or two of Anhingas are often present in the colonies where the White Ibis nests.

Nests.--This is a stick nest very much like that of the Common Egret in form and size.

Eggs.--The writer has no acquaintance with Anhinga eggs. Bent, A.C., 1922, "Life Histories of North American Petrels, and Pelicans and their Allies," describes their color as pale bluish-white, with chalky markings. He gives the average of 42 eggs as 52.5 X 35 millimeters, and describes the shape as ovate to elongate ovate.

Young.--Early plumage is a tan down that completely covers the nestling. The down is gradually covered with dark feathers. The webbed toes and very short, thick tarsus, are good identification characters. The small head with its long pointed bill and the long, oddly-jointed Anhinga neck are also good identification points.

Behavior.--The downy young do little to escape, but the well-feathered young climb well and do not hesitate to drop into the water, swim under water, and escape. Well-feathered young are adept at using their bills for defense and should be carefully handled.

SUMMARY

The most abundant species in inland colonies in Alabama are the Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret. Near the coast White Ibises may also be abundant colony members.

The nests are of stick construction, with leaves being typical in Cattle Egret and White Ibis nests. Height of nests varies with the colony site vegetation.

Eggs all differ, at least slightly. Those most nearly alike are the eggs of the Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Snowy Egret. They are about the same size and differ only slightly in color and shape. Common Egret and night heron eggs are larger than the other heron eggs, but similar in color. White Ibis eggs are usually speckled. Green Heron eggs are much smaller.

The young of the Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Snowy Egret are also somewhat similar. The Little Blue Heron nestling has dark primaries, green legs, and a dark bill with a lighter middle region. The Cattle Egret has completely white plumage, black bill with yellow tip, or rarely a yellow bill, and the legs are blackish green. The Snowy Egret has completely white plumage, a bill like that of the Little Blue Heron, dark green legs and yellowish toes. None of the other nestlings should be easily confused.

If in doubt of the identification, wait for the return of an adult to the nest or young.

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CHANGES IN ABUNDANCE OF MYRTLE WARBLERS
DURING SPRING MIGRATION AT TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Richard E. Ambrose

In the spring of 1965, I undertook a project to ascertain the pattern of migration and the effects of weather on migration of birds in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. A set schedule for periodically observing the birds as they appeared was followed. The objective was to compute the arrival and departure dates and migration peaks of migrant species--this paper being concerned only with the migration of one species, the Myrtle Warbler.

Great appreciation and gratitude go to those who made so many of the morning walks with me: John Hall, Jim Owens, and especially Charles Moses III, who met me with breakfast under one arm and binoculars under the other and made every one of my March walks with me. Invaluable aid was given by the Flight Service Station of the Federal Aviation Agency in Tuscaloosa for their 6:00 a.m. weather information bulletins. The habitat description of the Tuscaloosa area was based primarily on Dr. Roland M. Harper's Forests of Alabama. My deep thanks also go to Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Dr. William J. Calvert, Jr. and Mr. C. W. Summerour who have read this paper and made suggestions as to its handling.

Procedure

The count period was from the 1st of March to the 30th of April, 1965. A count was made on every day possible--the total being 52 counts made in 61 days. These counts consisted of daily walks made along the southeastern edge of the Warrior River. Each count lasted exactly 1½ hours and was begun every day at sunrise computed from the Standard Mean Time--the times of sunrise varying from 6:16 to 4:57 a.m. The starting point for the census was a wooded area 100 feet from the men's dorms on the northern boundary of the University of Alabama campus. The area covered was approximately 1½ miles of river-side habitat on the upper coastal plain in Tuscaloosa County. Each day all the birds seen and heard in the area were recorded as to species seen and total number of each species sighted.

The weather conditions for 6:00 a.m. were recorded from information supplied by the Federal Aviation Agency located at the Tuscaloosa airport. The following weather conditions were recorded: wind speed and direction; percent of sky covered by clouds and the height of the cloud base; temperature; visibility; and precipitation in the last 24 hours.

