

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

July, 1970

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## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The pollution count to the right was taken from the current issue of the Birmingham News. It illustrates the awakened interest in the air we breathe. In the same issue from which the accompanying pollution count was published there were banner headlines about mercury poisoning in our rivers. A year ago those of us who worked in the field of nature saw and tried to call attention to these alarming matters, but the public was not ready to listen. Possibly this new attitude, will bring needed attention to other equally disturbing and necessary activities that are dangerous to mankind. Particularly at this time as we work to secure the retention of trees in natural forest areas--the Bankhead in particular---some awareness must exist that man is cutting off his very breath by thoughtless, careless destruction of the "factories" that make oxygen. A most capable scientist of the Museum of Natural History has said that if the rate of destroying trees just for our super highways continues the necessary balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide that must exist for all animal life, including humans of course, will be materially unbalanced within a few years.

Some cities such as Atlanta have tree cutting ordinances that mean trees can only be cut when they need to be cut. Those of us who are not familiar with this ordinance may learn about it and make suggestions to our city leaders.

See you all at the fall meeting October 23--24--25 at Livingston, Alabama, and old Fort Tombebee site of French Civilization of early 1700s.



President

## Today's pollution count

Today's count of gaseous and particulate pollutants in the air in Birmingham -- measured by the State Health Department -- is listed below. Particulate readings, representing 24-hour samplings, show the number of micrograms of solid pollutant per cubic meter of air. An average daily reading of 80 or less is considered safe. Gaseous pollutants, measured in parts per million, are reported at 9 a.m. spot readings with the safety levels in parentheses. Criteria are not available to establish a safe level for nitrogen oxides and nitrogen dioxides.

Carbon monoxide (30)	22.5
Nitrogen oxides	.158
Nitrogen dioxides	.030
Hydrocarbons (15)	4.9
Oxidants (.06)	.010
Sulfur Dioxide	.005
Particulates	(80)
Downtown	223

THE NATIONAL urban average particulate count is 97, and the Birmingham average is 162. A particulate count of 200 or more is considered critical.

Number of respiratory deaths in Birmingham last week: One.

## THE SEASON SPRING 1970

Compiler and Editor--Thomas A. Imhof

The weather in Alabama continues cold and rather dry--extended periods of low rainfall broken by short stormy periods of excessive rainfall so that the average is nearly normal. The moisture available to growing plants though is low because man has done too much to hasten runoff. With less forest and swamp and more pavement and channelized streams, we are in a poor condition to take advantage of heavy rainfall when it occurs. With each year some of us realize more and more how precious water really is!

Vegetation was set back by about two weeks by the cold weather. No bigleaf magnolias were in bloom off US 43 near Grove Hill the last week in April, no ripe dewberries on Dauphin then, very few ripe plums at some of the Breeding Survey stops. These are just disappointments--what of the migrating bird who depends on the emerging vegetation to sustain life?

In spite of this, early dates are still being recorded, but few if any of them are examples of actual early migration. Some of them are Dauphin Island records largely independent of local weather; some show our progress in finding and identifying difficult species (Swainson's Warbler, Bell's and Warbling Vireos); and for some the species has likely increased in abundance (Cattle Egret, Barn Swallow).

Migration peaks on or near Dauphin Island were recorded by Mary Gaillard as follows: 22 Mar, hundreds of Parulas (LPA et al.); 23 Mar, big concentration of snipe (LMcK), 30 birds banded (REH, MEM); 26 Mar, many Parulas (MAG), tree-tops filled with small birds (H&KJ); 27 Mar, many hummingbirds, E. Kingbirds, Gnatcatchers, and Prothonotaries, 50 birds banded (REH, MEM); 29 Mar, 50 birds banded (REH); 30 Mar, stormy, many Prothonotaries, birds everywhere, 137 birds of 16 species banded (MEM); 31 Mar, many White-eyed Vireos, 109 birds of 22 species banded (MEM); 3 Apr, many Palm Warblers; 7 Apr, trees moving with migrants (JLD); 11 Apr, large concentration at dusk after storm, many E. Kingbirds, Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks; 12 Apr, 54 birds of 17 species banded (MEM); 20 Apr, late influx of Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, 61 birds of 20 species banded (MEM); 21 Apr, many Catbirds (LRT); 4 May after front, many Com Night-hawks, 50 birds of 14 species banded (MEM). From Mobile County no Yellow-crowned Night Herons, no migrant Empidonaxes, and no Canada Warblers were reported, and only 1-3 of the following: Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Prairie, and Wilson's Warblers.

High banding counts by Margaret Miller on the following migrants on Dauphin Island indicate their time of peak migration: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5 on 3 May; Catbird 13 on 20 Apr, 18 on 21 Apr, and 8 on 3 May; Veery, 6 on 4 May; Red-eyed Vireo, 10 on 30 Mar, 11 on 31 Mar, 8 on 25 Apr, 13 on 4 May; Black-and-white Warbler, 14 on 30 Mar; Prothonotary Warbler, 112 in 4 operations 27 Mar to 4 Apr, 76 of them on 30 Mar!; Worm-eating Warbler, 8 on 30 Mar, and 7 on 31 Mar; Parula Warbler, 16 on 31 Mar; Hooded Warbler, 8 on 31 Mar; Orchard Oriole, 11 on 31 Mar; Painted Bunting, 8 on 20 Apr; Purple Finch, 31 on 12 Mar, 20 on 12 Apr; Chipping Sparrow, 19 on 12 Mar. It is no exaggeration to state that for every bird banded an additional 25-100 uncaught birds were probably in the vicinity!

Below are paired first-reported dates available from Mobile-Dauphin and from Birmingham with a few additional localities as noted. Dauphin Island and Bir-

mingham are less than 250 miles apart (as the migrant flies), a distance that could easily be covered in one night by any normal migrant. The time interval for these 32 species varies from 0 to 29 days and averages 11 days. Obviously some migrants must spend about 10 days on or near the coast awaiting proper weather, vegetational, or internal conditions for continued travel. This may apply more readily to the vanguard of the species in late March and early April as below. Green Heron, 22 Mar (LPA et al.) and 8 Apr (TAI).

Chuck-wills-widow, 4 Apr (REH, MEM) and 15 Apr (RDK).

