

These surveys indicate at least five well-established Cliff Swallow colonies in Colbert County. The extreme difficulty in getting under many of the bridges results in many nests not being counted. It is interesting to note that Barn and Cliff Swallows are able to utilize the same habitat without obvious conflict. At the site no. 6 of '73, I banded 9 Cliff and 6 Barn Swallows on 7-29-73. Both species use this small bridge as a nest site. Also, Bob Reid pointed out that Cliff and Barn Swallows both use the Natchez Trace bridge (Cliff Swallows nest outside the main bridge supports; Barn Swallows nest inside these supports.).

5205 Beacon Drive, Birmingham 35210

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY, ALABAMA 1966-1972

Thomas A. Imhof

During the seven years, 1966-1972, of 42 established routes, an average of 36 Breeding Bird Surveys have been accepted from Alabama (high - 40 in 1966, low - 31 in 1968). Usually, failure to run a route has been due to shortage of qualified observers in remote parts of the state, but most aggravating are those people who fail to run a route and fail to say anything about it. A few routes have been run and rejected due to late or early start, late finish or a late date.

Below is a listing in order of abundance of the breeding birds of Alabama as determined by seven years of Breeding Bird Surveys. The numbers are average birds per 24.5-mile route. The highest of each family is underscored. * denotes those species not known to breed in Alabama.

A. 1 or more birds per route - 61 species:

1. <u>House Sparrow</u>	55.7	Blue Grosbeak	6.34
<u>Common Grackle</u>	52.6	Great Crested Flycatcher	5.63
<u>Cardinal</u>	52.1	<u>Summer Tanager</u>	5.61
<u>Bobwhite</u>	49.5	35. Barn Swallow	5.51
5. <u>Mockingbird</u>	49.2	<u>Cattle Egret</u>	5.21
Red-winged Blackbird	45.1	Eastern Wood Pewee	5.14
<u>Blue Jay</u>	38.5	Red-eyed Vireo	5.13
<u>Starling</u>	32.9	Eastern Bluebird	4.26
<u>Mourning Dove</u>	32.2	40. Chipping Sparrow	4.16
10. Eastern Meadowlark	29.5	Rock Dove	3.56
Common Crow	28.5	<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	3.14
Rufous-sided Towhee	27.6	<u>Chuck-will's-widow</u>	3.10
Indigo Bunting	27.0	Common Flicker (sub-sp. Y.Sh.)	3.09
<u>Purple Martin</u>	22.0	45. Downy Woodpecker	2.81
15. <u>Chimney Swift</u>	18.7	Rough-winged Swallow	2.53
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat</u>	18.6	<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</u>	2.27
<u>Carolina Wren</u>	14.8	<u>Brown-headed Nuthatch</u>	2.26
<u>Wood Thrush</u>	13.0	Gray Catbird	2.04
Orchard Oriole	11.0	50. <u>Killdeer</u>	1.91
20. Field Sparrow	10.9	Red-headed Woodpecker	1.77
<u>Tufted Titmouse</u>	9.37	Kentucky Warbler	1.61
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker</u>	9.16	Prothonotary Warbler	1.44
<u>Eastern Kingbird</u>	8.66	Black Vulture	1.36
Common Yellowthroat	8.27	55. Little Blue Heron	1.23
25. Carolina Chickadee	8.24	Eastern Phoebe	1.21
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	8.00	Hooded Warbler	1.21
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7.69	Pileated Woodpecker	1.14
Brown-headed Cowbird	7.64	Common Nighthawk	1.11
American Robin	7.59	60. Yellow-throated Vireo	1.09
30. Brown Thrasher	7.06	Acadian Flycatcher	1.06
Fish Crow	6.57		

