

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Vol. 21

1973

Nos. 1,2

CONTENTS

Western Visitors Highlight 1972 AOS Christmas Counts Robert R. Reid, Jr., editor	2
Mountain Plover In Alabama P. Fairly Chandler.	9
The Season, Winter (Dec.,1972, Jan., Feb., 1973) Thomas A. Imhof, editor	10
The Season, Spring (Mar., Apr., May, 1973) Thomas A. Imhof, editor	12
Those Soundly Sleeping Screech Owls Thomas Z. Atkeson and Harold Johnson.	15
Species List For State Meeting At Gulf Shores, Alabama, April 13-15,1973.	17
Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Alabama Ornithological Society, April 14, 1973	18
Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Executive Committee Of The Alabama Ornithological Society, April 14, 1973.	18
Report Of The Slide Collection Committee	19
Alabama Ornithological Society Annual Treasure's Report April 24,1972 - April 14,1973	20

WESTERN VISITORS HIGHLIGHT
1972 AOS CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Western visitors were in the limelight on the record number of 11 AOS Christmas Counts conducted in the winter of 1972-73. Probably most noteworthy were the Groove-billed Anis at Panama City. One bird had been first seen on October 16, 1971, and a pair, thought to be breeding during the spring of 1972, at a pond in the city limits. None were noted the summer of that year, but in the fall numbers from 2 to 5 were observed at the same pond where 3 were recorded on the Bay County Christmas Count. The next sighting was one the last of March and then none until 4 appeared in fall, 1973; in addition, one was found at Navarre on the October 6 Pensacola Fall Count. The Panama City observations are the farthest eastward for the groove-billed species, although somehow it reached Missouri and Ohio in the fall of 1972 (see American Birds, Vol. 27, No. 1, page 69). In addition, it is considered usual in Louisiana and has also appeared in Mississippi (Ibid. page 73; Vol. 27, No. 3, page 628--see also reports of the Central Southern Region in Vol. 26).

Second in importance was the Mountain Plover observed and photographed at Gulf Shores--the first record for this species in Alabama. The male Rufous Hummingbird at a Mobile feeder during the count period was the second Alabama record; and another hummingbird, unidentified as to species, was recorded within the count period at Pensacola. Pensacola also listed within its count period a Yellow-headed Blackbird, which may be considered a sequel to the reports from Dauphin Island during the winter of 1970-71 and fall of '72.

Other western visitors were a Clay-colored Sparrow within the count period at Gulf Shores and an Oregon Junco for the third count record and fourth known Alabama record at Birmingham. (To describe this bird adequately in view of the 1957 and recent 1973 revisions of the AOU checklist, it was of the pink-sided race of the Oregon-type Dark-eyed Junco.)

The area was not without its northern visitors also. Rough-legged Hawks (both light-phased) appeared at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and Gulf Shores. A Harlan's Hawk (for which there are only about a half-dozen records in Alabama) was leisurely observed in full sunlight also at Wheeler, an immature Great Black-backed Gull at Ft. Morgan (third Alabama record) and a Lapland Longspur at Wheeler (recent field research indicates that seemingly these longspurs are erratic wanderers that appear in numbers in Alabama only after severe winter weather farther north).

The large number of seven counts conducted on the Gulf Coast produced an interesting number of southern species that normally are not found in our area during the winter. These included an adult and an immature Masked (or Blue-faced) Booby at Gulf Shores, and a Whimbrel during the count period there, a Sandwich Tern at Ft. Morgan and others near the count circle at Gulf Shores, a Magnolia Warbler also at Ft. Morgan, and an Ovenbird during the count period in Bay County.

The Gulf Coast also reported summering residents that rarely winter there, including two Barn Swallows at Gulf Shores for the first Alabama winter record (perhaps a sequel to the bird seen last year on the Pensacola count)

and Dickcissels at Mobile and Bay County and within the count period at Pensacola. The one at Mobile was the fourth count record for its last six Christmas Counts. Other species that are rare or uncommon on the coast in winter included Green Herons on or within the count period of three counts, Cattle Egrets on three, Yellow-crowned Night Herons on two, White-eyed Vireos on three, Black-and-White Warblers on two, and Yellow-throated Warblers on four. In addition, an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen within the count period as far north as Birmingham, this bird doubtless being one, lingering north during the mild winter, from the colony that has been established for the last several years near the Birmingham Airport.

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, with its record Christmas Count, produced a number of other notable inland observations--count records for Horned Grebes (6) and Com. Goldeneyes (14), a Double-crested Cormorant (virtually eliminated from inland localities for the last decade), Whistling Swans during the count period (for the third consecutive year), two Blue-winged Teals, four Oldsquaws and an immature Bald Eagle during the count period, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Dunlin (then the 2nd inland winter record for the state), two Laughing and three Franklin's Gulls (all adults except one immature Franklin's) observed at close range during the count period, a Catbird, two Palm Warblers for the first winter record in a number of years, a Com. Yellowthroat (which does not usually winter that far north), and four Brewer's Blackbirds (uncommon and local in winter in the Tennessee Valley). Among other noteworthy inland observations were the Forster's Tern (second inland winter record), five Dunlin, and six Semipalmated Sandpipers at Eufaula Refuge, 20 Hooded Mergansers at Jacksonville, and at Birmingham, 6 Greater Scaup for its first count record and a female Merlin (or Pigeon Hawk). Another Merlin was also observed at Gulf Shores.

Notable coastal records included the Brown Pelican on five counts with recent Christmas Count record numbers at Dauphin Island and Ft. Morgan, indicating some optimism for the future on the Gulf Coast of this species threatened by accumulation of pesticide residues. In the same category should be included the single Ospreys at Ft. Morgan and Gulf Shores. Other coastal notables were 16 Sandhill Cranes in the flock now usually seen in winter at Gulf Shores, Snowy Plovers on three counts, and Am. Avocets at Mobile for its ninth Christmas Count record out of the last ten years.

The mild winter may perhaps have accounted for the high numbers of wading birds on the coast. In addition to those mentioned above, state winter records were set at Mobile for the White Ibis (80--2/3rds immatures--with 3 others seen at Dauphin Island) and the Louisiana Heron (31). The Great Blue Herons at Gulf Shores (68) and Little Blues at Mobile (38) are Gulf Coast winter records, while Christmas Count records were tallied at Dauphin Island for Little Blues (13) and Snowy Egrets (67). Also noteworthy were sightings of Am. Bitterns on or within the count period of six of the eleven counts. Additional Gulf Coast records in the non-passerine category were the Ground Doves at Bay County (49 with good numbers also at Eufaula Refuge, Gulf Shores, Pensacola and Marianna), Red-bellied (95) and Pileated (18) Woodpeckers at Gulf Shores, and Spotted Sandpipers at Pensacola (9). In addition, high numbers were reported for Common Loons at Pensacola (330) and Red-breasted Mergansers there (555) and at Gulf Shores (423). The 53 Am. Kestrels at Gulf Shores tied a state winter record in abundance, and they were also counted in good numbers at Dauphin Island and Pensacola.

In the passerine category, the most notable abundance reports were the state record of 12,000 Robins at Mobile with numbers around 8000 at Ft. Morgan and Pensacola, the almost 1500 Tree Swallows at Gulf Shores, a Gulf Coast record of 103 Slate-colored Juncos at Pensacola, and unfortunately the 5000 Cowbirds at Bay County. Gulf Shores also had state records in abundance for Myrtle Warblers (over 3400) and Long-billed Marsh Wrens (56), a state winter record for Catbirds (94), Gulf Coast records for Towhees (409), Brown Thrashers (99) and Carolina Wrens (94), and large numbers of Mockingbirds (282), Palm Warblers (55), Short-billed Marsh Wrens (34), Yellowthroats (26), Hermit Thrushes (15) and Grasshopper Sparrows (7) --also Savannah Sparrows (442), another state record, although farther north and in an increasingly urban area that species was recorded in the lowest number ever in Birmingham (10). At Marianna, a record count number of Field Sparrows was noted (109) and high but not record numbers of Chipping Sparrows (395) and Turkey Vultures (61). On the other hand, observers there report the absence of Fish Crows extremely atypical, especially after the large number of 4000 last year.

High inland figures were recorded for the Shoveler (190), Red-tailed Hawk (44), Water Pipit (259), Horned Lark (575) and Song Sparrow (385) at Wheeler Refuge, the first three being records in abundance for No. Alabama. The 39 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Birmingham is a state winter record; and as a result of energetic birding there, record numbers of Am. Woodcock (15) and Screech Owls (27) were tallied.

