

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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About the Publication. At the Alabama Ornithological Society Executive Council meeting on April 29, 1972, a motion was passed that AOS publish one journal a year and four or more newsletters a year. Reasons for this are in the report on page 16. As acting President of AOS I feel that the members are entitled to a quarterly journal and that the recruiting of new members would be facilitated by one.

I consulted AOS legal advisor Robert Reid about my temporarily publishing the journal on a quarterly basis and delaying the motion of the Council. He concluded that if I could solve some of the problems presented, that he would advise me to publish since the Council's action was an emergency measure because of the reasons stated and that under the by-laws, the journal is to be published quarterly if possible. At present I can get the journal printed at about \$100-110 per issue, a reduction of 40%. Further I have asked several people to write articles on observations, projects, etc., that should be reported in more detail. Also I have initiated several new features which I hope will broaden the base of the publication and more meet the needs of the members.

At the next state meeting the membership will consider again the direction of this journal. Your comments and suggestions on the issues you receive before this meeting would be appreciated. --Mike Bierly

Nominating Committee Report. The nominating committee will bring to the members at the next state meeting the following candidates for officers in AOS for 1972-73. Each has accepted and has agreed to assume their respective duties pending final approval of the members. The nominees are:

President	Vice-President	Treasurer
Mr. Michael Lee Bierly	Jr. Arthur Garrett, Jr.	Mrs. Charles J. (Mary) Mayhew
3826 Bedford Avenue	3111 Riviere du Chien	P. O. Box 87
Nashville, Tenn. 37215	Loop W	Dauphin Island, Ala. 36520
	Mobile, Ala. 36619	

State Meetings Announcement. Two state meetings will be held in the 1972-73 year. The mid-year meeting will be January 26, 27, 28, 1973 at Guntersville. Featured here will be Guntersville Lake, Little Mountain State Park and the state's North Sauty Wildlife Refuge.

The spring meeting will be April 13, 14, 15, 1973 at Gulf Shores. This site will alternate with Dauphin Island as the spring meeting spot as voted by the membership. Fairly Chandler is coordinator of this meeting.

Information either through the publication or a letter will be sent all memberships about 30-45 days before the meeting with complete details. So put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

* * * * *

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE STAFF

Send all articles and notes to interim editor: Michael Lee Bierly, 3826 Bedford Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37215.

Seasonal Editor: Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham, Ala. 35218.

Counts Editor: Robert R. Reid, Jr., 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35223.

Spring 1969 Tower Casualties in Birmingham

by Michael Lee Bierly

Regular collections of bird casualties were continued at WAPI and WBRC television towers in Birmingham for the spring of 1969. Tower descriptions can be found in Alabama Birdlife 16:4(34), 17:2(46).

Daily trips were begun on March 15 and terminated May 22 representing 69 days. During this time a total of 44 individuals of 17 species were picked up. The first casualty was March 23 and the last May 17. The largest casualty days were May 7 when 9 Red-eyed Vireos were found and May 8 with 7 individuals of 5 species.

The Red-eyed Vireo spanned the longest period, 28 days, from April 20 through May 17, and also accounted for the greatest number of individuals of one species, 24. This species has consistently been the most numerous victim for the two previous collection years.

No extreme dates were recorded. The presence of a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Rufous-sided Towhee were considered noteworthy because of the species permanent residency status in the area. These are the only two permanent resident species recorded at these towers. Table 1 lists species, dates and number of individuals.

Thanks to Andy Bates, Ricky Kittinger, Elberta Reid and Robert Reid for assisting with collections, and the Samford University Biology Department for the use of its facilities.

Table 1. Species, date, number casualties spring 1969 WAPI and WBRC television towers. Individual numbers in parenthesis when needed.

Species	Number	Date
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	May 9, 17.
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 8.
Catbird	1	May 8.
Wood Thrush	1	April 6.
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	April 6.
Red-eyed Vireo	24	April 20(3), 23(1), 29(1), May 6(1), 7(9), 9(2), 11(1), 14(1), 16(1), 17(4).
Black-and-White Warbler	1	April 20.
Yellow Warbler	1	May 14.
Magnolia Warbler	1	May 12.
Blackburnian Warbler	1	May 10.
Northern Waterthrush	2	April 23, May 8.
Kentucky Warbler	2	May 8.
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	May 8.
Canada Warbler	1	May 6.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	May 17.
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	March 23.
Swamp Sparrow	1	April 25.
Total	44	

Curlew Sandpiper In Alabama

The Curlew Sandpiper was added to the Alabama list when one was seen on Friday, April 28, 1972. This sandpiper breeds in northern Siberia and migrates throughout the old world. It is rare, however, in North and South America.

We had been observing shorebirds of various species (10 Semipalmated Plovers, 1 Piping Plover, 6 Wilson's Plovers, 6 Black-bellied Plovers, 10 Ruddy Turnstones, 3 Whimbrels, 10 Willets, 20 Least Sandpipers, 40 Dunlins, 10 Short-billed Dowitchers, 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 3 Sanderlings, 2 Black-necked Stilts - the Stilts are uncommon, the others common on Dauphin Island) when one bird stood out from all of the rest. The russet neck, chest and back, and the down curved bill immediately suggested the Curlew Sandpiper.

The unusual bird was observed three times (for a total of about 20 minutes) with 7 power binoculars and a scope of 15-60 power. The scope was primarily used at 15 power because the bird was first sighted at about 100 feet, and this was reduced to about 40 feet by the bird feeding in our direction.

The field marks were:

a) Russet red-orange color of head, neck, chest and back was bloched with white as if the bird was in 75% summer plumage and 25 % winter plumage. The russet was most pronounced on the neck and chest; there was progressively more white nearer the tail, and the under tail coverts were whitish.

b) Black markedly down curved bill of the same size as the Dunlin.

c) The bird was about the same size as the Dunlin, except its legs were a little longer and its body was longer and slimmer looking. The Dunlin looked fatter and dumpier.

d) White rump - We flushed the bird three times.

e) The legs and the bill were black.

