

November, 1969

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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year of 1969 has been an exciting year for all those who find pleasure in the waters, the waysides and the green of summer. And there are more unbought and unpaid for pleasures to come in the changing kaleidoscopic panorama that flows across our Appalachian hills every fall. (Few pause to think that this great arresting and exhilarating phenomena occurs in only a small part of the world, and no where with the vim and vigor of our Southern Highlands.) The utter nourishment of contentment and thrills of pleasure from this annual arborization lifts the spirit within us from bare trees to green trees to red, yellow, orange and brown trees. The joys of living such days leaves man in debt!

Not all of the year has it been possible to relish nature's joys. The continuing inroads of civilization and men who do not see and hear, has sent many of our people to the State Capitol this year, and sent many a letter to anxious and worried politicians. (There are really many called by this appellation who want to know how and what to do about preserving nature, but who are confused and lack information and knowledge.) And some good things have been accomplished with the aid of those who wish to practice conservation.

Everyone from Governor Brewer to Conservation Directors Graham and Carr have assured us the Nature Center will be built in Oak Mountain State Park. The Education Department of the State has helped immensely by assurances of competent folks to operate such a center. This is surely the best thing that has happened for nature lovers in many, many long years. Our fall meeting, planned for November 21, 22, 23 in Birmingham will feature some fine birding and netting in the preferred area for the Nature Center, with (hopefully) a miniature or mock up of how the building and area may look on completion. Dan Holliman and Bob Reid, both past AOS Presidents have done yeoman work on selling the need of the Nature Center.

There are many things to do and so many encroachments to resist that it is desirous for all to keep alert and voice our thoughts to responsible legislators on such matters as channelization of our streams, needless destruction of habitat, green borders that should be built, air to be cleaned and waters to be washed and scrubbed, and so many things that effect our future!

But there too, thankfully, are canoes to be paddled and trails to be walked, and birds to be sought and seen and wonders to behold, such as three common (so beautiful) terns resting on a stump jutting from the waters of Smith Lake, oblivious of the softly gliding canoe and its occupants. . . . or your own special thrill in your own yard!

See you in Birmingham November 21,

For a Better Land

Walter F. Coxe

BELL'S VIREO IN ALABAMA

Thomas A. Imhof

Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii Audubon) is known to breed east to Madison, Wisc., Joliet (suburban Chicago) and Mt. Carmel (Wabash valley) Ill., Memphis, Tenn., El Dorado and Stuttgart, Ark., Shreveport, La., and Houston, Tex. Thus Alabama is at least 250 miles east and 500 miles south of the breeding range. The species is known here as a casual spring and fall transient.

Spring records are: 26 April (1965, Dauphin Island, Edith Halberg); 28 April (1937, Irondale, Birmingham, H. M. Stevenson); and 28 April (1961, a pair, male singing, Brownsboro, J. C. and Margaret Robinson). Fall records are: 19 to 31 August (1932, Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, H. M. Stevenson and H. E. Wheeler); 30 August (1969, one bird, banded and photographed in color, Thomas Creek, Birmingham, T. A. Imhof, Helen Kittinger, and others); and 2 September (1959, Dauphin Island, O. B. Miles); and 15 October (1969 Dauphin Island, banded, Margaret E. Miller).

The 2 x 2 Kodachrome transparency of the August 1969 bird is recognizable and is considered by this writer sufficient material evidence of the occurrence of the species in Alabama. It is now in the slide collection of the Alabama Ornithological Society. The bird, an immature (skull ossification incomplete) had no fat and was not moulting. The following measurements in millimeters were taken: wing 51, wing tip (tip of longest primary to tip of nearest secondary) 6, exposed culmen 11, tarsus, 17, tail, 41, weight 8.2 grams at 10:37 hours. Both 1969 birds were separated from the White-eyed Vireo by the dark eye and white instead of yellow spectacles; further, both measurements verify that Bell's Vireo is a much smaller bird.

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THE SEASON SPRING 1969

Compiler and Editor—Thomas A. Imhof

For more than two years now, most of Alabama has had colder weather than usual. Although last summer and fall were very dry, December 1968 started a wetter than usual trend. This spring continued wet and cold, particularly inland where Birmingham had its wettest May ever—11.10 inches (7.68 in excess). March here had a 7.9⁰ deficiency. This cool, rainy weather meant that development of vegetation was about 2 weeks late and many times the birds had poor flying conditions. As a result, many trans-Gulf migrants were recorded almost daily from 5 April to 21 May around Birmingham and included some species rarely noted here in spring. Little specific weather data are available from other parts of the state. In general though, temperatures were cool throughout and the coast had several stormy periods, rains were heavier 100 or more miles inland.

Little comment was made about the weather on the coast except that certain rarities and concentrations of migrants followed storms (MAG). Tuck Hayward was disappointed in warbler numbers but amazed at the numbers of Hoodeds, e.g. 75 of 148 he banded on Dauphin Island on 4 April. Totals banded by Tuck Hayward and Margaret Miller on Dauphin Island this spring were: March 21st, 15; 26th, 38; April 5th, 70; 6th, 70; 7th, 37; 11th & 12th (with MLB and TAI), over 100; 17th, 70; and 23rd, 70.

The 5th annual spring count at Birmingham, although scheduled a little early on 19 April, produced 134 species and 89 birds per party-hour, average in both respects. The species list included 5 species of ducks, 9 of hawks, 11 shorebirds, 22 warblers, and 17 finches, but only 5 flycatchers, 2 wrens, 4 thrushes, and 3 vireos. Evening Grosbeak was seen by 7 of 12 parties, and Pine Siskin by 5.

The reader must always remember that what we record here is but a small fraction of what is going on, for much of bird migration is beyond our ken. Thus often, when bad weather forces a migrant to alight and we record him as an early or late bird, the species may really occur annually there on that date, but we are just beginning to find it out.

Pelicanlike Birds—On 29 May, 57 White Pelicans were still present in Mobile (REH & LRT). Brown Pelicans were down again from the 50 of last spring and noted only 3 times: Dauphin Island, 3 on 6 April (LPA & LRT) and 2 on 12-13 April (AOS);

at Fort Morgan, 7 on 13 May (REH). Perhaps the bird highlight of the spring meeting on Dauphin was the flock of 7 Brown Boobies, adults and immatures on 11, 12, 13, and 14 April (RWS, JMI, and many others), with nearby Gannets of various ages for comparison. Last year Brown Boobies were seen within 100 miles of Dauphin on May 5 and June 18, but the above is only the 2nd Alabama record. An adult Double-crested Cormorant on 21 May at Lake Oliver is the first Chattahoochee Valley record since 1959 (LAW) and, as far as known, the first in inland Alabama since 1961—another large fish-eater in trouble! A Magnificent Frigatebird on Dauphin on 13 April during gale-force winds (MLB & RJK) is, excepting a February record, the earliest for the state by one day.

Hérons, Ibis—Green Heron was first noted on Dauphin on 16 March (LMcK & LRT) and in Birmingham on 29 March (TAI). Cattle Egrets were first reported from Foley 26 March (PFC); Birmingham 12 April (RRH, CL, LFF); and Scottsboro 15 April, 4 birds (BGW). The Reddish Egret, becoming rarer recently with increased use of beaches, was noted on Dauphin on 26 March (LRT). The first Yellow-crowned Night Heron noted in Birmingham was on 30 March (AKB). Two Glossy Ibises were near Wheeler Refuge 23 to 25 April (RMB, HHG, GCB); this is the first record for the Tennessee Valley and only the second north of the Fall Line.

