

## PRESENT STATUS OF THE ALABAMA BIRD LIST

By THOMAS A. IMHOF

The present Alabama list contains 291 species whose presence in the state is supported by specimens. An additional 39 species have been recorded from Alabama on less substantial evidence. Thirteen of the 291 species have been added to the list since January, 1955. This list of specimens follows:

Reddish Egret, Dauphin Island, July 23, 1955, Ralph L. Chermock.

Glossy Ibis, Gulf Shores, May 30, 1956, Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

Fulvous Tree Duck, Chuckfee Bay near Mobile, November 7, 1956, W. Walter Beshears, Jr.

Mottled Duck, Dauphin Island, September 23, 1955, W. Walter Beshears, Jr.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wheeler Refuge, September 14, 1955, Ernest Byford.

Black-necked Stilt, Dauphin Island, October 7, 1956, Lovett Williams.

Gray Kingbird, Dauphin Island, August 24, 1956, Henry M. Stevenson.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Dauphin Island, October 5, 1956, Thomas A. Imhof.

Sprague's Pipit, Roberts Field, Birmingham, October 17, 1956, Thomas A. Imhof.

Black-thr. Gray Warbler, Dauphin Island, October 7, 1956, Robert T. Lynn.

Lincoln's Sparrow, Mun. Airport, Birmingham, November 3, 1956, Thomas A. Imhof.

Smith's Longspur, Robert's Field, Birmingham, January 17, 1956, Thomas A. Imhof.

Lapland Longspur, Airport, Gadsden, January 21, 1956, Thomas A. Imhof.

During the same period, the following species were added to the state list as sight records:

Harlan's Hawk, Birmingham, December 26, 1955, Imhof.

Hudsonian Godwit, Dauphin Island, August 19, 1955, Chermock.

Parasitic Jaeger, Alabama Point, March 11, 1955, Imhof.

Western Tanager, Dauphin Island, October 6, 1956, Russell & Willis.

Evening Grosbeak, Gadsden, April 16, 1956, Clark, Snead, et al.

For the following 12 species, there is evidence a little stronger than just a sight record:

Whistling Swan—recorded at Wheeler Refuge on 16 mm color film with telephoto lens by Chester Markley.

White-fronted Goose—specimen taken near Coden, not preserved.

Snow Goose—many specimens taken, none preserved.

White-winged Scoter—specimen taken in Tennessee Valley, not preserved.

Black (American) Scoter—three specimens taken in Mobile Bay, none preserved.

Mississippi Kite—specimen taken by Gosse in 1858, not preserved.

Swainson's Hawk—bird banded in Saskatchewan, recovered in Selma.

Whooping Crane—specimens shot many years ago, too late now.

Sandhill Crane—specimens shot many years ago; Federal law prohibits any collecting. There is no law against taking any pictures.

European Woodcock—specimen taken in Autauga County, not preserved.

Mourning Warbler—specimen picked up on roadside at Decatur by Hulse; too badly crushed to preserve.

Red Crossbill—specimens taken, not preserved.

The following 22 species complete the hypothetical list of 39:

Red-throated Loon, Wilson's Petrel, Gannet, Scarlet Ibis, Flamingo, European Widgeon, Am. Rough-legged Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Northern Phalarope, Roseate Tern, Alder Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Kirtland's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Redpoll, Am. Tree Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

If anyone thinks that insisting on a preserved specimen is too high a standard, let him remember that Ornithology is a science, and that 15 of the writer's own sight records are included in the 39 above. No one should be able to point his finger at us and say that our state list is padded. We will have the satisfaction of knowing that our state list has a good foundation. The information herein given will, I hope, prove the stimulus for a sharp reduction in the list of species without a specimen; already reduced by 10 birds this year alone. I want to thank the collectors and their assistants for forwarding the science of Ornithology in Alabama. I hope they received as much satisfaction as I did.

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## NOTES OF INTEREST

### Towhee Feeding Behavior

On July 1, 2 and 3, I observed a female Towhee feeding a young Field Sparrow. This was the only female Towhee I had banded to date. On July 2, the banded female was seen feeding one of her own young. These feedings were viewed in our yard, at a bird feeder, and on the ground.

The second nest of this same Towhee was discovered in a red cedar, six feet nine inches high, on July 18, 1956.—Harriet Wright.

### Barn Swallow Antics

This summer, while I was in Connecticut, a pair of Barn Swallows built a nest on a rafter in the woodshed of our house.

From then on we were constantly entertained. Our poor yellow cat was under constant attack. No sooner would he start across the yard than the birds would take turns swooping at his head like the proverbial dive bomber. Finally, we all became targets. Our heads were saved only by a hair's breadth.

One day we saw three pretty heads protruding from the top of the nest. The next day they were gone. The whole family disappeared for the next five days. On the sixth day, the parents returned without the young, apparently ready to start another brood. Never again did we see the young birds. The first day they stretched their wings, they left their nest never to return and must have also been left to their own resources by their fickle parents.—Betty D. Worley.

### Tufted Titmouse Storing Food

This past summer we placed watermelon seeds and pulp where they were available to the birds in our yard. On two separate occasions, a Tufted Titmouse was observed to make several trips to the watermelon seed supply and then to a Chinaberry tree. At the tree the bird would securely lodge the seeds under a loose end of bark, sometimes hammering them into position with his bill.—Julian L. Dusi.