Habitat Description

Tuscaloosa lies within the short-leaf pine region, the largest of three regions of pine woodlands which comprise the central pine belt, based on Harper's forest classification. The topography is moderately hilly with wide level terraces occurring along some of the rivers, particularly along the Warrior at Tuscaloosa, the river

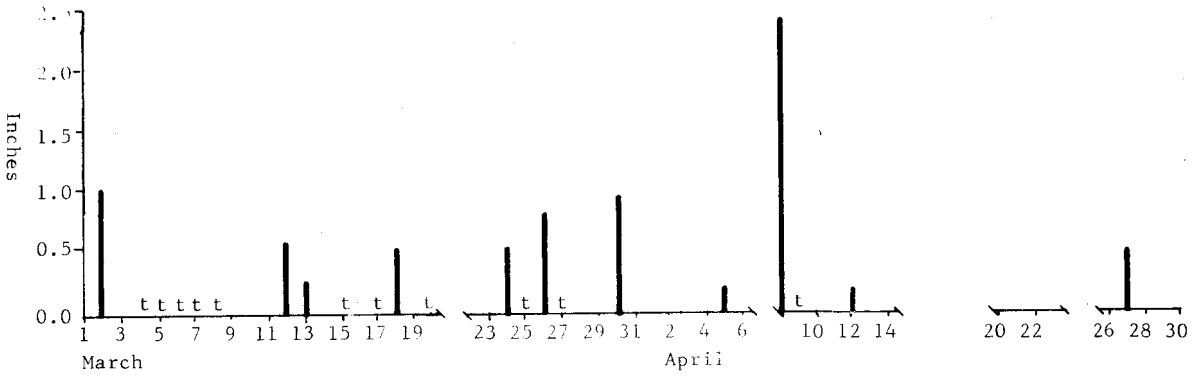


Figure 1. - Rainfall in inches during previous 24-hour period, recorded at 6:00 A. M. Traces indicated by t. Blanks in base line indicate days of no observation.

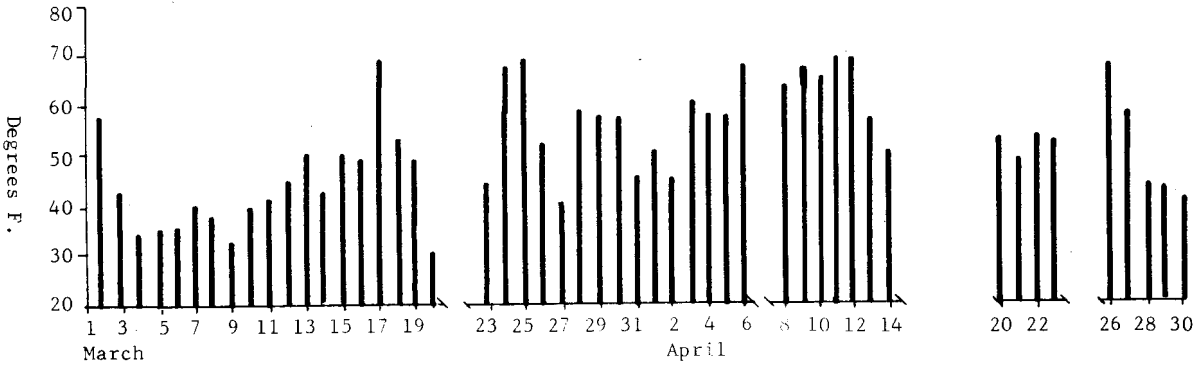


Figure 2. - Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit at 6:00 A. M.

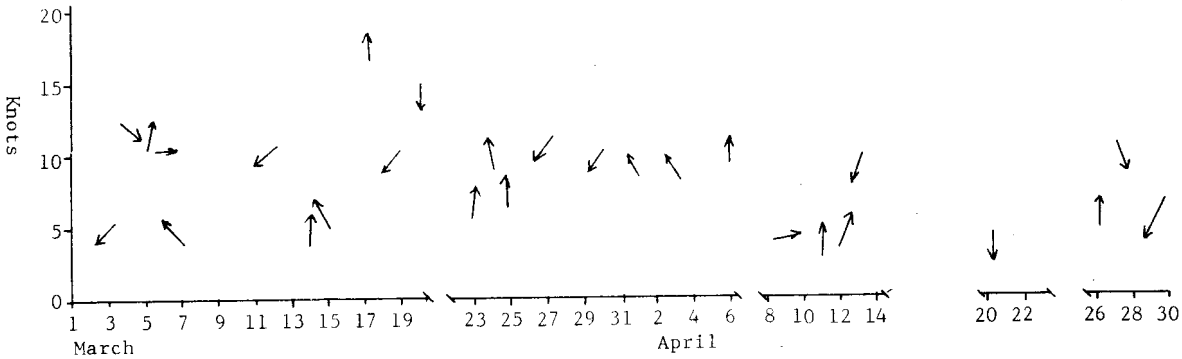


Figure 3. - Wind direction (arrows) and speed (elevation above base line) at 6:00 A.M. Blanks in base line indicate days of no observation.