Chimney Swift, 26 Mar (MAG) and 2 Apr (HHK).

E. Kingbird, 24 Mar (JLD) and 4 Apr (RDK) also 28 Mar, Flomaton (CLK, ties earliest for Lower Coastal Plain).

Wood Thrush, 30 Mar (MEM et. al.) and 1 Apr (PAR).

Swainson's Thrush, 22 Mar (LPA et al.--only one earlier state record) and 20 Apr (TAI) also 4 Apr, Marion (RRR et al.).

Veery, 7 Apr (LRT) and 19 Apr (JRB) also 21 Apr, Jacksonville (WJC).

Yellow-throated Vireo, 22 Mar (LPA et al.) and 4 Apr (RJK).

Red-eyed Vireo, 27 Mar (banded, REH, MEM) and 7 Apr (AKB).

Swainson's Warbler, 23 Mar (banded, REH, MEM, earliest for state by 6 days) and 11 Apr (RJK, earliest for Mt. Region by 5 days).

Worm-eating Warbler, 23 Mar (banded, REH, MEM, only one earlier state record) and 11 Apr (REB, RRR) also 11 Apr, Jacksonville (WJC).

Blue-winged Warbler, 29 Mar (banded, REH, earliest for Gulf Coast by 6 days) and 9 Apr (HHK).

Tennessee Warbler, 7 Apr (LRT) and 11 Apr (RDB, HHK).

Parula Warbler, 11 Mar (MAG) and 10 Apr (HHK & PCC) also 4 Apr, Marion (RRR et al.).

Yellow Warbler, 3 Apr (LRT) and 11 Apr (IFS).

Cape May Warbler, 4 Apr (MEM, earliest for Coastal Plain of Ala.) and 10 Apr (HHK & PCC).

Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 Apr (MAG & SCH) and 5 Apr (HHW).

Cerulean Warbler, 4 Apr (AGT) and 11 Apr (RRR).

Yellow-throated Warbler, 22 Mar (LPA et al.) and 28 Mar (HHK).

Blackpoll Warbler, 16 Apr (LRT) and 17 Apr (TAI).

Prairie Warbler, 3 Apr (LRT) and 5 Apr (KTK & HHW).

Ovenbird, 23 Mar (REH, MEM) and 12 Apr (HHW).

Louisiana Waterthrush, 22 Mar (LPA et al.) and 28 Mar (HHW).

Kentucky Warbler, 23 Mar (REH, MEM) and 23 Mar (IFS, earliest for Mt. Region by 12 days).

Hooded Warbler, 22 Mar (LPA et al.) and 11 Apr (6 B.A.S. parties).

Orchard Oriole, 27 Mar (REH, MEM) and 7 Apr (PAR).

Baltimore Oriole, 5 Apr (LPA & LRT) and 10 Apr (TAI) also 5 Apr, Fairhope (VDH) and 25 Apr, Wheeler Refuge (GW).

Scarlet Tanager, 3 Apr (JLD) and 9 Apr (RRR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 7 Apr (LMcK) and 11 Apr, 3 birds (REB, WFC, IFS), earliest ever for inland Alabama.

Blue Grosbeak, 29 Mar (LPA & LRT) and 19 Apr (RRR).

Indigo Bunting, 29 Mar (LPA & LRT) and 13 Apr, 4 places (TAI, IFS).

Birmingham's 6th Annual Spring Bird Count was held very early on 11 April. Although at 124 we were 10 below our usual species count, the 92 individuals per party-hour is exactly average. We listed 6 species of ducks, 7 shorebirds, 3 vireos, 20 warblers, and 17 finches. Warbler species appear to increase with lateness of date: in 1969 (19 Apr) 22 species; 1968 (27 Apr) 28 species.

1967 (6 May) 31 species. In our 6 counts between 11 Apr and 6 May we have recorded 180 species, 157 of them more than once.

**Grebe, Pelicanlike Birds**--The Pied-billed Grebe continues its nesting attempts in southern Baldwin County with a pair at Daphne on 9 May (CLK et al.) and a pair at Fairhope throughout May which gathered weeds (VDH). At least 50 Brown Pelicans roosted on Sand Island the evening of 25 April (TAI), and 25 were counted on Dauphin on 15 May (LRT). A late Double-crested Cormorant was on Dauphin on 26 May (LRT). Gannets were again common off Dauphin, Gulf and Sound, through 26 April (A.O.S.).

**Hérons**--A Cattle Egret at Jacksonville on 2 Apr (WJC) is the earliest of almost a dozen Mt. Region spring records. At Marion on 4 Apr a Snowy Egret (KTK and many) was the earliest ever for the Upper Coastal Plain. The Black-crowned Night Heron, not reported much in recent years, was seen on Dauphin on 23 Mar (REH & MEM).

**Geese**--About 80 Canada Geese flew over western Dauphin I. after a storm on 19 Apr (JJB), 3 days short of the latest spring migrant for the state. The Blue Goose must lead a rugged life judging by the number of birds which fail to make the 2000 mile flight to the inhospitable tundra. One bird was still at Rosinton, Baldwin Co. on 9 May (CLK et al.) and at least 3 were still present around Jacksonville on 26 May (WJC).

**Ducks**--The first Bahama Duck for Alabama, present since 28 Feb near Magnolia Springs, was last seen there on 3 May (LPA). Shovelers are attracted to Star Lake (Hoover section of B'ham); one was there on 27 Mar (KTK), and a pair photographed there on 22 May (HHK, RJK, RDK) is the 3rd Mt. Region record later than 15 May. Late Redheads were a male on Dauphin on 26 Apr (TAI & JMI) and one at Elberta on 7 and 12 May (PFC), the latter the 4th coastal record later than 1 May. Six Ring-necked Ducks were still present on 20 Apr on East Lake, B'ham (RRR) and at least one still there on 7 Jun (JMI). An Oldsquaw on Dauphin on 27 Mar (REH & MEM) lacks a week of being the latest for the coast. A male Com Scoter seen at very close range on Dauphin on 25 Apr (JMI, RDK, RJK) is the latest for the state by 8 days. Three Ruddy Ducks were still on East Lake, B'ham on 20 Apr (RRR), and one at Wheeler Refuge on 16 May (GW, WAS, JS) gives us a May record for 5 of our 6 Regions.

