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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This spring will see a significant achievement toward the conservation of birdlife in Alabama when the bird sanctuary on Dauphin Island becomes an Audubon National Wildlife Sanctuary. Credit is due to the untiring efforts over the years of Dr. Wilson Gaillard and his fellow Gulf Coast conservationists in creating from some sand dunes and a proposed but abandoned golf course a true sanctuary for both resident species and those who make the long trip across the waters to Mexico and Central America. They have literally built the sanctuary from the ground up -- planting, pruning and clearing areas. There are both pines and deciduous trees, habitat for waterfowl and open areas. Congratulations to our coastal birders and especially to Dr. Gaillard for bringing Alabama its first Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary!

AOS has adopted the conducting of spring and fall migration counts as a proposed part of the year-round surveying of the distribution of birds in Alabama. The spring counts are to be conducted during the last part of April or first part of May in the same manner as the Christmas counts. Specific dates are to be selected by the local groups conducting the counts. All groups are urged to participate in this program so that adequate information on the distribution and abundance of spring birds in the various parts of our state may be collected. All data, including both total species and total numbers of each, should be reported to the editor of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE.

In addition, during the nesting season there are two programs through which we can contribute to the collection of ornithological knowledge -- the North American Nest Record Program and the breeding bird survey conducted in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the nest record program is to collect data on as many nestings as possible throughout the continent and make it available to students, scientists and others. Single nest observations are desired although naturally observations over a period of time are more valuable. Data on common species is sought the same as on rare ones so all of us can easily participate in this program. The small cards, which contain instructions for their completion, may be obtained from Dr. Julian Dusi, coordinator for the program in Alabama.

The breeding bird survey involves statistically controlled observations along routes selected at random throughout the state. Alabama observers staffed forty such routes last year. The routes, each approximately 25-miles in length, are to be run during the month of June although because of our southern geographical location, it is most desirable that they be run during the first part of the month. In addition, the survey routes are not to be run if weather is rainy or too windy, so running them early is a hedge against missing a route due to bad weather. The value of the survey will be greatest in future years when repeated coverage of the same routes under comparable conditions may reveal changes in breeding populations of the various species.

It has certainly been a pleasure for me to have served as your president this past year, and I should like to thank for their assistance all the members of AOS who have cooperated so much in the work of the Society.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

THE STATUS OF THE CATTLE EGRET IN ALABAMA, 1966

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary T. Dusi

With the advent of the Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, into the heron colonies of Alabama, we have directed much of our heron research effort toward studies of this invading species, in an attempt to record its behavior and effects on our native species of wading birds and also to record the impact of the ecological factors of Alabama on this egret.

Our research has been supported in part by Research Grants-in-Aid from the Graduate School, Auburn University.

Summerour, 1964, has summarized the immigration of the Cattle Egret into Alabama and the first records of the colonies we have worked together, including our first positive nesting record (Dusi and Dusi, 1963) and the banding of the young from that nest. Manar, 1966, has characterized the egg white proteins of the Cattle Egret and Dusi, 1966, has described the characteristic appearance of the developing young. Our present report will summarize, in part, our data from banding and observations of population movements and density since 1963.

Banding of nestlings was done at colonies near Decatur, Montgomery, Opp, and Pansey, with most of the banding done at the Montgomery and Pansey colonies. Numbered aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service bands were used. In addition to the numbered bands, colored plastic Bandettes, obtained from the National Band and Tag Company, Newport, Kentucky, were used. The color band combinations used in 1963 were: Decatur, red band on the same leg as the numbered band; Montgomery, red and green bands on the leg opposite the numbered band; Opp, red band on leg opposite the numbered band; and Pansey, red and yellow bands on leg opposite the numbered band. In 1964, the same color code was used at Decatur, and at the Pansey colony, only the yellow bands were used. In 1965, the same combinations were used at the Decatur and Montgomery colonies. No color banding was done in 1966.