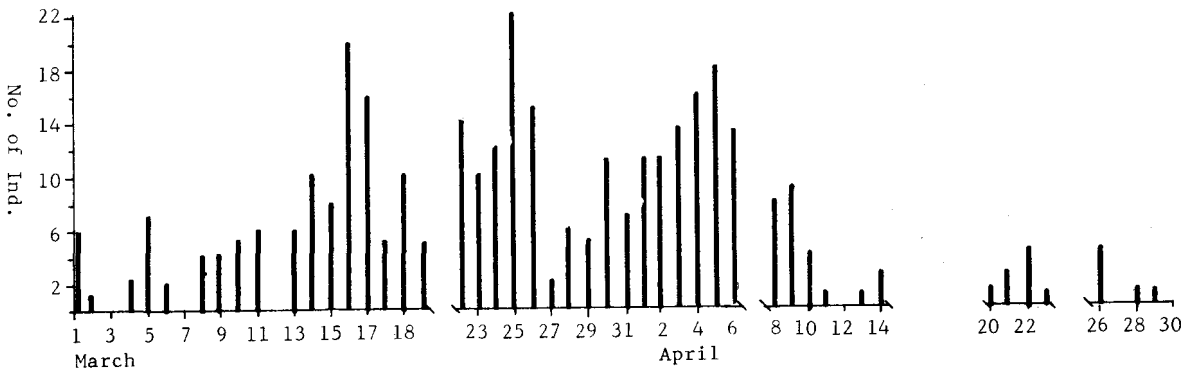


Figure 4. - Total number of Myrtle Warblers observed daily

at this point flowing NE to SW. The streams flowing into the Warrior from the Tuscaloosa area are highly polluted with industrial waste, garbage, and animal pollutants.

Dr. Harper states that forests of this region contain more species of trees than most others do and that the proportion of evergreens in the original forests would be estimated at about 50%. This is a high percentage as compared with other regions of the state, but not too high for the coastal plain.

Climatic data (from Harper) are as follows:

1. 65°F -- average annual temperature,
2. 200 to 240 days -- annual growing season,
3. 50 to 55 inches -- total yearly rainfall.
(Winter and Spring -- wettest months)

The area surveyed is 1/8 mile from the University of Alabama campus having a land survey system number of: Tuscaloosa Co., R10W, T21S, section 14. Altitude from sea level ranged from 130' to 200'. The path taken for the walks has cleared spaces to either side for a total cleared width of 15 feet. The distance of the walk as mentioned earlier is 1 1/2 miles--about 80% of which was within 35 feet of the river. Habitats covered and time spent in each area are given following.

Open clearing--Hardwood border with oaks and small hickorys, low grasses and blackberries. 15 min.

Pine uplands--Mostly being loblolly pines with an understory of small hardwoods, primarily flowering dogwood and red buckeye. Dense vines of Japanese honeysuckle covered much of the forest floor and approximately 50% of the lower vegetation. 10 min.

Moist river bottom--Black willows with scant undercover of common elderberry. A mudflat was sometimes visible when the river water level was low. 20 min.

Mixed pine hardwood border--Loblolly pines averaging 50' in height and hardwoods, mostly oaks with some red maples, averaging 35'. 30 min.

Hardwoods--Mature aged oaks and hickorys. 15 min.

Results and Discussion

The species selected for this paper from the data collected on the migrants was the Myrtle Warbler. This bird was present immediately before the count was started (although the species does winter in the state, not commonly in my area), and oddly enough ended its migration in the area on the 30th of April. Other birding trips were made in this same area after the survey was finished, but no other myrtles were sighted. This does not mean that the birds were not in the area, but it does show that the population level of this species was low enough at that hour of the day to reduce the probability of their being sighted.