**Hawks**--The first Mississippi Kites were on Dauphin on 26 Apr (WMW's) and at Spring Hill on 28 Apr (MAG). Swallow-tailed Kites were first noted at Spring Hill on 24 Mar (JLD), on Dauphin on 30 Mar (MEM), and at Leroy, Washington Co., on 26 Apr (JK & MK). Three Red-tailed Hawks were on Dauphin on 18 May (LRT). An adult Bald Eagle was in Green Springs (suburban B'ham) on 13 Apr (AM).

**Rails**--A Yellow Rail crossing an open area ahead of mowers on 2 Apr at Theodore (MAG & SCH) is our only record in 13 years, and although the latest for the state by 6 weeks, is in line with data from neighboring states. Purple Gallinules were noted this May at Corte Pond, Baldwin Co. (VDH) and Buck Pond Covington Co. (CLK et al.). A pair of Am Coots at Corte Pond throughout May (VDH) appeared to be attempting to breed, but as usual no progeny were seen.

**Shorebirds**--The Long-billed Curlew was recorded twice this spring at Bayou La Batre, on 25 Apr (VDH) and 2 on 24 May (LRT and many), latest for the state by 11 days. A White-rumped Sandpiper on 24 Apr on Dauphin (MAG, AP, EBS), tying the earliest state record, started the best spring season for this species. Stilt Sandpipers were also more numerous than ever, and 7 still present on Dauphin on 26 May (LRT) are the latest for the state by 6 days. A Black-necked

**Cuckoos, Nighthawk, Woodpecker**--Early were a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Dauphin on 2 Apr (MAG & SCH) and a Black-billed Cuckoo at Spring Hill on 21 Apr (MAG). Com Nighthawk was first noted in Birmingham on 14 Apr (GA). Hairy Woodpeckers were noted recently in heavily-populated residential areas in B'ham, on 11 & 17 Apr and 7 Jun (TAI, JMI).

**Flycatchers, Swallow**--The first Gray Kingbird for Dauphin was seen on 20 Apr (JJB) and on 26 Apr one was seen carrying small twigs into a clump of tall young pines on the golf course (TAI & JMI). A W. Kingbird on Dauphin on 20 Apr (TD) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher same date and place (JJB) are the only reports for these 2 species. On the coast, the first Great Crested Flycatcher was on Dauphin on 5 Apr (LRT); the first Acadian--and only Empidonax of the season--was banded on Dauphin on 12 Apr (MEM); and the first E. Wood Pewee also on Dauphin was on 11 Apr (LRT), all late. On 6 Apr on Dauphin, 6 male Vermilion Flycatchers were seen together (WTS). While only one Cliff Swallow was reported from the coast (MAG), one at Jacksonville on 21 Mar (WJC) is--except for 20 Mar '65 on coast--the earliest ever for the state.

**Nuthatch, Creeper, Catbird**--Last reported Red-breasted Nuthatches were on 26 Mar at Flomaton (CLK & AFW) latest for Lower Coastal Plain; 26 Apr on Dauphin (one banded, MEM); 4 May at Scottsboro (BGW), latest for the Tennessee Valley; and 9 May in B'ham (KTK & HHK), latest for state by 4 days. The last Brown Creeper for B'ham was on 7 Apr (HBT). The first Catbird for B'ham was on 15 Apr (NGB).

**Thrushes, Kinglet**--Transient brown thrushes (excludes Hermit and Wood) were reported scarce throughout, especially the Gray-cheeked--very few reports on the coast (MAG) and 10 heard migrating over B'ham shortly after midnight on 20 Apr (TAI). The Golden-crowned Kinglet lingered late; 28 Mar, several at Flomaton (CLK et al.), latest for Lower Coastal Plain; 4 Apr, 2 in Bear Swamp, Autauga Co. (HMS et al.); 11 Apr 3 at B'ham (MHP & MFP), except for 1947, latest for Mt. Region.

**Vireos**--A Bell's Vireo in B'ham on 10 Apr (HHK & KTK) is the earliest of 4 spring records for Alabama. A Philadelphia Vireo was in B'ham on 3 May (RJK & JRL). The Warbling Vireo made a good showing; one on Dauphin on 2 Apr (MAG) is the earliest for state by 5 days; 10 of them on 4 May on Dauphin (MAG) is the largest number recorded anywhere in Alabama; and one on 8 May at Wheeler Refuge (EC) is the 3rd local record.

**Warblers**--A Golden-winged Warbler on Dauphin on 29 Mar (REH) is earliest for state by 9 days. On Dauphin on 20 Apr was reported the only Nashville Warbler for the season (MEM) and the second ever and earlier spring Black-throated Gray Warbler (MEM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler on 12 Apr on Dauphin (MEM) ties the earliest for the coast. A singing male Mourning Warbler on the Braziel tract, Bankhead Forest, Lawrence Co. on 23 May (TAI & JMI) continues the annual occurrence of this species in Alabama. A male Wilson's Warbler on Dauphin on 24 Apr (MAG) is the earliest of only 4 spring records south of B'ham. Although no Canada Warbler was reported for the coast this spring, one in B'ham on 18 Apr (JRB) is the earliest by 6 days for the Mt. Region.

**Blackbird**--At Lakeland Farm near Marion 100 Brewer's Blackbirds on 4 Apr (B.A.S.) are except for the coast the latest for the state.

**Finches**--Three Dickcissels in a yard in Mt. Brook, B'ham on 11 Apr (IFS et al.) appear to have wintered locally. In Baldwin County at least 3 pair (10 adults) have succeeded in raising young near Foley and Magnolia Springs (PFC).

The Evening Grosbeak got as far as Jackson this winter 3 Feb to 20 Apr, photographed (WH), and was last seen in B'ham on 8 May (AF) 4 days earlier than last year's record. Although Purple Finches were numerous--113 on B'ham Spring Count 11 Apr (B.A.S.) and 84 banded this March and April (MEM)--the species was last recorded just before setting record extremes. Even more numerous was the Pine Siskin, last seen on the coast on 22 Apr, Dauphin Is. (LRT) and in B'ham on 9 May (TAI); 143 recorded on 11 Apr (B.A.S.). Last reported Red Crossbills were 2 in Mt. Brook, B'ham on 18 Apr (HBT). A Henslow's Sparrow during a lull on rainy 17 Apr was adept at staying hidden in a grassy field, but when flushed into a tree perched in plain sight (TAI). A Lark Sparrow on Dauphin on 25 Apr (A.O.S.) is only the second spring record for the coast. Two Lincoln's Sparrows banded on 20 Apr on Dauphin (MEM) are the latest for the coast by 7 days.