B. Between .1 and .9 bird per route - 43 species:

American Goldfinch	.89	Yellow Warbler	.23
Green Heron	.81	85. Red-shouldered Hawk	.21
<u>Turkey Vulture</u>	.79	Bachman's Sparrow	.21
65. <u>Least Tern</u>	.79	Snowy Egret	.20
American Redstart	.74	<u>White Ibis</u>	.20
Northern Parula Warbler	.69	<u>Wood Duck</u>	.20
Yellow-throated Warbler	.66	90. <u>Clapper Rail</u>	.20
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	.60	Louisiana Waterthrush	.20
70. Ovenbird	.56	Blue-winged Warbler	.19
Black-and-White Warbler	.51	*Laughing Gull	.18
Great Blue Heron	.46	<u>Barred Owl</u>	.17
Boat-tailed Grackle	.39	95. White-breasted Nuthatch	.16
Seaside Sparrow	.37	Louisiana Heron	.15
75. Black-throated Green Warbler	.36	Mallard	.15
Grasshopper Sparrow	.36	*Brown Pelican	.14
Hairy Woodpecker	.31	American Kestrel	.13
Great Egret	.29	100. Willet	.13
Ground Dove	.29	Black Skimmer	.13
80. <u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</u>	.27	Whip-poor-will	.13
Dickcissel	.26	Red-tailed Hawk	.12
Scarlet Tanager	.24	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	.10
<u>Broad-winged Hawk</u>	.23		

C. Less than .1 bird per route - 53 species in AOU order:

105. Pied-billed Grebe, Anhinga, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Canada Goose; 110. *Blue Goose, Blue-winged Teal, *Ring-necked Duck, *American Wigeon, *Red-breasted Merganser; 115. Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Osprey; 120. Turkey, King Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule; 125. American Coot, Wilson's Plover, *Black-bellied Plover, *Ruddy Turnstone, American Woodcock; 130. *Upland Sandpiper, *Spotted Sandpiper, *Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Herring Gull, *Ring-billed Gull; 135. Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, *Caspian Tern, *Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo; 140. Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Gray Kingbird, Horned Lark; 145. *Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Cedar Waxwing; 150. *Solitary Vireo, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, *Blackburnian Warbler; 155. *Bobolink, Northern Oriole (sub-sp. Baltimore), Painted Bunting, Song Sparrow.

D. Breeders and probable breeders not recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey:

Double-crested Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Fulvous Tree Duck, Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Bank Swallow, House Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Veery, Warbling Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Lark Sparrow.

E. Breeding Bird Totals Increase In Alabama.

The results, as shown below from a statistically acceptable sample, indicate that as a whole, our breeding bird populations are in good shape. Indications are that the gain shown is in our common and abundant birds.

SUMMER BIRD COUNT

JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA
(Marianna, Florida)

Year	Number of Acceptable Routes	Total Birds	Birds per Route
1966	40	32,281	807
1967	37	30,966	837
1968	31	24,092	777
1969	35	28,738	821
1970	38	30,797	810
1971	36	30,582	850
1972	37	33,331	901

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Ed. Note: Just after the deadline for this publication, I was informed by Tom Imhof that all of the 42 established routes in Alabama had been run in 1973, and that all but 4 had been reported by March 1. I would like to congratulate all of you who ran routes in '73 and encourage you to do as well in 1974. (WRM)

BANDERS' CORNER

James V. Peavy, Jr.

As for all birders, the summer season is a fairly slow season for bird-banders. For most of us, the month of June is taken up with the Breeding Bird Surveys, and July-August is the hottest time of the year. I remember well one day in August when I set up my mist nets in a proven area - the total catch for 8½ hours of effort was 0 birds.

Summer is not a totally non-productive time, however, because this is the season when Bob Reid sends out the call for the Cedar Valley Farms Expeditionary Force. For those of you who are not familiar with this group, I shall give a brief explanation. Each year for the last 5 years, Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr. of Birmingham has undertaken a study of the Barn Swallows nesting in the barn owned by Tom and Mary McClellan of Leeds, Alabama. In conjunction with his study, Mr. Reid has always had a bander join him to aid in catching the adult birds and to band new birds encountered. Banders who have joined in this project include Mike Bierly, Harriett Wright, the K. R. Kittingers and myself. Much interesting information has been gained from this study, and this year the first recovery of a nestling banded in the barn was made when I caught an adult in Franklin County on May 21, 1973, which was banded by Harriett Wright on June 22, 1970. This indicates that birds born in the barn seek out new nesting areas, while recoveries of adults show they return to the same barn year after year to nest.

In contrast with the summer, the fall season is a very busy and exciting time for bird-banders. This year four Alabama bird-banders made an attempt to band fall migrants on the Gulf Coast, where they congregate before heading further south. Our plan called for two banders to work on Dauphin Island and two to work on the Fort Morgan Peninsula. Margaret Miller and Tuck Hayward were on Dauphin, while Tom Imhof and I were at Fort Morgan. As you might expect, such concentrated effort provided several interesting records. Margaret Miller banded 114 birds of 40 species including a Mourning Warbler, 4 Swainson's Warblers and a Dickcissel. Tom Imhof banded 170 birds of 35 species, including over 30 thrushes of various species and a late Prairie Warbler. I banded 272 birds of 45 species including a late record for Swainson's Warbler.