As widely noted, the winter of 1972-73 was a "finch" year. Evening Grosbeaks appeared early at Birmingham (a large number of 34 on November 12 at Lake Purdy with the species having been heard in the suburbs the previous day) and set early records for Shelby County and for the Upper Coastal Plain (at Southern Bibb County) on November 18. On the Christmas Counts, those grosbeaks were recorded on or within the count period of five of the eleven counts, including 12 birds at Gulf Shores and others at five different locations within the count period at Pensacola in Northwest Florida, where they had never been known before 1969. This count tally compares with observations on three of seven counts during the previous high finch year of 1968-69. Purple Finches, seen on all eleven counts, set regional count records at Wheeler Refuge, Mobile and Bay County and were recorded in relatively large numbers at Birmingham. On the other hand, the Pine Siskin strangely enough was reported in relatively low numbers and on only five of the counts. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, which often accompanies a large invasion of northern finches, turned up on seven of the 1972 counts with record numbers at Birmingham and Gulf Shores. Also in the category of northern birds making their way south were the Fox Sparrows on four of the coastal counts and White-crowned Sparrows on or within the count period of three, observations of interest since those wintering species are rare to uncommon on the coast. The Fox Sparrow also set a record for the Lower Coastal Plain at Eufaula Refuge.

On the 1972 counts, 183 species were recorded and 10 additional ones during the count periods. Four counts were conducted in inland areas--Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (WWR) in the Tennessee Valley; Birmingham (Bhm) and Jacksonville (Jvl) in the Mountain Region; and Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (EWR) in the Coastal Plain. The 7 Gulf Coast counts were Mobile (Mob), Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (DI), Ft. Morgan (FM), Gulf Shores (GS), Pensacola (pen), Marianna (Mar) and Bay County (BC). Birds seen on the AOS counts were as follows, those indicated by the symbol * being reported not on the count date but during the count periods (December 16 through January 1 or, in the case of unofficial counts, within a week of the count):

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EWR	Mob	DI	FM	GS	Pen	Mar	BC
<u>Loons</u>											
Common Loon	2	-	-	-	3	9	45	169	330	-	57
<u>Grebes</u>											
Horned Grebe	6	1	-	1	3	16	32	102	222	1	143
Pied-billed Grebe	16	80	63	6	22	18	25	44	26	21	49
<u>Pelicans and Allies</u>											
White Pelican	-	-	-	-	70	*	-	-	*	-	-
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	1	68	58	4	-	-	3
Masked (or Blue-faced) Booby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	28	*	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	1	-	-	-	3	38	356	55	101	-	176
<u>Wading Birds</u>											
Great Blue Heron	13	5	3	14	1	15	21	68	40	3	23
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	*
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	38	13	2	-	-	*	1
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	-	1	-
Com. (or Am.) Egret	-	-	-	8	15	8	-	4	-	*	7
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	53	67	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana Heron	-	-	-	1	31	11	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	-	*	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Am. Bittern	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	*	1	-
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	80	3	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Waterfowl</u>											
Whistling Swan	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	23252	-	-	223	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	60	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Goose	600	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Mallard	11151	*	1	146	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Duck	2177	-	-	12	3	-	-	-	*	-	-
Gadwall	143	-	-	2	150	-	-	-	2	-	-
No. Pintail	1305	-	-	13	400	-	1	-	1	-	-
Green-winged Teal	129	-	-	21	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Blue-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	25	-	13	6	4	-	-
Am. Wigeon (or Baldpate)	2722	-	28	230	37	-	-	2	-	-	-
No. Shoveler	190	-	-	101	42	11	-	-	*	-	3
Wood Duck	147	2	8	258	15	3	-	-	19	3	-
Redhead	15	*	2	6	2	-	-	60	2	-	2
Ring-necked Duck	340	77	1	341	8	4	-	21	-	-	5
Canvasback	18	87	-	28	350	-	-	1	2	-	5
Greater Scaup	-	6	-	-	3	-	200	-	9	-	56
Lesser Scaup	36	36	2	12	75	536	400	34	63	-	188
Com. Goldeneye	14	-	-	*	1	13	-	-	36	-	2
Bufflehead	10	*	-	13	8	4	-	30	92	-	89
Oldsquaw	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	9	24	2	21	31	3	2	63	-	-	39
Hooded Merganser	22	3	20	-	4	3	-	-	1	-	1
Red-breasted Merganser	2	-	-	-	1	28	180	423	555	-	168
<u>Hawks</u>											
Turkey Vulture	4	1	-	-	15	8	-	*	3	61	21
Black Vulture	1	-	-	-	2	25	8	*	40	-	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	-	3
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	44	13	4	7	6	6	3	10	7	5	2
Harlan's Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	11	8	1	-	1	-	7	1	6	5
Rough-legged Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Hawk	14	-	-	15	1	3	2	12	5	3	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Merlin (or Pigeon Hawk)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Am. Kestrel (or Spar. Hawk)	14	10	7	3	2	26	14	53	23	12	11
<u>Quail and Allies</u>											
Bob-white	64	21	29	1	23	53	14	94	13	23	13
Turkey	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Rails and Allies</u>											
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	1	8	11	21	*	-	5
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-
Sora	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	12	1	-	3
Com. (or Fla.) Gallinule	-	-	-	-	15	1	-	10	-	2	7
Am. Coot	232	149	250	220	10000	34	17	1198	265	1450	685
<u>Shorebirds</u>											
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	3	22	-	4	3	-	1
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	2	-	-	1
Snowy Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	1	-	-
Killdeer	219	126	13	36	87	29	9	193	137	22	18
Mountain Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	31	12	14	7	35	-	11
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	15

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EWR	Mob	DI	FM	GS	Pen	Mar	BC
Shorebirds (cont.)											
Am. Woodcock	3	15	2	-	2	1	1	1	1	*	1
Com. Snipe	11	21	-	5	23	3	-	3	4	2	7
Whimbrel (or Hud. Curlew)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	9	-	-
Willet	-	-	-	-	3	64	4	18	9	-	7
Greater Yellowlegs	2	-	-	3	3	2	-	2	-	-	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	40	1	-	45	14	20	-	1	-	-	3
Dunlin (or Red-bk Sand.)	1	-	-	5	5	104	39	12	31	-	8
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	6	33	6	-	-	-	-	2
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	6	67	103	100	146	-	67
Am. Avocet	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gulls and Terns											
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	207	-	-	5	38	81	130	65	418	-	353
Ring-billed Gull	249	1	-	12	850	78	35	91	209	-	305
Laughing Gull	*	-	-	-	600	210	5	(a)	270	-	104
Franklin's Gull	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	*	-	-	-	1	3	56	235	614	-	354
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	1	280	100	192	88	24	-	47
Com. Tern	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	1	-	3
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	1	87	202	21	10	-	9
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	(a)	-	-	-
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	19	6	22	1	-	-	-
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	29	150	1	-	200	-	120
Pigeons and Doves											
Rock Dove	71	701	11	-	100	-	-	-	245	5	101
Mourning Dove	1478	645	15	112	125	109	20	111	281	63	236
Com. Ground Dove	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	9	13	13	49
Cuckoos and Allies											
Groove-billed Ani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Owls											
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	*	1	-	1	-	-	-
Screech Owl	1	27	-	-	*	*	-	11	-	1	3
Great Horned Owl	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	*	-	-
Barred Owl	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Hummingbirds											
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kingfishers											
Belted Kingfisher	1	26	5	3	15	31	18	48	29	9	27
Woodpeckers											
Yellow-shafted Flicker	38	146	16	13	61	34	28	80	38	53	41
Pileated Woodpecker	9	17	3	1	1	5	-	18	*	6	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	65	14	4	15	19	20	95	40	24	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	21	31	-	-	6	2	1	7	11	4	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15	39	6	2	5	7	13	14	9	10	4
Hairy Woodpecker	5	10	-	-	3	1	-	5	-	1	-
Downy Woodpecker	31	86	3	6	5	5	3	11	3	9	3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	-	11	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-
Flycatchers											
Eastern Phoebe	3	18	2	4	1	6	4	7	11	21	6
Larks											
Horned Lark	575	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swallows											
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	45	140	12	1457	8	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Jays and Crows											
Blue Jay	426	292	83	47	175	104	164	432	277	96	208
Com. Crow	1882	288	378	36	133	26	-	5	2	187	18
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	17	135	9	22	132	-	285
Titmice											
Carolina Chickadee	67	279	14	14	14	9	12	18	13	44	11
Tufted Titmouse	33	200	8	1	12	10	8	14	30	28	43
Nuthatches											
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	25	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	32	-	-	-	3	7	21	7	-	2
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	126	5	-	5	16	18	25	5	-	13
Creepers											
Brown Creeper	1	6	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
Wrens											
House Wren	-	*	-	-	2	1	1	15	3	6	8
Winter Wren	2	9	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Bewick's Wren	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	34	193	30	22	15	18	45	92	18	23	25
L-b Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	7	3	3	56	1	-	2
S-b Marsh (or Sedge) Wren	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	34	2	-	-