Observers (Local reporters in capitals)--Alabama Ornithological Society, Lois P. Archer, Gussie Arnett, THOMAS Z. ATKESON, J. Russell Bailey, Naomi G. Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Birmingham Audubon Society, Jimmy J. Brown, Robert E. Burks, WILLIAM J. CALVERT, FAIRLY CHANDLER, Perry C. Covington, Walter F. Coxe, Earl Cunningham, Thase Daniel, J. L. Dorn, S. J., Ann Fish, MARY A. GAILLARD, William Hamrick, Sybil C. Hanks, R. E. (Tuck) Hayward, VERDA D. HORNE, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Harry and Kathleen Johnstone, Helen H. Kittinger, RICKY J. KITTINGER, Ronnie D. Kittinger, James Key, Mary Key, CURTIS L. KINGSBERY, Kenneth T. Knight, John R. Lester, Louise McKinstry, Ann Miller, MARGARET E. MILLER, Alice Patterson, Morton H. Perry, M. F. Prather, Robert R. Reid, Pat A. Riley, Jessee Short, W. A. Short, W. Temple Siebels, Eugene B. Sledge, Idalene F. Snead, Henry M. Stevenson, Alice G. Tait, Helen B. Thigpen, Lib R. Toenes, A. Fred Wilke, Wiley M. Wilkinson, George Williams, BETTY G. WORLEY, Harriett H. Wright.

1036 Pike Road  
Birmingham, Ala. 35218

## AOS MEETINGS

### Livingston and Epps Alabama

#### Site of Fall 1970 Meeting

OCTOBER 23--24--25  
Meeting Begins Friday 23  
with Boat trip and supper  
on the Beautiful Tombigbee.

Boat trip and Dinner on Board \$2.50  
Reservations Must be Received Oct. 15 or before.  
Livingston Inn Motel headquarters  
Camping area at Epps, site of Fort  
Tombecbee...Built by Bienville - 1705

Continued on page 11

## THE 1969 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Seven Christmas counts were again conducted in Alabama in 1969 and, although there were two changes from 1968, there again was at least one from each majorecological region in the state--Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (WWR) in the Tennessee Valley, Birmingham (Bhm) and Jacksonville (Jvl) in the Mountain Region, Auburn (Aub) in the Piedmont, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (EWR) in the Coastal Plain, and Mobile (Mob) and Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (DI) on the Gulf Coast.

This was the first Christmas count conducted at Eufaula Refuge and, as testimony to development of the wildlife management program there, state records in abundance were recorded for Wood Ducks (1,500) and Common Goldeneyes (1,000) and, with the exception of records at Wheeler Refuge in previous years, for Mallards (16,000), Black Ducks (3,000), Ring-necked Ducks (1,500), Great Blue Herons (448) and Hooded Mergansers (100). In addition, inland records for the coastal plain were set for Pintails (2,500), Green-winged Teals (2,000), Am. Widgeons (1,500), Gadwalls (700) and Shovelers (500). The count also included the first known winter records in the lower coastal plain for Snow Goose, Bonaparte's Gull and Caspian Tern as well as lower coastal plain records in abundance for Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks, Least Sandpipers, Ring-billed Gulls, and Savannah and Vesper Sparrows (the latter also a state record) plus the large number of 4,000 Coots. The feeding program at the refuge probably accounted for the over 2,000 Mourning Doves and the state count record of 60 Ground Doves. The Mourning Dove was also attracted by golf courses and suburban feeders, as evidenced by a count record in abundance for the Mountain Region set at Birmingham, and the Ground Dove appeared in good winter numbers on the Dauphin Island count.

Wheeler Refuge had its share of notable observations with an immature Bald Eagle and the first record of a Barnacle Goose for Alabama. This goose, which is in the same genus as the Canadas, derives its name from the old Norse belief that it grew from barnacle shells adhering to old, water-soaked logs and other pieces of wood found in the sea. Later its true breeding grounds were located in Eastern Greenland and islands in the Artic Ocean, usually on inaccessible cliffs. It winters in Scotland and other places in Northern Europe and is reported as a rare winter visitor to North America. (See Kortright, Francis W., *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America* (1942), pp. 110-112; Austin, Oliver L., Jr., *Birds of the World* (1961), pp. 66-67; Hanzak, J., *The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Birds* (1967), p. 106.) At Wheeler it was observed in a large flock of Canada Geese in Limestone Bay through telescopes by five members of one of the field parties. It was approximately 2/3rds the size of the Canadas and showed the full white face with dark neck and breast.

The Bald Eagle was one of two and possibly three immatures reported at Wheeler during December, 1969, and January, 1970. There were definitely two because two were seen simultaneously on several occasions. Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., manager of the refuge, reported that Bald Eagles nested there through 1947 but have not been known to do so since then. For years they were reasonably common during cold weather periods, but numbers began dwindling noticeably after 1960 so that in recent years there have only been two or three, usually

immatures, using the refuge intermittently through the winter. The last adults sighted were one in April, 1968, and another in April, 1969.

The 50 Avocets off the Cochran Causeway set a new count record at Mobile and was the sixth of the last seven counts on which that basically western shore-bird has been reported. The 406 Short-billed Dowitchers and 315 Boat-tailed Grackles on that count set state records in abundance as did the 425 Black Skimmers for the winter season. Mobile Christmas count records were also set for the Semipalmated Sandpiper (498), Snowy Egret (130) and Hooded Merganser (32); and high numbers were recorded for Coots (almost 19,000), Dunlins (663), Shovelers (467), Common Egrets (242), and White Pelicans (108). Other interesting coastal reports included a LeConte's Sparrow at Mobile, 3 Eared Grebes and 7 Am. Oystercatchers at Dauphin Island, and White-eyed Vireos, a summer resident that uncommonly winters on the coast, at Dauphin Island and within the count period at Mobile.

