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1036 Pike Road  
Birmingham, Alabama

FALL MEETING  
COLLEGE INN MOTEL  
MARION, ALABAMA  
OCTOBER 9-10, 1971



ALL BIRDS OF PREY NOW PROTECTED  
BY ALABAMA LAW

Under the sponsorship and skillful handling of Mobile's Representative Jim Wood, Alabama has recently enacted a law extending protection to all hawks, owls and vultures. By current count, we thus joined 40 other states, including our sister states of Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee, in protecting all birds of prey.

This is very beneficial legislation since hawks and owls preserve the balance of nature by keeping species such as rats and mice under control, many eat harmful insects and, as is well known, vultures are the "garbage collectors" of the countryside. Our congratulations to Representative Wood for a job well done on this fine and needed conservation measure!

It is now an offense under the laws of Alabama (Title 8, Sections 83, 85 and 87 of the 1958 Recompiled Code of Alabama, as now amended) to kill any wild bird except crows, starlings and house or English sparrows (but all other sparrows are protected). It is also a federal offense to kill any bird that is considered a migratory bird under federal law (Title 16, Sections 703-11 of the U. S. Code, as amended). The only exceptions are for certain limited purposes such as hunting of game birds in season. In addition, it is an offense to hunt within 100 yards of a public road (Title 8, Section 105 of the above Code of Alabama).

## FIRST ANNUAL BANKHEAD FOREST SPRING COUNT

May 15, 1971; partly cloudy, 48° to 72°; wind mostly southerly, light. Observers, 26 in 9 parties, spent 68 party-hours afield from 4:30 to 12:30 CDT and traveled 160 miles, 43 of them on foot. Area covered: the Proposed Wilderness Area except for Kinlock Springs, plus Braziel Creek Rd., Gum Pond Motorway, Mountain Springs Rd., and Brushy Lake. Total Wilderness Area and woodland species: 98; total individuals, 3845 (56.5 birds per party hour).

Birds observed: (Birds marked with \* were recorded in substantially higher numbers--on a per party-hour basis--than on any of the 7 Birmingham Spring Counts. Except for the 3 thrushes which are transient, these are the birds whose abundance as local breeders depends on the continued existence of the forest in substantially the same condition.) Turkey Vulture, 28; Black Vulture, 12; Sharp-sh Hawk, 1 (Imhof); Red-tl Hawk, 3; Red-shld Hawk, 2; Broad-w Hawk, 5; hawk (sp?), 5; Bobwhite, 45; \*Turkey, 4; Am Woodcock, 1 (Wright); Mourning Dove, 49; Yellow-b Cuckoo, 37; Black-b Cuckoo, 13; Screech Owl, 1 (Glaze); Gt Horned Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 7; Chuck-wills-widow, 49; \*Whippoor-will, 80; Com Nighthawk, 1 (Bierly); Chimney Swift, 82; Ruby-th Hummingbird, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 7; Yel-s Flicker, 30; \*Pileated Woodpecker, 55; \*Red-bellied Woodpecker, 65; Red-headed Woodpecker, 19; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 26.

E Kingbird, 2; \*Gt Crested Flycatcher, 102; E Phoebe, 11; \*Acadian Flycatcher, 49; empidonax (sp?), 1; \*E Wood Pewee, 65; Rough-w Swallow, 5; Barn Swallow, 1 (Bierly); Purple Martin, 12; swallow (sp?), 5; Blue Jay, 123; Com Crow, 53; \*Car Chickadee, 157; \*Tufted Titmouse, 140; \*White-br Nut-hatch, 19; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 3; Car Wren, 111; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 14; Wood Thrush, 109; \*Swainson's Thrush, 34; \*Gray-chk Thrush, 7; \*Veery, 12; E Bluebird, 1 (Bierly); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 69; Cedar Waxwing, 66; \*White-e Vireo, 110; \*Yellow-thr Vireo, 53; \*Red-e Vireo, 269.

Warblers--\*black & wh, 95; Prothonotary, 1 (Coxe); Swainson's, 2 (Coxe, Kittinger); \*Worm-eating, 36; Blue-winged, 19; Tennessee, 9; \*Parula, 32; Yellow, 1 (J. Imhof); Magnolia, 5; \*Black-thr Green, 29; \*Cerulean, 28; Black-burnian, 1 (Kittinger); Yellow-thr, 19; Chestnut-s, 4; Bay-br, 5; \*Pine, 136; \*Prairie, 165; Palm, 3 (latest for Mt. Region--Imhof); \*Ovenbird, 28; \*Louisiana Waterthrush, 31; \*Kentucky, 62; Yellowthroat, 16; \*Yel-br Chat, 102; \*Hooded, 46; Canada, 1 (Imhof); Am Redstart, 26; warbler (sp?), 46; E Meadow-lark, 7; Red-w Blackbird, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 1 (Bierly); Com Grackle, 14; Brown-hd Cowbird, 78; \*Scarlet Tanager, 50; \*Summer Tanager, 65; Cardinal, 160; Rose-br Grosbeak, 6; Blue Grosbeak, 8; \*Indigo Bunting, 145; Am Gold-finch, 43; Rufous-s Towhee, 113; Chipping Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, 32; Whitethroat, 1 (Kittinger); Lincoln's Sparrow, 2 (latest, Mt. Region -Kittinger).

Birds observed in other than woodland habitats outside the Proposed Wilderness Area: Killdeer, 1; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; House Sp, 3; Red-w Blackbird, 45; Orchard Oriole, 1; 5 additional species, 57 individuals (Grand Total: 103 species and 3902 individuals; 57.4 birds per party-hour.)