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EWR	Mob	DI	FM	GS	Pen	Mar	BC
Thrashers											
Com. Mockingbird	61	224	50	8	61	65	114	282	116	55	119
Gray Catbird	1	-	-	-	3	3	26	94	5	-	9
Brown Thrasher	65	86	14	10	14	23	67	99	32	21	31
Thrushes											
Am. Robin	30	805	65	58	12000	3530	792	8125	7745	887	1075
Hermit Thrush	13	20	-	5	1	4	10	15	4	5	2
Eastern Bluebird	9	50	17	-	2	59	38	169	85	27	130
Gnatcatchers and Kinglets											
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	9	4	7	8	6	-	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	35	103	7	6	51	11	2	6	1	2	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15	74	12	27	28	16	42	60	51	54	18
Pipits											
Water Pipit	259	10	-	50	7	6	1	92	*	-	-
Waxwings											
Cedar Waxwing	461	433	50	-	19	25	-	5	372	32	31
Shrikes											
Loggerhead Shrike	17	7	8	13	5	7	7	54	13	42	20
Starlings											
Com. Starling	90968	1937	1017	1	630	451	6	1877	90	52	80
Vireos											
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Solitary (or Blue-hd) Vireo	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	1	1	-
Wood Warblers											
Black-and-White Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	*	-	-	5	4	1	2	2	1	1
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	13	46	9	74	1200	282	1428	3437	272	150	415
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1
Pine Warbler	1	17	11	1	15	14	12	32	12	10	13
Palm Warbler	2	-	1	16	2	-	3	55	1	3	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
Com. Yellowthroat	1	2	-	6	1	1	7	26	5	1	6
Weaver Finches											
House Sparrow	593	1012	31	9	500	250	36	356	146	253	433
Blackbirds											
Eastern Meadowlark	223	278	136	72	9	50	1	221	8	241	98
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	147764	1657	707	1500	3000	2650	1394	4151	136	65	248
Rusty Blackbird	16	516	151	-	9	-	-	16	1	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	4	-	-	-	13	175	-	32	-	-	-
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	30	-	50	73	-	-	-
Com. Grackle	66169	1299	508	31	305	770	651	1107	37	145	255
Brown-headed Cowbird	13113	755	211	1	10	33	2	115	2	280	5000
Finches and Sparrows											
Cardinal	347	426	44	48	43	44	86	305	93	149	153
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	*	-	1
Evening Grosbeak	-	181	30	-	*	-	-	12	*	-	-
Purple Finch	91	220	4	7	200	14	2	8	1	19	107
Pine Siskin	3	64	20	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Am. Goldfinch	289	351	37	17	175	73	52	157	2	138	44
Rufous-sided Towhee	138	302	28	76	15	29	162	409	218	92	90
Savannah Sparrow	53	10	44	33	110	54	2	442	26	9	9
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	15	14	1	6	-	-	3
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	2	2	10	10	*	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	1	7	-	140	12	8	-	128	5	96	-
Slate-colored Junco	108	859	66	45	2	6	1	38	103	35	7
Oregon Junco (mearnsi race)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	11	36	2	62	21	16	9	250	9	395	36
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	303	231	78	268	10	3	2	28	35	109	16
White-crowned Sparrow	28	-	-	-	-	6	*	2	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	789	1365	31	100	1500	535	547	632	1363	220	249
Fox Sparrow	14	28	-	15	-	5	2	14	2	13	65
Swamp Sparrow	72	82	5	28	38	17	47	6	23	26	25
Song Sparrow	385	363	28	107	12	16	6	104	23	26	25
Lapland Longspur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Individuals (b)(c)	384870	17864	4462	4952	34513	12094	8247	29249	16192	5893	13406
Total Species on count	111	85	64	87	137	124	103	133	108	73	109
Total Species within count period	117	92	64	88	142	127	103	138	121	77	111

Notes:
(a) On Gulf Shores count date, 9 Laughing Gulls and 4 Sandwich Terns observed near but outside count circle.
(b) Eufaula Refuge inventory estimate for certain species made on Jan 6, the day preceding the count, showed higher numbers for most ducks, Am. Coot and Red-winged Blackbird.

Notes (cont.)

(C) Total individuals include the following, unidentified as to species: Wheeler Refuge--14012 ducks and 144 gulls reported from aerial survey, 1 buteo hawk, and 1 rail; Birmingham--10 ducks, and 2 accipiter and 4 buteo hawks; Ft. Morgan--3 yellowlegs, and 1 fly-catcher; and Bay County--181 scaup, 100 other ducks, 1 accipiter hawk, 5 crows, and 1 marsh wren. Others within the count periods, also unidentified as to species, were: Pensacola--hummingbird; and Bay County--night heron.

For descriptions of most count areas and habitats, see *American Birds*, Vol. 26, No. 2, and, for the Alabama counts (except the newly established Ft. Morgan and Gulf Shores counts), *Alabama Birdlife*, Vols. 18 & 19, No. 1. Other details respecting the counts (all taken in circles of 15-mile diameter except where indicated) and participants (names of party leaders underscored where reported) were as follows:

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge (incl Tenn. R., Flint Creek, Limestone Bay, sloughs managed for waterfowl, and part of Decatur): Dec. 16; 6:30 AM to 5:15 PM. Clear; 18° to 25°; wind NW, 10-30 mph, gusty; river and streams flooded; some refuge roads impassible. 40 observers in 7 parties; 66 party-hours (30 on foot, 35 by car, 1 by airplane); 383 party-miles (10 on foot, 303 by car, 70 by airplane). Blackbird-startling roost at Point Mallard as before; no crow roost in count circle this year. Participants: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. (refuge manager), J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Raymond D. Bates, Richard Bays, Michael L. Bierly (compiler), Helen and Lloyd W. Clayton, Dwight Cooley, Fred Daugeette, W. Cecil Davis, Leo Derden, John A. Dougherty, Dale and Jeanne Dreyfoos, Wallace D. Dreyfoos, Howard M. Einspahr, Ann and Dan Forster, Thomas Hull, David C. Hulse, Charlotte H. and John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Greg D. Jackson, Helen H. Kittinger, W. Roger Maner, Frank McDaniel, Bobby G. Meadows, Ann L. Miller, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Debbie Rogers, Don Simbeck, P. Bob Truett, Emmett N. Waldrep, Tim Weston, George, Jr., and Morris D. Williams, Harriett H. Wright, and Joe Wright.

Birmingham (incl Oak Mtn., Lk. Purdy, East Lk., Cahaba R., Roberts Field, city and suburbs): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Cloudy with rain beginning about 3:00 PM; 54° to 63°; wind SE, 10-38 mph; water levels high (2' from top of Lk. Purdy Dam). 57 observers in 13 parties and at feeders; 123 party-hours (74 on foot, 49 by car); 504 party-miles (74 on foot, 430 by car). Participants: Gussie Arnett, Gertrude Bachmann, J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Naomi G. Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Bobby, Mary I. and Robert E. Burks, Jr., G. Rod and Lou Butler, G. Bradley Carlisle, Greg C. Carlisle, Frederick T. Carney, James L. Cox, Walter F. Coxe, Bruce Crider, Howard M. Einspahr, Louise Foster, Corinne Glaze, Emmy Lou Grimley, John F. and Mildred M. Harsh, Dan C. Holliman, Ruth R. Horsley, Billie Sue Hulsey, Donald J. Hulsey, Gina Marie, Joseph A. and Stephen M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Greg D. Jackson, Helen H. Kittinger, Christine Leake, Donaldson Lee, John R. Lester, W. Roger Maner, Ann L. Miller, Francis Owens, James V. Peavy, Jr., Lee N. Peavy, Morton H. Perry, Robert D. Perry, Margarette K. Persons, Polly Powell, Millard F. Prather, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., James W. Shepherd, Anne K. Smith, Idalene F. Snead, Virginia R. Thrasher, Arthur and Becky Tyson, Ted L. Weems, Harriett H. Wright, and Maxene Wright.

Jacksonville (incl Choccolocco Valley, Pink's Lk., Jacksonville State Univ. Campus and city): Jan. 1; 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Partly cloudy; 44° to 51°; wind NNE, 10 mph. 7 observers in 3 parties; 19 party-hours (12 on foot, 7 by car); 144 party-miles (18 on foot, 126 by car). Participants: Richard F. Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jr., Jerry A. Clonts, Kenneth E. and Tim Landers, J. W. Selman, and C. William Summerour.