The Green Heron appeared on three counts--Mobile, Dauphin Island, and Birmingham where it was the first inland winter record for the state. Marsh Wrens were noted in good numbers at Mobile where 21 Long-bills and 9 Short-bills were reported; and one Long-bill at Birmingham was its third Christmas count record.

Although the influx of Evening Grosbeaks was much smaller than last Christmas, Purple Finches were observed in larger and relatively high numbers at Birmingham, Auburn and Wheeler Refuge and Pine Siskins likewise on the first two of those counts. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, which often accompanies an invasion of northern finches, was reported on or within the count period of 6 of the 7 counts as compared to 5 out of 7 in 1968, none in 1967 and only one in 1966. The Pine Siskin shows a somewhat similar history.

Among flocking winter species, the 983 Cedar Waxwings at Birmingham set a count record in abundance, and Robins were reported there and at Dauphin Island in large, although not record, numbers for Christmas counts. An unfortunate addition in this category is the large roost of an estimated ¾ million Starlings at Wheeler, which, although less than some of the gigantic roosts in or near the coastal plain, may be a record for the Tennessee Valley.

The over 500 Horned Larks at Jacksonville set a high record for the state outside the Tennessee Valley. Of local significance at Birmingham were 3 Virginia Rails, its first Christmas count record, 3 Catbirds and 5 Yellowthroats, tying the high numbers for those species on the same counts, and 28 Eastern Phoebes, setting an inland winter record in abundance for the state. Of further local interest were the Common Egret, 8 Common Loons and 6 Lapland Longspurs at Wheeler Refuge and a count record of 12 Belted Kingfishers at Auburn. In addition, the Yellow-breasted Sapsucker set winter count records at Wheeler Refuge and Birmingham.

Birds seen on the counts were as follows, those indicated by the symbol \* being seen during the count period (Dec. 20 through Jan. 1) but not on the count date:

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	Aub	EWB	Mob	DI
<u>Loons</u>							
Common Loon	8	-	-	-	-	11	18
<u>Grebes</u>							
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	16	30
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pied-billed Grebe	3	37	9	-	-	23	9
<u>Pelicans and Allies</u>							
White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	108	-
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	1	250
<u>Wading Birds</u>							
Great Blue Heron	23	6	1	*	448	15	14
Green Heron	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	17	8
Common (or Am.) Egret	1(a)	-	-	-	5	242	9
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	130	4
Louisiana Heron	-	-	-	-	-	21	12
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
<u>Ducks and Geese</u>							
Canada Goose	18,695	2	-	-	108	2	-
Barnacle Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	77	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blue Goose	500	-	2	-	10	1	4
Mallard	7,652	6	1	-	16,000	88	12
Black Duck	1,060	-	11	-	3,000	7	-
Mottled Duck	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Gadwall	60	-	-	-	700	860	3
Pintail	3,391	-	-	-	2,500	332	-
Green-winged Teal	127	1	-	2	2,000	119	3
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Am. Widgeon (or Baldpate)	715	-	43	-	1,500	328	11
Shoveler	54	-	-	-	500	467	5
Wood Duck	1	6	4	2	1,500	5	9
Redhead	-	-	-	-	25	7	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	180	15	-	1,500	78	8
Canvasback	-	39	-	-	87	982	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Lesser Scaup	4	25	-	-	200	222	31
Common Goldeneye	-	*	-	-	1,000	2	40
Bufflehead	-	1	-	-	50	4	-
Ruddy Duck	6	13	-	-	100	150	-
Hooded Merganser	50	1	-	-	100	32	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	1	-	-	-	47	12
<u>Hawks</u>							
Turkey Vulture	1	-	-	8	1	*	8
Black Vulture	-	-	-	13	2	*	19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk (b)	19	7	2	7	29	8	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	6	-	-	15	2	1
Bald Eagle	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Hawk	5	3	-	1	63	3	*
Sparrow Hawk (or Am. Kestrel)	8	5	2	1	10	21	11
<u>Quail and Allies</u>							
Bob-white	22	42	12	57	88	17	27
Wild Turkey	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Rails and Allies</u>							
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	2	1*
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Virginia Rail	-	3	-	-	-	1	3
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Common (or Florida) Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Am. Coot	8	152	7	-	4,000	18,958	39
<u>Shorebirds</u>							
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	4	28
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Killdeer	287	178	31	39	102	258	27
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	12	29
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	1	18
Am. Woodcock	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
Common Snipe	62*	4	5	2	102	214	3
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	11	52
Greater Yellowlegs	5(a)	-	-	-	-	26	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	6	-

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	Aub	EWR	Mob	DI
<b>Shorebirds (cont.)</b>							
Least Sandpiper	2	25	-	-	67	5	-
Dunlin (or Red-backed Sandpiper)	-	-	-	-	-	663	45
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	406	16
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	498	48
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	7	83
Am. Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>							
Herring Gull	50	-	-	-	-	191	232
Ring-billed Gull	65	-	-	-	108	469	190
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	34	28
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	3	10	15
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	129	175
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	14	127
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	1	3	67
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	425	4
<b>Doves</b>							
Mourning Dove	441	930	9	75	2,056	207	19
Ground Dove	-	-	-	-	60	2	14
<b>Owls</b>							
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Screech Owl	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Kingfishers</b>							
Belted Kingfisher	2	23	4	12	8	23	38
<b>Woodpeckers</b>							
Yellow-shafted Flicker	22	118	8	10	35	49	29
Pileated Woodpecker	6	36	1	4	3	1	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	36	82	8	8	21	20	19
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	11	-	-	-	2	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21	38	1	10	4	7	4
Hairy Woodpecker	3	7	1	1	-	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	38	70	5	9	10	4	4
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Flycatchers</b>							
Eastern Phoebe	2	28	1	1	7	19	4
<b>Larks</b>							
Horned Lark	126	26	526	-	-	-	-
<b>Swallows</b>							
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	190	54
Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
<b>Jays and Crows</b>							
Blue Jay	41	195	54	29	75	117	24
Common Crow	50,000	269	119	33	32	61	68
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	87	173
<b>Titmice</b>							
Carolina Chickadee	60	271	19	22	9	12	14
Tufted Titmouse	7	143	10	7	10	25	4
<b>Nuthatches</b>							
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	28	3	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	13	1	*	-	*	6
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	85	1	18	15	5	20
<b>Creepers</b>							
Brown Creeper	1	11	-	4	2	4	2
<b>Wrens</b>							
House Wren	-	4	-	1	-	5	*
Winter Wren	2	12	1	2	3	-	-
Bewick's Wren	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	27	137	18	36	14	20	26
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	1	-	-	-	21	2
Short-billed Marsh (or Sedge) Wren	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
<b>Thrashers</b>							
Mockingbird	36	180	32	14	17	112	41
Catbird	-	3	-	-	-	5	2
Brown Thrasher	20	40	6	6	39	16	14
<b>Thrushes</b>							
Am. Robin	120	3,802	497	24	25	120	3,000
Hermit Thrush	3	14	-	1	7	1	2
Eastern Bluebird	1	85	7	13	3	9	14
<b>Gnatcatchers and Kinglets</b>							
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11	98	4	32	12	29	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29	100	2	29	31	47	15
<b>Pipits</b>							
Water Pipit	59	84	1	1	27	28	2

