

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

July, 1970

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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.

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|----------------------|------|
| 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.