Eufaula Wildlife Refuge (incl Chattahoochee R., sloughs managed for waterfowl, and Cowikee and Wylaunee Creeks--count limited to refuge area): Jan. 7. Overcast with much drizzle; cold; strong easterly wind. 19 observers in 4 parties; 30 party-hours; 96 party-miles (4 on foot, 92 by car). Participants: Charlotte Blackshear, Julian L. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary T. Dusi, Ted Ellis, Charles Erwin, Mike Fuller, Emma Giffen, Bob Grier, Elliott Jones, Gail Keracofe, Florence Lynn, William Matheny, Jackie and Ron McKitrick, Harriett and Tom Meadows, Cindy Parsons, and Joy and Robert Terhune.

Mobile (incl Cochrane Causeway, Mobile Bay, Spring Hill College Campus, city and suburbs): Dec. 16; 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Clear; 30° to 42°; wind N-NE, 10-20 mph. 13 observers in 8 parties; 55 party-hours (24 on foot, 31 by car); 306 party-miles (17 on foot, 289 by car). Participants: Lois P. Archer, Fred E. Bowers, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, Richard E. Hayward, Jr. (compiler), Elin H. Kincaid, Tom Logan, Max P. McGill, Louise N. McKinstry, Albert and Mini Nonkes, and Elizabeth R. Toenes.

Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (incl also Cedar Point, Coden, Bayou la Batre, Miss. Sound, and Gulf): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear AM, rain PM; 65° to 70°; wind S-SE, 5-15 mph. 12 observers in 6 parties; 38 party-hours (11 on foot, 27 by car); 222 party-miles (14 on foot, 208 by car). Participants: Don Bland, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Richard E. Hayward, Jr., Edgar Hughes, Elin H. Kincaid, Max P. McGill, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Elizabeth R. Toenes, and William Tonsmeire.

Ft. Morgan (terminal 15 mi Ft. Morgan Peninsula, W end of Little Lagoon, Bon Secour and Mobile Bays, and Gulf): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Cloudy; 65° to 70°; wind SE, 15-25 mph. 14 observers in 5 parties; 47 party-hours (37 on foot, 8 by car, 2 by boat); 125 party-miles (22 on foot, 99 by car, 4 by boat). Participants: Katharine Beck, P. Fairly Chandler (compiler), Sherlie E. Gade, Wyly V. Gammon, Goldwyn O. Gary, Louise T. and Verda D. Horne, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, Albert and Mini Nonkes, Peter Quinn, and Joseph D. Wetzell.

Gulf Shores (incl Gulf State Park, Lk. Shelby, E end of Little Lagoon, Perdido Pass, Wolf and Oyster Bays, Bon Secour R. and Bay, Foley, Gulf Shores, and Gulf): Jan. 6; 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Cloudy; 50° to 65°; wind SW-N, 5-15 mph. 33 observers in 10 parties; 90 party-hours. Participants: Evelyn and Thomas Barbir, Katharine Beck, Michael L. Bierly, P. Fairly Chandler (compiler), Robert A. Duncan, Amy W. Furnans, Edward E. Furnans, Sherlie E. Gade, Wyly V. Gammon, Goldwyn O. Gary, Lyman E. Goodnight, M. Fred Griffin, Louise T. Horne, Joseph A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Greg D. Jackson, Curtis L. Kingsbery, W. Roger Maner, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, Albert Nonkes, Mini Nonkes, Steven G. Page, James V. Peavy, Jr., Lee N. Peavy, Peter Quinn, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Anne K. Smith, Virginia R. Thrasher, Frederick J. Wernicke, and Joseph D. Wetzell.

Pensacola (incl Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, Gulf, city and suburbs): Dec. 16; 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear; 33° to 40°; wind NW, 15-25 mph. 34 observers in 8 parties; 71 party-hours (37 on foot, 34 by car); 352 party-miles (30 on foot, 322 by car). Participants: Richard L. Ballman, Katharine Beck, Brooke and Hal Beecher, Frank Bray, Lucy and Robert A. Duncan, Amy W., Edward E. and Vance A. Furnans, Sherlie E. Gade, Goldwyn O. Gary, Lyman E. Goodnight, Leroy E. Healy, Louise T. Horne, Roy L. Hyatt, Charles J. Kahn, Albert Keyser, Curtis L. Kingsbery (compiler), Doris A. Lewis, Susan F. and Steven E. Liston, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, C. William and Judy Milmore, Karen Oetken, Judith B. and Steven G. Page, J. Pheane Ross, Alan C. Sheppard, David H. Turpin, Frederick J. Wernicke, and A. Fred Wicke.

Marianna (incl Chipola R., Merritt's Millpond, McCormick's Lk., Fla. Caverns St. Park, and city): Dec. 16; 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Cloudy; 28° to 36°; wind NE, 18-30 mph; 40° drop in temp. over previous 12 hrs; very dry fall. 11 observers in 4 parties plus 1 at feeder; 34 party-hours (8 on foot, 23 by car, 3 by boat); 144 party-miles (7 on foot, 131 by car, 6 by boat). Participants: Lillian Cook, Marion W. Gray (compiler), Mary Gray, William A. Hearn, Vicki Milam, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Celma and James Rosborough, Donald P. and Frances Scott, and Stephen J. Stedman.

Bay County (incl St. Andrew Bay, Grand Lagoon, Deerpoint Dam, Gulf, Panama City and suburbs): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Cloudy; 57° to 71°; wind SE, 3-25 mph. 20 observers in 9 parties; 62 party-hours (23 on foot, 31 by car, 8 by boat); 241 party-miles (18 on foot, 190 by car, 33 by boat). Participants: Jane Adams, Lee Benoit, Eric Fontaine, Betty Friedman, William A. Hearn, Fred Jones, Vicki Milam, Mary Ann and Terri Olson, Audrey Parker, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Donald P. Scott (compiler), Frances Scott, Stephen J. Stedman, David and Gladys Todd, Anna and Tom Watson, and Larry York.

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

MOUNTAIN PLOVER IN ALABAMA

P. Fairly Chandler

On January 6, 1973, with Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) in a very large, unplanted field near Magnolia Springs, Alabama, in south Baldwin County, Fairly Chandler and Peter Quinn discovered a Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*). The day's weather was cloudy, wind SW-N 5-15 mph with temperature range between 50° F and 65° F. Previously, the winter weather had been very mild with only two light freezes (above 20°). The field was bare of any vegetation, green or otherwise.

The Mountain Plover was observed at leisure for some one-quarter hour as near as approximately one hundred feet with 8.5x and 10x binoculars. All field marks were seen quite well -- somewhat smaller than the accompanying and related Killdeer, buffy appearing back and breast and, in flight, a white wing stripe with dark border, and dark tail band with white border.

The bird habitually did much running in search of food, usually 10 to 30 or more feet, after which it would stop and look about or go right to feeding. On occasion, it would fly as far as a quarter-mile just a few feet above the ground, after which it would look about again or go right to feeding and running about.

The bird was studied again some four hours later with binoculars and telescope by Chandler, Quinn, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Lyman Goodnight, Steve Page, and Fred Wernicke, and again on January 7, 9, 13, and 15 by many other birders. It was photographed in color by Dr. S. E. Liston on January 13 and by Chandler on January 15. On January 15, three tractors were discing the field and the Plover, Killdeer, and Pipits were avoiding the disturbed ground. On January 17, the field was being plowed and no birds were present. The Killdeer and Pipits moved to adjoining fields, but the Mountain Plover has not been seen again to date.

According to R. T. Peterson, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, the Mountain Plover is a common breeding bird of the western parts of the Great Plains, wintering in California and Mexico, and accidental in Massachusetts and Florida. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., in FLORIDA BIRD LIFE lists three records for that state: December 1, 1870, at Key West; late July 1901 from James Island; and December 17, 1927, from Daytona Beach.

This is the first known record for Alabama.