Time, place, tide, weather were:

Friday, April 28, 1972, 5:45-6:15 A.M. Central Standard Time, sunrise was 5:10 A.M., western end of Dauphin Island on bayside - 1 mile west of Holiday Inn. The temperature was about 55°; there was a strong (25 mph) southeast wind; a heavy overcast until about 5:30; a storm seemed imminent; full moon; tide was rising at 6:00 A.M. with an unusually high tide around 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 A.M. with the road to the West End under water in places.

1949 Record by Thomas A. Imhof.

On March 3, 1949, a winter plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was seen in a flock of Dunlins on Cochrane Causeway near where the Battleship "Alabama" is now exhibited. This bird was white-rumped and of the same size as a Dunlin, but the observer failed to notice anything unusual about the bill. The observer was not certain of his identification until after reading and reviewing the possibilities, especially of White-rumped Sandpiper. Because of the belated identification, the record was not published (until now) since the observer felt that it should not stand alone.

J. Russell Bailey, 18 Peachtree Street, Birmingham 35213.
John F. Harsh, 4120 Shiloh Drive, Birmingham 35213.

REFUGE CORNER

There are three national wildlife refuges in Alabama: Wheeler at Decatur; Eufaula at Eufaula; and Choctaw in Clarke Co., headquartered at Jackson. Periodically we will hear from these important bird refuges on their projects, problems, general bird migration, etc. In mid-June each was asked to comment on summer nesting projects, the effect on the 1971 rule that crops could not be leveled and to give a general discussion about the refuge. Reports were received from Wheeler and Eufaula. They follow.

Wheeler NWR. Waterfowl was short during the 1971-72 season with only about 35,000 Canada Geese, 1500 Blue and Snow Geese, and 46,000 ducks present. This represents a continuing drop in all waterfowl and can be compared with about 38,000 geese and 60,000 ducks the previous year, a goose peak of 60,000 back in 1963, and a duck peak of about 93,000 in the mid-50's.

At least where geese are concerned, this seems largely due to the short stopping of the birds from new management areas in northern Ohio, western Indiana, western Pennsylvania, etc. However, a ruling that crops could not be leveled during the 1971-72 season almost certainly had an effect. Food production was unusually high due to an especially good agricultural crop and much of the unleveled food remained uneaten at the end of the winter, an unprecedented situation here. This ruling though has been recently revised, and we feel that most of the Wheeler crop can again be leveled in the fall of 1972. At the present writing (June 20) it looks as though drought may seriously reduce crop yields.

Wood Duck nesting during the summer of 1971 seemed unusually high and refuge nest boxes showed over 25% use, the highest experienced here. Though boxes have not yet been checked this summer, 1972 also seems high with many broods of young Mallards and Wood Ducks noted.

Again, Wheeler Refuge had a YCC program during the summer of 1972. Unlike the resident camp used in 1971, this was a non-residential program with 20 high school students, boys and girls, reporting for work each morning, then returning home at the end of the work day. The youngsters cut out walking trails, improved the headquarters nature trail, aided with dove banding, cleared back road edges, bush hooked willows in the dewatered units and gathered up rubbish all over the refuge.

Ron Bisbee transferred to Okefenokee Refuge during the early fall of 1971, and has been replaced as recreation specialist by Harold Johnson. Henry Grammer, who has been at Wheeler almost since its origin, retired June 30.

An effort to revive the spur across the Flint Creek Embayment connecting Point Mallard Park with Interstate 65 has evidently been dropped after a storm of protests from various organizations and individuals. Presently there is an effort to route a six or eight lane connection between Interstate 65 and Huntsville across parts of the refuge. This is a serious threat that has not yet been resolved. The BSF&W has taken the position that it will freely grant right-of-way across those parts of the refuge lying north of State Highway 20, but will strenuously oppose any effort to place the highway south of Highway 20.

Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., Refuge Manager, WNWNR, P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, 35601.

Eufaula NWR. The Canada Geese here are a combination of migratory geese and a resident flock of giant Canada Geese. The number of migratory geese which visit the refuge (around 200) has rapidly decreased while the number of

resident giant Canada Geese has slowly increased. We feel we are making progress because we are slowly establishing a resident flock in an area where these geese were once found in great numbers. Overall we have increased our numbers of wintering ducks, around 35,000. Our peak population during the 1971-72 season was only 23,800. Although we are not positive about the cause of this decrease we feel that the unusual weather up north this past winter had a lot to do with it. The coot population has followed the duck population and also has increased during the past years. They peaked at 7000 in 1971-72 and is the largest number yet recorded.

We don't know how the "knocking down" rule will affect us. We have gone to millet and milo in some areas in order to see if this will work better since we cannot knock the corn down, and we are also trying to get some natural foods to grow in several areas.

Due to the dry weather we have had for the past few months (June 19) much has been accomplished. The impoundments on the Alabama side dried out enough to be disked in order to promote growth of natural foods such as smartweed. The reservoir was not raised to its high summer water level mark until after the goose nesting season. This will finally provide us with an idea of just how much damage flooding of the nests does do to goose production each year. Also this storm free weather has provided the Mourning Dove with a perfect nesting season and it is quite evident since we have banded 486 in the last two weeks and only 25 of those were adults. Although we have accomplished a lot in this good weather our crops are looking pretty bad and are in desperate need of rain.

On June 16 we completed our second Wood Duck box check and we have produced the same amount as last year at this time, 438. We are however still having trouble with Starlings ruining Wood Duck nests by nesting on top of them.

