

THE 1967 BIRMINGHAM MIGRATION COUNTS

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

A colorful day of spring migrants and the brilliant foliage of autumn hardwoods highlighted the 1967 migration counts conducted by the Birmingham Audubon Society, using the Christmas Bird Count area and rules.

The spring count was held on May 6. Weather was mostly cloudy; temperature 62° to 73°; winds southerly 8 mph, a tornado striking the western edge of the area an hour before dusk. Twenty-nine observers (10 parties) logged 99½ party-hours, traveling 446 miles (390½ automobile, 53 foot, 2½ canoe) recorded 137 species and 9,934 individuals. Three additional species observed within a week of the count made a total of 140. Twelve records in abundance were set for the area.

The fall count was held on October 28. Weather was clear. Winds northerly 5 mph; temperature 38° to 66°. Thirty-three observers (nine parties) spent 97 party-hours, traveling 421 miles (372 automobile, 49 foot) to record 93 species and 15,479 individuals. The fall count was held later than in previous years in an attempt to get late departures and the bulk of winter residents, resulting in 25 species recorded during the count period but not on the count, making a total of 118 species. Fifteen late departure and early arrival records were set. These exclude a few individuals remaining into the winter, as the Little Blue Heron, Common Egret, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. If a 11-23-63 Solitary Sandpiper was considered a wintering bird, the one on the fall count would be a late migrant.

Birds Observed On The Counts

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|-------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Common Loon | | *(n) | Lesser Scaup | 14 | 2 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 4 | 25 | Ruddy Duck | | 5 |
| Great Blue Heron | 1 | 3 | Hooded Merganser | | * |
| Green Heron | 19(g) | | Red-br. Merganser | | * |
| Little Blue Heron | | 1(l) | Turkey Vulture | 7 | 8 |
| Common Egret | | 1(m) | Black Vulture | | * |
| Y-cr Night Heron | 3 | | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | 1 |
| American Bittern | 1 | | Cooper's Hawk | | 1 |
| Blue Goose (b) | 1 | 1 | Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | 4 |
| Mallard | 7 | 8 | Red-shouldered Hawk | 3 | 10 |
| Gadwall | | 3 | Marsh Hawk | | * |
| Green-winged Teal | | 3 | Pigeon Hawk | | 2 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 2 | 2(m) | Sparrow Hawk (c) | 1 | 14(e) |
| American Widgeon | | * | Bobwhite | 154 | 22 |
| Shoveler | | * | Turkey | | 2 |
| Wood Duck | 6 | 4 | American Coot | 15 | 479 |
| Redhead | | *(n) | Semipalmated Plover | 1 | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 2 | 103 | Killdeer | 68 | 193 |
| Canvasback | | 4 | American Woodcock | | * |

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Common Snipe | 5 | 38 | Carolina Wren | 185(d) | 158 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 20 | | L-billed Marsh Wren | * | * |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 16 | 1 | S-billed Marsh Wren | 1 | 1 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | * | Mockingbird | 279 | 204 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 1 | 1(m) | Catbird | 29 | 1 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | * | Brown Thrasher | 76 | 37 |
| Least Sandpiper | 12 | 18 | American Robin | 240 | 283 |
| Herring Gull | | * | Wood Thrush | 180 | *(m) |
| Common Tern | | * | Hermit Thrush | | 6 |
| Mourning Dove | 296 | 608 | Swainson's Thrush | 10 | |
| Y-b Cuckoo | 55(d) | 1 | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 | |
| HL-b Cuckoo | 2 | | Veery | 4 | |
| Screech Owl | 1 | | Eastern Bluebird | 47 | 85 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | 2 | B-g Gnatcatcher | 58 | 1(l) |
| Barred Owl | | 1 | G-c Kinglet | 80 | |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 12 | | R-c Kinglet | 4 | 77 |
| Common Nighthawk | 16 | | Cedar Waxwing | 92 | |
| Chimney Swift | 481 | | Loggerhead Shrike | 8 | 14 |
| R-thr Hummingbird | 7 | | European Starling | 947 | 5,992 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 19 | 21 | White-eyed Vireo | 82 | |
| Y-s Flicker | 63 | 98 | Y-throated Vireo | 40 | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 18 | 28 | Solitary Vireo | | * |
| R-b Woodpecker | 74 | 68 | Red-eyed Vireo | 228 | *(m) |
| R-h Woodpecker | 44 | 31 | Warbling Vireo | 1 | |
| Y-b Sapsucker | 2(k) | 38(e) | B-&W Warbler | 28 | * |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 11 | 9 | Prothonotary Warbler | 35(f) | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 48 | 63 | Worm-eating Warbler | 2 | |
| Red-c Woodpecker | 4 | 6 | G-winged Warbler | 1 | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 107(g) | | B-winged Warbler | 17 | |
| Western Kingbird | 1(h) | | Tennessee Warbler | 27 | 16 |
| Gr-cr Flycatcher | 144 | | O-crowned Warbler | | * |
| Eastern Phoebe | 18 | 32(e) | Nashville Warbler | 3(i) | *(m) |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 28 | | Parula Warbler | 10 | |
| Least Flycatcher | 2 | | Yellow Warbler | 134(d) | |
| E. Wood Pewee | 129(d) | | Magnolia Warbler | 2 | 1 |
| Bank Swallow | 21 | | Cape May Warbler | 6 | |
| Rough-w Swallow | 40 | | Myrtle Warbler | 26 | 253(f) |
| Barn Swallow | 22 | | B-thr-Green Warbler | 4 | 3 |
| Cliff Swallow | 2 | | Cerulean Warbler | 6 | |
| Purple Martin | 218 | | Blackburnian Warbler | 3 | 2 |
| Blue Jay | 330 | 383 | Y-throated Warbler | 23 | |
| Common Crow | 125 | 188 | Chestnut-s Warbler | 23 | |
| Carolina Chickadee | 149 | 219 | Bay-breasted Warbler | 4 | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 167 | 132 | Blackpoll Warbler | 14 | |
| Wh-br Nuthatch | 19 | 27 | Pine Warbler | 33 | 70(e) |
| Red-br Nuthatch | | 2 | Prairie Warbler | 55 | |
| Br-hd Nuthatch | 70 | 67 | Palm Warbler | 9 | 12(o) |
| Brown Creeper | | 1 | Ovenbird | 6 | *(l) |
| House Wren | | 1 | Northern Waterthrush | 3 | |
| Winter Wren | | 7 | Louisiana Waterthrush | 33(e) | |

