

A SPRING SURVEY OF PEAK MIGRATION DATES OF  
BIRDS AT TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

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## INTRODUCTION

The dates of arrival and departure on a migration have long been the focal point for one of the most intensively studied aspects of avian biology. Yet it seems that their might be another factor of possibly greater importance than an "early" or "late" sighting; this being the fluctuating abundance among the migrants during their passage. James (1965) writes that "Actually, an analysis of the timing of the passage of peak abundances from year to year would be a much more sensitive yardstick than early or late dates in detecting distributional trends..."

It was with the above approach in mind that I proceeded with a migrant census in the spring of 1965. A census of this type does not require a great deal from the observer, except persistence -- the recording of birds on all possible dates being vital to the prediction of a trend. For a description of the procedure used on this census refer to Ambrose (1966).

## RESULTS

Following is a complete listing of all birds sighted during these spring censuses in AOU order within their respective status in the Upper Coastal Plain from Imhof (1962). Explanation of the various column headings follows.

Number of Records -- This denotes the number of days on which a species was recorded. The maximum number of sightings possible being 52, as I made 52 counts.

Arrival - Departure -- These headings give the observed arrival dates for winter residents and the occurrence dates of the transient species during the census. For species that did not exhibit a good peak, dates of observation are given (in parenthesis) under these headings.

Peak - This column represents what the author has estimated to be the dates at which the various species reached their maximum abundance during this migration.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS:

The following permanent residents were sighted. The figure in parenthesis represents the number of times each species was seen. Great Blue Heron (9), Wood Duck (2), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Sparrow Hawk (1), Bob-white (28), Mourning Dove (52), Barn Owl (52), Belted Kingfisher (9), Yellow s. Flicker (44), Pileated Woodpecker (12), Red-b.

Woodpecker (43). Red-headed Woodpecker (3), Hairy Woodpecker (14), Downy Woodpecker (25), Phoebe (6), Blue Jay (51), Common Crow (49), Carolina Chickadee (50), Tufted Titmouse (50), Brown-headed Nuthatch (6), Carolina Wren (52), Brown Thrasher (48), Robin (50), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Starling (52), Pine Warbler (2), Yellowthroat (10), House Sparrow (52), Red-winged Blackbird (3), Common Grackle (52), Brown-headed Cowbird (17), Cardinal (52), American Goldfinch (30), Rufous-sided Towhee (52), Chipping Sparrow (2), Field Sparrow (4).

WINTER RESIDENTS:

Species	No. Records	Departure	Peak
Pied-billed Grebe	4	(3/6, 3/22, 3/26, 4/4)	
Ring-necked Duck	2	(3/12, 3/15)	
Lesser Scaup	2	(3/18, 4/12)	
Ring-billed Gull	4	(3/10, 3/15, 3/19, 3/26)	
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	24	4/12	4/1
Brown Creeper	19	4/5	3/17
House Wren	2	(3/29, 4/10)	
Winter Wren	21	4/8	4/1
Hermit Thrush	6	(3/13, 3/14, 3/16, 3/23, 4/2, 4/4)	
Golden-cr. Kinglet	12	3/31	3/14
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	40	4/26	3/26
Cedar Waxwing	20	----	4/11
Myrtle Warbler	36	----	3/22
Rusty Blackbird	4	3/6	
Purple Finch	15	4/4	3/27
Slate-colored Junco	5	(3/11, 3/26, 4/2, 4/8, 4/14)	
White-th. Sparrow	52	occurred entire period	
Fox Sparrow	2	(3/20, 3/23)	
Swamp Sparrow	24	4/14	4/7
Song Sparrow	20	4/4	3/21

SUMMER RESIDENTS:

		Arrival	
Green Heron	6	(3/30, 4/8, 4/10, 4/12, 4/27, 4/29)	
Spotted Sandpiper	4	(4/22, 4/26, 4/28, 4/29)	
Chimney Swift	16	3/24	4/18
R.-thr. Hummingbird	9	3/28	4/4
Crested Flycatcher	2	(4/28, 4/29)	
Rough-winged Swallow	7	(4/1, 4/4, 4/5, 4/8, 4/13, 4/20, 4/22)	
Purple Martin	3	(3/29, 3/30, 4/13)	
Catbird	7	(4/20, 4/22, 4/26 thru 4/30)	
Wood Thrush	27	3/26	4/22
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	16	3/18	4/1
White-eyed Vireo	29	3/25	4/11
Red-eyed Vireo	8	(4/20 thru 4/28, 4/30)	
Black & White Warbler	6	3/27	4/3
Prothonotary Warbler	23	3/29	4/27
Yellow Warbler	12	4/5	4/28

