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Harriett (Mrs. D. O.) Wright
2749 Millbrook Road
Birmingham, Alabama

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,