P. O. Box 142, Magnolia Springs 36555

THE SEASON, Winter

December 1972 and January, February 1973

Thomas A. Imhof, Editor

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD:

Brown Pelican - Sixty-three birds on Dec.30, Dauphin I. C B C, recent max. (MWG).
Blue-faced Booby - Jan.6 at Alabama Pt. (RRR,CLK,m.ob.) 4th State record, 3rd in Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant - Seen at Wheeler Refuge about half-dozen times around
Christmas for first time in eleven years (TZA).
Green Heron - Two at Dog R. Mobile, Feb.3 & 13 (LMCK).
Yellow-crowned Night Heron - One thru Dec.12 at B'ham (GC), 1st winter record Mtn. R.
Cattle Egret - One Jan.25 at Tuscaloosa, 1st winter record U.C.P.
Whistling Swan - One near Oneonta Dec.19 to at least Jan.13 (CL,GA,m.ob.,photo)
2nd Mtn.R. record.
European Widgeon - Male, possibly also a female, Jan.6 at LeGarde's L.,Anniston (WJC)
2nd record for Ala.
Greater Scaup - Six to nine birds including males at L. Purdy Dec.6-30 (RRR,JRB,HHK,
m.ob.) 2nd Mtn. R. record, 1st for B'ham.
hawks - On a 118-mile route in Montgomery, Bullock & Macon Cos. to be run twice each
winter, the following hawks were counted on Jan.16 & 19 (JEK): Red-tailed 38,38;
Red-shouldered 5,1; Marsh 5,11; Sparrow 6,8; Total 54,58, nearly 1 hawk every 2 m.
Goshawk - One immature near Pleasant Site, Franklin Co. Feb.10 (PLT,IFS,et al)
2nd record for Ala.
Harlan's Hawk - One Dec.16 Wheeler (TAI) 1st for Tennessee V.
Broad-winged Hawk - One Nov.24 Priceville near Decatur (DCH) latest for Tennessee V.
Rough-legged Hawk - Two near Foley & Gulf Shores Dec.23, Jan.4 & 6 (PFC); Wheeler
Refuge Dec.16 (fide MLB); Tuscaloosa Co. Feb.14 (JCT).
Bald Eagle - Daphne Dec.13 (LGP); Wheeler Refuge 2 Dec. & Jan. (TZA).
Pigeon Hawk - B'ham Dec.30 (TAI); Decatur Jan.29 (DCH); Hatchchubee St.Pk. Feb.10 (WM).
Sandhill Crane - Gulf Shores 30 Jan.7 (MLB,GDJ).
Snowy Plover - Alabama Pt. Jan.7, 12 birds (MLB,GDJ).
MOUNTAIN PLOVER - Magnolia Springs, Jan.6-15 (PFC,SEL,CLK et al,photo) 1st for State.
Whimbrel - Alabama Pt. Jan.7 (MLB,GDJ) first winter record on coast.
Spotted Sandpiper - Decatur Dec.16 (AF) 2nd winter record Tennessee V.; L. Purdy Jan.9
(ALM,HHK) 3rd winter record Mtn. R.; Dauphin I. Feb.10 (R&LD) annual on coast.
Knot - Dauphin I. max. 40 this winter on Dec.23 (LRT).
Dunlin - Wheeler Refuge Dec.16 (MLB) 1st winter record Tenn.V.; 5 Feb.13 Eufaula R.(LAW).
Semipalmated Sandpiper - Wheeler Refuge Dec.2 (DCH) latest Fall Tenn.V.
Marbled Godwit - Cochran Causeway 7 on Dec.7 (PFC).
phalarope sp. - L. Purdy Dec.12 (HHW,HHK) 6th phalarope record for B'ham area.
Great Black-backed Gull - Ft. Morgan Dec.30 (PFC,VDH et al) 6th for State.
Laughing Gull - Decatur 2 Dec.26 (DCH) 6th for Tenn.V.; East L. B'ham Dec.9 (GC)
5th for Mtn. R.
Franklin's Gull - B'ham. adult Dec.14 (HHK) and 3 Decatur Dec.26 (DCH) 5th & 6th State.
Caspian Tern - count of 200 on Feb.14 Dauphin I. (LRT).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Eufaula Refuge 2 Feb.28 (MF,GS) probably wintered locally,
almost unbelievable, 1st winter record for State.
Saw-whet Owl - Dec.4 or 11, found dead on road near Eufaula Refuge, too far gone to
preserve (MF) 4th record for State, 2nd this winter.
Rufous Hummingbird - Dec.3 feeder in Mobile (fide JLD) 2nd State record.
hummingbird sp. - Jan.5 Dauphin I. (TM).
Western Kingbird - Dec.3 Dauphin I. (TH); Jan.1 & 11 Fairhope (A&MN,JDW,JEK,TM).
Barn Swallow - Foley Dec.23, Jan.6(2), 7(2) (PFC) 1st State winter records.
Sprague's Pipit - Barnwell, Baldwin Co., Jan.29 3 possibly 5 (VDH) 14 records since 1956.

Magnolia Warbler - Ft. Morgan Dec.30 (VDH) 1st winter record for State.
Northern Waterthrush - Ft. Morgan 1 banded Feb.12 (JVP) 1st winter record for State.
Western Meadowlark - Jan.26 to Feb.23 Priceville, Morgan Co. (DCH) 4 birds, 1 now
specimen Wheeler collection.
Baltimore Oriole - Fairhope, male, Dec.16 to at least Jan.28 (VDH); Tuscaloosa, male,
Feb.19 (JCT); Phenix City, female, Feb.19 (AS).
Boat-tailed Grackle - Dauphin I. 4 "just over bridge" Jan.21 (REH).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Immature male at Fairhope Jan.3 to end of period (A&MN);
female on Dauphin I. Jan.9-22 (S&REH,G&JS) 1st winter records.
Black-headed Grosbeak - Female on Dauphin I. Jan.8 to Feb.17 (S&REH) getting regular.
Blue Grosbeak - Female at Ft. Morgan Dec.9 (PFC) latest Fall for State.
Evening Grosbeak - Fairhope 12 Dec.18, earliest Fall for coast (MN); 100 Dec.23 &
Jan.2 (JR) max. for coast, species reached Dauphin I., Bayou La Batre, Bon Secour,
& Gulf Shores farthest South (LRT,PFC,m.ob.); Reported widespread throughout the
State Dec.-March.
Savannah Sparrow - 120 Wheeler Refuge Feb.18 (EGR,RRR) maximum for Tenn. V.
Bachman's Sparrow - 2 Wheeler Refuge Jan.21 (DCH) 1st winter for Tenn. V.
Oregon Junco - B'ham 2 from about Dec.16 to at least Jan.21 (JFH,MH) 4th for State.
Fox Sparrow - Dauphin I. 10 Jan.9 (REH) high but not highest for coast.

Observers: Gussie Arnett, Thomas Z. Atkeson, J. Russell Bailey, Michael L. Bierly,
Greg Carlisle, Gloria Childers, William J. Calvert, P. Fairly Chandler, J. L. Dorn,
Ann Forster, Michael Fuller, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, David C. Hulse,
John F. Harsh, Mildred Harsh, R. E. (Tuck) Hayward, Sharon Hayward, Verda D. Horne,
Thomas A. Imhof, Greg D. Jackson, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, James E.
Keeler, Carol Linder, Stephen E. Liston, Ann L. Miller, Louise McKinstry, Mary Mayhew,
Thomas Mayhew, William Matheny, Albert & Mini Nonkes, Lila G. Porter, James V. Peavy,
Joy Russ, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Idalene F. Snead, Ann Senn, Guss Saville,
Genevieve & Jim Spafford, James C. Thompson, Alice G. Tait, Percy L. Thigpen, Lib R.
Toenes, Joseph D. Wetzel, L. A. Wells, Harriett H. Wright. m.ob. many observers.

1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218.

THE SEASON, Spring
March, April, May 1973
Thomas A. Imhof, Editor

March was warm and vegetation was about normal to one week early. Development of vegetation slowed down in a cool April and May liberally sprinkled with storms, heavy rain, and cold fronts that produced loads of grounded migrants. Lib Toenes said that on Dauphin Island birding in March and April was the greatest in years although short on a few species. Best days were March 30, April 4,7,8,27 - all preceded by rain or north wind. Alice Tait came down from Massachusetts for six weeks at Dauphin, got 200 species and said that this was the best season in the ten years she has been coming to the island. L. A. Wells, of Columbus, Georgia, said of this "fantastic migration" that "it was late, had an eastward diversion from rains and floods in the Mississippi Valley, and included three fortuitous weekends of clear weather after rains and prolonged low temperature". Tom Atkeson reported nearly all of Wheeler Refuge under water, but fresh mudflat along White Spring Dike, coupled with stiff north winds and unusually cool temperatures, produced a "whole handful of goodies" including many shorebird records.