Since the only variables were the birds and the weather, it should be possible to demonstrate the effects of the weather on the birds and trace the curve of the migration peak so as to show the relative abundance of the species at any one time at this location in Alabama.

Precipitation, temperature, wind and Myrtle Warbler abundance data are presented in Figures 1 to 4 respectively. Days when no observations were made are indicated by interrupted lines. Study of these figures reveals a relationship between warbler abundance and wind direction. It seemed that the highest concentrations of the warblers were always found when the winds were from a southerly direction and the lowest numbers when the winds were from a northerly direction. This tends to run counter to some studies in which it was found the highest numbers of birds were sighted when their flight was retarded and they were grounded by winds going opposite to their direction of flight--northerly in the spring migration. Such conditions are more common along the Gulf Coast where, because of the exhausting flight, a coastline affords a respite from the trans-gulf crossing. Possibly the waves found with southerly winds at my location are the birds that have been held up on the coast by northerly winds.

Quality of the habitat study area is probably the most important determining factor with respect to observed abundance. The greatest numbers of warblers anywhere along the river were always found in the moist river bottom along the route where feeding conditions seemed to be very good for the birds. These bottom lands, with their food production, apparently enticed a relative percentage of the birds crossing over every night leaving an index of the migration the next morning.

Summary

A set schedule for censusing migrant birds during the spring of 1965 was undertaken. This completed project was meant to be a statistical paper giving an idea of the peak migration for Myrtle Warblers occurring in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It is to be realized that this project has been done only one spring, and because of the author's changing residence, it is not likely to be repeated. Therefore, the information shown on the graphs was unchecked on a repeated census. It is hoped that the figures will give a better understanding of the occurrence, relative strength, and periodicity of spring Myrtle Warblers in the west central portion of the state.

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THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN ALABAMA

Robert W. Skinner

The following notes are in addition to the records and data concerning the status of the Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) in the State of Alabama. The records are few, and it is felt that this note would further knowledge of the life history in Alabama of this dwindling species.

The data are from the same locality, an area 7,000 acres in extent, located on the Tombigbee River, Marengo County, about 18 miles W.S.W. of Demopolis, Alabama. This section supports one of the heaviest populations of deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) in the state.

In 1965, the eagles were first seen on January 7 when two immatures were in an aerial battle. Within a few minutes they lit in a large, dead oak about 100 yards distant. Judging by size differences, they were male and female.

An immature eagle was seen on January 27 and again one was seen on February 15, 1965. February 16, 1965, an immature eagle was found perched upright on a large, corner fence-post watching a drove of turkeys in an open oat patch about 150 yards distant. This eagle was approached by truck to within 40 yards before reluctantly taking flight.

An immature eagle was noted on the 23rd and again on the 25th of February, 1965, when it was flushed from the body of a fresh fawn deer which had been killed a few hours prior to this incident, when the door of a deer trap fell upon it. This eagle was approached to within a distance of 20 yards before taking flight, then moved only about 50 more yards.

On March 3, 1965, an immature eagle was flushed from the edge of a sand road at 200 yards distance. Investigation of the wet sand area showed clearly how the eagle had run, hopped and pursued a turkey into a net wire fence. The only remains found of the turkey were a few wing feathers, patches of body feathers and a couple of bones. Apparently the kill had taken place sometime earlier and the eagle had revisited the kill which is a common practice.

On March 4, 1965, three immature eagles were perched in a large oak on the border of a field. They were watched with the aid of field glasses for about ten minutes, at which time a drove of turkeys appeared in the lower end of the field. The turkeys stayed in the field no more than a minute before nervously and hurriedly walking into the woods. The eagles did not move; evidently the presence of the truck caused the hasty retreat.

In the morning of March 5, 1965, in the same area, three eagles were found and observed for some time on the body of a large fawn deer. They were continuously fighting and running each other from the deer. The deer was examined later and the positive cause of death could not be

determined. Several deer have been caught in the net wire fence in this same area in the past. Some were found still alive; others were dead.

March 9, 1965, an immature eagle was seen, and the last record was on March 11, 1965, when two immature birds were observed.