Each time a colony was visited, adults were carefully observed for bands, using 8 x 40 bioculars and sometimes a 20 power spotting scope. Groups of Cattle Egrets seen in pastures were usually checked for color bands also.

Observations were made at the colonies in an attempt to determine population trends. Groups of egrets seen in pastures along highways traveled and those observed by aerial reconnaissance, were used for the determination of distribution and relative density. Field reports of associates were also used for this purpose.

Results and Discussion

Migration and site faithfulness

Table 1, contains the numbers of birds banded and Table 2, contains the recovery data.

Table 1. Numbers of Nestlings Banded

Colony Locality	Numbers of bandings per year			
	1963	1964	1965	1966
Decatur	13	22	3	0 (1)
Montgomery	5	0	60	0
Opp	3	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Pansey	282	413	0 (2)	0 (1)
Totals	303	435	63	0 801

(1) Cattle Egrets did not nest in this colony this year.
(2) No nestlings reared to banding age.

Table 2. Banding Recoveries

Band Number				
636-44159	07-04-63	Pansey	12-30-63	El Pinal, Guatamala
636-44298	07-06-63	Pansey	09-__-65	Highlands, Texas
636-44301	07-06-63	Pansey	03-01-64	El Progreso, Honduras
636-44304	07-06-63	Pansey	08-06-63	Dothan, Alabama
636-44386	07-27-63	Pansey	07-06-64	Hartford, Alabama
636-44439	07-06-63	Pansey	01-10-64	Emiliano Zapato, Mexico
676-02950	08-01-64	Pansey	07-__-66	Port Comfort, Texas

Of the 801 nestlings banded, only seven recoveries, or about 0.8 per cent, have been obtained thus far. Even though the records are few and fragmentary, they are a definite indication that the Cattle Egrets from the Pansey colony migrate westward through Texas, Mexico, and into Central America. This is quite different from the pattern of the Little Blue Heron migration from Alabama, through Florida and the Bahamas, or through Cuba, to Central and South America (Dusi, 1964 and 1967). Too few recoveries are available for computing the mortality rate for the

Cattle Egret, as was done for the Little Blue Heron (Dusi, 1963), but general observations indicate that nestling mortality is similar and probably first-year mortality approaches that of the Little Blue Heron. With the first-year Little Blue Heron mortality rate of 74.1 per cent for hypothetical use, we calculate that of the 282 nestlings banded at Pansey in 1963, 73 would have survived the first year and of the 413 banded in 1964, 107 would have survived, as possible returnees to the Pansey colony. No returning birds were sighted in the colony area in 1964, and in 1965, one adult banded in 1964 was seen. This means that for breeding site faithfulness, none of the (73) 1963 nestlings returned and was seen and that of the (107) 1964 nestlings, one, or 0.93 per cent, returned. This is comparable to the results we have obtained (Dusi, 1963) for the Little Blue Heron nestlings of the same colony. In other colonies, returning birds were checked for color bands but none was seen. This was to be expected because of the small numbers of birds banded and the high mortality rate probability.

Nesting Colony Status

As Summerour, *op. cit.*, has reported, prior to 1963 there were no absolute records of the nesting of Cattle Egrets in Alabama. In 1963, we reported the first and only nest from the Opp colony. Shortly thereafter, Summerour located the Pansey colony and re-located the shifting one near Faunsdale. We both found Cattle Egrets at the Swan Creek colony at Decatur and they were present in the colony at Montgomery, that James E. Keeler and Robert W. Skinner described to us.

In 1964, the colony at Opp had no Cattle Egrets. All of the others we saw in 1963 had good nesting populations. Lloyd Crawford located a new colony near Florala and it contained a small population of Cattle Egrets.