Waterfowl—Two Whistling Swans were seen near Wheeler Refuge on 16 and 17 March (WW & RB). This is the fifth record since 26 Dec. 64; this bird is averaging out at about one record per year. An apparently wild Mute Swan had been present for about 4 weeks (Henderson's) near the new Miller's Ferry Lock and Dam when confirmed on 11 June (RWS). White-fronted Geese were seen twice in the state this spring: at Wheeler Refuge, 5 birds on 28 March (HHG, RMB, & EW), 6th Tennessee Valley record; at Eufaula Refuge one bird 16-29 March (DFH), 13th state record and latest spring record. Only 2 records are prior to 1960, so this means 11 records in 9 years. Duck news this spring is mainly confined to 2 dates, the first, March 24 at Lake Oliver in the Chattahoochee Valley just above Phenix City, the apparent peak of the spring flight there (LAW). High counts for the season there on 24 March were: Pintail, 2; Gadwall, 2; Am. Widgeon, 35; Shoveler, 12; Ring-necked Duck, 100; Com. Goldeneye, 10; Ruddy Duck, 10; while Lesser Scaup peaked at 200 on the 31st and Bufflehead at 40 on the 23rd (LAW). The second date was 29 May at Chickasaw with the following late records (REH & LRT): Gadwall, 3, tie for the latest for state; Shoveler, latest for the Coastal Plain by 14 days; Ruddy Duck, latest for the state by 4 days. A Shoveler near Birmingham on 19 April (RRR & EGR) is latest for the Mountain

Region. New for Alabama is an immature male HARLEQUIN DUCK, shot on Bon Secour Bay, 29 Jan. 1968 (GM) and now in the Dept. Cons. collection where identification confirmed (RWS). Recent records from Panama City and Pensacola help to confirm this record.

Hawks—Kites, like the Cattle Egret, in spite of the large number of insects they consume, appear undiminished in numbers. Possibly two features prevent them from receiving too much pesticide; being near the beginning of the food chain so that little or no bioconcentration takes place, and eating only live, vigorous prey. Swallow-tailed Kites were noted on Dauphin Is. on 4 April (REH) and Claiborne Bridge, 14 miles west of Monroeville on 2 May (VDH). Mississippi Kites were in their usual places; one at Spring Hill on 27 April (MAG) is near early for the coast, yet strangely inland arrival dates are in late March. On windy 20 March, a krideri Red-tailed Hawk migrated through Birmingham to the northeast (TAI). A frequent complaint these days is the absence or near absence of many hawks, notably Osprey, falcons, accipiters. The Golden Eagle is still regular in winter in small numbers particularly in the Coastal Plain. Two captured in March in Clarke County were banded and released 3 May in De Soto Pk. (RWS). Ospreys were reported from Dauphin Is. on 23 April (LRT); Fort Morgan on 13 May (REH); and from Birmingham on 29 & 30 March (HHW et al.); 8 April (MLB); and 8 on 19 April (RRR & BC); and at Wheeler Refuge on 9 and 21 through 25 April (fide TZA). A Pigeon Hawk was spotted on Dauphin on 24 April (REH & LRT).

Crane—Of the flock of 20-25 reported wintering as usual in southern Baldwin County (PFC), 13 Sandhill Cranes were still present near Wolf's Bay on 8 March (CLK & many from Pensacola).

Shorebirds—In Birmingham, a Semipalmated Plover on 19 April is by 8 days the earliest for the Mountain Region (TAI & JMI). An Am. Golden Plover there on 28 & 29 March is the 3rd spring record for the Mountain Region (TAI & JMI). After heavy rains on 17 May, two Ruddy Turnstones at Marion Fish Hatchery (MLB & AKB) make the second inland spring occurrence in the state. Unrecorded for 8 years, the Long-billed Curlew was noted 3 times on the coast this spring: Bayou La Batre, 2 on 13 April (LMB et al.); Gulf Shores, 2 on 16 April (PFC); and Dauphin Island, 1 on 26 April (DTR). White-rumped Sandpipers were fairly early; first noted 13 May at Fort Morgan (REH) and at Marion Fish Hatchery, 17 on rainy 17 May (AKB & MLB). Three Baird's Sandpipers, the first in spring in Alabama and the first inland, appeared at Birmingham on a cold-front day 19 April (TAI & JMI). Two of them remained until 22 April (AKB, JRB et al.). Two Least Sandpipers in Birmingham on 18 May are the latest for the Mountain Region. (TAI & JMI). The latest Dunlins for the state—by 3 days—were in Mobile on 29 May (LRT).

At Marion on 18 May following torrential rains, a flock of 32 Stilt Sandpipers (JNC, AKB et. al.) are the first inland in spring. A Marbled Godwit was at Gulf Shores on 16 April (PFC). Am. Avocets were reported on 24 March, 3 on Dauphin Is. (WTS) and 3 at Gulf Shores (PFC); and on 16 April, 4 more at Gulf Shores (PFC), latest for the Coastal Plain. A Northern Phalarope was also at Marion on rainy 17 May (AKB & MLB); this is the 5th record for the state-4 of them are inland—and first in spring!

Gulls, Terns—At Weiss Lake on 31 May with no associated bad weather, a 2nd-year Ring-billed Gull (TAI & JRB) is but the 2nd summer record between the Tennessee Valley and the Gulf Coast. Five Bonaparte's Gulls were at Lake Oliver (near Phenix City) on 15 April (LAW). Another first inland record on rainy 17 May at Marion was that of two Gull-billed Terns well seen (MLB & AKB). At Gulf Shores on 16 April after a 4-day storm, 6 Roseate Terns appeared courting in full breeding plumage with rosy breasts (PFC), the first recorded in Alabama in 8 years!

Cuckoos, Goatsuckers—Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos were more numerous Yellow-billed first noted: Dauphin, 10 April (REH & LRT); Birmingham, 19 April (RDB); Black-billed first noted on Dauphin 29 April (LRT) with 9 seen on 9 May (REH et al) Chuck-wills-widows were first heard at Lake Oliver on 31 March (LAW) and in Birmingham on 8 April (HHW). Two Whip-poor-wills in Birmingham on 19 April (MLB) make one of the few migrant records here.

Swift, Humingbird—Chimney Swifts were first reported from Birmingham on 30 March, 4 at East Lake (AKB) and from Scottsboro on 1 April (BGW). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was recorded on Dauphin on 18 March (MB & GLB); Birmingham on 25 March (HHW); and Decatur on 6 April (Mrs. JW), earliest for the Tennessee Valley except for one bird found frozen in the snow on 23 March 1968 at Gurley (MLR).

Red-cockaded Woodpecker—Possibly significant to this species, newly placed on the threatened list, is the fact that, with quite a few people who know when and where to find it around Birmingham, it was still missed on our spring count on 19 April.

Flycatchers—A very early Eastern Kingbird was in Birmingham on 27 March (HHK, RJK, RDK). A Gray Kingbird on Dauphin Island on 11 April, seen and photographed in color (RRR, EGR & HHW) is by one day the earliest ever for Alabama. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from Dauphin on 1, 7, 11 & 12 April (REH, EBM, TAI and many); and once inland for the 4th time in spring, on 18 May at Birmingham

(TAI & JMI). An Acadian Flycatcher banded on Dauphin Is. on 26 March (MEM) is not only the earliest ever for Alabama but possibly also for the U.S.A.; the earliest for the Mountain Region was seen and heard on 16 April near Bamford, Shelby Co. (TAI & HHK). Before 1969 the Trail's Flycatcher was recorded only 4 times in spring (10, 18, & 22 May and 5 June); this year 6 were noted in Birmingham alone, all associated with severe storm fronts. On 11 May, 3 were banded (MLB et. al.) and one wee-bee-o seen and heard (AKB, RJK, et. al.); on 19 May, 2 wee-bee-o's were seen and heard (TAI). Also on 11 May in Birmingham was an Olive-sided Flycatcher (RDK et.al.)

