

At the Ft. Gaines colony, Little Blue Herons were first seen coming in on March 17. They had not nested by March 27. By May 9, there were about 300 Little Blue Heron nests and 100 Cattle Egret nests, with almost 100 of the Little Blue Heron nests containing young up to 2 weeks old. Cattle Egret nests had only eggs. On May 30, Little Blue Heron young ranged from 1 to 5 weeks in age; Cattle Egrets ranged from eggs to young 3 weeks old.

An aerial survey of the Pintlala colony on May 1, showed both Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets present. By May 20, Little Blue Heron nestlings were, at the oldest, 10 days. No Cattle Egret young were hatched.

The McLemore colony was found on May 21. Both Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets were present. On May 27, both species had eggs in nests but Little Blue Herons had mostly full clutches, while Cattle Egrets had 2 or 3 eggs.

As of May 30 the eldest Little Blue Heron nestlings at the Ft. Gaines colony were 5 weeks old; those at the Pintlala colony, 3 weeks old and those at McLemore colony not yet hatched. Cattle Egrets at Ft. Gaines had nestlings 3 weeks old, at Pintlala just hatched and at McLemore, in the egg. Therefore the nestling age ratio for Little Blue Herons (Ft. Gaines: Pintlala: McLemore) was 5 weeks: 3 weeks: 0 weeks (egg stage); and the Cattle Egret ratio, 3 weeks; Just hatched; 0 weeks (egg stage).

With the colonies located relatively close together and positioned near prominent rivers, which are their migratory pathways, the only other possible variable is the colony age. This does show a similar variation to the nest development dates. Until more data are available, it will be best to consider this coincidental.

The data do show that a large amount of variability is present and that the degree of nestling development in each colony is different enough that one cannot be used to estimate the nestling development in another colony.

Department of Zoology-Entomology  
Auburn University  
Auburn, Alabama 36830

## THE SEASON, FALL (September—October—November) 1971

Compiler and Editor — Thomas A. Imhof

In spite of many warm days this fall, we entered December with an average for the year of 3° below normal. The few cold spells were in Birmingham rather severe and concentrated around 8 Nov (24°) and 22 Nov (25°). As far as known, frost has not reached the coast. Mobile experienced its hottest and driest October since 1874, and Birmingham was shorted 1.75 inches in both October and November. By virtue of spring rains, the year's rainfall for Birmingham is still 5 inches in excess, but we suspect that with our present system of channelized streams, this precious water has long since been flushed out into the Gulf like so much sewage.

Mary Gaillard pointed out that the coast had more western birds than usual, except no Vermilion Flycatchers; and this is exactly what the prevailing winds favored. The few eastern birds, Blackpoll Warbler, Bobolink, and Painted Bunting, were recorded near Hurricanes Edith about 17 Sep and Ginger about 1—6 Oct. Best days for migrants on Dauphin I. were reported by Lib Toenes as

23 Oct and 4 & 22 Nov. During the very hot weather of early fall, Mary Gaillard noted many birds sunning themselves, apparently because the mites were "mitey" bad. One hummingbird was noted "lying flat on the brick walk with its wings widespread" (MAG).

REVERSE MIGRATION — Much more of this goes on than is suspected. Note in "Alabama Birds" the Morning Dove that went in fall from Dauphin I. northeast to Jay, Fla.; and the Chimney Swift that flew from Rome, Ga. to Birmingham and back to Rome the same fall. On Dauphin I. swallows fly into the wind no matter which way it is blowing. One frequent occurrence is for birds to be blown too far south in fall, and they are seen beating their way back north from Dauphin I. On 4 Nov 1500-2000 Robins spent the morning on Dauphin I. then disappeared (D); later a large flock was seen on the mainland flying north into the wind (D). Hundreds of Myrtle Warblers were also involved in this movement (D). Each fall hundreds of Blue Jays, Juncos, Whitethroats, other sparrows briefly mass on our Gulf Coast near their southern winter limits. If these birds crossed the Gulf in any abundance like their Alabama concentrations, they would have long since been detected in places like Yucatan and Cuba.

EARED GREBE, BROWN PELICAN — The first 2 October EARED GREBES were 1 on the 15th at Magnolia Springs, photographed (C) and 1 on the 28-29 in Birmingham, photographed, banded, measured (LC, WC, I, HW, R); the latter is the 3rd inland record. About 35-50 Brown Pelicans spent most of the season near the mouth of Mobile Bay (T, C, mob) but most were gone by 26 Oct (P).