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	Aub	EWR	Mob	DI
<b>Waxwings</b>							
Cedar Waxwing	251	983	78	11	40	*	-
<b>Shrikes</b>							
Loggerhead Shrike	5	23	5	7	16	10	16
<b>Starlings</b>							
Common Starling	750,000	5,683	297	4,000	6	520	169
<b>Vireos</b>							
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	*	2
Solitary (or Blue-headed) Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Wood Warblers</b>							
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	6	10
Myrtle Warbler	64	30	1	28	122	824	161
Pine Warbler	-	25	-	26	6	11	28
Palm Warbler	-	4	-	2	2	*	2
Yellowthroat	-	5	-	-	4	5	4
<b>Weaver Finches</b>							
House Sparrow	154	952	51	45	20	340	88
<b>Blackbirds</b>							
Eastern Meadowlark	315	285	61	101	206	77	32
Red-winged Blackbird	150,000	1,739	119	375,012	250,000	1,933	1,263
Rusty Blackbird	2	456	-	2	-	8	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	20	5
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	315	-
Common Grackle	50,000	481	23	1,000	-	263	3,000
Brown-headed Cowbird	50,000	764	150	120,000	1	27	28
<b>Finches and Sparrows</b>							
Cardinal	136	436	90	48	103	64	34
Evening Grosbeak	-	16	-	52	-	-	-
Purple Finch	89	179	11	62	2	2	2
Pine Siskin	1	180	-	41	-	2	-
Am. Goldfinch	141	521	67	102	103	58	16
Rufous-sided Towhee	75	307	22	37	112	31	44
Savannah Sparrow	5	117	-	40	335	157	100
LeConte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	11	9
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Vesper Sparrow	-	20	-	-	220	12	3
Slate-colored Junco	88	881	109	20	9	4	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	64	1	202	305	57	11
Field Sparrow	49	276	176	52	92	5	8
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	-	-	2	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	430	789	73	152	412	191	55
Fox Sparrow	5	44	3	13	7	*	1
Swamp Sparrow	16	163	14	10	20	103	10
Song Sparrow	75	405	49	127	102	33	8
Lapland Longspur	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Individuals (c)	<u>1,086,001</u>	<u>23,542</u>	<u>2,884</u>	<u>501,726</u>	<u>290,700</u>	<u>33,148</u>	<u>10,608</u>
Total Species on count	86	94	60	62	88	132	119
Total Species within count period	86	95	60	64	88	141	121

**Notes:**

- (a) An additional Common Egret and a total of 14 Greater Yellowlegs observed at Wheeler Refuge during the count period.  
 (b) Of the Red-tailed Hawks at Wheeler and Eufaula Refuges, one of the Krider's race that is more common in the western plains was reported at each refuge.  
 (c) Total individuals include five "peep" sandpipers at Wheeler Refuge and one accipiter and one buteo hawk at Birmingham, unidentified as to species.

Continued from page 6

**THE WINTER MEETING**

At Gulf Shores  
 January 23-24-25, 1971  
 Holiday Inn Headquarters

**THE SPRING MEETING**

Wilson Ornithological Society  
 Dauphin Island  
 April 21, 22, 23, 24  
 Headquarters at Mrs. Storey's

Except where described below, the count areas were the same as set forth in the report of the 1968 Alabama Christmas Counts in Vol. 17, No. 1. Details respecting the counts (all taken in circles of 15-mile diameter except where indicated) and participants (names of party leaders italicized where reported) were as follows:

**Wheeler Wildlife Refuge:** Dec. 20, 6:15 AM to 5:15 PM. Clear to partly cloudy in late afternoon; 22° to 50°; winds N, 2–10 mph. 18 observers in 4 parties; 36 party-hours (24 by car, 12 on foot); 152 party-miles (143 by car, 9 on foot). Count centered in Tennessee River 3-½ mi upstream from mouth of Flint Creek and extending northward to 3 mi N of Mooresville, southward to Somerville, eastward to Cotoco Creek, and westward to 1 mi W of US 31; sloughs managed for waterfowl 55%; fields and pastures 20%; creeks and river 10%; deciduous woods 10%; town and suburbs 5%. (Although perimeter of count area changed, area covered was substantially same as in 1968.) Crow roost separate from estimated 1 million blackbird-starling roost. Participants: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. (refuge manager), Richard Bays, *Michael L. Bierly* (compiler), J. Homer Blackwood, *Jack N. Carusos*, Walter F. Coxe, Wallace Dreyfoos, Leo Durden, David and Kenneth T. Knapp, Donald McDonald, *Robin McDonald*, Bobby Meadows, Elberta G. Reid, *Robert R. Reid, Jr.*, Thomas P. Sandlin, Charles T. Traylor, and George Williams, Jr. (Editor's note: Emmett N. Waldrep of the Wheeler Refuge staff participated in the 1968 count but was inadvertently omitted from the participants listed last year.)