The new colony of 1965 was one found on Cat Island, in Mississippi Sound, by Wilson Gaillard. The colony at Opp still had no more Cattle Egrets and the colony at Florala had none either. The Pansey colony, which had been strong for the past two years, was a nesting failure for the egrets. The Montgomery colony was strong and so was the colony at Faunsdale.

In 1966, there was no nesting colony at Pansey, Decatur, or Florala and no egrets at Opp. The colony at Montgomery was smaller because the area had been logged partially and the larger trees removed. The Faunsdale colony was very large and a new colony of Little Blue Herons, probably split off from the Faunsdale group, was reported by Robert R. Reid to be just south of Uniontown. Robert Skinner reported that the colony on Cat Island was large.

Table 3, gives the approximate numbers of Cattle Egret nests for the colonies for each of the years of the study. It also shows the additional species composition of each colony. It is interesting to note that we have seen no colonies that are completely formed of Cattle Egrets.

Table 3. Estimated Numbers of Cattle Egret Nests and Additional Species Composition in Colonies

Colony Locality	Numbers of Nests for Each Year of Study			
	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cat Island	--	--	75 (6)	75 (6)
Decatur	3 (3)	10 (3)	5 (3)	0
Faunsdale	50 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	200 (1)
Florala	--	25 (5)	0	0
Montgomery	25 (2)	20 (2)	150 (2)	25 (1)
Opp	1 (5)	0 (5)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Pansey	100 (4)	125 (4)	214 (1)	0

- (1) Little Blue Heron
- (2) Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret and Common Egret
- (3) Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Common Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron
- (4) Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Common Egret, White Ibis and Anhinga
- (5) Little Blue Heron and White Ibis
- (6) Snowy Egret, Louisiana Herons and Reddish Egret

Movement and Distribution

The movements and distribution of Cattle Egrets depend to a great degree on the presence or absence of lush pastures and a good population of insects. The birds arrive along the gulf coast early in February. Fairly Chandler told us that his first sighting at Magnolia Springs in 1966 was on February 11. Most of the birds stay along the gulf tier of counties feeding with cattle, following tractors, or by themselves, until the pastures inland grow and a population of forage crop insects develops. This is middle to late March, or even April in the northern counties. Then the egrets move into areas providing cattle and pasture acreage in the vicinity of a native heron colony. They roost in the colony with the already nesting Little Blue Herons but do not build nests themselves until sometime in May, usually after there are already young Little Blue Herons in the nests. Apparently nesting may go on into August and the adults and young still continue to use the colony area as a roosting site. They move from much of the State in early September and are found in the lower tier of counties until October. George Folkerts reported seeing no Cattle Egrets in Alabama or northern Florida but did see them from Ocala and southward, on November 24, 1966. Maurice F. Baker reported seeing two flocks of Cattle Egrets, each of about 50 birds, along Interstate Highway 75 between Ocala and Gainesville, Florida, on December 27, 1966. None were reported seen north of Gainesville.

In general, distribution in Alabama is heaviest in the good pasture regions in the southern tier of counties and following the large rivers northward through the coastal plain, especially in localities with nesting colonies of native herons. They are also present in the pastures of the Tennessee Valley. Rarely are they seen in the Piedmont and mountain areas, as well as in the large heavily wooded areas in much of the rest of the state.

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1966 - EVENING GROSBEEK YEAR

Harriett Wright

Howell (1924) does not include the Evening Grosbeak among the birds of Alabama. Imhof (1962:532) states that since 1956 the Evening Grosbeak, Hesperiphona vespertina, has become known as a rare and local bird in winter in Alabama.

Evening Grosbeaks have appeared in Alabama in greater numbers during the first part of the years 1958, 1962, 1966 (Wright 1962). A much smaller number was noted in the fall of 1959 and early part of 1960 (Anon. 1960). Only one record is reported for the first part of 1961 (Imhof 1961). No Evening Grosbeaks were reported in ALABAMA BIRDLIFE for the first part of the years 1957, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1965. It will be of interest to observe the Evening Grosbeak invasions in future years to note if the greater numbers follow the four year cycle suggested by the 1958, 1962 and 1966 invasions.