BANDING - Four mist-netters operating on the coast this Spring produced valuable information on skulkers and relative abundance of some migrants. Margaret Miller operated 15 days on Dauphin during March 22 to May 9 and banded 548 birds of 54 species, including 180 birds on April 4. James V. Peavy netted at Fort Morgan on 11 days, April 9-May 1, and banded 367 birds of 56 species. Totals and peaks for the top 15 species by these two banders were: Hooded Warbler 100, peak 46 April 4 (MEM); White-eyed Vireo 73, peak 15 March 29 and April 1 (MEM); Worm-eating Warbler 50, peak 16 on April 4 (MEM); Catbird 48, peak 9 April 26 (MEM); Parula Warbler 44, peak 25 March 29 (MEM); Red-eyed Vireo 39, peak 13 April 4 (MEM); Whitethroated Sparrow 25, peak 9 on April 11 (JVP); Wood Thrush and Kentucky Warbler 34, peak 10 and 21 April 4 (MEM); Indigo Bunting 32, peak 16 April 26 (MEM); Swainson's Warbler 30, peak 15 April 4 (MEM); Blue Jay 23, Prothonotary Warbler 22, Ovenbird 21, Northern Waterthrush 20. Of 37 migrant brown thrushes (Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Veery) 34 were banded April 26 to May 1.

Noteworthy records for the period:

Brown Pelican - 112 Dauphin May 23 (LRT) maximum for last 14 years.
Anhinga - Wheeler Refuge April 11 (HEJ) first local record in 10 years.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Birmingham March 7 (GC,WLC) earliest north of Fall Line.
Least Bittern - Dauphin April 4, "saw more on one bush than previously in whole life"(LRT); Fort Morgan 17 April 5 (JVP mob).
Wood Stork - Claiborne, Monroe Co., May 13 (CLK,KB,CP) earliest State.
Glossy Ibis - Fort Morgan April 14-15 (AOS); Dauphin April 19 (AGT); Cat I. April 23 (DB); may breed again in State.
Shoveler - Headland 15 on April 13 (MF) latest spring LCP.
Blue-winged Teal - Choctaw NWR May 26, 4 birds, latest for LCP (CLK,MLM,LEG,NB).
Redhead - Swan Creek April 30 (JLW,EM) latest for Tennessee Valley.
Common Goldeneye - Tanner, Limestone Co., April 25 (DCH) latest inland record.
Ruddy Duck - Open Pond, Covington Co., March 17 (CLK,mob) latest LCP.
Mississippi Kite - Spring Hill March 29 (MAG) ties earliest for Gulf Coast.

Swainson's Hawk - Fort Deposit March 1 (PFC) 1st March record, 9th for State.
Bald Eagle - Montgomery March 10 (JEK).
Peregrine Falcon - Fort Morgan April 30 (JVP,TW) only one noted this spring.
Merlin - Birmingham March 24 (WRM); Dauphin March 26 (AGT); Gulf Shores April 15 (AOS).
Sora - Castleberry May 6 (CLK,LEG,MLM) latest LCP.
Black Rail - Gulf Shores May 13,14 calling repeatedly (TAI,JVP) 5th State record, may breed.
Purple Gallinule - 3 birds in 2 places near Castleberry (CLK,LEG,MLM) May 6, only date received LCP; Wheeler Refuge May 14,17,25 (WHF,JLD,DCH,JLW) 3rd Tenn. Valley.
Common Gallinule - 5 Castleberry March 17 (CLK,mob) earliest LCP.
American Oystercatcher - Dauphin (Grant's Pass) May 25, 2 eggs (REH) only State egg rcd.
Semipalmated Plover - Eufaula 3 April 25 (MF); Headland 4 May 9 (MF) 2nd and 3rd LCP; Wheeler Refuge up to 50 May 5-28 (DCH) maximum record inland.
Piping Plover - Wheeler Refuge 2 May 16 (DCH) 1st inland spring record.
American Golden Plover - Headland 3 April 11 (MF) 1st record LCP.
Black-bellied Plover - Wheeler Refuge 5 May 25 (DCH) latest spring Tennessee Valley.
Long-billed Curlew - Dauphin March 31 (LRT, 1st photo JAJ).
Upland Sandpiper - Tuscaloosa April 29 (JCT) latest spring UCP.
Solitary Sandpiper - Choctaw Refuge May 13 (CLK,KB,CP) latest spring LCP.
Pectoral Sandpiper - Up to 40 as late as May 28 Wheeler (DCH,JLW) latest spring TV; Headland May 9 (MF) latest LCP.
White-rumped Sandpiper - Headland May 9 (MF) 2nd record LCP.
Baird's Sandpiper - Alabama Point 3 May 14 (TAI,JVP) 2nd spring Gulf Coast; Wheeler Refuge 3 May 16-20, 4 May 21-23 (DCH) 1st spring Tennessee Valley.
Dunlin - 40 March 18 Eufaula (MF); 23 Wheeler May 24-25 (DCH) 1st spring Tenn. Valley.
Short-billed Dowitcher - Jacksonville 1 April 21 (WJC) 1st spring Mountain Region.
Long-billed Dowitcher - Wheeler 8 May 16 (DCH) 2nd inland spring record.
Semipalmated Sandpiper - Choctaw Refuge 8 May 13 (CLK,KB,CP) only spring record LCP.
Western Sandpiper - Headland 2 April 25 (MF); Choctaw Refuge 3 May 13 (CLK,KB,CP) only spring records LCP; Wheeler 7 May 16-18 (DCH,JLW) latest spring Tenn. Valley.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Fort Morgan April 30 (JVP,TW); Alabama Point May 14 (TAI,JVP); Swan Creek, Limestone Co., 2 May 3 (DCH); now 6 spring records for State.
Sanderling - Wheeler 7 May 16-18 (DCH,JLW) 1st spring Tennessee Valley.
Black-necked Stilt - noted 6 times on coast April 2 to May 12 (mob).
Red Phalarope - Bird photographed Sept. 12-15 at Lake Purdy (CSR,RCL) has been identified as a Red, so the Northern is still on the Alabama hypothetical list.
Laughing Gull - Headland April 25 (MF) 1st record LCP; 5 late at L. Oliver June 3 (LAW).
Bonaparte's Gull - L. Shelby, Gulf Shores, May 15 (TAI,JVP) latest State except TV.
Least Tern - L. Oliver 20 April 26 (LAW) 2nd spring Piedmont.
Ground Dove - Tuscaloosa April 21 (JCT).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Dauphin March 25 (LRT) earliest State.
Chimney Swift - Red Mtn., Birmingham, 5 March 12 (RDB) earliest Mtn. Region; Florida 4 March 17 (CLK,mob) earliest LCP.
Hummingbird Sp. - March 6, 9 Spring Hill (MAG).
Rufous Hummingbird - Fort Morgan April 5 (JVP,WRM,RR,FBT) 3rd State.
Western Kingbird - At least 4 records Dauphin and Fort Morgan April 5-30 (JVP,LRT,mob).
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher -- At least 5 records Dauphin April 5-14 (LRT,mob).
Acadian Flycatcher - Dauphin April 1-27, 14 birds banded (MEM).
Rough-winged Swallow - 2 Dauphin March 12 (GDJ) ties earliest Gulf Coast.
Barn Swallow - Tuscaloosa March 16 (JCT) earliest UCP; Choctaw Refuge May 26 (CLK,LEG,NB,MLM) latest LCP, but may really be a local breeder.
Cliff Swallow - 6 Florence March 30 (BGM,FB) earliest Tennessee Valley.
Red-breasted Nuthatch - Brewton March 31 (CLK,mob); Fort Morgan May 14 (TAI,JVP) latest State.
Robin - Fort Morgan a female May 14 (TAI,JVP) possibly a non-breeder.
Wood Thrush - Spring Hill March 3 (MWG) earliest State.