Swallow, Jay, Nuthatch—The Barn Swallow was noted early in the Mountain Region, on 25 March at Oak Mt. Lake (HHK), and was recorded in even larger numbers than before throughout North Alabama. The continued spread of the species will be elaborated in the summer report, one instance will suffice here: on 17 May at the Gainesville meeting of the Birmingham Audubon Society 5 nests and 9 adults were located under a bridge near the mouth of the Noxubee R. (AKB and many). Evidence of the return flight of Blue Jays was noted as follows: 16 April, Genery 42 birds passed northeastward along Shades Mt. in 5 minutes (TAI); on 3 May on the Maytown Breeding Survey Route, 20 additional jays crossed the 25-mile route from south to north (TAI & JRB); on 6 May at Mt. Weogufka, Coosa Co., a loose flock of 75 moved northeastward along the ridge (WFC et. al.) Red-breasted Nuthatches were well distributed in small numbers all the way to the coast and departed normally.

Thrushes—Robin on Dauphin Is. on 4 May (LMcK) may mean another breeding attempt there. Wood Thrush was first noted at Magnolia Springs on 15 March (PFC); Dauphin Is. on 18 March (MB & GLB); and in 3 places around Birmingham on 5 April (PAR, JNC, HHK, NGB). The last Birmingham Hermit Thrush was recorded on 7 April (JNC). Swainson's Thrush was on Dauphin on 18 March (MB & GLB), at Birmingham on 20 April (TAI) and Scottsboro on 20 April (BGW). Gray-cheeked Thrush was also on Dauphin on 18 March (MB & GLB). An early Veery was in Birmingham on 19 April (JRB). The Eastern Bluebird still fails to show improvement in its numbers.

Warblers through Vermivora—The first Prothonotary was seen on Dauphin on 18 March (MB & GLB) and in Birmingham on 31 March (RSM). Swainson's Warbler (or is Swainson's Waterthrush more correct?) was particularly common this spring. Between 1 and 14 April at least 6 were banded on Dauphin (REH, MEM, MLB). At least 7 birds were in the Birmingham area 16 April to 7 June: Shades Creek 5 miles above

its mouth on the Shelby-Bibb County line, 16 and 22 April (TAI, HHK); 3 miles southwest of Bamford, Shelby Co., 7 May (TAI & HHW); Trigger Creek, Shelby Co., 2 miles south of Genery, 16 April (TAI & HHK); Shades Creek, vicinity of Samford U., 26 April through 10 May 2 birds (RJK, RDK, AKB); one mile south of town of Short Creek, Jefferson Co., 3 May (TAI & JRB); one mile north of Copeland Ferry Bridge, Walker Co., 7 June (TAI & IFS). The Worm-eating Warbler was also reasonably common this spring with the earliest one being banded on Dauphin on 26 March (MEM). The first Golden-wing was noted on Dauphin on 14 April (SCH, LMCK, LRT) and in Birmingham on 19 April (RDB). Blue-wings were first seen near Birmingham on 5 April (TAI et. al.) and on Dauphin on 6 April (LPA & LRT). The Tennessee Warbler peak was shown by the 18 birds banded in Birmingham on 25, 26, & 27 April (MLB et. al.) Three Orange-crowned Warblers were banded there on 26 April, and another a female banded there on 11 May (MLB, AKB, RJK, RDK) is the latest for the state by 3 days. A Nashville Warbler on Dauphin on 4 May (LMCK) is the latest for the Coastal Plain of Alabama by 2 days.

Warblers, Dendroica through Wilsonia—A Yellow Warbler on 20 March on Dauphin is 10 days earlier than prior records (LRT); the species was first noted in Birmingham on 5 April (AKB). Black-throated Blue Warblers were recorded on Dauphin Is. on 29 April (LRT) and 3 May (M.B.C.) An early Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Birmingham on 15 April (HHK). The Northern Waterthrush was reported first from Dauphin on 18 March (MB & GLB) from Birmingham on 12 April (WFC), and last from Birmingham on 21 May (TAI). A female Connecticut Warbler was banded and photographed in Birmingham on 9 May (MLB, HHK, et. al.), third and earliest local spring record. Next day a male Mourning Warbler was banded in Birmingham (TAI) and on 15 May another male, this one singing, was at the same place (TAI); 3rd and 4th local spring records. The 12 Canada Warblers banded in Birmingham on 11 May (MLB et. al.) indicate a peak.

Blackbirds, Tanager—A small flock of Bobolinks on the shoulder of I-65 near Evergreen on 11 April is 4 days earlier than prior state records (RWS). The first Orchard Orioles were seen in Alabama on 24 March, Magnolia Springs (PFC) and Dauphin Is. (JLD & LRT); first in Birmingham on 5 April (HHW). A Baltimore Oriole in Dothan about 8 March (MLH) had probably wintered locally. Three late Rusty Blackbirds were near Birmingham on 19 April (RDB & AKB). The vanguard Summer Tanagers must have flown with the Orchard Orioles for they were also seen first on Dauphin on 24 March (JLD & LRT) and first near Birmingham also on 5 April (TAI et. al.)

Finches—The first reported Rose-breasted Grosbeak from Dauphin was on 4 April (REH), 1 day later than the earliest ever for the state; the first in Birmingham, on 15 April (HHW) did tie the earliest for that region. This year's earliest Indigo Bunting was on Dauphin on 23 March (LPA & LRT); in Birmingham it was on 14 April in 2 places (HHK, TAI). The first Painted Bunting for Dauphin was one banded on 5 April (MEM & REH) A Dickcissel at Pinson on 12 April (RRH) is 7 days earlier than prior local records. The sunflower-seed-eating Evening Grosbeak certainly takes full advantage of man's feeders, and the results are nothing short of spectacular. The unprecedented invasion took the birds as close to the Gulf as a land bird can get, and as far down the Florida peninsula as Gainesville. It appears that no wild creature these days maintains or increases its numbers without man's implicit approval. As a daily routine, the birds spend their mornings exhausting the local supply of sunflower seeds, remaining quite late in severe weather. Afternoons are spent out in the woods apparently feeding on natural foods. Roosting habits are little known. The 40 to 50 birds present in Dothan from mid-December were last seen (15 birds) on 28 April (MLH). For the entire state, the last bird was seen on 12 May in Birmingham (NGB). Most Alabama recoveries are of birds banded in the Northeast, but one captured this winter in Birmingham (MLB) was banded in May 1966 in Hibbing, Minn. (Rev. FVS). Purple Finches, common on the coast this winter, were last seen at Magnolia Springs on 3 April (PFC) and Mobile on 15 April (SCH); in Montgomery about 100 were present daily in March (RWS); and the last one was noted in Birmingham on 21 April (HHW). Pine Siskins were abundant on the coast with several hundred in at least 2 places in Mobile (SCH, MAG, TF); at least 60 still in Foley on 4 April (PFC); and last seen in Mobile on 25 May (TF). This is 2 weeks later than any prior record, and only in the Mountain Region had it been recorded in May. A slow but persistent decrease in the Bachman's Sparrow in Alabama—and probably throughout the southeastern U.S.—is possibly attributable to two causes: many real estate developers favor dry ridges, and most paper-mill foresters wage an all-out war on scrub oaks in their pinelands. A late Slate-colored Junco was seen in Birmingham on 19 April (MLB). Although most wintering sparrows had normal departures, e.g. Last Fox Sparrow for Birmingham was on 29 March (AKB) and last Whitethroats (2) on 15 May (MLB), two species were later than usual. White-crowned Sparrows were seen at Holtville (near Montgomery) on 16 May (RWL) and on Dauphin Island on 17 May (LRT)—latest ever is 18 May. A Swamp Sparrow netted in Birmingham on 15 May (MLB) is 2 days later than any prior state record.