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|--------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|------|
| Kentucky Warbler | 29 | | Rose-b Grosbeak | 86(d) | 1(m) |
| Yellowthroat | 82 | 3 | Blue Grosbeak | 43 | |
| Y-breasted Chat | 105(d) | *(k) | Indigo Bunting | 145 | 6 |
| Hooded Warbler | 40 | | American Goldfinch | 375 | 23 |
| Canada Warbler | 4 | | Rufous-sided Towhee | 330 | 194 |
| American Redstart | 22 | | Savannah Sparrow | 9 | 46 |
| House Sparrow | 703 | 478 | Grasshopper Sparrow | | 1 |
| Bobolink | 169 | | Vesper Sparrow | 1(i) | 10 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 177 | 196 | Slate-colored Junco | | 6 |
| Red-w Blackbird | 378 | 814 | Chipping Sparrow | 97 | 69 |
| Orchard Oriole | 53 | | Field Sparrow | 72 | 92 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 21(g) | | White-cr Sparrow | *(j) | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | * | White-th Sparrow | 35 | 301 |
| Common Grackle | 225 | 892 | Fox Sparrow | | *(n) |
| Br-headed Cowbird | 122 | 107 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 2(m) | 4 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 39(e) | * | Swamp Sparrow | 5 | 108 |
| Summer Tanager | 78 | * | Song Sparrow | 2 | 126 |
| Cardinal | 376 | 216 | | | |

Explanation of Notations

- * Observed within a week of the count date but not on the count.
- (b) A permanent resident on East Lake since first reported on 4-19-66.
- (c) Total numbers of individuals include two unidentified hawks and five unidentified Empidonax Flycatchers on the spring count and 1,500 unidentified blackbirds on the fall count.
- (d) High state record for abundance in Alabama.
- (e) High inland record in abundance for Alabama, except for a fall ceilometer casualty record in the case of the Scarlet Tanager.
- (f) High record in abundance for Northern Alabama.
- (g) High record in abundance for Mountain Region of Alabama.
- (h) Second inland spring record of this western species in Alabama.
- (i) Late state record for Alabama.
- (j) Late state record, outside of the Tennessee Valley.
- (k) Late inland record for Alabama.
- (l) Late record for Northern Alabama.
- (m) Late record for Mountain Region. Tie records for Blue-winged Teal and Nashville Warbler. The Lesser Yellowlegs was a cripple, minus a wing.
- (n) Early record for Mountain Region.
- (o) Three Palm Warblers were banded and were the yellow eastern race.

Participants (party leaders underscored) of both counts were: Naomi Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Michael L. Bierly, Jack N. Carusos, Walter F. Coxe, Blanche E. Dean, Mildred Ferris, Ann and Fred Fish, Corinne Glaze, Ed Greene, Helen H. Kittinger, Christine Leake, Clustie McIyeire, Annie Bestor Mitchell, Margarette K. Persons, Robert R. Reid, Jr., and Idalene F. Snead. Spring count only: Elizabeth Archibald, Ruth Brabston, Jerome B. Couch, Dan C. Holliman, Morton H. Perry, Rose Perry, Margie Tillotson, Joan Whittaker, and Lawanda Woods. Fall count only: J. Russell Bailey, Mary Burks, Ruth Carmichael, Dale Carruthers, Steve and Kevin Carusos, Blanche H. Chapman, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Ricky Kittinger, Wilma Lindberg, Virginia Nancarrow, Elberta G. Reid, and Harriett H. Wright.

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GENERAL NOTES

AVOCET RECORD

Two American Avocets, Recurvirostra americana, were collected one mile north of Montgomery, Montgomery Co., Alabama, August 20, 1967. They were in a shallow, one-acre open pond with a small flock of Blue-winged Teal. This is the first record for the upper coastal plain for this western species. There has been only one specimen for the state and it is in the National Museum. The specimens reported here are in the collection of the Alabama Department of Conservation.- - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER RECORD

A female White-winged Scoter, Melanitta deglandi, was seen in the Gulf of Mexico, one mile west of Pelican Point, Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., Alabama, on August 12, 1967. The bird was about 200 yards off shore and was approached to within 30 yards by boat. This represents an early record for the Gulf Coast. - - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW RECORD

A single Long-billed Curlew, Numenius americanus, was sighted on the beach at Destin, Okaloosa Co., Florida, July 23, 1967.- - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.