THOSE SOUNDLY SLEEPING SCREECH OWLS

Thomas Z. Atkeson and Harold Johnson

Black-whiskered Vireo - Fort Morgan banded April 15 (TAI); Dauphin banded April 24 (REH),
 1 seen May 14 (REH,DB); now 9 State records.
 Philadelphia Vireo - Dog R, Mobile, April 1 (LMCK) earliest State.
 Black-and-white Warbler - Dauphin March 12 (LRT,AGT).
 Prothonotary Warbler - Dauphin March 12 (LRT,AGT).
 Worm-eating Warbler - Dauphin March 17 (LRT) earliest State.
 Blue-winged Warbler - Dauphin March 22 (M&JM) earliest State.
 Nashville Warbler - Dauphin April 8 (LRT) ties earliest Gulf Coast.
 Tennessee Warbler - Fort Morgan May 14 (TAI,JVP) latest Gulf Coast.
 Parula Warbler - Dauphin March 5 (GC,REH).
 Yellow Warbler - Fort Morgan May 14 (TAI,JVP) ties latest State south of breeding range.
 Cape May Warbler - Dauphin May 21 (LRT) latest State
 Myrtle Warbler - Huntsville, a male May 26 (BGM),female June 9 (BGM,MLB,PS) latest State.
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - Dauphin April 8 (fide MAG) ties earliest State,1 Apr.24(LRT).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - Dauphin March 18 (REH) earliest Gulf Coast.
 Blackpoll Warbler - Eufaula April 16 (MF) earliest LCP.
 Louisiana Waterthrush - Dauphin March 3 (S&REH) earliest State; Lovick, Jefferson Co.,
 March 11 (DJH) earliest Mountain Region.
 Connecticut Warbler - Dauphin male banded May 4 (MEM) 2nd GC, 9th State spring records.
 Mourning Warbler - Jacksonville May 7 (WJC) earliest Mountain Region.
 Hooded Warbler - Abundant, see BANDING; Dauphin March 3 (S&REH) earliest State, April 5
 "saw more than in my whole life" (OSP).
 Bobolink - Dauphin April 14 (G&JM) earliest Gulf Coast.
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - Fort Morgan April 30 (JVP,TW) latest of 2 State spring records.
 Boat-tailed Grackle - Dothan 2 March 29 (MF).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Immature male at Fairhope from previous period to March 11(A&MN).
 Black-headed Grosbeak - Fairhope female March 16 (JDW); Dauphin last seen April 12 (REH);
 Fairhope last seen May 3 (A&MN) latest State except UCP.
 Blue Grosbeak - Pollard, Escambia Co.,3 March 31 (CLK,mob) earliest LCP.
 Indigo Bunting - Dauphin May 31 (REH,SBH) latest GC.
 Evening Grosbeak - Fairhope female May 10 (A&MN) latest GC; Birmingham female May 15.
 at Mulga (L&MW) latest Mtn. Region except female June 6 Birmingham (RW).
 Pine Siskin - Birmingham 5 May 12 (HBT,IFS) ties latest for Mtn. Region.
 Red Crossbill - Bankhead Forest 5 March 1 (TAI,HHK), 6 possible family group May 5 (TAI).
 Savannah Sparrow - 2 Fort Morgan May 14 (TAI,JVP) latest Gulf Coast.
 Grasshopper Sparrow - Eufaula 1 March 18 (MF) latest LCP.
 Lark Sparrow - Dauphin April 14 (LRT,AGT) earliest Gulf Coast.
 Whitethroated Sparrow - Fairhope May 22 (A&MN) latest GC except a summer record.
 Swamp Sparrow - Bussey's Lake, Russell Co.,May 10 (JM) latest UCP.

Observers: Alabama Ornithological Society, Thomas Z. Atkeson, Raymond D. Bates, Kate Beck,
 Millicent Beck, Don Bland, Fred Bowman, Nell Broughton, William J. Calvert, Greg Carlisle,
 W. L. Carlisle, Gloria Childers, J. L. Derden, Lucy and Robert Duncan, Mike Fuller,
 W. H. Ferguson, E. E. and Amy Furnans, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, Lyman E.
 Goodnight, David C. Hulse, Donald J. Hulsey, Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward, Sharon B. Hayward,
 Thomas A. Imhof, Jerome A. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Harold E. Johnson, Jane E. Keeler,
 Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Roxie C. Laybourne, Margaret E. Miller, James
 Miller, Gloria and Jim Neander, Chuck and Mary Mayhew, Elliott Montgomery, W. Roger Maner,
 Bob G. Meadows, Louise McKinstry, Mary Lou Mattis, Albert and Mini Nonkes, Dot Newburn,
 James V. Peavy, Cosette Polizo, Richard Ryan, Chandler S. Robbins, Olin Sewall Pettingill,
 Idalene F. Snead, Genevieve and Jim Spafford, Lib R. Toenes, Alice G. Tait, Helen B.
 Thigpen, James C. Thompson, F. Bob Truett, Ted Weems, A. Fred Wicke, Rebecca Wilson,
 L. A. Wells, Joseph D. Wetzell, Joe L. Wright, Larry and Melody Watts.

1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218.

We had given little thought to the sleeping habits of Screech Owls (*Otus asio*);
 in fact, we had seldom thought of them at all except when we heard them a-screeching,
 until a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) nest box program was begun on the Wheeler National
 Wildlife Refuge some years ago. Normally, these boxes are checked twice yearly, once
 in mid or late winter to insure that they are in good condition, properly located,
 etc., and again in late summer or early fall to determine the degree of use. Late
 summer checks indicate the little owls make some warm-weather use of the boxes, for
 unhatched Screech Owl eggs, feathers, rodent and fish bones, and other owl sign are
 found. It is the late winter check, though, that reveals the owls themselves, most
 of them sleeping like Rip Van Winkle. For example, a check of eighty-two boxes during
 the last week of January and first week of February, 1973, showed ten Screech Owls,
 seven red phase and three gray phase, inside the boxes in various states of somnolence.

Shortly after the system of mid or late winter box checks began some years ago,
 we began finding owls in the boxes so soundly asleep that they appeared dead, and it
 proved all but impossible to wake them. Invariably, these would be in a semi-standing
 position leaning in a corner of the box, eyes closed. You could play catch with the
 little rascals without rousing them. For example, Harold Johnson, a comparative new-
 comer, received his first experience with a winter box check in February 1971. Sure
 enough, there was a little red screechie in one of the first boxes he climbed to,
 sleeping soundly. Harold thought it would take first place in a cutie contest and
 was determined to show it to his wife, so he placed the sleeping beauty in his lunch
 box, hauled it around the remainder of the day and then home with him at the end of
 work-time. When he opened the lunch box, he found the little fellow hadn't turned a
 feather and was still snoozing peacefully. After he and Mrs. Johnson examined it at
 some length, they decided to wake it and release it. This proved easier said than
 done. There was much shaking, etc., before the owl roused enough to fly away.

After a number of similar examples of this sleepiness, we began to wonder if this
 was normal owl behavior or, perhaps, the torpidity that we had read about which affects
 southwestern Poorwill's and Andean Hummingbirds. We wrote Dr. Oliver Austin, editor
 of the AUK and curator of the Florida State Museum, about this and he suggested a
 check on temperature, respiration and heartbeat. By the time this correspondence
 had flowed back and forth, it was late February 1972 and weather was warm. We were
 determined to follow his instructions but to wait for the colder weather of 1973.

At 2 pm on January 9, after a nighttime low of twenty-four degrees and the
 thermometer then reading twenty-eight degrees, we decided to check an owl thoroughly.
 Sure enough, there was one in the first box examined that was thoroughly unconscious.
 Using a rectal thermometer borrowed from a local veterinarian, we recorded the body
 temperature as 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The respiration rate was 7.5 breaths per
 minute, though no heartbeat could be detected. We hauled the owlet to a Decatur
 veterinarian ten miles away.

"That thing can't be alive," the vet said as we laid it on his table. He
 attempted to find a heartbeat for us, but couldn't. We took our lethargic friend to
 the Wheeler Refuge office and left it there overnight with the thermostat set at
 about seventy-five degrees. When we returned at seven-thirty the next morning, we
 found him sitting there as bright-eyed and as bushy-tailed as any stumpy-tailed
 Screech Owl could be. We grabbed the little fellow and again took his body tempera-
 ture to find that it had risen to 103.4 degrees, and a re-check on his respiration
 rate in this alert stage showed that this,also,had risen to sixty-six breaths per
 minute. With the outside temperature twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit, we placed him
 outside in a box to see if he would go back to sleep, but he didn't. Determined to
 get a heartbeat reading, we carried him to a second Decatur veterinarian who was able
 to establish this as 120 beats per minute. Feeling that this one had suffered enough
 indignities to last any Screech Owl several lifetimes, we took him back to the
 vicinity of his bed box and released him.

SPECIES LIST FOR STATE MEETING AT GULF SHORES, ALABAMA

April 13,14,15, 1973

Feeling it best to repeat these recordings, Harold, along with Richard Bays, set about finding a second owl on January 11 at 9:30 am with the temperature standing at twenty-six degrees. They promptly found one, but he proved a bit less torpid than the first. He also showed a body temperature of 100.4 degrees, but a respiration rate of twenty breaths per minute and a heart rate of only forty-eight beats per minute. Checking further, they promptly found a second owl and checked it at a body temperature of 101.0 degrees, a respiration rate of twenty-four breaths per minute, and a heart rate of sixty beats per minute.

Thoroughly confused, we duly recorded all this data and mailed it to Dr. Austin. His reply indicated that the owls must be exhibiting a merely sound daytime sleep, since, had this been true torpidity, the body temperature should have approximated the outside temperature. So much for the hope that we had discovered another example of bird hibernation, but we enjoyed our experience whole-heartedly with those soundly sleeping Screech Owls and feel that we learned a bit.