Please send reports to the compiler on the following schedule:

Fall Season (September-October-November) deadline for copy is 10 December

Winter Season (December-January-February) deadline for copy is 10 March

Spring Season (March-April-May) deadline for copy is 10 June

Summer Season (June-July-August) deadline for copy is 10 September

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THE SEASON SUMMER 1969

Compiler and Editor—Thomas A. Imhof

This is the most important season of the year, the time of reproduction, of making up for the losses of the other three seasons. Nesting season success usually is difficult to assess in the short time required to make this report unless one has the sophisticated equipment (planes, helicopters, personnel, computers) that we now can afford to expend only on birds of special importance such as game and threatened species. In another year the Breeding Bird Survey should be able to provide us with timely information with the aid of computers, provided of course that the observers themselves report promptly and follow the rules. Even though it measures the breeding stock rather than the young produced the Breeding Bird Survey is a tremendous step forward in measuring our bird populations.

In general, temperatures were a bit below normal, a trend now of long duration. Precipitation was very erratic. For instance in Birmingham a record-breaking wet May was followed by 3 dry months, and little precipitation was received from Camille, so that by 1 Sept the area was very dry but showed an annual excess of about 3 inches. Mobile also had variable rainfall—a very wet July brought its deficiency close to normal only to fall behind by more than 5 inches by mid-August. Camille brought the rainfall to an excess.

Present-day hurricanes are difficult to compare with those of more than a decade ago. They are more accurately measured than in the past, property values are rising rapidly, and adequate warning usually saves all but a few lives. Camille, reported as the most powerful in history certainly is the most powerful of recent times—since hurricanes have been named. The death toll and the number of cities and towns wiped out and flooded attest its power; but a real sign of its power is that it travelled over 1000 miles inland and 3 days later emerged near Norfolk still a hurricane!

Most of Alabama was 150 to 350 miles east of the eye as it roared towards Memphis, and little rain resulted, but a few birds, notably gulls, terns, and shorebirds appeared inland the week of 17 Aug. (See below). At Mobile which barely missed the full brunt of the storm, Fr. Dorn on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay noted thousands of terns and Laughing Gulls over the Bay. Mostly, travel was restricted and people were occupied with the necessities of life and few bird observations were reported

from coastal Alabama. Although coastal Alabama experienced winds at about 100 mph, most of the damage was in lowlying areas such as Dauphin Island, Pleasure Island (Gulf Shores to Ft. Morgan) and the head of Mobile Bay. They were flooded with 4 foot or more of seawater which deposited lots of sand and debris.

Many species of birds appear at times to be more or less numerous than usual. Often this is not significant unless additional evidence is at hand. These birds will be reported here to alert observers to obtain corroborating evidence. If the species is reported by many observers in one period (Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin this winter) or repeatedly over several periods (Cattle Egret, Barn Swallow up, and Eastern Bluebird, Brown Pelican down) the trend then becomes more significant. Besides the examples above, the following species appear to be more numerous this summer: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker (Baldwin County), E. Phoebe, Mockingbird, Catbird (south Alabama), Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Com. Grackle, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak; less numerous: herons, hawks, Bachman's Sparrow.

Grebe, Pelicanlike Birds—Pied-billed Grebes remained for the summer at several places including Eufaula Refuge (AKB), Foley (PFC) and Magnolia Springs (PFC); and at the last named a female had 3 downy young with her on 3 July (PFC). On 20 Aug. a WHITE-TAILED TROPIC BIRD was off Cochrane Causeway (Battleship Parkway) (JLD), the location of the only other record for the state. On 4 Aug. 50 White Pelicans with more in the distance were off Cochrane Causeway (LRT) and on 19 Aug. some of them were seen on the Skyline Country Club Golf Course (vide JLD). A flock of 12 Brown Pelicans were seen weekly on Dauphin in June and July (JS & GS) and some were reported from Cochrane Causeway and the eastern shore of Mobile Bay (vide MAG). On 14 Aug. just before Camille "many, many" were reported from Dauphin (MAG). On Sand Island (3mi. so. of Dauphin) on 6 July another Brown Booby was seen (REH), third record for Alabama. After the first known Double-crested Cormorant for the Chattahoochee Valley in 10 years (see Spring Report), another, or possibly the same bird, spent the summer at Eufaula Refuge (AKB).

Herons, Ibises—A Great Blue Heron at Lake Purdy on 13 July (JRB), one of the few midsummer records near Birmingham, leads one to wonder if the species breeds nearer the city than we think. About 7 July at Eufaula Refuge the numbers of Great Blue and Little Blue Herons and Com Egrets increased (AKB) probably the time of peak production of young. Cattle Egrets were not noted there, but elsewhere in the state this species appears to be supplanting the Little Blue. For instance

in Baldwin County one colony contained about 600 pairs of Cattle Egrets and only 15-20 of Little Blues (CLK). Another colony in Mobile County held 600 pairs of Cattle Egrets and Little Blues with egrets in the clear majority (ELR). At Marion 2 Cattle Egrets on 2 June and 5 of them on 7 June are the farthest north the species has been noted in the breeding season, except for the Tennessee Valley (RRR & EGR). It is a pleasure to see the Reddish Egret still persisting on Dauphin Island in mid-summer, one immature on 27 July (LRT). The Louisiana Heron was present at Eufaula Refuge from at least 23 July to 3 August (AKB) with 3 present on 28 July (JLDu). A Least Bittern, a bird that always has difficulty finding proper habitat inland, was present 14 July at Eufaula Refuge (AKB). Four Glossy Ibises near Cedar Point on 27 July (AGT) are very close to where the species bred for the first time in Alabama last year. An immature White Ibis at Lake Purdy (near Birmingham) on 23 & 24 Aug. (JRB et al) is the latest of 5 summer records for that locality.

Waterfowl—At Eufaula Refuge 60 captive Canada Geese have attracted a wild or semi-wild flock of 40; some of the latter bred this year, but the nests were destroyed inadvertently by rising water (DFH, AKB). This is farther south than most Canadas come even in midwinter! Blue-winged Teal were noted early in 2 regions, 15 on 17 Aug. at Lake Purdy (RRR et. al.) earliest by 2 days for the Mountain Region; and 4 birds on 13 Aug. at Eufaula Refuge (AKB), earliest for the Lower Coastal Plain. (This latter region has had very few resident ornithologists, yet its birdlife is as rich as any other inland region. This summer Andy Bates spent June, July, and August at Eufaula Refuge as a Conservation Aid, and among other things made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of shorebird distribution inland in Alabama, as will be seen below.) Four male Ring-necked Ducks again spent the summer at East Lake in Birmingham (RRR et. al.); this is the 6th successive summer and the largest number of birds. A female Lesser Scaup, also at East Lake, on June 10 & 11 (RRR) ties the latest Alabama spring date.

Hawks—Apparently insect and lizard-eating hawks (kites, Broad-wing, possibly Kestrel) are exceptions to the general decline in hawks including vultures. On 7 June near Stockton 12 Mississippi Kites and at least 4 Swallow-tailed Kites were seen (LPA & LRT). Mississippi Kites are still regular in summer in Spring Hill (MAG); and a Swallow-tailed seen on 19 July 10 miles west of Demopolis in Tombigbee R. bottoms (JJH) is as far inland and almost as late as any other record. An Osprey, seen at Lake Oliver (Chattahoochee R. just north of Phenix City) on 14 June (LAW), was possibly the same bird that summered at Eufaula Refuge (AKB). This bird probably

was unable to breed and its presence there may mean that formerly it nested somewhere along the Chattahoochee R.