Ludlow Griscom emphasized the importance of food availability when explaining movements of nomadic species (James 1958). Douglas James (1958) pointed out that in the winter of 1957-58 there was a general scarcity of conifer seeds, deciduous tree seeds and berries in the boreal forest. The 1961-62 winter marked the first year that Arkansas and Louisiana experienced an Evening Grosbeak invasion and showed a progressively greater southern penetration, close to the Gulf Coast in three states (James, 1962). According to James (1962), Aaron Bagg reported the increasing breeding population of Evening Grosbeaks in the northeast which may be noteworthy in regard to the increasing wintering of Evening Grosbeaks in the south.

The first report of the Evening Grosbeaks in Alabama for the 1965-1966 season was made on the Christmas counts of December, 1965, both for the Birmingham area and Anniston area (Anon. 1966). Not until February 5, 1966, did two male Evening Grosbeaks appear at the feeder of the author. Following this date Evening Grosbeaks were seen at the feeder until May 4th with a final appearance of one female. A total of 76 Evening Grosbeaks, 25 males and 51 females, were banded. Rarely, in a flock of 15-20 could more than two bands be seen. This might indicate that the flock was more or less moving, but does suggest very substantial numbers of Grosbeaks in the vicinity.

Two Evening Grosbeaks trapped in the 1966 spring season were recoveries: a male, 591-37968, banded at Sykesville, Pa. March 18, 1966 and retrapped at this station April 10, 1966; the second, a female, 631-06122, banded at Lake Junaluska, N. C. on April 12, 1964 and retrapped at this station April 14, 1966. Of the 50 Evening Grosbeaks banded at this station in the spring of 1962, one female, 621-70642, banded April 16, was retrapped March 21, 1963 at Ballaton Spa, N. Y.

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KIRTLAND'S WARBLER IN ALABAMA?

In October we received from Dr. William J. Calvert, Jr., of Jacksonville a detailed account of his observation of a warbler, which he concluded with, "I can find no other warbler, however, that is nearly like what I saw except the Kirtland's." In February I received another letter from him in which he said, "My last letter to you contained the report of the Kirtland's Warbler. I sent a similar record to Roger Tory Peterson and received the same judgement: the bird would have been creditable if it had not been so extremely rare and if more than one person had seen it." This experience points out the need for absolute identification of rare or unusual birds, and also illustrates one of the reasons bird watchers watch birds - namely, you never know what you might see next.

The Editor

THE 1966 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Summarized by the Editor

The 1966 Christmas Bird Counts were made in locations as follows: Auburn (Au), Birmingham (Bi), Bon Secour (BS), Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (DI), Jacksonville (Ja) and Mobile (Mo). The count made by the Calhoun County group was made in an area centered around Jacksonville instead of Anniston as had been done previously, and they plan to use this new location for future counts. This report follows the same format as those of previous years.

Background Data of Counts

Auburn:--The Christmas Bird Count was made at Auburn, Alabama, December 30, 1966. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle was the Auburn Post Office. Composition of the area was: mixed woods, 50%; pastures and open fields, 30%; water and mud flats, 20%. Weather was overcast with light drizzle in the afternoon. Temperature at start, 34° and 35° at end. Wind was 0-10 mph variable. Nine observers made three parties, which spent 23 party hours in the field, driving 139 miles, walking 2.5 miles and one mile by boat.

Participants were: M. F. Baker, Beth Baker, D. L. Bateman, J. L. Dusi (compiler), R. T. Dusi, T. Ellis, W. E. Goslin, P. Spencer, and B. F. Young.

Total species recorded, 64; total individuals, 502,254.

Birmingham:--December 26, 1966: overcast, temperature 30° to 51°; low of 15° the morning before was not only the coldest for the winter thus far but the coldest Christmas of record here. Thirty-four observers in 11 parties spent 112 party-hours afield from 5:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and traveled 595 miles by car and on foot.