Harold now has his own explanation. During the course of the most recent nest box check, a semi-sleeping owl was fished from a box, shaken awake, and released. It promptly flew directly into the hole of a nearby box, struck the backboard with a resounding thump and dropped, sleeping, to the bottom. "Maybe," Harold says, "our sleeping owls are merely those that have knocked themselves 'coo-coo' by flying into nest boxes without first letting their flaps down."

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 1643, Decatur 35601

One hundred eighty-one (181) species of birds were seen at the AOS Spring Meeting at Gulf Shores April 13,14,15, 1973 (area in Baldwin County South of County Road 12). Considering the early date and beautiful weather, we were generally pleased with the variety, if not abundance, of bird life. Many people were happy with the number of Least Bitterns and both species of Gallinules that were seen. All are invited back any time to beautiful Baldwin County. A complete species list follows with notations by those of special interest.

Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron (1 adult, Louise McKinstrey), Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Glossy Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite (1, Harriett Wright), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey (3), Merlin (1, Fairly Chandler, Mini Nonkas), American Kestrel, Bobwhite, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Coot.

American Oystercatcher (1, has become regular at Alabama Point), Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Snowy Plover (2), Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Whimbrel, Upland Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper (7-11), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet (2, showed a sharp increase in the area; 50 seen a few days earlier by Chandler and Peter Quinn), Black-necked Stilt (6, showed a sharp increase in the area), Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Caspian Tern.

Rock Dove, White-winged Dove (3, at Fort Morgan), Mourning Dove, Ground Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren (1, Henry Stevenson), Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin.

Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo (1, banded by Tom Imhof and photographed), Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager.

Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Evening Grosbeak (1, at feeder on Boggy Branch; seen again April 16 by Chandler and Emmie Lou Grimley), American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

P. Fairly Chandler, P.O. Box 142, Magnolia Springs 36555

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 14, 1973

A dinner was held for members and guests of the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) Saturday night April 14, 1973, at 7 pm at Ratcliff's Restaurant, Gulf Shores, Alabama. President Mike Bierly introduced various members who have helped with AOS work during the year. Charles Mayhew drew the numbers for the door prizes and Mike presented the prizes to the winners.

Vice President Art Garrett presented the Nominating Committee's report. For President the Committee recommended Tuck Hayward. Members who were asked to be candidates for Vice President and Treasurer did not accept. The Committee asked for suggestions from the membership for these offices. A motion that the nominations for President be closed was seconded and passed. A motion that Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward be elected President by acclamation was seconded and passed unanimously.

The President called for nominations from the floor for the offices of Vice President and Treasurer. James V. (Buzz) Peavy, Jr., was nominated for Vice President and accepted the nomination. A motion closing the nominations for Vice President was seconded and adopted unanimously, thereby electing Buzz Peavy as Vice President.

The President read to the membership the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee urging participation in bird surveys, especially in those counties lacking sufficient data.

Bob Reid read the attached resolution opposing spraying of Mirex and supporting EPA controls and moved for its adoption. His motion was seconded and the resolution was unanimously adopted as read.

Chairman of the Slide Committee, Bob Reid, presented the Committee's report, a copy of which is attached.

Art Garrett introduced the speaker, Dr. Henry M. Stevenson, who compared the various ways of verifying data obtained on bird surveys.

Gussie Arnett, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 14, 1973

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) met at 12:30 pm April 14, 1973, at Ratcliff's Restaurant, Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Attending the meeting were: President, Mike Bierly; Vice President, Art Garrett; Treasurer, Mary Mayhew; Secretary, Gussie Arnett; and Directors Harriett Wright, Curtis Kingsberry, and Bob Reid.

Bob Reid submitted a resolution, copy of which is attached, authorizing and urging AOS members to participate in seasonal bird surveys, especially in counties of Alabama and West Florida where there is a lack of data. His motion for adoption of the resolution was seconded and carried.

Mary Mayhew submitted the Treasurer's report; copy is attached.

Art Garrett and Mary Mayhew of the Nominating Committee recommended Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward for the office of President and reported that he has accepted the nomination. The Committee asked for suggestions for candidates for Vice President and Treasurer. The Committee has asked several people to be candidates for these offices, but none accepted.

The President announced that he will appoint a committee to help retain the bird sanctuary on Dauphin Island. The lease on the property will be up for renewal in the near future.

Bob Reid reported for the Slide Committee the need to increase the amount of reimbursement for slides from .25 to .35 per slide. This matter was deferred for further consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Gussie Arnett, Secretary

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society that there is hereby adopted and approved, as an official project and policy of this Society, the taking of seasonal surveys of bird distribution and relative abundance, particularly during the summer or breeding season, in those counties in Alabama and Northwest Florida where, because of the absence of breeding bird survey routes or other censuses, there is a lack of adequate ornithological data; that this project and policy be effective as of the summer survey taken in Colbert and Franklin Counties, Alabama, in the summer of 1972 and shall include, among others, those counties and the Counties of Marshall, Etowah, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Barbour, Greene, Lowndes, and Geneva in Alabama, and such others as may be selected by the coordinators of the breeding bird surveys for Alabama or Northwest Florida or other members of the Executive Council; and that the members and local groups affiliated with this Society are hereby authorized and urged to participate in obtaining ornithological data through this project.

REPORT OF THE SLIDE COLLECTION COMMITTEE

During the last year, the committee completed a review of substantially the full list of species for Alabama and Northwest Florida at an afternoon-night meeting on March 3, 1973, at the home of Bob and Elberta Reid in Birmingham. Out of a list that now totals approximately 384 species, the committee has selected one or more slides for 240. Slide reproductions authorized for the scientific and educational sets thus far number 486, which, at the rate of the .25 per slide partial reimbursement provided for in the rules under which the committee operates, represents a financial commitment of \$121.50.

In addition, a form of contract of loan for slides in the educational set has been reviewed and prepared for use by the custodian of the collection, who is Helen Kittinger.

The committee wishes to thank again, for their outstanding pictures and technical advice, its five principal contributors: Helen H. Kittinger, Harriett H. Wright, and Perry C. Covington, of Birmingham; P. Fairly Chandler, of Magnolia Springs; and Charles T. Traylor, now of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The committee also wishes to express its thanks to Dr. Steven E. Liston, of Pensacola, for copies of his outstanding pictures contributed to the collection, and wishes to welcome to the committee James V. Peavy, Jr., of Birmingham.

Present members of the committee, in addition to the chairman, are Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Kittinger, Mr. Covington, Mr. Peavy, and Thomas A. Imhof, of Birmingham; Mr. Chandler, of Magnolia Springs; Mr. Traylor, of Hattiesburg; and James E. Keeler, of Montgomery.

Submitted at the 1973 Spring Meeting at Gulf Shores, Alabama, April 14, 1973.

Robert R. Reid, Jr., Chairman

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
April 24, 1972, to April 14, 1973

INCOME:

Dues	\$ 564.00
Registration, Spring and Winter Meetings	73.00
Field Cards	10.20
BIRDLIFE	8.00
Contribution (W. D. Sams)	5.00
Total	\$ 660.20

EXPENSES:

BIRDLIFE (3 issues)	\$ 405.20
Postage	40.00
Spring AOS Meeting	38.72
Winter AOS Meeting	48.01
Treasurer's Supplies	20.59
Check to Mike Bierly (cleared bank)	2.76
Bank Service Charge	2.53
Total	\$ 557.81

SUMMARY:

Balance in Checking Acct/ April 24, 1972	\$ 612.33
Income	660.20
Total	\$1,272.53
Expenses	- 557.81
BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCT/ APRIL 14, 1973	\$ 714.72

SAVINGS ACCT/B.T.N.B.:

Life Membership Fund	\$ 300.00
Bequest (Blanche Chapman Estate)	100.00
Interest	122.70
BALANCE IN SAVINGS ACCT/ APRIL 14, 1973	\$ 522.70

TOTAL ASSETS:

Balance in Checking Acct/ April 14, 1973	\$ 714.72
Balance in Savings Acct/ April 14, 1973	522.70
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,237.42

Mary Mayhew, Treasurer

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE STAFF

Interim editor: Wm. R. Maner, 1149 Violet Dr., Birmingham, Alabama 35215.

Seasonal editor: Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35218.

~~Contributor: Robert P. Reid, Jr., 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35223.~~

P.O. Box 314
Blount, Ala
3 7502
C. VAN
U.S. SERVICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Mr. Greg Jackson
3120 Wisteria Drive
1 Birmingham, Alabama 35216

U.S. SERVICE