Rails—At Eufaula Refuge 2 adult King Rails were seen on 9 July with 4 or 5 young (AKB). 4 or 5 pairs of Purple Gallinules and 2 pairs of Com Gallinules were also present on the refuge throughout the summer (AKB). Summering Coots were reported from East Lake (RRR) and Eufaula Refuge (AKB).

Shorebirds—These birds are frequently recorded in midsummer thousands of miles south of the breeding range, even in the Tropics. In Alabama on the coast or in the Tennessee Valley, many of them seen in June apparently are there for the summer, perhaps because most of them may require 2 years or more to mature. Where indications are that the length of stay is brief, the question may still be asked, "Are they going or coming?" Investigations here are difficult, and some of our records of late spring departure or early fall arrival may prove to be in the wrong category. Possibly, numbers of non-breeders remain on the coast for the summer but make occasional flights inland as if practising for next year's long flight to the tundra. More than usual birding activity this summer at Lake Purdy, Eufaula Refuge, and Marion Fish Hatchery considerably improved our knowledge of summer inland shore-bird distribution.

Oystercatcher, Plovers—On 17 July near Dauphin Island 2 adult Oystercatchers were seen with 3 young (LRT & LPA), a needed piece of dated breeding evidence on this species. One Semipalmated Plover was still at Marion on 2 June (RRR & EGR), latest inland spring date by 5 days; after frequent checks, the next one was there on 21 July (JRB & HHK), and 5 were at Eufaula Refuge on 24 July (AKB), 8 and 5 days earlier than prior inland records. Also at Eufaula on 24 July was a Piping Plover (AKB), the earliest by 10 days of only 4 inland records. A Black-bellied Plover at Eufaula Refuge on 19 Aug. (AKB) is by 2 days the earliest inland record. Most of the shorebird, gull, and tern records for 17 to 23 Aug. are probably attributable to Camille. A Ruddy Turnstone at Lake Purdy on 23 Aug. (HHK, JRB, *et al.*) is 7 days earlier than Tennessee Valley records and excluding the Tennessee Valley only the 3rd inland record.

Sandpipers—A Com Snipe on 5 Aug. at Eufaula Refuge (AKB) is by one day the earliest for the state; 5 more were seen there on 23 Aug. (AKB) and on 24 Aug. one at Lake Purdy (TAI) is earliest for the Mountain Region. Seven Spotted Sandpipers at Eufaula Refuge on 28 July (AKB) is more than a month earlier than prior records for the Lower Coastal Plain. The same is true of 10 Solitary Sandpipers logged at that refuge on 21 July (AKB). An even earlier one was at Marion on 5 July (JNC & HHK). With

only one prior inland fall record for the Willet away from the Tennessee Valley, one was at Lake Purdy on 10 Aug. (JRB) and at Eufaula Refuge on 3 Aug. (AKB) and 2 on 19 Aug. (AKB). Thirty is a very large number of Greater Yellowlegs at Eufaula Refuge on 15 July (AKB) to be the earliest inland record by 6 days. Two Lesser Yellowlegs were at Marion on 5 July (HHK) earliest ever for the state by 5 days and 8 of them were at Eufaula Refuge on 24 July (AKB). Pectoral Sandpipers were first noted at Eufaula Refuge on 3 Aug. (AKB) and a peak of 100 birds, independently estimated at Lake Purdy on 24 Aug. (TAI, JMI, JRB), double the most ever recorded inland, is a good indication that conditions for shorebirds were good this summer and the observers were there to capitalize on them. Fifty Least Sandpipers were already at Eufaula Refuge by 15 July (AKB). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Marion on 6 July (JNC & HHK) is exceeded inland only by a 3 July date (1936) for Birmingham; the species was first noted at Eufaula Refuge on 24 July (AKB). Six Stilt Sandpipers were noted at Eufaula Refuge on 3 Aug. (AKB), and one was at Mobile 29 Aug. and 8 Sep. (REH). Ten Semipalmated Sandpipers were still at Marion on 2 June (RRR & EGR) and one was at Montevallo on 6 July (JNC & HHK); the first one was noted at Eufaula Refuge on 21 July (AKB) but on 24 July over 75 were recorded (AKB). On 19 Aug., 10 Western Sandpipers were counted at Eufaula Refuge and on 23 Aug., 7 (AKB); at Lake Purdy at least 2 were identified on 23 Aug. (JRB, HHK) and 10 on 24 Aug. (TAI & JMI). The only inland record of Black-necked Stilt in Alabama, present 19 to 23 Aug. at Eufaula Refuge (AKB), is undoubtedly attributable to Camille. Two Wilson's Phalaropes, carefully identified and photographed in color at Lake Purdy near Birmingham on 17 Aug. (RRR, HHK, *et al.*) were probably also affected by Camille.

Gulls, Terns—A Herring Gull was at Eufaula Refuge on 14 June (AKB). Laughing Gulls were present at Lake Oliver near Phenix City, 3 on 8 June and one on 9 June (LAW). They were also present at Lake Purdy right after Camille, 4 on 21 Aug., 3 on 23 Aug., and 2 on 24 Aug. (JRB, TAI, *et al.*) (Adults present on both these occasions made elimination of Franklin's Gull easy, for some of the immatures were in the same plumage as younger Franklin's Gulls.) On 18 Aug. the day after passage of Camille, "thousands of birds circled Mobile Bay, flying low to high over the coast line both on east and west side." These included "500 Black Terns, many many Sandwich Terns, 4 Sooty Terns, many Royal and Caspian, a few Least and Forster's, Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls." (JLD *vide* MAG). Later on, thousands of birds were seen constantly moving over the bay (JLD). On Dauphin Island, 2 Sooty Terns were picked up dead shortly after Camille (WTS). Four Least Terns were at Lake Oliver on 9 Aug. (LAW) and one at Eufaula Refuge on 19 Aug. (AKB) are the only ones ever recorded inland. A Caspian

Tern was seen there on 24 July (AKB). Another Camille refugee was the Black Skimmer there on 24 & 25 Aug. (AKB).

Flycatchers—E. Phoebe had nests under about half (11 of 24) the bridges examined on I-59 between Fort Payne and the Jefferson County line in early June (TAI & JMI). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded in Birmingham on 16 Aug. (RJK & MLB) is exceeded as early fall only by one banded 12 Aug. '64 at Brownsboro. A Traill's Flycatcher banded in Birmingham on 15 Aug. (TAI & JMI) is 4 days earlier than any prior fall records; and a Least Flycatcher that 'che-bec'-ed all day on 22 Aug. (RJK) ties the earliest date for Alabama.

Swallows—Tree Swallows on 15 Aug. at Eufaula Refuge (AKB) are the earliest for that region. The Barn Swallow continues to increase by leaps and bounds as evidenced by the following: (1) All but one of the available Breeding Bird Survey Routes that recorded the species last year showed an increase; (2) The nearest colony at Leeds had 4 nests in '67, 9 in '68, and 14 this year, 8 nestlings and 15 adults banded from this colony this year, more details later (RRR, RJK, HHW, AKB, *et al.*); (3) Of 24 bridges examined on I-59 between Fort Payne and the Jefferson County line in early June, 21 had Barn Swallow nests (TAI & JMI); (4) Nests have been found in three new counties this year, Tuscaloosa, Sumter, and Lowndes.