**Birmingham:** Dec. 27, 5:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear with heavy frost; 24° to 54°; winds northwesterly, 4–10 mph; water levels very low, lowest ever at Lake Purdy. 43 observers in 11 parties and at several feeders; 114.5 party-hours (43 by car, 71.5 on foot); 392 party-miles (339 by car, 53 on foot). Participants: Gussie Arnett, *J. Russell Bailey, Jr.*, Naomi G. Banks, Andrew K. Bates, *Raymond D. Bates*, Brian and Debbie Bennett, Mary I. Burks, *Robert E. Burks, Jr.*, *G. Bradley Carlisle*, Greg Carlisle, Frederick T. Carney, *Walter F. Coxe*, Michael Creel, Alma and C. Larry Cullen, Larry Ferguson, *Corrine Glaze*, L. Ed Greene, *Dan C. Holliman*, John M. Imhof, *Thomas A. Imhof* (compiler), *Helen H. Kittinger*, Richard J. and Ronald D. Kittinger, David and Kenneth T. Knapp, Christine Leake, John Lester, George F. Maynard, Donald, Renee and Robin McDonald, Ann Miller, *Morton H. Perry*, Margarette K. Persons, Millard F. Prather, Elberta G. Reid, *Robert R. Reid, Jr.*, Pat A. Riley, Rose Schauss, James W. Shepherd, and Adele West.

**Jacksonville:** Dec. 23, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Misty AM, cloudy PM; 31° to 52°; winds E to W, 4–8 mph. 8 observers in 3 parties; 18.5 party-hours (7.5 by car, 11 on foot); 135 party-miles (122 by car, 13 on foot). Count centered at Jacksonville Town Square and including Jacksonville State University campus, Choccolocco Valley, and Fink's and Boozer's Lakes; woodland edge 38%; fields and pastures 30%; lakes 28%; residential 4%. Participants: Richard E. Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jerry A. Clonts, J. W. Johnson, Kenneth E. and Kenneth T. Landers, Sue Leydecker, and C. L. Simpson.

**Auburn:** Dec. 29. Clear to almost completely overcast; 42° to 51°; winds southerly, 2–7 mph. 8 observers in 3 parties; 24 party-hours; 65 party-miles (60 by car, 5 on foot). Participants: Darrel L. Bateman, Earnest Corley, Julian L. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary T. Dusi, Ted Ellis, William Goslin, Marjory C. Lyons, and L. A. Wells.

**Eufaula Wildlife Refuge:** Dec. 22, Overcast; 40°; winds NW, 5–10 mph; about 1 inch of rain on previous day. 12 observers in 4 parties; 32 party-hours; 69 party-miles (58 by car, 8 on foot, 3 by boat). Count restricted to refuge area, which is located in Alabama and Georgia and includes the Chattahoochee River, Lake Walter F. George, and Wylaunee and Cowikee Creeks. The refuge contains about 17.5 sq mi of land, almost equally divided into cropland, woods and marsh or swampland, with about 9 sq mi of water and mudflats. The impoundment was several feet lower than normal, exposing many mudflats. Participants: Julian L. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary T. Dusi, Ted Ellis, William Goslin, Joe Gregory, Dennis Holland (refuge manager), Florence Lynn, Marjory C. Lyons, Gus Saville, Dan Searcy, L. A. Wells, and B. F. Young.

**Mobile:** Dec. 20, 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Cloudy to partly cloudy; 50 to 59; winds NE, 5–15 mph. 23 observers in 9 parties; 76 party-hours (48 by car, 28 on foot); 439 party-miles (413 by car, 26 on foot). Participants: Lois Almon, Lois P. Archer, Clara L. Caffey, P. Fairly Chandler, Fr. J. L. Dorn, S. J. (compiler), Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, Arthur and Nancy Garrett, Sybil C. Hanks, Richard E. Hayward, Jr., Verda Horne, Steffi Jones, Edwin Laroux, Louise N. McKinstry, Margaret E. Miller, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Alice and Howard Tait, Elizabeth R. Toenes, William Tonsmeire, and Randy Wendt.

**Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens:** Dec. 27, 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear and cold. 16 observers. Participants: Lois Almon, Clara L. Caffey, Fr. J. L. Dorn, S. J., Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Sybil C. Hanks, R. D. S. and Steffi Jones, Louise N. McKinstry, Margaret E. Miller, Awilda T. Mitchell, Caroline B. Smick, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, William Tonsmeire, and Randy Wendt.

—Robert R. Reid, Jr., Counts Editor

#### ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report  
April 24, 1970 to July 25, 1970

<b>INCOME:</b>			
Dues			\$ 70.00
Registrations: Spring Meeting			
126 @ \$1.00	\$126.00		
Less rental (Movie projector)	-7.50		
		Total	<u>\$188.50</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Treasurer (Postage)			\$ 3.00
Miscellaneous (Bank Debit Memo)			<u>    .10</u>
		Total	\$ 3.10
<b>SUMMARY:</b>			
Balance in checking acct./April 24, 1970			\$774.23
Income			188.50
Expenses			<u>    3.10</u>
		Total	<u>\$959.63</u>
Balance in checking acct./July 25, 1970			<u>\$959.63</u>
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND, B.T.N.B.</b>			
5 memberships @ \$50.00			\$250.00
Interest/June 30, 1970			<u>    71.31</u>
		Total	<u>\$321.31</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>			
Balance in checking acct./July 25, 1970			\$959.63
Balance in Life Membership Fund/June 30, 1970			<u>\$321.31</u>
		Total	<u>\$1280.94</u>

—Sybil Hanks, Treasurer

## News of AOS

*"All sperm whales both large and small, have some method of communication by signals to each other, by which they become apprised of the approach of danger, and this they do, although the distance may be very considerable between them, sometimes amounting to four, five or even seven miles. The mode by which this is effected, remains a curious secret."*

---Thomas Beale

### DAUPHIN ISLAND '70 MEETING

The Spring meeting of A.O.S. at Dauphin Island attracted a large number of members and guests. A total of 150 people from as far away as Utah, Connecticut, and Massachusetts registered for an enjoyable week-end of good food, good fellowship and challenging birding.

Early arrivals to the 3-day meeting saw an excellent film on Friday night. This film, which shows and describes predators, has been purchased by B.A.S. for educational use in Alabama schools.

Days of birding at the shell mounds, the Audubon Sanctuary and on the shores of Dauphin Island are never long enough. Although the number and variety of migratory warblers was less than anticipated, there were interesting compensations for some of us, such as bobo-links, gannets and painted buntings.