In summary, no eagles were seen killing deer or turkey; however, there was strong evidence that they did kill a turkey and probably take small deer from time to time as well as turkeys. No full adult plumaged eagles were seen. There is no way of determining how many eagles were present during the winter; however a minimum of three is definite. The Golden Eagle is very rare and local in the southeastern states. This particular area is very much the exception. The Golden Eagle is now fully protected by the Federal Government, as it rightly should be.

State Conservation Department
Montgomery, Alabama

MINUTES OF 14th ANNUAL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 22-24, 1966

The 14th Annual Spring Meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Dauphin Island, Alabama, on April 22-24, 1966. Headquarters motel was the Holiday House.

Field Trips and Friday Evening Program

The program for the meeting began with a showing of slides on Friday evening at the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory. The members attending enjoyed excellent and most interesting slides of waterfowl, shorebirds, land birds and wild flowers shown by Dr. Maurice Baker, Blanche Dean, Helen Kittinger and our Louisiana guest, Mr. Randolph Bazet.

Field trips began Saturday with the early morning trips at 5:00 A.M. to the Indian Shell Mounds led by Blanche Dean. Subsequent field trips were taken on Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning to the eastern and western ends of Dauphin Island, the bird sanctuary, causeway and Bellingrath Gardens; and netting and banding stations were set up during the meeting by Jim and Margaret Robinson and Tom Imhof.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 12:30 P. M., April 23, at the Dauphin Island Community Center with the following members present: Mr. Robert E. Waters, President; Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., Vice President; Mr. Frank D. Huttlinger, Treasurer; Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Immediate Past President; Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor, ALABAMA BIRDLIFE; and Mr. James E. Keeler and Mr. Robert W. Skinner, Co-editors of Newsletter and Directors.

Plans for future meetings were discussed -- the next Spring Meeting to be held at Dauphin Island, April 21-23, 1967, and the 1966 Fall Meeting to be held in Choctaw and Clarke Counties, Southwest Alabama, if satisfactory arrangements can be made with personnel at Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge and the state game sanctuaries.

There was a discussion of the desirability of the President's appointing an editorial board to work with and advise the editor of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE and of other matters to be brought before the business meeting of the Society. The meeting was duly adjourned at 1:05 P. M.

Business Meeting

The business meeting of the membership was called to order by the President at 1:15 P. M. at the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Huttlinger read the Treasurer's report showing receipts since the last spring meeting of \$416.80 and expenditures of \$360.57, leaving a balance in the Society's checking account of \$402.87. He also reported a balance of \$267.35 in the Society's life membership fund. The report was approved by those present. Mr. Keeler, Acting Chairman of the Auditing Committee, then reported that the Treasurer's books had been approved.

Dr. Baker reported on progress of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE and urged the membership to submit material for publication. Mr. Keeler reported on progress of bird notes in the Newsletter and of the new program of dove banding designed to determine the relationship between game regulation and game bird populations. Each state is asked to band 4,000 doves each year.

Dr. Dan Holliman, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the following nominations for next year's officers: Frank D. Huttlinger - Treasurer; and James C. Robinson - Vice-President. Mr. Dave Turpin moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried, and the slate was elected by acclamation.

The Fall Meeting was tentatively set for Grove Hill or Jackson. Mr. Waters, the outgoing President, was given a round of applause for a successful year, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 2:15 P. M.

Dinner and Paper Session

Dinner was held Saturday evening at Bayley's on the Bay Road. Mr. Huttlinger supervised the drawing of several fine door prizes: Francis H. Kortright's Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America; Tom Imhof's Alabama Birds; some Audubon prints and other prizes. After the dinner the following papers were presented:

Food Habits of Red-winged Blackbird Nestlings in Jefferson County, Alabama -- Dr. Dan C. Holliman

Returns of Wintering Migrants in Brownsboro (Madison County, Alabama) -- James and Margaret Robinson

The Breeding Bird Survey in Alabama -- Thomas A. Imhof

The Bloodthirsty Blue Herons of Yellow Leaf Creek -- Walter F. Coxe

Compilation

Following the field trips on Sunday morning, Mr. Imhof conducted at the headquarters motel a compilation of the birds observed during the meeting. A total of 164 species was recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Fairly Chandler, Secretary

Check List of Birds Observed on Dauphin Island
and in Southern Mobile County, Alabama, during
Spring AOS Meeting, April 22-24, 1966