Observers (names of party leaders underscored) by party: Raymond Bates, Andy Bates, Jack Carusos, Ranny Kittinger, Blanche Chapman, Elizabeth Archibald, Mary Ivy Burks, Blanche E. Dean, Walter F. Coxe, L. E. Greene, Agnes Simonetti, Dan C. Holliman, Mike Creel, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, compiler, Helen Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger, Ronny Kittinger, Clustie McTyeire, Frederick P. Fish, Jr., Anne Fish, Morton H. Perry, Russell Perry, M. F. Prather, Frederick T. Carney, Margie Tillotson, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Elberta Reid, George Maynard, Russell Bailey, James Shepherd, Idalene Snead, Corinne Glaze, Virginia Nancarrow.

Total species recorded, 92; total individuals, 14,594.

Bon Secour:--Count was made December 31, 1966, with the center of the census area at the Bon Secour post office, beginning at 5:30 A.M. and ending at 6:30 P.M.; temperature 44° to 50°; partly cloudy; wind SE 10-18. Miles on foot, 8; miles by car, 208.

Observers: Fairley Chandler (compiler), Fred Auther, Tuck Hayward,

Helen Kittinger, Rickey Kittinger, Robert Reid, Jr., Elberta Reid and C. P. Bianco.

Total species recorded, 97; total individuals, 19,172.

Dauphin Island:--The Mobile Chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society conducted a bird count, December 26, 1966, at Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens Area. The weather was rainy and overcast.

Participants were: Fred Bowers, A. B. Clark, Fr. J. L. Dorn, S.J., Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Tuck Hayward, Sybil Hanks, Louise McKinstry, Margaret Miller, Ross Partridge, Temple Seibels, Elin Silsby, Jim and Genevieve Spafford, and Fr. Matt Turk, S.J.

Total species recorded, 135; total individuals, 20,048.

Jacksonville:--All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center town square in Jacksonville, to include Jacksonville State University campus, Choccolocco Valley, Bishop's bottoms, and Finks Lake; deciduous woods 60%, fields 20%, lakes and streams 18%, residential 2%. December 23, 1966; 6:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Misty A.M.; Temperature 50° to 58°; wind NE, 4 mph; eight observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 15½ (8½ on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles, 89½ (11½ on foot, 78 b car).

Participants were: Mr. R. E. Ambrose (compiler), Dr. W. J. Calvert, Mr. J. W. Johnson, Dr. K. E. Landers, Dr. L. G. Sanford, Mr. M. R. Swayer, Mr. C. W. Summerour, Mr. I. W. Webster.

Total species recorded, 60; total individuals, 3,574.

Mobile:--December 31, 1966; cloudy and rainy; 43° to 57°; winds SE 8-16 mph; time 6:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.; 22 observers in 10 parties; 73 party hours; 426 party miles.

Participants were: A. B. Clark, Fred Bowers, Clara Caffey, J. L. Dorn, S. J. (compiler), Mark Feldhaus, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard, Sybil Hanks, Kathleen Johnstone, Harry Inge Johnstone, Electa Levi, W. D. McDaniel, Louise McKinstry, Margaret Miller, Ross Partidge, Weatherby Partridge, Elin Silsby, Ava Tabor, Lib Toenes, Bob Wagner, Lorna West.

Total species recorded, 141; total individuals, 22,840.

