

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD
(*XANTHOCEPHALUS XANTHOCEPHALUS*)
OBSERVED NEAR ANNISTON.**

Rene Simmons Roper

On 30 August 1988 I observed and photographed an immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) feeding with a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) outside my window on our farm in Choccolocco Valley near Anniston. Dr. Bill Summerour also observed this bird on 1 September and again with three other AOS members and myself on 4 September. The bird was last seen on 6 September having stayed around for at least 6 days. Its disappearance coincided with attacks by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) which frightened the birds and presumably broke up their feeding routine. The Yellow-headed Blackbird is occasional in fall in Alabama and this sighting represented the only record for the Mountain Region. Renee Roper, Rt. 5, Box 652 D, Anniston, Alabama 36201.

**SECOND RECORD FOR THE
SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER
(*MYIODYNASTES LUTEIVENTRIS*)
IN ALABAMA**

John and Harriett Findlay

Alabama's second sighting for the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) was recorded by John and Harriett Findlay on 27 September 1988 at Fort Morgan. It was first seen in the scattered pines around the picnic area just west of the ferry landing and parking lot, and was photographed in good light. Other birders from Alabama and adjacent states saw it during the 7 day period that the bird remained in the vicinity of the Fort Morgan grounds. It was last seen by the Findlays and others on 3 October.

In a 1984 article published in *American Birds* (Vol. 38, No. 2), Alabama's first state record for the Sulphur-bellied flycatcher was

described as follows: "Perhaps the bird of the season was a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher netted, banded and photographed at Dauphin Island, Sept. 6, 1983 (Sybil Hanks, et al.). The excellent color photographs (page 172) of the bird in the hand rule out other *Myiodynastes* flycatchers. The first record for Alabama supplements the single records from Mississippi and Louisiana."

The normal range of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher is S.E. Arizona to Costa Rica. It winters in South America. Could hurricane "Gilbert" a week earlier in September have influenced the off-course migration of this Flycatcher? The brunt of the hurricane made landfall in Mexico at the Texas border, but its heavy winds and rains affected all states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. *John and Harriett Wright Findlay, 2749 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, AL 35243.*

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*AJAJA AJAJA*) SIGHTED ON EUFAULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary D. Dusi

An immature Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaja ajaja*) was present on the Bradley Unit, Stewart Co., GA, on 13 August 1988. It was feeding in a slough with a group of Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) and immature White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*).

The spoonbill appeared at ease as it fed with the group of wading birds. Three Snowy Egrets fed close to it, catching the small aquatic life that the spoonbill disturbed in its active feeding movements.

We watched the spoonbill with binoculars and a Questar telescope for a period of at least 30 minutes. We photographed it and came back to the slough several times during the afternoon to observe it further.

To our knowledge, spoonbills have been reported only once before on the Eufaula Refuge. That was in 1985. *Julian and Rosemary Dusi, 560 Sherwood Drive, Auburn, AL 36830.*

Editor's note: Three spoonbills were seen by a number of observers near the Mobile Causeway from 20-30 July (see also 1988 Spring and Summer sightings p. 27).