Loons

Common Loon

GrebesHorned Grebe
Pied-billed GrebePelicans and AlliesBrown Pelican
Gannet
Double-crested Cormorant
Magnificent Frigate-birdWading BirdsGreat Blue Heron
Common Egret
Snowy Egret
Louisiana Heron
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron
Least Bittern
White IbisDucks and GeeseBlue Goose
Mallard (feral)
Gadwall
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveler
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
American Merganser
Red-breasted MerganserHawksTurkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
OspreyQuail and Allies

Bob-white

Rails and AlliesKing Rail
Clapper Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
Purple Gallinule
Florida GallinuleShorebirdsAmerican Oystercatcher
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Wilson's Plover
Killdeer
Black-bellied Plover
Ruddy Turnstone
Common Snipe
Whimbrel (or Hudsonian Curlew)
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin (or Red-backed Sandpiper)
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
SanderlingGulls and TernsHerring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Laughing Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Forster's Tern
Common Tern
Least Tern
Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern
Caspian Tern
Black SkimmerDoves

Mourning Dove

CuckoosYellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed CuckooOwls

Screech Owl

NightjarsChuck-will's-widow
Common NighthawkSwifts and HummingbirdsChimney Swift
Ruby-throated HummingbirdKingfishers

Belted Kingfisher

WoodpeckersYellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy WoodpeckerFlycatchersEastern Kingbird
Gray Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Eastern Wood PeweeSwallowsTree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Purple MartinJays and CrowsBlue Jay
Fish CrowTitmiceCarolina Chickadee
Tifted TitmouseNuthatchesRed-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed NuthatchWrensCarolina Wren
Long-billed Marsh WrenThrashersMockingbird
Catbird
Brown ThrasherThrushesWood Thrush
Swainson's
(or Olive-backed) Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Veery
Eastern BluebirdGnatcatchers and KingletsBlue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned KingletWaxwings

Cedar Waxwing

Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike

Starlings

European Starling

VireosWhite-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed VireoWarblersBlack and White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-poll Warbler
Pine Warbler

Founded May 17, 1952

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Secretary - Helen Kittinger, 2721 Southview Drive, Birmingham 35216

Immediate Past President - Robert W. Waters, 168 Green Street, Auburn
36830Editor, ALABAMA BIRDLIFE - Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Wildlife Research
Unit, Auburn 36830Editor, Newsletter - Dan C. Holliman, Birmingham Southern College,
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Librarian - Dr. Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Directors:

State-at-Large (Reporter for Audubon Field Notes and Coordinator
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35218State-at-Large (Coordinator for North American Nest Record
Program) - Dr. Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

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Rosemary T. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Central Mountains Region -

Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham
35204
Harriett H. Wright, 2749 Millbrook Road, Birmingham 35243

Tennessee Valley Region -

Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., P. O. Box 1643, Decatur 35601
Margaret L. Robinson, Route 1 Box 91, Brownsboro 35741Warblers (cont.)Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American RedstartCommon Grackle
Brown-headed CowbirdTanagersScarlet Tanager
Summer TanagerFinches and SparrowsCardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Purple Finch
Rufous-sided Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Sparrow
White-throated SparrowWeaver Finches

House Sparrow

BlackbirdsBobolink
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole

SOME NOTES FROM MEMBERS

From Foley.--An adult Wood Ibis was seen at a farm pond in the edge of Foley on June 25 and 26, 1966, with a Great Blue Heron. A pair of Redstarts was seen at Lillian on July 20. Fairley Chandler.

From Eufaula Refuge.--Approximately 500 Woodducks summered on the refuge, with apparently good reproduction. Several broods of 8-12 ducklings were observed. Mourning Doves were numerous; refuge personnel banded 1,086. An American Avocet was observed on August 19 for the second summer in a row. Cattle Egrets were numerous, with about 300 present. Bobwhite production was phenomenal. "Groups" of 75-100 were observed during the summer. John R. Eadie, Refuge Manager.

From Wheeler Refuge.--The dove situation looks good here, though we have a few scattered cases of trichomoniasis and pox. All wading birds have been especially short. Even Common Egrets and Little Blue Herons, both normally common, have been rare. We put up a set of old-fashioned martin gourds during late winter and these have been heavily used during spring and summer. Tom Atkeson, Refuge Manager.