We have had an interesting visitor lately. During the months of February, March and April, a wounded immature Golden Eagle made its home here. Shot by a hunter in Union Springs, Alabama, he was brought to us with a broken wing and several gashes. The wing healed and the eagle was released, but would not fly. Finally on May 1 he took off and left us just before we were going to turn him over to the Montgomery Zoo. The only reason we could come up with for his not flying sooner was the fact that he evidently lived a life of leisure. He decided to leave the day we plowed up the field he had been using as his home.

Jimmie L. Tisdale, Manager, ENWR, Box 258, Eufaula 36027.
Sharon Lee Sauer, Assistant Manager, ENWR, Box 258, Eufaula 36027.

AOS Treasurer's Report
Summary - April 24, 1971 to April 24, 1972

Balance in Checking Account, April 24, 1971	\$ 482.17
Income	885.36
Total	<u>\$1367.53</u>
Expenses	- 755.20
Total	<u>\$ 612.33</u>
Balance in Checking Account, April 24, 1972	\$ 612.33
Balance in Savings Account, March 31, 1972	451.90
Total assets	<u>\$1064.23</u>

Sybil Hanks, Treasurer

Birding In Alabama

Birmingham Zoo
by James V. Peavy

If you want to see birds, go to the zoo. The Birmingham Zoo is located on the south side of town and is marked on most road maps. There is a fine collection of captive exotic birds in the zoo; thousands of people come every year to look at these and other animals. Few people however realize that the zoo is also a haven for many species of wild native birds. Birding in the zoo and surrounding park is always rewarding and occasionally spectacular. I attribute the zoo's abundance of wild birds to two major factors: First, there are over 100 acres of heavily wooded land around the zoo, surrounded by extensive urban development; and second, the great abundance of food. Food is placed in pens outside daily for captive animals and wild birds fly into them to help themselves. It's sort of like birding in an 85 acre bird feeder. For persons interested in birding in the zoo I am dividing it into two major sections, inside the perimeter fence and outside the perimeter fence.

To bird inside the zoo fence you must enter by way of the main gate which opens at 9:30 A.M., and pay the admission charge. The charge is \$1.00 for adults and \$.25 for children 2-18 years old. Children under 2 are admitted free. Once inside the zoo all visitors must obey signs which restrict certain areas, generally however all areas of interest are accessible.

Birding inside the zoo is best in spring, winter and fall. In the spring and fall numerous species of warblers pass through. The best area in spring is the large wooded area north of the hoofed animal inclosure. There is a trail which follows the perimeter fence and allows access to these woods. This trail is seldom traveled, but is a fairly easy walk. You must however cross a ditch which has about two inches of water most of the time. Along this walk in spring and fall look for Ovenbird, Kentucky, Hooded, Black-throated Green, Swainson's, Worm-eating, Myrtle and Palm Warblers, and also various vireos.

The trail terminates into a service road near the old zoo service gate. In this area look for Veery, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Catbird, Red-headed Woodpecker and nuthatches. In spring many Palm Warblers feed here. In the picnic area just east of the hoofed animals look for Chipping Sparrows, and in tall sweetgums Golden-winged and Prothonotary Warblers. In winter this is a good area for all finches and Rusty Blackbirds.

South of the zoo perimeter road is a large wooded picnic area. Directly across from Monkey Island is a very good place in winter for Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and White-throated Sparrows. In spring check water oaks for passing warblers such as Blackpoll, Black-throated Green and Myrtle. In the center of the zoo the ponds regularly attract Rough-winged Swallows, kingfishers, Green Herons and in fall immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Gangs of blackbirds settle on the Bison and deer lots in winter. In fall migrating hawks may be seen from the parking lot as they fly along Red Mountain.

If you wish to bird outside the zoo fence you do not have to pay any admission charge. As you enter the park area the admission booth is on a spur road to your left; continue right, follow the road until a dirt road enters from your right; stop here and check creek crossing. If you are very early you may find a gate blocking this road, if so, park near gate and walk the road, it is quite good throughout in early morning. In spring almost all woodpeckers can be seen, also Kentucky, Canada, Pine, Palm, Hooded, Black-and-White, Blackpoll, Myrtle and other warblers. Drive or walk to service gate, take dirt road right to picnic shelter. With the shelter on your left

there is a good trail on your right. Walk along this trail for all thrushes in the spring and also for good warblers.

In addition to these sites there are many other trails and wooded areas around the zoo. On the Mountain Brook side (near U.S. 280 access ramp) there is a wild, tangled area in which Black-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Solitary Vireo and Winter Wren have been seen.

If you come to the zoo plan to look at the animal exhibits and please drop by the office to say hello.

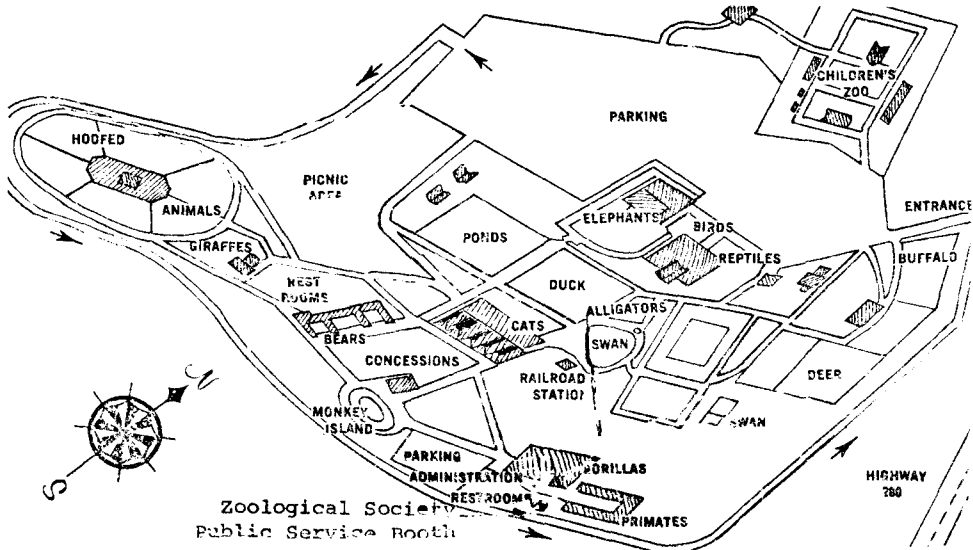


Figure 1. General layout of Birmingham Zoo. Some birding areas are not pictured, but can be located from the descriptive detail in the text.