Synopsis of all Counts

Name of Bird	Number Seen by Localities					
	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Ja	Mo
Common Loon			29	10		2
Horned Grebe				18		35

	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Ja	Mo
Eared Grebe		2	21			6
Pied-billed Grebe	4	81	18	12	36	68
Brown Pelican				3		
Gannet				1		
Double Cr. Cormorant			65	457		10
Great Blue Heron	5	4	11	12	2	22
Green Heron						4
Little Blue Heron				3		6
Cattle Egret			1			1
Common Egret				3		69
Snow Egret				6		54
Louisiana Heron				19		11
Yellow-cr. Night Heron			1			
Least Bittern			1			
Amer. Bittern						1
White Ibis				1		60
Canada Goose				1		1
Snow Goose				4		
Blue Goose		3		1		42
Mallard		44		7	3	52
Black Duck		1				1
Gadwall		3		10	37	900
Pintail						137
Gree-w. Teal		4		3		314
Blue-w. Teal			1	2		8
American Widgeon		4			30	76
Shoveller				3		505
Wood Duck		2		8	12	8
Redhead		5				22
Ring-necked Duck	1	341		10	7	124
Canvasback		105		13	2	462
Greater Scaup			14	4		22
Lesser Scaup		30	3	337		1351
Common Golden-eye		1	5	65		
Bufflehead		6	13	3		12
Ruddy Duck	1	22				57
Hooded Merganser	1			5		9
Red-br. Merganser			250	28		16
Unidentified Scamp			28			
Turkey Vulture	5			3		
Black Bulture	2			19		
Sharp-sh. Hawk						1
Cooper's Hawk			1	1		
Red-tailed Hawk	5	7	5	4	5	9
Red-sh. Hawk	2	11	1	3	1	3
Broad-winged Hawk		1	1	3		
Marsh		1	6	14		11
Sparrow Hawk	3	8	50	24	5	12
Bobwhite	15	52	26	58	1	42
Turkey		1				
Sandhill Crane				1		

	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Ja	Mo
King Rail			3	6		8
Clapper Rail				20		7
Virginia Rail			2	2		7
Sora	1			2		2
Common Gallinule			3			22
American Coot		1299	60	66	410	3800
Am. Oystercatcher				2		
Semipalm. Plover				8		3
Piping Plover						2
Killdeer	19	185	300	21	15	207
Black-bel. Plover				46		26
Ruddy Turnstone				6		1
American Woodcock				39		10
Common Snipe	13	44	10	20		40
Spotted Sandpiper						4
Willet				3		1
Greater Yellowlegs				7		6
Lesser Yellowlegs				3		1
Knot				31		
Least Sandpiper		46		2		3
Dunlin				38		85
Short-b. Dowitcher				29		
Long-b. Dowitcher						1
Semipalm. Snadpiper				4		150
Western Sandpiper				11		17
Sanderling			10	112		
Am. Avolet						25
Herring Gull			130	287		182
Ring-billed Gull			93	211		432
Laughing Gull			9	15		16
Bonaparte's Gull			21	31		40
Forster's Tern			24	14		55
Common Tern			1	2		6
Royal Tern			4	5		77
Sandwich Tern						15
Caspian Tern						2
Black Skimmer				4		75
Mourning Dove	88	520	300	83	81	543
Ground Dove			1	7		2
Barn Owl						3
Screech Owl	1			3		2
Burrowing Owl				1		
Great-horned Owl	1	2				
Barred Owl		1				
Belted Kingfisher	2	44	14	53	2	24
Yellow-sh. Flicker	11	129	47	39	26	111
Pileated Woodpecker	2	36	1	3	3	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	80	16	21	31	37
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	37		8		7
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	8	26	7	7	9	22