Prairie Warbler	1	(4/2)		
Kentucky Warbler	6	(4/6, 4/8, 4/12, 4/23, 4/26, 4/28)		
Yellow Warbler	12	(4/21, 4/26)		
Hooded Warbler	4	3/27	4/6	
Orchard Oriole	6	(4/14, 4/22, 4/23, 4/26, 4/28, 4/30)		
Scarlet Tanager	1	(4/20)		
Summer Tanager	2	(4/26, 4/29)		

TRANSIENT SPECIES:

	Arrival	Departure		
Solitary Sandpiper	2	(4/21, 4/22)		
Veery	2	(4/29, 4/30)		
Warbling Vireo	1	(4/20)		
Worm-eating Warbler	7	4/8	4/14	4/11
Blue-w. Warbler	8	4/3	4/14	4/11
Tennessee Warbler	3	(4/6, 4/9, 4/28)		
Black-th.Gr.Warbler	1	(4/4)		
Cerulean Warbler	5	4/5	4/14	4/9
Blackburnian Warbler	1	(4/26)		
Blackpoll Warbler	1	(4/29)		
Western Palm Warbler	5	3/29	4/26	4/24
American Redstart	3	4/1	4/5	4/4
Rose-br. Grosbeak	3	(4/27, 4/28, 4/29)		

## LITERATURE CITED

- Ambrose, Richard E. 1966. Changes in abundance of Myrtle Warblers during spring migration at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. ALABAMA BIRDLIFE 14(2-3):9-13.
- Imhof, Thomas A. 1962. Alabama Birds. Univ. of Ala. Press.
- James, Douglas. 1965. Regional Reports Central Southern Region. Audubon Field Notes 19(1):46.

## ERRATA

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE, Vol. 14, No. 2-3 was improperly page-numbered. This issue, No. 4, is numbered as it would have been if this error had not been made.

The author's name is misspelled at the end of the article, "Changes in Abundance of Myrtle Warblers During Spring Migration at Tuscaloosa, Alabama." It should read, "Richard Ambrose."

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING  
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
NOVEMBER 18-20, 1966

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Jackson, Alabama, on November 18-20, 1966. Headquarters motel was the Jackson Motel on U. S. Route 43 By-pass. Sixty members and guest attended the meeting.

Friday Evening Program and Field Trips

The program began Friday evening with the showing of slides at The Restaurant adjoining the Jackson Motel. The members present enjoyed a series of slides of Alabama winter birds by Dr. Arthur A. Allen of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, shown by Helen Kittinger in the absence of Dr. Dan Holliman. A few slides of the White Pelican taken at Lake Purdy were also shown.

Field trips were led Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning to Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge, Fred T. Stimpson Sanctuary and the Upper State Sanctuary by Mr. Cecil E. McMullan. Mr. James R. Davis, Mr. Bill Hamrick, Mr. Huey Dykes and Mr. Fred Pringle.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 12:30 P. M., November 19, at The Restaurant with the following members present: Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., President; Mr. Frank D. Huttlinger, Treasurer; Mrs. Helen H. Kittinger, Secretary; Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor. ALABAMA BIRDLIFE; Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Librarian and Director; Mrs. Rosemary T. Dusi, Mr. Fairly Chandler and Mrs. Harriett H. Wright, Directors.

The Secretary read the minutes of the spring meeting which were approved as read. The President announced the appointment of Dr. Julian Dusi, Dr. Dan Holliman, Mr. Thomas Imhof and Mr. James Keeler to the Editorial Board to advise and consult with the editor of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE.

Plans for the winter meeting of A.O.S. were discussed. The date was tentatively set for January 28-29, 1967, at Scottsboro, Alabama.

The matter of birds protected by the laws of Alabama, and particularly hawks, was discussed. The Executive Council then discussed and approved a resolution opposing encroachment on Wheeler Wildlife Refuge to be voted on by the membership.

Dr. Maurice Baker reported on the cost of printing ALABAMA BIRDLIFE. Two issues containing four major articles in addition to notes and routine Society business had been printed in 1966 at a total cost of \$208. Dr. Dusi, Librarian, suggested reprinting certain back