2630 Cahaba Road, Birmingham 35223.

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Species for Dauphin Island meeting, April 28-30, 1972 totaled 147. The area includes the Dauphin Island area south of the Intracoastal Waterway and the strip of land on either side of Ala. 163 to the edge of the marsh $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Heron Bay Cutoff. An additional 30 species were seen in nearby coastal Alabama during the same period. Details published in "The Season". Complete species list can be obtained from editor upon request.

Thomas A. Imhof, compiler.

THE SEASON, Spring

(March, April, May, 1972)

Thomas A. Imhof, editor Alabama

The long-term trend of cooler, drier weather continues with later emergence of foliage and later migration. Temperatures were much closer to normal and many migrants arrived early, especially in March and early April. After Apr. 28 the whole migration seemed late and May was noted for many lingering species both transient and wintering. The last half of May, especially coastally was very dry. The mildness of the winter is amply shown by the number of half-hardy birds much in evidence this spring. For instance, the female Orange-crowned Warbler which wintered at Decatur, north of its usual Alabama limits, was seen daily thru about Apr. 4 (photo CRG). This higher survival also includes many western birds detected on return flight mostly on the coast.

Cold fronts passed through the state on Mar. 5,17,20,24,30; Apr. 4,8,16,22,24; May 4,8,13,20,31. A few weakened near the coast, but most passed beyond it. Good birding on Dauphin Island on Apr. 5,9,16,22,23 and May 4,8 (T, G); often on a weekend and often the day after cold-front passage. Many local birders cease looking for migrants after May 1, but this year because of the many May fronts, migrants could be found in many parts of the state even in late May.

Usually cold fronts precipitate birds right away, and this is especially true inland even though migrants may not be discovered until next day. Thus an inland sample of migrants usually contains only those near the station when the front passed. On the coast, migrants that meet the front over water must continue until they reach land. In isolated patches of woods this continued arrival is easily noted. Thus on the coast, number of migrants are much greater because they include many birds that were south of the station when the front passed.

The period from March to Apr. 17 was noted for early arrivals and the period after Apr. 28 for late lingerers. The 8th Annual Birmingham Spring Count on cold-front Apr. 22 in between these two periods listed a record 141 species, but the only new extreme was the Willet.

At Fort Morgan on Apr. 25-27, 174 birds of 33 species were banded in 330 net-hours in a 12-25 mph wind, mostly NE (I,F). On the 26th, p.m. the wind shifted to SE, many birds disappeared, and the catch dropped sharply. The top ten species in descending order were Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Bunting and Ovenbird, total 127 or 73%. Virtually all migrants showed only a thin rim of fat where a heavy deposit probably had been, and weighed 10-50% below normal. For instance 15 Wood Thrushes averaged 40.0 gms., a 15% reduction.

The following comment sums up well our experience in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama in the last 20 years: "All wading birds seem to get scarcer here each year and we feel certain now this is due to the fact that Wheeler Reservoir fish are heavily contaminated with pesticides, heavy metals and everything else in the book. ...we have not seen a Green, Little Blue, Black-crowned, Snowy or Cattle Egret this entire spring or early summer." (TZA, manager Wheeler NW Refuge).

GREBES, PELICANLIKE BIRDS--With fall Western Grebes from Arkansas and Louisiana, 2 were seen in Perdido Bay on May 15 (B&RB,BCI) 2nd state record. Adult

Pied-billed Grebes in 2 ponds near Fairhope on June 10 (C,WASP) may indicate local breeding. Earliest migrating White Pelicans were 40 on Mar. 8 on Dauphin (T). Most Brown Pelicans were at Ft. Morgan, 55 on Apr. 25-27 (I,P) & 60 on June 6 (C); about 1/3 ad., breeding status? Inland Double-crested Cormorants were at L. Oliver, 2 on Apr. 28 & 5 on May 13 (LAW). The earliest Magnificent Frigate-bird was on Dauphin on Apr. 22 (NOBC).

HERON, IBIS, WATERFOWL--Nesting Great Blue Herons near Alabama Point on May 30 totaled 30 (JEK). No Glossy Ibises were reported from Mobile Co., but a dark ibis was seen near Mobile on May 5 (HMS). Excellent photos were obtained of the 4 Whistling Swans which wintered at Wheeler NWR (A). A female Blue-winged Teal with 10 young were seen at Brown's Ferry on May 23 (DHa); a pair at Corte Pont near Fairhope on June 10 (C) may also breed locally. A male Am. Widgeon was still at East L., B'ham on June 11 (JMI,I). Two male Ring-necked Ducks same time and place are the 9th successive summering. Locally high duck numbers are the 20 Am. Goldeneye on L. Oliver on Mar. 24 (LAW) and 120 Red-breasted Mergansers at Wheeler NWR on Mar. 25 (B).

HAWKS, TURKEY, GALLINULE--Kites continue to supply the most encouraging news of this whole family; a max of 18 Mississippi near Fairhope on May 19 (C). No Bald Eagles reported; and very few inland Ospreys mostly Wheeler (A). No Peregrines reported; the lone Pigeon Hawk was on Dauphin on Mar. 19 (D,BLJD). A Turkey hen with 2 poults was seen in the Bankhead Forest on May 27 (K,RDK). A Purple Gallinule was seen near Phenix City on May 4 (T&HM).