	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Ja	Mo
Hairy Woodpecker	1	16	1	7	2	2
Downy Woodpecker	7	73	4	6	9	8
Red-cockaded W'pecker		5				
Eastern Phoebe	14	8	12	10		4
Horned Lark		13				
Tree Swallow			4	65		454
Rough-winged Swallow						2
Blue Jay	48	392	100	196	59	563
Common Crow	39	181	8	90	300	56
Fish Crow			90	288		35
Carolina Chickadee	60	243	14	8	37	13
Tufted Titmouse	21	266	23	6	20	80
White-br. Nuthatch		50			2	
Red-br. Nuthatch		1				
Brown-headed Nuthatch	23	78	10	119	4	1
Brown Creeper	1	15	1	2	2	
House Wren		2	8	6		4
Winter Wren	2	8		3		1
Bewick's Wren		1	1			
Carolina Wren	11	142	22	21	32	35
Long-bill. Marsh Wren				13		7
Short-bill. Marsh Wren			3			2
Mockingbird	23	277	76	125	44	144
Catbird			3	40		10
Brown Trasher	18	108	17	36	10	99
Robin	38	266	1200	5040	22	786
Hermit Thrush	6	9	3	7		5
Eastern Bluebird	29	69	91	5	41	30
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher			1	2		9
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	68	7	1	26	5
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	32	150	27	42	44	78
Water Pipit	81	75	100	1		13
Cedar Waxwing		212		26	54	248
Loggedhead Shrike	9	37	22	23	21	25
Starling	55000	1374	350	1301	336	699
White-eyed Vireo				1		
Solitary Vireo			1			
Black & Sh. Warbler						1
Orange-cr. Warbler			2	34		23
Myrtle Warbler	37	76	700	972	10	876
Pine Warbler	54	37	7	51	7	8
Palm Warbler		2	6	38		
Yellowthroat		1	5	8	2	14
House Sparrow	37	442	200	92	38	575
E. Meadowlark	137	340	250	303	161	476
Red-w. Blackbird	185000	1452	12500	3236	9	2624
Baltimore Oriole						1
Rusty Blackbird		1074		19	711	224
Brewer s Blackbird			30	140		3
Boat-t. Grackle			9			274

	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Ja	Mo
Common Grackle	50000	65	500	3229	2	1570
Brown-h. Cowbird	210000	235	100	295	102	49
Cardinal	141	557	200	131	67	156
Purple Finch	11	22		6	6	20
Pine Siskin		14				
Am. Goldfinch	105	486	133	204	31	133
Rufous-s. Towhee	67	396	225	221	49	362
Savannah Sparrow	31	45	100	139	27	248
LeConte's Sparrow			3			1
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			3	8		
Seaside Sparrow			4	14		4
Vesper Sparrow	6	22	36	6		15
Bachman's Sparrow		2				
State-col. Junco	190	605	2		142	1
Chipping Sparrow	285	107	8	28	10	74
Field Sparrow	237	203	9	4	187	22
White Cr. Sparrow		2				
White-thr. Sparrow	144	616	250	605	103	973
Fox Sparrow	20	37		4	13	1
Lincoln's Sparrow			1			
Swamp Sparrow	22	116	25	300	32	29
Song Sparrow	66	312	57	63	82	41
Lapland Longspur		1				

Comments of the Compilers

Birmingham:--Seen during the count period but not on the count day: Oldsquaw, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Herring Gull, Ring-Billed Gull, and Screech Owl. Twelve species were recorded in record high numbers.

Bon Secour:--The mid winter probably accounts for some unusual records such as the Cattle Egret, Least Bittern and Broadwinged Hawk.

Jacksonville:--Heavy fog until 9:30 A. M. followed by cloudy moderate weather hampered observations. The Yellowthroat was our first mid-winter record, and the Canvasback was late by one month for the area.

Mobile:--Seen during the count period but not on the count day: Common Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, Turkey Vulture, Black Bulture, Short-billed Dowitcher and Barred Owl.

MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FEBRUARY 25-26, 1967

The regular winter meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at the Liberty Motel in Scottsboro, Alabama, February 25-26, 1967, with 45 members and guests registered. Field trips were conducted Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to the waterfowl refuges and management areas in Jackson County, particularly the Mud Creek Waterfowl Management Area and the North Sauty Waterfowl Refuge. Leading the trips were Mr. J. H. English, Conservation Department Area Biologist, Mr. T. W. Linville, Manager of the Conservation Department Refuges on Lake Guntersville, and Mr. James Robinson, Mr. James Keeler, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene West, members of the Society.