Catbird, Vireos—No less than 6 Catbirds were recorded on the Riderwood Breeding Survey (Choctaw & Sumter Counties) on 8 June (RRR & EGR). A Bell's Vireo in Birmingham on 30 Aug. (TAI, HHK, *et al.*) banded, measured, weighed, and photographed in color, is the 6th record for Alabama, 3rd in fall. A pair of singing Solitary Vireos on the Sunny Eve (Cheaha) Breeding Survey Route in early June (REA) is the first summer record or breeding evidence for Alabama.

Warblers, Baltimore Oriole—A Worm-eating Warbler singing almost on the Monroe-Wilcox County line on 15 June (RRR & EGR) is the southernmost breeding season record. The Louisiana Waterthrush was recorded on both the Riderwood (18 June) and Beatrice (15 June) Breeding Surveys (RRR & EGR). On the Latham (Baldwin Co.) Breeding Survey this June were seen one young, one adult female, and two adult male Baltimore Orioles (ELR, MWG, REH) the southernmost breeding season record.

Observers (Local compilers in capitals)—Lois P. Archer, Richard E. Ambrose,

J. Russell Bailey, ANDREW K. BATES, Michael L. Bierly, Jack N. Carusos, P. Fairly Chandler, Rev. J. L. Dorn, S. J., Julian L. Dusi, MARY A. GAILLARD, M. Wilson Gaillard, R. E. (Tuck) Hayward, James J. Hebrard, Dennis F. Holland, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, RICKY J. KITTINGER, Ronnie D. Kittinger, Edward LaRoux, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Genevieve Spafford, James Spafford, W. Temple Seibels, Alice G. Tait, Lib R. Toenes, L. A. WELLS, Harriett H. Wright.

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1968 BIRMINGHAM TOWER CASUALTIES

Michael Lee Bierly

Spring and fall collections were made of bird casualties at WAPI and WBRC television towers in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., Alabama. The towers are located on Red Mountain and are described in Alabama Birdlife 16:4 (34). In addition, it should be noted that the support cables for the towers are spaced along their length and the cables on each side of each tower join in a common point on the ground. An alternate tower construction is the connection of each individual cable to the ground at expanding intervals. It would seem that the greater the angle of the wire from the vertical tower, the greater the amount of exposed wire at higher elevations and the greater the probability of tower casualties. These towers are built with the least amount of exposed wire and may be, therefore, less obstructive to migrating birds.

The enclosed table shows the 1968 species list, seasonal numbers and the dates collected. Since it cannot be determined whether a bird fell before or after midnight the morning date is used.

The spring period began on 15 March and terminated on 20 May for a total of 66 consecutive days. During this time 36 individuals of 16 species were found on 16 days. The first casualty was a Wood Thrush on 30 March and the last was a Red-eyed Vireo on 15 May. The longest period over which a species was collected was 33 days from 30 March through 2 May represented by the Wood Thrush. The Red-eyed Vireo was next with an extreme of 23 days. This species was the most common spring casualty with 14 individuals. Ten of these fell in a seven day period from 22 April through 29 April. The other four were from 11 May through 15 May. Next in frequency were the Yellow-breasted Chat and Wood Thrush with 3 birds each. The most birds found on one day was 9 on 29 April. There was a northerly wind and precipitation during the night. It is interesting to note that the largest kill was with northerly winds and not southerly as would be expected in spring migration. The second largest kill was 4 birds on 2 May with the wind from the southwest and an unlimited ceiling. Southerly winds prevailed on 10 days out of the 16 days on which birds fell.

The fall period began on 5 September and concluded on 15 November for a total of 72 consecutive days. Twenty-one species were recorded of 47 individuals on 27 days. The first casualties were 2 Red-eyed Vireos on 6 September and the last was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 8 November. The collection of Red-eyed Vireos spanned the longest period with 40 days from 6 September through 16 October. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was next with an extreme of 33 days from 6 October through 8 November. The Red-eyed Vireo with 14 individuals was the most frequent bird found while the Yellow-breasted Chat was second with 6 birds. The largest total for one day was 4 birds each on 8 September and 15 October. The wind was from the north on both of these days with an unlimited ceiling. Thirty-one birds out of the 47 that fell were on clear nights. The most interesting record was a first year Mourning Warbler on 15 September that was the fourth fall record for the Mountain Region of Alabama.

Again, bats were victims of the towers. Two red bats, Lasiurus borealis, were found on 26 September.

This was the first year that systematic spring collections were undertaken, so, no comparable spring data is available. In comparison with the 1967 fall collections, the 1968 fall period yielded 17 fewer birds and 9 additional species. Since 1967, 17 species have been recorded in the spring and 35 species in the fall for a total of 41 species. The Red-eyed Vireo was the most numerous casualty in each season. Fourteen were killed in each period: the fall of 1967, the spring of 1968 and the fall of 1968. Out of 12 birds found in only two spring collections in 1967, 7 were Red-eyed Vireos. There cannot be any statistical data derived from these towers reports due to the small number of individuals that the towers produce. Nevertheless, this does not underate the importance of regular tower collections due to records produced and the availability of birds for scientific study. Furthermore, it is conceivable that someday a large kill might occur.

Gratitude is expressed to Elberta and Bob Reid and Andrew Bates for assistance in collections and to the Samford University Biology Department for the use of its facilities.

Species 1968. Seasonal numbers with dates. Each number in parenthesis indicates total on a given date.

SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS IN SPRING	INDIVIDUALS IN FALL	DATES
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	1	Sept. 8.
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	0	May 3.
Wood Pewee	0	2	Sept. 19, 23.
Catbird	2	1	May 3, 8: Oct. 5.
Wood Thrush	3	2	March 30, April 13, May 2: Oct. 2, 15.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	2	May 3: Sept. 30, Oct. 3.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	1	Oct. 30.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	3	Oct. 6, 28, Nov. 8.
White-eyed Vireo	2	0	April 3, 18.
Red-eyed Vireo	14	14	April 22(2), 28(3), 29(5), May 11(1), 12(2), 15(1): Sept. 6(2), 7(1), 8(1), 21(1), 22(2), 26(1), 29(1), Oct. 14(2), 15(2), 16(1).
Philadelphia Vireo	0	2	Sept. 28, Oct. 5.
Tennessee Warbler	1	3	May 2: Sept. 17, 26, Oct. 14.
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	1	Oct. 30
Magnolia Warbler	0	1	Sept. 23.
Myrtle Warbler	1	0	April 10.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	1	Sept. 23.
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	May 9.
Ovenbird	0	1	Oct. 15.
Northern Waterthrush	0	1	Sept. 26.
Kentucky Warbler	2	0	April 22, 30.
Mourning Warbler	0	1	Sept. 15.
Yellowthroat	1	0	May 2.
Yellow-breasted Chat	3	6	April 29(3): Sept. 7(1), 8(1), 9(1), 15(1), 20(1), 29(1)
Hooded Warbler	1	0	April 13.
American Redstart	0	1	Sept. 15.

Baltimore Oriole	1	0	April 29.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	May 2.
Indigo Bunting	0	1	Sept. 8.
Slate-colored Junco	1	0	April 18
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	Oct. 20.
Song Sparrow	0	1	Oct. 31.
Total	36	47	

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SECOND INLAND
RED PHALAROPE RECORD IN ALABAMA

Helen Kittinger and Jack N. Carusos

On October 20, 1968 a first year Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was observed by Helen Kittinger and Jack Carusos at Rutherford Lake, 12 miles south of Birmingham on Alabama 21. It was seen in good light and up to a distance of 30 feet.