HERONS, IBISES, STORK — A GREAT WHITE HERON injured on 8 Aug, which could have been the bird present since 28 Jun, lingered on Dauphin I. 2 months later than previous records and was hit by a car during a storm on 29 Nov and too badly mashed for preservation (T & mob). At Lakeland Farm on 6 Sep, 450-500 Cattle Egrets were estimated (JRB & mob). The Reddish Egret used to occur all season, now we are lucky that it occurs every season; this time at Alabama Point, latest 23 Oct (MLM & SG) and Dauphin I. on 17 Sep (T). A Wood Stork was at Payne L. on 8 Sep (P & RM). Two adult White Ibises were on the Magnolia R. on 2 Dec (C); both these occurrences are not unusual but indicate a successful breeding season. On Cochrane Causeway, Mobile, 2 ROSEATE SPOONBILLS were present 10-25 Oct (ATM, GB, mob) the 2nd Alabama record in 41 years!

HAWKS — Almost unknown on Dauphin I., a Black Vulture appeared there on 8 Nov (T). Cooper's Hawk was noted migrating at Ft. Morgan 23 & 24 Sep (I) and 25 Oct (P), at Cochrane Causeway 26 Oct (P); also Birmingham on 16 Oct (HW). Broad-winged Hawks were noted in flocks twice; 60 on the south slope of Red Mt. Birmingham on 25 Sep (RM & P); and 75 at Dauphin I. on 7 Oct (T, WTS). Peregrine Falcons, undoubtedly tundra-breeders, still migrate along our coast; birds noted 24 Sep at Ft. Morgan (I); 25 Sep at Alabama Point (MLM & SG); and Dauphin I. on 9 Oct (E & JF). A Pigeon Hawk at Ft. Morgan on 23 Sep stooped at a dragonfly (I); another was at Fairhope on 29 Nov (P).

RAILS — A Com Gallinule, rare in the Mt Region, was at L. Purdy on 27 Sep & 2 Oct (HK, AM, JL). With Hurricane Edith 200 miles west, a Black Rail was flushed from salt marsh at Gulf Shores on 17 Sep (C), 3rd Alabama record.

SHOREBIRDS — Careful counting of Oystercatchers near Dauphin I. reveals a max of 7 on 8 & 19 Nov (T); apparently the bird at Alabama Point about 25 Oct (RH) comes from Florida. The Snowy Plover, another species like the Reddish

Egret that requires relatively undisturbed beaches, was noted at Ft. Morgan on 24 Sep (I) and Alabama Point, 5 birds on 25 Oct (P). A Golden Plover at Marion 8-10 Oct (C, mob) is the 2nd fall record for the coastal plain. Whimbrels on Dauphin I. on 9 & 31 Oct (G & JS) are the only coast records between 9 Sep & 23 Dec. A White-rumped Sandpiper at Alabama Point on 22 & 23 Sep, carefully studied (MLM & SG), is the first in fall for the coast. On Dauphin I. 8 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present on 19 Sep (G & JS, BT) and another was at Alabama Point 22 & 23 Sep (MLM, SG). Marbled Godwit, unusual in November, was on Dauphin I. on 19, 21 & 27 Nov (T). Black-necked Stilts showed up on 17 Sep (Hurricane Edith), 2 on Dauphin I. (T) and 1 at Gulf Shores (C); 3 more were in Mobile on 19 Oct (T, LMc), latest fall Alabama. Avocets were noted away from their usual Mobile wintering grounds, 2 on 17 Sep (Hurricane Edith) at Gulf Shores (C); on Dauphin I. on 12 Oct (T, CTB, JKF) and 22 Nov (T); and at Eufaula Refuge on 30 Oct (W), 3rd and latest for the Lower Coastal Plain. Many inland phalarope records seem to be associated with downpours; a Northern Phalarope, in deep water with Horned Grebes at L. Purdy on 6 Dec (P), 6th & latest record for Alabama and 2nd in the Mt Region, was just prior to a 2.3-inch rainfall.

GULL, PIGEON, OWLS — It is not known what cooperative project is responsible for the big blue spot on the back of an im Herring Gull on Dauphin I. on 27 Nov (G & JS, BT). An apparently stunned or exhausted BAND-TAILED PIGEON was found lying on its side near the road on west Dauphin I. on 23 Oct (T, LMc, LA), examined at very close range for ½ hr, whereupon it flew off; the first for Alabama. A count of 11 Screech Owls at L. Purdy on 29 Nov with a full moon (P) is a record high. A Burrowing Owl on Dauphin I. 21-27 Nov (J & GS and many) is a species not yet proven to occur annually. FLYCATCHERS, CATBIRD, GNATCATCHER — An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Magnolia Springs on 17 Sep (Hurricane Edith) is the 4th Alabama record, all on coast, earliest of 3 in fall. All 4 Empidonax species were banded on the coast 17-26 Sep (MEM, REH, I); 7 of 9 Acadians were banded at Ft. Morgan 23-25 Sep (I). Catbirds were especially abundant in Baldwin Co., on 3 Oct (P); of the 44 banded in Birmingham 28 Sep-30 Oct, 18 were on 7 Oct (I). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Birmingham on 20 Nov & 10 Dec (same bird?) is the first record north of the coastal plain later than 28 Oct (HK).

