

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

**Effectiveness of call-broadcast surveys for breeding marsh birds along coastal Alabama.** Soehren, E. C., J. W. Tucker, and D. G. Crow. 2009. *Southeastern Naturalist* 8: 277-292.

**Influence of tidal height on detection of breeding marsh birds along the northern Gulf of Mexico.** Rush, S. A., E. C. Soehren, K. W. Stodola, M. S. Woodrey, and R. J. Cooper. 2009. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 121: 399-405.

Birds that inhabit marshes are often secretive and difficult to detect. This has resulted in a shortage of baseline population information for this group of birds across North America. Because of the decline of wetland habitats, it is imperative that accurate methods for detecting wetland bird species be developed. Although new techniques have been adopted for surveying breeding marsh birds, sampling methods and certain environmental factors may influence survey results. In these two papers the researchers address whether species detection rates are improved by broadcasting a species vocalization during surveying (Soehren et al. 2009) and whether tidal heights (i.e., water levels) can influence survey results (Rush et al. 2009).

The call-broadcast study was conducted in the tidal marshes of Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama. The species that were surveyed included Least Bittern, Black Rail, Clapper Rail, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, and Common Moorhen. This study found that detection rates for Clapper Rail, King Rail, and Purple Gallinule were significantly improved when recordings of their vocalizations were played during surveying. Detection rates did not improve, however, for Least Bitterns or Common Moorhens. No Black Rails were found during the study.

The second study focused on the effects of tidal height on detection rates of Clapper Rail, Seaside Sparrow, Marsh Wren, Purple Gallinule, and Common Moorhen in the coastal marshes of Alabama and Mississippi. This research found that Clapper Rails and Seaside Sparrows were more likely to be detected when tides were high, but that Marsh Wrens were more readily detected during low tides. Although sample sizes were small, they found no evidence that tide levels influenced the detection rates of the two gallinaceous species (Purple Gallinule or Common Moorhen). The authors suggest that changes in tidal levels can influence the behavior of some marsh birds, which in turn can affect their detection rates —  
TMH.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in Alabama Birdlife should conform to the guidelines listed below. Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation, identification or other related topics. Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. Alabama Birdlife is published twice a year. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer, it saves time and money if you submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with a hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred). A manuscript may also be submitted over the Internet as a file attached to an e-mail addressed to: tmhaggerty@una.edu.

Manuscripts should be typed and double spaced. A 8 1/2 x 11 inch page format should be used.

Digital images submitted over the Internet, black and white prints, color prints, and slides are acceptable.

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*).

The author's full name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use only the metric system for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

Table titles should be in CAPS and placed above the tables.

Figure legends should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in past issues for the correct format.

Three or fewer references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, Alabama Birds).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.