The bird was identified as a phalarope by its typical phalarope shape and habit of swimming and spinning in the water. Its bill was short, thick and coal black with a very slight suggestion of yellow at its base. The phalarope had a gray unstreaked back and in flight showed a white wing stripe. There was a short black line extending narrowly in front of the eye and broadly behind it. As it walked on land the legs were observed to be dull green. A dark round circle on the back of the head extended in a line down the back of the neck into the gray back. This description is in accordance with the plumage of a juvenile Red Phalarope in Parmer and Clem's *The Shorebirds of North America*, p. 263-4; "Juvenile plumage, both sexes—much like definitive



Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) — photo by Helen Kittinger, October 20, 1968,

basic, but dark on rear of crown continues down nape to join mantle. . .”

The Red Phalarope was separated from the Wilson's Phalarope (Steganopus tricolor) by its short, thick, bill and white wing stripe, and from the Northern Phalarope (Lobipes, lobatus) by its unstreaked back and bill shape.

This species is considered the most maritime of the oceanic phalarope family. The phalarope is reported regularly off the coast of Alabama, but the Montgomery, 1924, sighting is the only previous inland record (Alabama Birds, Imhof, p. 263).

Earlier in the week a tropical disturbance moved from the Gulf of Mexico across the Florida Peninsula and out into the Atlantic Ocean. Whether this storm played any part in the phalarope's appearance is not known, but it was primarily responsible for the observers canvassing ponds and lakes looking for "hurricane refugees".

The Red Phalarope was studied most of the day by a total of twenty-two people equipped with all power binoculars and zoom telescopes. Color photographs were made by Helen Kittinger. A subsequent check of the lake the next several days showed that the bird had left.

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WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS, NORTHERN PHALAROPE, RUDDY TURNSTONES,
GULL-BILLED TERNS AND STILT SANDPIPERS AT MARION FISH HATCHERY

Andrew K. Bates and Michael Lee Bierly

Five noteworthy observations were made at Marion Fish Hatchery 5 miles north of Marion, Perry County, Alabama, on 17 and 18 May 1969 between 5:15 P.M. and 8:15 P.M. C.D.T. on the 17th and between 12:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. C.D.T. on the 18th. Four of these species were seen for the first time in inland Alabama in the spring. Two Ruddy Turnstones (Arenaria interpres) on 17 May, sixteen White-rumped Sandpipers (Erolia fuscicollis) on 17 May, thirty-two Stilt Sandpipers (Micropalama himantopus) on 18 May, one Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus) on 17 May, and two Gull-billed Terns (Gelochelidon nilotica) were observed on 17 May. There had been several days of heavy rain, thunderstorms and high winds from the southeast. Climatological data from Montgomery, the closest station, showed that from 14 May through 17 May there was almost 100% cloud cover. Further, the precipitation from 14 May through 18 May totaled 78.6% of the total rainfall for the month. During our observations on the 17th, skies were overcast with intermittent heavy rain, but were clear at noon on the 18th. Various power binoculars were used on all species and a 15X-60X Bausch and Lomb scope on all except the Ruddy Turnstones. The species are described in the order that they were found.

White-rumped Sandpipers

The 16 White-rumps were first noticed flying in a tight flock over one of the partially filled ponds. They circled over it several times and then landed on the mud flat and began to feed along the edge of the water. In flight, their white rumps and broad tail bands were clearly evident. Standing, their bodies were slender and elongated with fine streaking coming down the sides. The White-rumps were slightly bigger in comparison with Semipalmated Sandpipers (Ereunetus psuillus) that were feeding on the same mud flat. However, it was found through our two days of observations that the only way to identify these similar plumaged birds was by flushing them and seeing the rump and tail pattern. The White-rumps gave loud, noisy calls both sitting and flying. White-rumped Sandpipers are becoming almost an annual late spring migrant at the hatchery. Reid et. al. (Flicker Flashes, 21:2) saw 17 on 1 and 9 June 1969 and a pair on 16 June. Only two birds were seen on 18 May and none on a subsequent trip on 28 May.

Northern Phalarope

The Northern Phalarope was flushed from the bank of a filled pond and flew 50 feet over it. It then dropped onto the water and did a half spin. At first it was thought to be a sandpiper due to the white wing stripe in flight, but when it dropped onto the water the identification was certainly a phalarope. It was changing into summer plumage and showed a reddish brown coming down the side of the neck and a white throat. There was splotched gray on the breast that continued down the sides. The back was a dark gray with yellow-brown stripes on it that could be seen both in flight and swimming. The bill was black, long, slender, needle-like and slightly longer than the head. The bird was observed for 30 minutes from a distance of 50 feet up to 12 feet as it swam and fed in the pond. The Northern Phalarope was separated from the Wilson's Phalarope (Steganopus tricolor) by the flight pattern and from the Red Phalarope (Phalaropus Fulicarius) by the back and breast coloration. The sex could not be determined due to the changing plumage. Identifiable photographs were made. This is the fifth state record and first spring record. There were two birds in the Tennessee Valley 13 October 1949 and one bird 9 October 1954 at Lakeland Farm, Marion (Alabama Birds, 1962, Imhof, p. 265). Also, one at Anniston 11 and 12 November 1963 and one 27 August 1964 at Dauphin Island (Imhof, personal communication).

Ruddy Turnstones

Two Ruddy Turnstones were seen flying fast toward us over the ponds of the hatchery in an erratic twisting and turning flight pattern. They were in spring plumage and showed brown and white swirled backs with black markings coming down the side of the face. They did not stop in our vicinity and could not be located on any of the ponds. The birds were observed for only 30 seconds, but the spring flight plumage of Ruddy Turnstones is unmistakable and our experience with this species on the Gulf Coast enabled us to identify them immediately. This is the first Upper Coastal Plain record and the first spring inland record (Alabama Birds, p. 231).

Gull-billed Terns

The two Gull-billed Terns were sitting on a mud flat in a practically filled pond. This pond had been checked thirty minutes before and the terns were not present. Immediately, it was noticed that the terns had thick black bills and black caps that layed down and extended to the bill and part way down the back of the neck. The

terns were white with a light gray color on the back. When flushed they were observed not to have a forked tail, but only a slight dip in it. Standing, they reminded us of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) that we have seen on the coast. The Gull-billed and the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) are the only two species of terns that have a thick bill and an unforked tail. Therefore, the size between the two would separate the species if a great underestimate in size was not made. This is the first inland record for this species. Imhof says, "It is an uncommon summer resident on the Gulf Coast, and it breeds in southern Mobile County" (Alabama Birds, p. 275). Therefore, Gull-billed Terns outside of the coastal area would be rare, but a careful study was made of the birds and many books explored for descriptions of them and we feel that it is a correct identification.

Stilt Sandpipers

On 18 May 32 Stilt Sandpipers were observed first by Jack Carusos and Andy Bates and then found by Harriett Wright, Ricky Kittinger, Ronnie Kittinger, Bob Reid and Mike Bierly. The birds were in the same pond that the Gull-billed Terns had been observed the previous day. The Stilt Sandpipers were in spring plumage with a reddish brown eye stripe and crown stripes, and heavy barring on the breast. The legs were greenish-yellow. The birds were evidently very tired as one flew in to land on the mud flat, hit it and just lay there with its left wing extended. Two others were observed to be just sitting in the water. The rest were busily feeding, some emerged up to their bellies. The feeding was by constant probing into the water and on the mud flat. Several times it was observed that the birds were completely submerged when probing. After about an hour they slowed down and most went to sleep. Photographs were secured by Harriett Wright. This is the second Upper Coastal Plain record and the first spring inland record (Alabama Birds, p. 254).

The foregoing is a description of observations at Marion Fish Hatchery on 17 and 18 May 1969. The unusual and violent weather probably accounted for the presence of these birds at the hatchery. It seemed as if we were birding on the Gulf Coast instead of the Upper Coastal Plain and will probably have to go a long time before such a group of birds out of normal terrain will be seen again.