VIREO, WARBLER, ICTERID — A Black-whiskered Vireo, belatedly reported as present on Dauphin I. on 25 Apr (KPA & SAG) is the 5th for Alabama, all in spring on Dauphin. Two Blackpoll Warblers which showed up at Magnolia Springs on 12 & 13 Aug (C) during a period of easterly winds were the 3rd & 4th fall records south of Birmingham. The only Bobolinks reported this fall were 5 at Ft. Morgan on 23 Sep (I).

BUNTINGS — Weeds grow abundantly in loose, bare, sunlit soils such as at dumps or landfills; their high reproductive capacity lies in their ability to produce myriads of seeds; and herein lies their attractiveness for birds. In such an area in Birmingham 154 Indigo Buntings were banded between 29 Sep and 30 Oct (I). A male Painted Bunting seen in the same place on 1 Oct and banded on 6 Oct (I) was apparently in its first winter because its belly was orangeish rather than scarlet red. Off the Carolina coast where this species breeds, Hurricane Ginger remained virtually at a standstill for about a week producing a strong easterly flow of air which could have brought this bird to Birmingham far north of its usual diagonal fall flight to the Gulf coast.

MIGRATION DATES, mostly first seen, for key localities: (e-early for the region, E-early for the state, l-late for the region, L-late for the state, max-most seen,

b-banded; localities, not in parentheses, are LP-Lake Purdy, LO-Lake Oliver on Chattahoochee R. near Phenix City, DI-Dauphin I., W-Wheeler Refuge, Eu-Eufaula Refuge, LLF-Lakeland Farm, MFH-Marion Fish Hatchery, EL-East Lake in B'ham, B-Birmingham, Mob-Mobile, Chick-Chickasaw, FtM-Fort Morgan, G S-Gulf Shores, SH-Spring Hill, AP-Alabama Point).

Species	Tenn V—Mt Reg	Pied—UCP—LCP	Gulf Coast
Com Loon	19 Nov LP (HW)	11 Nov LO (W)	9 Nov (DI (T))
Horned Grebe	7 Nov LP (P)	7 Nov LO (W)	20 Nov DI (T)
White Pelican	6 Nov W (MB)		2 Oct Mob (CC,LMc)
D-c Cormorant		1 Nov 11 LO (W)	
Blk-cr N Heron	26 Sep LP (P)		
Least Bittern		6 Sep MFH (P,mob)l	
Whistling Swan	22-30 Nov W (TZA)	12 Nov Eu (DFH)	
Canada Goose			25 Oct FtM (P)
Blue Goose		10 Oct LLF(I)e	12 Sep Mob (MWG)e
Mallard	3 Nov LP (HK)		22 Nov DI (G&JS)
Gadwall	10 Oct EL (R)	7 Oct, 25 LO(W)	11 Oct DI (T)
Pintail		7 Oct LO (W)	19 Oct Mob(T,LMc)
Green-w Teal	18 Sep W (MB)	4 Oct LO (W)	26 Sep GS(I, CK, mob)
	3 Nov B (HK)	9 Oct MFH (AOS)	
Am Widgeon	26 Sep EL (P,R)	3 Nov (LO (W))	
Shoveler	3 Nov,7LP (HK,AM)		7 Nov Chick (D)
Redhead	4 Nov EL(RH,CL)	9 Oct LLF(AOS)e	26 Sep GS(CK mob)E
		7 Nov LO (W)	6 Nov DI (T)
Ring-nk Duck	sum / EL	2 Nov LO (W)	28 Oct Chick(AP)
Canvasback	31 Oct EL (B)	4 Nov LO (W)	7 Nov Chick (D)
L Scaup	29 Oct B (I mob)	13 Oct LO (W)	7 Nov Chick (D)
Com Goldeneye		6 Nov LO (W)	24 Nov DI (T)
Bufflehead	7 Nov LP (P)	7 Nov LO (W)	
Oldsquaw			26 Nov male Mob(T)
Surf Scoter			21 Nov DI (T)
Ruddy Duck	24 Oct,3 EL (B)	9 Oct MFH(AOS)	7 Nov Chick (D)
		13 Oct LO (W)	
Hooded Merg	6 Dec LP (P)	3 Nov,4 (LO (W))	
Com Merg		12 Nov,4 LO (W)	
Red-br Merg	7 Nov LP (P)	6 Nov LO (W)	4 Nov DI (T)
	8 Nov,40 LP (HK)	11 Nov,32 LO (W)	
Osprey			3 Oct,4FtM (P)max
Lesser Yellowl	8 Nov LP (HK,mob)l		
Knot			30 Sep DI (T)
Dunlin	6 Nov W (MB)		12 Oct Mob (D)
	3-10 Nov LP (HK,mob)	9-10 Oct MFH(AOS)	12 Oct DI (T)
Stilt Sandp			25 Sep AP (MLM)
			10 Oct,6 Mob(MAG)
West Kingbird		10 Oct LLF(T&AF)	23 Oct,20DI (T)max
Scissor-t Flyc			21 Oct,4DI (LA, mob)
E Wood Pewee	25 Oct B (HW)		
Yel-b Flyc	7 Oct B (I)		
Horned Lark	4 Nov B (RH,CL)		
Cliff Swallow		6 Sep LLF(HK)e	
Red-br Nuthatch	1 Oct B (HW)		8 Oct DI (MEM)