Saturday Night Program

The banquet and program were held Saturday night at the Liberty Restaurant. The President reported on the responses the Society had received to its resolution adopted last fall opposing encroachment on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., Director of Wheeler Refuge, outlined various requests being made for the release of refuge lands and the effect such releases would have on the wildlife management and conservation programs being carried on there.

Mr. James Robinson, Vice-President, introduced Mr. English who gave a most interesting talk and showed slides of the programs being carried on at the refuges and game management areas. A question and answer period followed, including a discussion of stream channelization.

Compilation

Following the field trips on Sunday morning, a compilation was held at the Liberty Motel with Mr. James Robinson in charge. The members reported 68 species observed during the meeting. Adding two species of waterfowl observed in the Scottsboro area prior to the beginning of the meeting and two after the compilation would bring the total to 72. The most impressive observations were of the water birds, particularly the large numbers of Mallards, Black Ducks, Gadwalls, Hooded Mergansers and Snipe and the large flock of Canada Gees on the upper part of North Sauty Creek.

Meeting of the Executive Council

The Executive council met at 12:30 P. M., February 26, 1967, at the Liberty Restaurant with the following members present: Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., President; Mr. James C. Robinson, Vice-President; Mrs. Helen H. Kittinger, Secretary; Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Director and Editor of Newsletter; Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Mr. James Keeler and Mr. Bob Skinner, Directors.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with since they had been previously printed in ALABAMA BIRDLIFE, and the same as so printed were approved. The President announced the appointment of Dr. Julian L. Dusi,

Chairman, Dr. Dan C. Holliman and Mrs. Clara L. Caffey to the Nominating Committee. He also announced that an auditing committee would be appointed soon.

The President read the report from the Editor of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE. The last issue of 1966, composed of eight pages and of which 300 copies were printed, cost a total of \$101.52 - printing \$82.16, reprints of one article \$9.36 and postage \$10.00. The Editor reported that the free reprint policy was desirable to encourage authors to contribute articles and that it should be continued with the modification, however, that authors whose employers normally purchase reprints should be reasonably expected to do so.

The matter of the necessity of raising dues and the problem of stream channelization were discussed.

In the absence of Dr. Dusi, the President read the report of the Librarian. He reported that the Society's library was growing, the most recent additions being exchanges for THE SCISSORTAIL, a publication of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, THE RING, an international publication of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Warsaw, Poland devoted largely to bird banding, and EGRETТА, which is an Austrian journal.

Under old business, the matter of protection of beneficial hawks under the game laws of Alabama was discussed. It was noted that the best expert ornithological opinion in the state was that the buteos were protected species, but the laws should be made clearer to that effect. After discussion it was, upon motion duly made and seconded, resolved that the Society approve and support an amendment to the game laws of Alabama making it clear that all buteo hawks are protected species, that the Society cooperate with the State Department of Conservation in obtaining passage of such legislation and that the officers of the Society take all action deemed necessary or desirable to that end.

Plans for future meetings were discussed. There being no further no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen H. Kittinger, Secretary

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President - Robert R. Reid, Jr., 715 Fairway Drive, Birmingham 35213

Vice President - James C. Robinson, Route 1 Box 91, Brownsboro 35741

Treasurer - Frank D. Huttlinger, Box 1945, Tuscaloosa 35486

Secretary - Helen Kittinger, 2721 Southview Drive, Birmingham 35216

Immediate Past President - Robert W. Waters, 168 Green Street, Auburn 36830

Editor, ALABAMA BIRDLIFE - Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Wildlife Research Unit, Auburn 36830

Editor, Newsletter - Dan C. Holliman, Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham 35204

Librarian - Dr. Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Directors:

State-at-Large (Reporter for Audubon Field Notes and Coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey) - Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218

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

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