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MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY APRIL 11-13, 1969

The regular spring meeting of AOS was held the week-end of April 11-13, 1969. Dauphin Island, with headquarters at Storey Apartments. Members and visitors from many states, the farthest being Maine, were present.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The Executive Council meeting was held during lunch at Le Moyne Restaurant and called to order by Helen Kittinger, President. The following officers and directors were present: Helen Kittinger, Clara Caffee, Sybil Hanks, Idalene Snead, Tom Imhof, Jim Keeler, Dr. Gaillard, Bob Reid, Harriet Wright, Mary Burks, Bernice Smalley, and Mr. John Anderson of National Audubon Society from Sharon, Connecticut.

The Secretary read the minutes which were approved after a minor correction.

Sybil Hanks, the Treasurer, read the annual financial report for the period from April 20, 1968, to April 12, 1969, stating that there was a balance of \$833.07 in the treasury.

Reports from the various regions and committees are as follows:

State-at-Large

Tom Imhof asked that news items be sent in while they are still news. Send in arrival dates so that Tom can have a complete picture of the different arrivals over the state and this information can be put in Alabama Birdlife. Tom also told of Mr. Weston's death in Florida.

Gulf Coast Region

Dr. William Gaillard told about the problems on which he is working through several organizations including the Mobile Bird Club, AOS, and Alabama Wildlife Federation. Some interests are wanting to subdivide about 164 acres which are now set aside for birdlife. In order to avert this, some sort of development must be done on the land, such as planting food patches. Dr. Gaillard suggested that for each copy of "Moving the Earth for a Song" sold by Alabama Federation of Wildlife he would contribute one dollar to be put in a general fund to be used for averting the loss of some of the Dauphin Island area. A motion was made by Bernice Smalley

and passed that AOS participate in the Alabama Federation of Wildlife's sale of Dr. Gaillard's book for this purpose. Dr. Gaillard introduced Mr. John Anderson of the National Audubon Society, who has been most helpful with these problems.

Coastal Plain Region

Jim Keeler said that there was no definite report, but that he had written Walter Rosene about the Red Cockaded Woodpeckers' nests. Walter Rosene replied that he would be glad to save these nests for Jim Keeler after he had finished taking pictures of them.

Piedmont and Eastern Mountain Region

No definite report. Bob Reid stated that Dr. Calvert had called and offered to send in a resignation since he had been unable to attend the meetings as often as he had hoped. However, Bob Reid suggested that it would be better for Dr. Calvert not to resign.

Central Region

Harriet Wright stated that there was no definite report.

Tennessee Valley

No report.

Slide Committee

Bob Reid's report on this committee is included at the end of these minutes.

Nominating Committee

The following slate of officers was presented by Bob Reid for the nominating committee: President, Walter Coxe; Vice President, Dr. E. B. Sledge; Treasurer, Sybil Hanks. This slate was unanimously accepted.

Old Business

There was no further information on the hawk legislation.

New Business

Helen Kittinger made a motion, which was seconded and passed, that a Memorial Resolution be made for Blanche Chapman and one for Francis M. Weston, and that a copy be sent to their families.

For the fall meeting, Tom Imhof suggested some area between Montgomery and the Florida State line. This would be a new site and should prove to be very productive, Tom thought, the date to be set later.

After considering all possible dates and conflicts for the spring meeting in 1970, it was decided the second week-end in April would be the most suitable.

Mary Burks reported on a meeting of the Air Pollution Board where she represented the Birmingham Audubon Society. Their purpose was to try to write a model anti-air-pollution bill. If this couldn't be done, next they would try to defeat the Torbert Bill. Mary Burks asked that we endorse the bill that Senator Richard Dominick of Birmingham and Jack Giles of Huntsville propose. She also requested that we write letters to our own legislators telling them that we want a strong, enforceable law with teeth in it.

After this, the meeting adjourned.

PROGRAM

The delicious seafood buffet was held at the Dauphin Island Civic Building and was served by members of all the civic groups on the island. After the drawings for the door prizes, a motion was made and carried to dispense with reading the minutes. Sybil Hanks read the Treasurer's report, which was audited and approved by the auditing committee. The slate of officers, presented and unanimously accepted for 1970, was President, Walter Coxe; Vice President, Dr. E. B. Sledge; Treasurer, Sybil Hanks.

Dr. Oliver B. Austin, Jr. presented the program, "Highlights of the Fourteenth International Ornithological Congress. Dr. Austin also showed beautiful slides of this meeting, held at Oxford, England, and of the cruise around the outer bird islands of Scotland.

FIELD TRIPS AND COMPILATION

Saturday and Sunday morning there were informal field trips to the Bird Sanctuary where Margaret Miller, Tom Imhof, Mike Bierly, and Tuck Hayward were banding birds. Other trips were to the Shell Mounds, always popular, Pelican Point, the Causeway, west end of Dauphin, and the Mainland.

Compilation was held on Sunday morning in front of the Storey Apartments with Robert Reid acting as compiler.

Idalene F. Snead
Secretary

Report of Slide Collection Committee

Tentative rules for operation of the slide collection were adopted at the 1968 AOS Spring Meeting. Since then, the committee has held two meetings: One on March 1, 1969, at the home of Bob and Elberta Reid in Birmingham; and the other on March 15, 1969, at the home of Helen and Keith Kittinger also in Birmingham.

Out of a total list of 360 species, the committee has selected one or more slides for 136. Slide reproductions authorized thus far number 262, which, at the rate of 25 cents per slide provided for in the tentative rules, represents a commitment of \$65.50.

Since the 1968 Spring Meeting, Dr. Julian Dusi has resigned from the committee and Mr. Charles T. Traylor of Tuscaloosa has been appointed. Other members of the committee, in addition to the chairman, are Helen Kittinger, Harriett Wright and Tom Imhof of Birmingham, Fairly Chandler of Magnolia Springs, Jim Keeler of Montgomery and Jim Robinson of Brownsboro. The committee wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Perry Covington of Birmingham for his technical advice and for the number of excellent slides he has submitted.

Submitted at the 1969 Spring Meeting on Dauphin Island on April 12, 1969.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.
Chairman

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's report for period:

April 12, 1969 – August 25, 1969

INCOME:

Dues	\$302.00
Registrations	62.00
Excess cash from Spring Meeting	2.25
Total	<u>\$366.25</u>

EXPENSES:

Birdlife: (Birmingham-Southern College)	\$180.00
Treasurer's Expenses (Sybil Hanks, postage & postcards)	14.50
Meetings	62.17
2 complimentary dinners,	6.30
Holiday Inn Riviera (D.I.)—lodging	
2 nights, Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Austin, Jr.	29.12
Helen Kittinger, door prize	11.75
Mr. Wesley Kubichek, films	15.00
* Miscellaneous	4.07
Total	<u>\$260.74</u>

SUMMARY:

Balance in checking acct./April 12, 1969	\$532.02
Income	366.25
	<u>\$898.27</u>
Expenses	260.74
Total	<u>\$637.53</u>
Balance fwd. August 25, 1969	<u>637.53</u>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND IN B.T.N.B.:

5 memberships at 50.00 each	\$250.00
Interest as of May 30, 1969	57.07
Total	<u>\$307.07</u>

TOTAL ASSETS :

Balance in checking acct./August 25, 1969	\$637.53
Balance in Life Membership Fund/May 30, 1969	307.07
Total	<u>\$944.60</u>
Total in Treasury	<u>944.60</u>

* Includes 2 Debit Memos at .10 each, 1 returned Item (2.00), and 3 Bank Service Charges (.26, .71, and .90).

Sybil Hanks
Treasurer

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

OF FICERS AND DIRECTORS
1969-70

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