SHOREBIRD, GULL--Killdeer had 3 young, 1 or 2 days old on Apr. 10 in B'ham (I,P) and Am. Woodcock 2-3 full-grown young on Apr. 16 in Bankhead Forest (I). A Curlew Sandpiper with Dunlins on Dauphin Island on Apr. 28 (JRB,JFH) was in 75% summer plumage and is the 2nd for the state. On June 3 at Marion, 155 Semipalmated Sandpipers were still present (R). Pairs of Laughing Gulls, each time an adult and a second-winter-plumaged bird were seen flying up the Chattahoochee R. at L. Oliver on May 1,6,15 (LAW).

CUCKOO, GOATSUCKER, FLYCATCHER--Yellow-billed Cuckoos peaked on Dauphin on May 8,24,27--hundreds (T,G). An unprecedented 140 Whip-poor-wills were counted in the Bankhead Forest before dawn on full-moon May 27 (B,BAS). The only April Vermilion Flycatchers for Alabama were seen on Dauphin on the 10th (AGT) & 29th (AOS).

NUTHATCHES, WREN, CATBIRD--The Red-breasted Nuthatch was on Dauphin on Mar. 19 (MBC) and Apr. 22 (NOBC), further proof that the species reaches the coast, even in off years. Belated information shows that the Brown-headed Nuthatch, regularly listed on but 13 of Alabama's 42 Breeding Survey Routes, was listed in 1971 on 24 routes, 5 for the first time. In most winters many half-hardy birds are noted once or twice and disappear. This past one was remarkable for the number of birds that remained throughout the season. Such a bird was the House Wren in B'ham who eluded nets all winter, began to sing in mid-March, and was last seen on Apr. 10 (I). The Catbird, successfully wintering in much of the Coastal Plain, was abundant on Dauphin on Apr. 21, 23 (T,MBC) and was top bird, 28 of 174 banded at Fort Morgan Apr. 25-27 (I,P,MLM).

THRUSHES--Wood Thrush was dominant on Dauphin on Apr. 26 & May 4 (T,G); number 3 bird, 15 banded at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25-27 (I,P,MLM). The Veery vied with Swainson's as commonest migrant thrush. Four indicator lists show the following totals in Swainson's-Gray-cheek-Veery order: B'ham Spring Count, Apr. 22, 7,2,2; Ft. Morgan, banded Apr. 25-27, 9,4,12; Phenix City, May 3-6,

7,1,9; Dauphin I., banded (MEM) Apr. 24-May 13, 4,1,4; total, 27,8,27. Swainson's Thrush was dominant on Dauphin on May 4,8 (T,G); Veery on Apr. 26, May 4 & 8 (T,G).

GNATCATCHER, PIPIT, VIREOS--The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continued commoner than usual; Dauphin peaks on Mar. 16 & 30 (T); Birmingham, 155 on Apr. 22 (BAS). On the Black Belt near Marion, a Spargue's Pipit was seen on Mar. 18 (K,W). On Dauphin 42 White-eyed Vireos were banded on Apr. 5 (MEM). The 6th Black-whiskered Vireo for Alabama was seen at Ft. Morgan on Apr. 26 (P,I) when the wind was SE. Hundreds of Red-eyed Vireos were on Dauphin on Apr. 16 (T); many there on May 15 & 23 (T); number 2 bird with 24 banded of 174 at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25-27 (I,P,MLM); 189 or 1.38 birds per party hour in B'ham on Apr. 22 (BAS); 138 or 3.29 b/ph in Bankhead Forest on May 27 (BAS).

WARBLERS--The peak of the Prothonotary Warbler movement was noted on Dauphin on Apr. 1 & 9 (T,AGT,LPA). On Apr. 5 on Dauphin, 3 Swainson's Warblers were banded (MEM); on Apr. 11, 2 on Lower Shades Cr. (I,W); Apr. 12, 1 in B'ham (P); Apr. 15, 5 singing in Shelby Co. (BAS); Apr. 22, 10 by 4 parties in B'ham (BAS); Apr. 23, 2 at Perry L. (B,K); May 27, 1 in Bankhead Forest on Thompson Cr. (I). Also on May 27 in Bankhead, 20 Worm-eating Warblers were counted (BAS). On Apr. 22 in B'ham Blue-wings 36 were listed (BAS). The Cape May Warbler moving westward on the strong easterlies which develop on the northern coast from mid-Gulf lows, produced a high of 20 on Dauphin on Apr. 29 (AOS). Hundreds of Black-throated Greens were on Dauphin on Apr. 16 (T). The Bay-breasted peaked there on May 8 (T). The Palm Warbler was commonest warbler in Jacksonville Apr. 9-27 (WJC); peaked at 214 on Apr. 22 in B'ham (BAS); 1 banded that day weighing 8.4 gms. repeated on the late date of May 14 at 10.4 gms., a 23 day stayover which is very long for a spring migrant. Eight Ovenbirds were banded on Dauphin on Apr. 5 (MEM) and 6 banded at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25-27 (I,P,MLM). A Mourning Warbler at Magnolia Springs on Apr. 10 (C) is by 19 days earliest ever Alabama and the only spring record for the Coastal Plain. On Apr. 5 on Dauphin 15 Hooded Warblers were banded (MEM).

ORIOLES, TANAGERS--Many Orchard Orioles were on Dauphin on Mar. 29 (T). On Apr. 22 in B'ham, 19 Baltimore Orioles were counted (BAS); this species appears to be increasing in Alabama at all seasons. A male Western Tanager was at Ft. Morgan on cold-front Apr. 22 (photo-C). Many Scarlet Tanagers were on Dauphin on Apr. 9 and hundreds on Apr. 16 (T,LPA); at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25-27, 7 Scarlets and 9 Summers were banded (I,P,MLM).

GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS--Peak numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on Dauphin were on Apr. 16-hundreds, 23; May 4,8,23 (T,G); 10 banded at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25-27 (I,P,MLM). On Mar. 19 Black-headed Grosbeaks were on Dauphin (D) and B'ham (I,P); probably the same female in B'ham on Apr. 8 feeding on sweetgum buds with Cardinals and White-throats (I). Indigo Buntings peaked on Dauphin on Apr. 5 & 23 (T). On cold-front Apr. 9, 27 Painted Buntings were on Dauphin (T). This mystery bird is virtually unknown as a breeder east of the Mississippi R. Valley except on the Atlantic coast and a few scattered birds on the Gulf coast. Although most of the Atlantic coast birds are thought to winter in Florida and the Bahamas, it was thought that some migrate through S. Alabama to winter in Yucantan and Cuba. At Ft. Morgan, 3 of the 4 Painted Buntings were banded on Apr. 27 after wind shifted to SE. This indicates that some of them migrate to the NW, so perhaps we have Mississippi Valley birds.

Table 1. Spring arrivals. Credit listed for record dates. Location codes: AP-Alabama Point, B-Birmingham, BC-Baldwin Co., DI-Dauphin Island, EU-Eufaula NW Refuge, FM-Fort Morgan, LC-Lee Co., LF-Lakeland Farms, Perry Co., LO-Lake Oliver, LP-Lake Purdy, Shelby Co., Mg-Montgomery, MH-Marion N. Fish Hatchery, Perry Co., Mo-Mobile, PC-Phenix City, SC-Shelby Co., WC-Winston Co. A: Additional codes: e-earliest for Region, E-earliest for Alabama.

Species	Gulf Coast	Pied-UCP-LCF	Mtn.Reg.-Tenn.V.
Green Heron	Mar. 18 DI	- - - -	Mar. 28 B
Little Blue H.	- - - -	Mar. 11 LF	- - - -
Cattle Egret	Apr. 14 DI	Mar. 11 EU Mar. 18 MH	Apr. 12 B
Blk.-cr. N. Heron	Apr. 1 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Yel.-cr. N. Heron	Mar. 17 DI	- - - -	Mar. 20 B(B&GC) e
Wood Ibis	Apr. 16 Mo	- - - -	- - - -
Swallow-t. Kite	Mar. 19 DI	May 30 Clarke Co.	- - - -
Broad-wg. Hawk	Mar. 31 DI	- - - -	Mar. 14 B(W) e
Spotted Sandpiper	winters	Mar. 18 MH	Apr. 22 B
Willet	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 22 B(G&BC) e
Stilt Sandpiper	Mar. 19 AP	- - - -	- - - -
Common Tern	- - - -	Mar. 27 LO(LAW) e	- - - -
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	Apr. 4 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Blk.-b. Cuckoo	Apr. 2 DI (T) E	- - - -	Apr. 19 B(P) e
Chuck-w-widow	Mar. 5 DI (W) E	- - - -	Apr. 7 B
Chimney Swift	Apr. 1 DI	- - - -	Mar. 24 B
R.-thr. Hummingbird	Mar. 15 Mo	- - - -	Apr. 2 B
Ea. Kingbird	Mar. 27 DI	Mar. 26 PC	Apr. 10 B
Gt. Crested Flyc.	Mar. 25 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 SC
Tree Swallow	winters	Mar. 21 LC(AS) e	Mar. 11 B(JRB) e
Bank Swallow	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 8 B
Barn Swallow	Mar. 19 DI	- - - -	Mar. 26 LF
Short-b. M. Wren	- - - -	May 14 PC	- - - -
Wood Thrush	Mar. 26 DI	- - - -	Apr. 3 B
Swainson Thrush	Mar. 31 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Gray-ck. Thrush	Apr. 9 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Veery	Apr. 9 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Catbird	Mar. 17 DI	- - - -	Apr. 15 B
Yellow-thr. Vireo	Mar. 18 DI	- - - -	Apr. 3 B
Red-eyed Vireo	Mar. 29 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 SC
Blk.and-Wh. Wa.	Mar. 16 DI	- - - -	Mar. 21 B
Prothonotary Wa.	Mar. 18 DI	Mar. 26 PC	Apr. 15 SC
Worm-eating Wa.	Mar. 30 DI	- - - -	Apr. 9 B
Golden-winged Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 13 B
Blue-winged Wa.	Mar. 30 Mo(G) E	- - - -	Apr. 6 B
Tennessee Wa.	Apr. 9 DI	- - - -	Apr. 16 B
Parula Wa.	Mar. 16 DI	- - - -	Apr. 6 B
Yellow Wa.	Apr. 16 DI	- - - -	Apr. 12 B
Magnolia Wa.	Apr. 16 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Cape May Wa.	Apr. 22 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Blk.-thr. Blue Wa.	Apr. 28 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Blk.-thr. Green Wa.	Mar. 25 DI	- - - -	Apr. 3 B
Cerulean Wa.	Apr. 10 DI	- - - -	Apr. 17 B
Blackburnian Wa.	Apr. 9 DI	- - - -	Apr. 22 B
Chestnut-sided Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 20 B
Bay-breasted Wa.	Apr. 16 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Blackpoll Wa.	Apr. 25 FM	- - - -	Apr. 18 B
Prairie Wa.	Apr. 21 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 SC
Ovenbird	Mar. 31 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Northern Waterthrush	Apr. 9 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Louisiana Waterthrush	Mar. 19 DI	- - - -	Mar. 19 B
Kentucky Wa.	Mar. 30 DI	- - - -	Apr. 15 SC
Yellow-br. Chat	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 15 SC
Hooded Wa.	Mar. 29 DI	- - - -	Apr. 3 B