In addition to these, there was a Catbird recovered in Pembroke, Ontario on September 15, 1973, which was banded by Tom Imhof at Fort Morgan on October 21, 1972. Also, a Fox Sparrow banded by Tom Imhof on November 1, 1969 was recaptured by him on October 21, 1973 at a nearby location in Ensley.

Count area: Circle within Jackson County, Florida, centered in Marianna, not exceeding 40 miles in diameter; June 9, 1973; 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Clear; Temperature 64° to 88°; Wind SW 0-10 mph; 8 observers in 4 parties; Total party-hours 28.5, of which 1.5 at night (6 on foot, 19 by car, 3.5 by canoe); Total party-miles 199.5 (4.5 on foot, 186 by car, 9 by canoe).

Anhinga 7, Great Blue Heron 4, Great Egret 12, Snowy Egret 5, Cattle Egret 524, Little Blue Heron 86, Green Heron 18, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 36, White Ibis 35, Wood Duck 8, Turkey Vulture 23, Black Vulture 27, Mississippi Kite 10, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Red-shouldered Hawk 4, Broad-winged Hawk 2, Bobwhite 91, Purple Gallinule 4, Common Gallinule 20, American Coot 11, Rock Dove 20, Mourning Dove 61, Ground Dove 28, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 20, Screech Owl 1, Barred Owl 6, Chuck-will's-widow 10, Common Nighthawk 9, Chimney Swift 14, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 7, Common Flicker (sub-species yellow-shafted) 2, Pileated Woodpecker 7, Red-bellied Woodpecker 25, Red-headed Woodpecker 6, Downy Woodpecker 5, Eastern Kingbird 32, Great Crested Flycatcher 40, Acadian Flycatcher 8, Eastern Wood Pewee 1.

Rough-winged Swallow 6, Purple Martin 162, Blue Jay 83, Common Crow 37, Fish Crow 15, crow sp. 30, Carolina Chickadee 6, Tufted Titmouse 31, Carolina Wren 29, Mockingbird 145, Brown Thrasher 27, Wood Thrush 3, Eastern Bluebird 1, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3, Loggerhead Shrike 40, Starling 10, White-eyed Vireo, 38, Yellow-throated Vireo 5, Red-eyed Vireo 8, Prothonotary Warbler 10, Northern Parula Warbler 51, Yellow-throated Warbler 5, Pine Warbler 3, Kentucky Warbler 8, Common Yellowthroat 20, Yellow-breasted Chat 15, Hooded Warbler 8, House Sparrow 48, Eastern Meadowlark 18, Red-winged Blackbird 79, Orchard Oriole 20, Common Grackle 75, Brown-headed Cowbird 29, Summer Tanager 8, Cardinal 106, Blue Grosbeak 17, Indigo Bunting 38, Rufous-sided Towhee 45, Bachman's Sparrow 7, Field Sparrow 6.

Total 79 species, about 2509 individuals. -Bob Duncan, Marion and Mary Gray (co-compilers - P.O. Box 50, Marianna, Florida 32446), Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Donald and Frances Scott, Stephen Stedman.

FIELD NOTE: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER EATEN BY FISH

Bob G. Meadows

On Saturday, June 2, 1973, at approximately 7:30 a.m., I witnessed the death of a male Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). The bird was eaten by a largemouth bass. At the time of the incident, I was fishing in a small boat on Lady Ann Lake in Madison, Alabama, ten miles west of Huntsville on Alabama 20.

I first noticed the bird flitting around quite near me in the brushy treetops that jut out all over the man-made lake. The birds nest in holes in these dead trees and spend a good deal of time quite near the surface of the water. The little fellow was hopping on some small twigs no more than a foot above the lake when his bright, golden color apparently attracted the attention of a largemouth bass lurking beneath the surface. The calm lake exploded furiously as the huge fish lunged into the air. The little bird vanished within the cavernous, gaping jaws and was gone. The ripples on the surface subsided and the lake was still once more.

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