A large and enthusiastic group of people enjoyed the traditional seafood dinner Saturday night at the Civic Building. The evening's program was highlighted by Bob Reid's paper on barn swallow nestings in Alabama. After seeing the slides made by Bob and his colleagues, one is tempted to stop and look under every bridge for nests. We're glad to hear that barn swallows are increasing their territory southward in this state. Helen Kittinger showed slides of Alabama birds from the A.O.S. film library. This collection comprises selections of the work of our expert photographers such as Helen, Harriett Wright, and Fairly Chandler.

Tom Imhof talked to A.O.S. members about the Bankhead National Forest, where the Alabama Conservancy has requested that 11,000 acres be set aside as wilderness under the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Tom leads the A.O.S. team conducting an ornithological survey of the proposed wilderness area. Current "even-age" timber management policies in our National Forests will not leave suitable habitats for many of the birds and other wildlife. National Forests belong to everyone. Let's all support the Conservancy Wilderness Proposal!

A.O.S. members and especially the bird-banders among the group will want to attend the Inland Bird Banding Association meeting August 28-31 at Birmingham-Southern College. Registrants will be able to exchange information at paper sessions and workshops. There will be field trips to Lake Purdy, and to banding areas at Samford University and Thomas Creek, and a show at the planetarium.

Officers of A.O.S. for 1970-71 will be; Mr. Walter F. Coxe, President; Dr. Eugene Sledge, Vice-President; Mrs. T. E. Hanks, Treasurer; Miss Wilma Lindberg, Secretary; Dr. Dan Holliman, Alabama Birdlife Editor.

Next Year's Spring meeting is planned for April 22-25 when A.O.S. will meet with the Wilson Ornithological Society at Dauphin Island. Don't miss this one!

---Gussie Arnett

### MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
April 25 & 26, 1970  
Dauphin Island

The regular spring meeting of AOS was held at Dauphin Island on the week-end of April 25 and 26. Field trips were conducted on Saturday and Sunday to the Shell Mounds, Causeway, west end, and the Bird Sanctuary. The compilation of the birds seen during the meeting was held in front of the Storey Apartments on Sunday morning by Fairly Chandler.

#### Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council meeting was held at noon on Saturday at the Holiday Inn restaurant with the President, Walter Coxe, presiding. The following officers and directors were present: D. Holliman, F. Chandler, M. Gaillard, T. Imhof, S. Hanks, E. Sledge, J. Keefer and W. Lindberg; and R. Reid as special guest.

The minutes of the winter meeting were read and accepted.

The Treasurer, Sybil Hanks, submitted a report on the current finances which show a slight gain.



Mr. R. Reid commented on the excellent two page news coverage of the winter meeting by the Andulusia Sun.

Sybil Hanks asked the council for a decision on the legacy left to AOS by Blanche Chapman. R. Reid recommended that the money be held as unearmarked funds to be used for special projects. The council accepted this recommendation and directed that the money be placed in the savings account in Birmingham.

The President reported that Gussie Arnett will edit the newsletter for the next year, while he will continue to do the printing.

D. Holliman reported on the costs of publishing Alabama Birdlife. Each past issue has cost \$200 but increases are to be expected. In order to stay within the current budget it may be necessary to consider publishing only two issues per year. Also the council should be aware that he will not be available as an editor after the next issue.

Considerable discussions about Alabama Birdlife followed Dr. Holliman's comments. Members of the council expressed concern about how to cut costs but maintain quality of each issue. The President appointed a committee of E. Sledge (Chairman), S. Hanks, and R. Reid to study the problem with D. Holliman and make recommendation at the next meeting.

A report on the Bankhead Forest Project was made by T. Imhof. The census will continue until December when the study is completed. The field work will be done by July 31st. The future of the project will have to be determined later.

#### Minutes of Spring Meeting

Dr. Gaillard moved to hold the next spring meeting of AOS at the same time as the Wilson Ornithological Society (April 22 - 25). Motion seconded by D. Holliman. Motion carried.

R. Reid presented his report of the slide collection.

T. Imhof moved that AOS adopt a button for members to wear, similar to the emblem from Alabama Birdlife. D. Holliman amended the motion to have each button personalized with member's name. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

#### Banquet

A seafood supper was served on Saturday evening by the Dauphin Island Business Men's Association. Guest included representatives from Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida and Utah.

The program consisted of a slide report on the Cedar Valley Barn Swallow project by R. Reid and part of the AOS Bird Slide Collection by H. Kittenger.

A slate of officers was presented by D. Holliman, Chairman of Nominating Committee. This slate of President, Walter Coxe; Vice-President, E. Sledge; Sybil Hanks, Treasurer, were elected by acclamation.

- Wilma J. Lindberg

## Alabama Ornithological Society

Founded May 17, 1952

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1970-71

President—Walter F. Coxe, P. O. Box 1448, Birmingham 35201

Vice-President—Dr. Eugene B. Sledge, Biology Dept., University of Montevallo, Montevallo 35115

Treasurer—Sybil Hanks, 4152 LaRose Drive, Mobile 36609

Secretary—Linda J. Lindberg, 2712 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham 35243

Immediate Past President—Helen H. Kittinger, 1612 Colesbury Circle, Birmingham 35226

Editor, Alabama Birdlife—Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Biology Dept., Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham 35204

Editor, Newsletter—Gussie Arnett, Apt. 2, 1513-9th Avenue South, Birmingham 35205

Librarian—Clustie McTyeire, 1804 Arlington Avenue, Bessemer 35020

#### Directors:

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

#### Gulf Coast Region—

P. Fairly Chandler, P.O. Box 142, Magnolia Springs 36555  
Dr. M. Wilson Gaillard, 3919 South Sage Avenue, Mobile 36609

#### Coastal Plains Region—

James E. Keeler, 3576 North Georgetown Drive, Montgomery 36109  
Robert W. Skinner, Route 4, Box 46, Montgomery 36106

#### Piedmont and Eastern Mountains Region—

Dr. William J. Calvert, Jr., Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville 36265  
Rosemary T. Dusi, P.O. Box 742 Auburn 36830

#### Central Mountains Region—

Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Biology Dept., Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham 35204  
Harriett H. Wright, 2749 Millbrook Road, Birmingham 35243

#### Tennessee Valley Region—

Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1643, Decatur 35601  
Margaret L. Robinson, Ryland 35767