Species	Tenn V—Mt Reg.	Pied—UCP-LCP	Gulf Coast
Brown Creeper	16 Oct B (P, HW)		12 Oct DI (T)
House Wren			19 Sep DI (G&JS,BT) <sup>e</sup>
Golden-cr K	16 Oct B (BAS)		20 Nov Mob (LD)
Ruby-cr K	16 Oct B (BAS)		13 Oct SH (MAG)
Yel-thr Vireo		9 Oct MFH(AOS)1	
Phila Vireo	28 Sep B (PR)	9 Oct MFH(AOS)1	10 Oct DI,3b (REH)
Prothonotary W			23 Sep FtM,b (I)
Swainson's W	2 Oct B,b(RK,JL)1		
Worm-eating W	30 Sep B,b (I)		17 Sep DI,b (MEM)
Orange-cr W	6 Nov W (MB)1		19 Sep DI (T) <sup>e</sup> CP
	15 Sep B (R, JWS)		
Magnolia W	30 Oct B,b (I)		
Myrtle W	7 Oct B,b (I)	9 Oct,2 MFH (MB)	13 Oct SH (MAG)
Yellow-thrtd W	16 Oct B (IS) tie		
Mourning W	11 Sep B (HW) <sup>e</sup>		23 Sep DI,b (REH)
Yel-br Chat	23 Oct B,b (RKmob)		
Scarlet Tanager	25 Oct B (HW)		
Summer Tanager			31 Oct Mob (LMc)
Rose-br Grosb	24 Oct B,2 (I)		
Blue Grosbeak	14 Oct B (I)1		1 Nov DI (T)
Indigo Bunting	3 Nov B (I)		3 Nov DI (T)
Evening Grosb	4 Dec LP (HK&AM)		
Purple Finch	23 Oct B,b (I) E		20 Nov SH (MAG)
			20 Nov DI (T)
Pine Siskin	about 1 Nov (BAS)		21 Nov Mob (TFr)
Lark Sparrow			22 Sep DI (T) 2
			24 Sep FtM,2 (I,C)
Sl-c Junco	27 Oct B (HW)		4 Nov DI (D & T)
Chipping Sp			1 Oct DI (T)
White-crown Sp	29 Oct B (I)		23 Oct DI (T)
Whitethroat	11 Oct B (I)		15 Oct SH (MAG)
Lincoln's Sp	6 Nov W (MB)1		
	8 Oct-13 Dec B,5,4b (I)		
Swamp Sp	7 Oct B (I)	9 Oct LLF(MB)	8 Oct DI (MEM)
Song Sp	16 Oct B (BAS)	9 Oct MFH (MB)	28 Oct DI (T)

**OBSERVERS** — Kenneth P. Able, Alabama Ornithological Society, Lois P. Archer, Thomas Z. Atkeson, (B) Raymond & Sara Bates, Birmingham Audubon Society, J. R. Bailey, Michael L. Bierly, Clarice T. Batson, George Bennett, (C) P. Fairly Chandler, L. Church, Walter F. Coxe, Clara L. Caffey, (D) Rev. J. L. Dorn SJ, Leo Denton, Earl & Jean K. Fraser, Ted & Amy Furnans, Tony Friedhoff, Mary A. Gaillard, Sherlie Gade, Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Richard E. Hayward, Richard Horne, Ruth R. Horsley, Dennis F. Holland, (I) Thomas A. Imhof, Helen H. Kittinger, Richard & Ronald Kittinger, Curtis L. Kingsbery, John R. Lester, Christine Leake, Margaret E. Miller, Mary Lou Mattis, Roger Maner, Ann L. Miller, Alwilda T. Mitchell, Louise McKinstry, (P) James V. Peavy, Alice W. Patterson, (R) Robert R. Reid, Pat A. Riley, W. Temple Siebels, Geneviene & Jim Spafford, Idalene F. Snead, James W. Shepherd, (T) Lib R. Toenes, Bill Tonsmeire, (W) L. A. Wells, Harriett H. Wright, M. Wilson Gaillard, mob-many other birders.

1036 Pike Road Birmingham, Ala. 35218