

**ANHINGA (*ANHINGA ANHINGA*) DISTRIBUTION IN
SOUTHEASTERN ALABAMA**

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In our observations at wading bird nesting colonies in southeastern Alabama and eastern Georgia, during the past 30 years, we have noted that the Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) was rare and few nests were seen.

In the 1960's when a wading bird colony was present on the Scott Paper Company land, about ten miles (16 kilometers) south of Opp, Covington Co., Alabama, four nestlings were banded in 1962. At other colony sites (Pansey and Ashford, Houston Co.; Hartford and Slocomb, Geneva Co.; and Floral, Covington, Co.) all had Anhingas fly over, or perch in trees, but no apparent nesting occurred.

Heron colonies have been present at the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour Co., at various times since its beginning in 1964, on both the Alabama and Georgia sides of the Chattahoochee River, but no Anhinga nesting occurred to our knowledge until 1990. Then, the colony in the Bradley Unit, Stewart Co., Georgia, had one or two nests and we banded three nestlings on 29 June 1990. In 1991, a number of visits to the Bradley unit colony provided the following information:

- 14 May 1991 ----- 16 Anhinga adults were counted.
- 23 May 1991 ----- Four Anhinga nestlings were banded.
- 1 August 1991 ----- One Anhinga nest was present.
- 16 August 1991 ----- One Anhinga nest was present, with three buffy young.
- 22 August 1991 ----- Three Anhinga nests were present, five nestlings were banded.
- 22 September 1991 -- One Anhinga nest with three young, about two weeks-old was present.

Three Anhinga nestlings were banded in 1990 and nine in 1991. On 24 March 1992 two Anhingas were seen on nests and several others near nests.

This sudden build-up in the Anhinga population may reflect a changing population along the Chattahoochee River. The range in breeding dates in 1991, is much greater than that shown by Imhof (1976, *Alabama Birds*), or by Palmer (1962, *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. I). – **Julian L. Dusi**, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, AL 36830 and **Rosemary D. Dusi**, 560 Sherwood Drive, Auburn, AL 36830