Species	Gulf Coast	Pied-UCP-LCP	Mtn.Reg.-Tenn. V.
Canada Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 21 B
Am. Redstart	Apr. 5 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 SC
Bobolink	Apr. 17 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Orchard Oriole	Mar. 28 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 B
Baltimore Oriole	Apr. 16 DI	- - - -	Apr. 16 WC
Scarlet Tanager	Apr. 5 DI	- - - -	Apr. 13 B
Summer Tanager	Mar. 29 DI	- - - -	Apr. 11 SC
Rose-br. Grosbeak	Apr. 5 DI	- - - -	Apr. 19 B
Blue Grosbeak	Mar. 31 DI	Apr. 8 Mg	Apr. 13 B
Indigo Bunting	Mar. 29 DI	- - - -	Apr. 15 SC
Painted Bunting	Mar. 29 DI	- - - -	- - - -
Dickcissel	Apr. 11 BC	Apr. 23 LF	- - - -

Table 2. Spring departures. Credit listed for record dates. Location codes same as table 1. Additional codes: b-banded, l-latest for Region, L-Latest for Alabama.

Species	Gulf Coast	Pied-UCI-LCP	Mtn.Reg.-Tenn. V.
Common Loon	May 27 DI	May 13 LO	June 4 SC(K) L
Horned Grebe	May 22 DI(T) L	- - - -	- - - -
Eared Grebe	Apr. 29 DI(D)L	- - - -	- - - -
Pectoral Sandpiper	- - - -	- - - -	May 25 B(R) 1
Marbled Godwit	Apr. 30 Mo(K,AOS)	- - - -	- - - -
	L		
Parasitic Jaeger	Apr. 29 DI(MWG) L	- - - -	- - - -
Forster's Tern	- - - -	- - - -	May 13 B(I) 1
White-winged Dove	Apr. 30 DI(K,AOS)	- - - -	- - - -
	L		
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	- - - -	May 14 PC(JMI) 1	- - - -
Short-b. M. Wren	- - - -	May 14 PC(JMI)	- - - -
Robin	Apr. 25 FM	- - - -	- - - -
	Apr. 29 DI(T) 1		
Swainson's Thrush	May 24 DI(T) 1	May 14 PC	May 27 BF
Philadelphia Vireo	- - - -	- - - -	May 27 BF(K) L
Tennessee Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	May 27 BF(B) L
Orange-cr. Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 12 B
Magnolia Wa.	May 20 DI	- - - -	May 27 BF(CG) 1
Chestnut-sided Wa.	- - - -	- - - -	June 4 BF(B) L
Palm Warbler	- - - -	- - - -	May 14 B
Evening Grosbeak	- - - -	- - - -	May 6 B
Pine Siskin	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 26 B
White-cr. Sparrow	May 25 DI(T) L	- - - -	- - - -
White-thr. Sparrow	May 17 Mo	- - - -	May 22 B
Lincoln's Sparrow	- - - -	- - - -	May 22 B b(I) 1
Swamp Sparrow	May 7 Mo(HMS) 1	- - - -	May 3 B
Song Sparrow	- - - -	- - - -	Apr. 22 B

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THE SEASON, Spring

(March, April, May, 1972)

Curtis L. Kingsbery, editor Northwest Florida

It is hoped that this new addition to "The Season" will provide meaningful information on bird migration throughout Northwest Florida.

April 8 was a "Big Day" on the coast. Large numbers of shorebirds were observed in the A.M. Around noon the wind shifted and the afternoon produced large numbers of incoming migrants, principally Red-eyed Vireos, Orchard Orioles, and Indigo and Painted Buntings.

Migratory movements of individual species often occur at the same time. With sufficient observers reporting similar types of data, meaningful information might be garnered. Some examples of arrival or departure dates throughout the area are: Common Loon-May 5, Pensacola, 9th Ft. Walton Beach; Common Nighthawk-Apr. 4 Panama City, 14th Marianna, 15th N. Santa Rosa Co.; Eastern Kingbird-Apr. 2 Shalimar, 8th Destin, 11th Marianna, 15th N. Santa Rosa Co.; Great-crested Flycatcher-Apr. 5, Pensacola, 7th Marianna, 8th Destin, 15th N. Okaloosa Co., 16th Cantonment; Robin-May 1, Panama City, 5th Shalimar, 6th Pensacola; Red-eyed Vireo-Apr. 2, Shalimar, 3th Pensacola, 8th Destin; Hooded Warbler-Apr. 2, Shalimar, 8th Destin, 11th Marianna, 15th N. Santa Rosa Co.; Orchard Oriole-Apr. 2, Shalimar, 3rd Marianna, 6th Panama City, 8th Destin.

PELICANS, FRIGATE-BIRD--White Pelicans observed in westward migration with 80 at Destin on Apr. 8 (FMWASP), 75 at Pensacola Beach on May 6 (EEF,AF,VP), 53 over Gulf Breeze on May 20 (RLB). Brown Pelicans were observed on Apr. 13 & May 10 in the Destin area (H&AG), 5 in Choctawhatchee Bay on Apr. 23 (CLK) and 7 at Gulf Breeze on May 14 (RLB). An early Magnificent Frigate-bird was at St. Joseph Peninsula on Apr. 18 (SS).

HERONS--A Great White Heron, considered accidental in the area, was observed on Mar. 5 at T. H. Stone State Park in Port St. Joe (SS). Louisiana Heron, inexplicably rare in NW Florida, was sighted once, on Apr. 22 at Destin (H&AG). Yellow-crowned Night Herons are again nesting within the city limits of Pensacola.

DUCKS--Greater Scaup was recorded at Destin on Apr. 8 (FMWASP), by 3 days the latest record. Four Redheads were at Santa Rosa Island on May 6 (LIM, mob), the latest ever except for one record on May 23. Between Apr. 8 & 12 as many as 8 Surf Scoters were observed at the Tyndall Peninsula. It is quite unusual to see other than single birds (SS).

HAWKS--The earliest Broad-winged in NW Fla. by 6 days was sighted on Mar. 18 at Big Creek (CLK,mob). An Osprey unusual this far from a major waterway was sighted in Marianna on Apr. 22 (CLK,SS). Ospreys were also observed in Pensacola on May 6 (EEF) & May 13 (CLK,FMWASP) where they have become quite rare.

SHOREBIRDS--An Am. Woodcock in Marianna on Apr. 8 (MG) is only the second April record, although there are a few scattered summer records. The only observations of Upland Plover were on Tyndall Peninsula Apr. 6 & 7 (SS). An Am. Avocet was observed at Gulf Breeze on Apr. 9 (P&BT). Formerly considered accidental, this bird has now been sighted eight times in the last few years, once or twice only each month April through Nov. A Northern Phalarope was closely observed on May 13 (CLK,FMWASP), the second record for NW Fla. (details to appear in Florida Naturalist). The three records of the Tallahassee region, interestingly fall on dates quite close: May 14, 19-20 & 25.

ANI, GOATSUCKER--From Apr. 7-26 two ani sp. were in the Panama City area, but could not be identified as to species. Any ani in NW Fla. is noteworthy (RH,mob). A late Whip-poor-will was noted in Shalimar Apr. 8 (H&AG).

FLYCATCHER, SWALLOW--A very rare, locally, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted at Pensacola Beach on May 6 (EEF). An early Bank Swallow was noted in the Panama City area on Apr. 1 (SS).

NUTHATCH, VIREO--The last of only 4 sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatch was on Apr. 29 (RLB). Until 1970 there had been only two sightings of the Black-whiskered Vireo in NW Fla. In 1970 there were 3 sightings (probably only two birds). Now this year there have been two reports; 1 in Panama City on Apr. 15 (SS,NR) and 1 in Gulf Breeze on Apr. 29 (RLB).

WARBLERS--On Apr. 9 a carefully observed Lawrence's Warbler, first for NW Fla. was in Panama City (DPS). On Apr. 23 in Panama City a strange bird was sketched very well with the aid of binoculars. It can only be a Townsend's Warbler, a first for NW Fla. and probably the entire state (EP). A Black-throated Green in Gulf Breeze May 28,29 is by 10 days the latest for NW Fla. (R&LD).

OBSERVERS--Richard L. Ballman, Robert & Lucy Duncan, E. E. Furnans, Amy Furnans, Vance Furnans, Harold & Agnes Gaither, Lyman E. Goodnight, Mary Gray, Roy C. Hallman, Curtis E. Kingsbery, Mary Lou Mattis, Ed Pipkin, Nancy Roberts, Donald P. Scott, Henry M. Stevenson, Stephen Stedman, Phil & Betsy Tetlow, A. Fred Wicke, mob is many other birders, Francis M. Weston Audubon Society, Pensacola.

2900 N. Magnolia Avenue, Pensacola, Florida 32503.

WINTERING ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER IN TENNESSEE VALLEY

In January 1972, I made up some bird pudding consisting of bacon drippings, sugar, cornmeal, raisins and bird seeds as printed in Alabama Birds, and put it in a cup in the back part of the year. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was first seen coming to it, but soon another bird was noticed with it. It acted like the kinglet, but I couldn't see any definite markings due to the distance from the house. After a while I changed the food cup to a tree close to my kitchen window and then on a wire right outside the window. From here the bird was identified as an Orange-crowned Warbler.

The head was grayish with a hint of green in the back. Its breast was a buffy yellow with light grayish streaks that were hard to see unless the bird was close. His beak was very pointed and sharp, and it would flit his wings like that of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Identifiable color photographs were made.

According to Thomas A. Imhof's Alabama Birds, the Orange-crowned Warbler in winter "...is common on the Gulf Coast, fairly common in most of the Coastal Plain, and uncommon to rare as far north as Birmingham and occasionally Gadsden (449)." This record is the first in winter for the Tennessee Valley. The bird was last seen April 4.

Carolyn R. Garrett, 2513 13th Street, S.E., Decatur 35601.

Spring Meeting Report

AOS Executive Council Meeting, April 29, 1972, Dauphin Island. The Council was convened by the Pres., Dr. E. B. Sledge, at noon on Saturday. The minutes from Oct. 10, 1971 and Feb. 12, 1972, were read and accepted as corrected. Sybil Hanks gave the report of the treasurer, (summary report page 6).

Old Business. Discussion was held concerning the feasibility of continued publication of Alabama Birdlife. Questions arose about, "Does it meet the needs of members?", "increased cost of publishing," "Who will replace Dan Holliman as editor?" The group concensus was that the members needed 1) seasonal reports, 2) notice of meetings, 3) what bird is being seen where. The President recommended a journal once a year with newsletters the other times. Tim Traylor moved that AOS publish 1 journal a year and 4 or more newsletters a year. Motion carried.

AOS buttons for members are still not available because of reproduction problems. The status of a brochure for prospective members is still undecided.

New Business. Tom Imhof asked for AOS to state a position about mirex spraying. Bob Reid and Tom Imhof were appointed to review a proposed resolution before presentation to the membership.

A nominating committee of Bob Reid, Helen Kittinger, Lib Toenes and Sybil Hanks are to prepare a slate of officers for the next year.

Jim Keeler reported that the U.S. Maritime Commission is to build 3 superports for tanker unloading. The various gulf states are trying to obtain the contract. Alabama is pitching their "sell" toward the shipping of raw materials via barge up the river system including the Tom Bigbee River. The President proposed a motion that AOS oppose the concept of a superport in Mobile Bay. Motion carried.

Curtis Kingsbery was appointed to the Council as representative from Northwest Florida District.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M. Members attending: F. Chandler, S. Hanks, T. Imhof, J. Keeler, H. Kittinger, R. Reid, E. Sledge, T. Traylor.

Wilma J. Lindberg, Secretary.

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