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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

No. 1

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I see it, we members of the Alabama Ornithological Society have an opportunity to make worthwhile contributions to ornithology during the next few months.

This opportunity can be realized by either cooperating with the North American Nest-Record Program or by participating in the Breeding Bird Survey. The nest-record program requires no real skill and very little effort. The desire to do something constructive for ornithology is about the only requirement. All of us should cooperate with this program. The Breeding Bird Survey requires some skill, especially the ability to accurately identify bird songs. It also requires a considerable sacrifice in time and effort. We should participate in this survey if asked.

The North American Nest-Record Program is administered by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. It is being coordinated in this State by Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Box 742, Auburn. Records were made last year of only 200 active nests. There should have been many more. Cards for making the nest records can be obtained from Dr. Dusi. They are very simple, pocket-sized cards with easy to follow instructions. All of us should help with this important work during the current nesting season.

As you know, the Society has been concerned for a number of years about the lack of information on our resident, summer breeders. During the past two years, many of us have made summer counts at various localities within the State. These counts provide good local information, but they are not extensive. Only a small portion of the State is covered by these counts. The Breeding Bird Survey is designed to get information on breeding birds from all sections of the State. The survey is getting under way this summer. It is being coordinated by Mr. Tom Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham.

Routes for making the survey have been picked at random. Each route consists of 50 three-minute stops spaced at one-half mile intervals. All birds heard during the three-minute period will be recorded and all seen within one-fourth mile of the observer will be recorded. Starting time for running the routes is one-half hour before official sunrise. It will take about four hours to complete each route. Observers should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the routes before actually making the surveys.

The survey will provide an index of the breeding-bird population and not an actual measure of abundance. Its greatest value will be realized in future years when repeated coverage may reveal significant increases or decreases in the breeding populations of individual species.

Tom will not ask us to help him with this survey unless he really needs our help. If he should ask us, let's be willing to cooperate to the fullest in this.

THE 1965 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

In 1965, there were seven Christmas counts made in Alabama. Unfortunately the first count by the Montevallo group was received too late to include in the regular summary report. It has been added to the end of the regular report. This summary follows the previous practice of presenting the background of each count, the results and comments of the reporters.

Background

ANNISTON (An). Count made on December 26, 1965, within a 15-mile circle centered at the town square at Jacksonville. Number of hours spent in each habitat: deciduous woods 7, mixed conifer and hardwood 9½, open fields and pastures 8, lakes and streams 7 3/4, towns ½. Weather: clear, temperature 29° to 50° F., wind N 10 mph. Total party hours 32 3/4 (17½ on foot, 15½ by car). Total party miles: 185 (20 on foot, 165 by car). Observers: Dick Ambrose (Compiler), Charles Bonham, William J. Calvert, Jr., Jerome Couch, Walter Coxe, Barbara H. Hall, John Hall, J. W. Johnson, Christine Leake, William Summerour. Total species seen 76, total individuals 10,637.

AUBURN (Au). Count made on December 30 within a 15-mile circle centered at the Auburn post office. Habitat composition of the area was: mixed woods 60%, fields and pastures 20%, water areas 20%. Weather: clear and mild, temperature 42° to 69° F.; wind variable 0-5 mph. Total party hours 29. Total party miles 73½ (64 by car, 9½ by foot). Observers were: John Bourne, Rosemary Dusi, Julian Dusi (Compiler), Ted Ellis, William Goslin, Ann Grub, Walter Grub, Kenneth Landers and D. W. Speake. Total species seen 72, total individuals 680,977.

BIRMINGHAM (Bi). Count made January 2, 1966; warm, rainy, windy, predawn rain then heavy rain with thunder from 1 p.m. on for a total of 1.42 inches; wind SSW averaging 12-35 mph. Temperature: 58° to 70°F., water levels low, Lake Purdy 17 feet below the dam. Thirty-seven observers in 11 parties spent 111 (record) party-hours afield from 1 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and traveled 552 miles by car, $49\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, and 3 by canoe for a total of $604\frac{1}{2}$ miles (55 miles per party). Observers (by party with party leaders' name underscored): Raymond D. Bates, Lynnes Thompson, Jack Carusos, Sara Bates, Andy Bates, Blanche H. Chapman, Mildred Ferris, Blanche E. Dean, Walter Coxe, Ed Greene, Dick Ambrose, Dan C. Holliman, Elberta Reid, Robert R. Reid, George Maynard, Richard Bolin, Thomas A. Imhof (Compiler), John Imhof, Helen Kittinger, Ronny Kittinger, Ricky Kittinger, Jerome Couch, Ruth Brabston, Gertrude Bachmann, Clustie McTyeire, Frederick Fish, Margarette Persons, Georgette Canterbury, Morton H. Perry, M. F. Prather, Russell Perry, Margie Tillotson, Idalene Snead, Corinne Glaze, Emmy Lou Grimley, Alfred A. Walker, Malcolm Harden. Total Species seen 93 (one short of record), total individuals 16,191 or 146 birds per hour.

BON SECOUR (BS). Count made January 1, 1966, within a 15-mile circle. Weather: 6° to 10°F., up to 62° to 77°F., wind SE 8-18 mph. Total party hours 14. Observers were: Fairly Chandler (Compiler), C. P. Bianco, T. R. Horne. Total species seen 92, total individuals about 8360.

DAUPHIN ISLAND and BELLINGRATH GARDENS AREA (DI). Count made December 26, 1965, 4:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; temperature 34°-63°F., wind NE 10-20 mph. Participants were: Fred Bowers, L. J. Dorn, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (Compiler), Tuck Hayward, Sybil Hanks, Richard Horn, W. D. McDaniel, Max McGill, Louise McKinstry, Margaret Miller, Ross Partridge, Elin Silsby.

MOBILE (Mo). Count made January 2, 1966, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., weather clear, temperature 63° to 73°F., wind S 5-15 mph. Circle centered at LaFayette and Government Streets. River, bay and ponds 20%, marshlands and beaches 10%, upland woods 25%, hardwoods and hammocks 5%, thickets and pastures, etc. 15%, open areas 15%, residential 10%. Twenty observers in 7-9 parties. Total party-hours 72 (31 on foot, 41 in car, 2 in plane). Total party-miles 525 (43 on foot, 482 in car, 100 in plane). Participants were: Mrs. Lila Crew, Fr. J. L, Dorn, S.J. (Compiler), Miss Mary Gaillard, Dr. Wilson Gaillard, Tuck Hayward, Richard Horne, Mr. and Mrs. Harry I. Johnstone, Electa Levi, W. D. McDaniel, Max McGill, Mrs. Sheldon McKinstry, Mrs. John R. Miller, Ross Partridge, Mrs. Curtis Patterson, Temple Seibles, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Tait, Ave Tabor, Elin Silsby. Total species 147, total individuals about 24,238.

Synopsis of all Counts

Name of Bird			Number	Seen by 1	Localities	
	An	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Мо
Common Loon				46	20	2
Horned Grebe				2	170	7
Pied-billed Grebe	27	4	20	4	9	5
Eared Grebe					3	1
White Pelican						34
Brown Pelican					3	
Gannet				4		
Double cr. Cormorant				7	750	2
Mag. Frigate-bird						2
Anhinga						5
Great Blue Heron		1	1	3	6	- 23
Little Blue Heron				2	5	12
Common Egret					10	312
Cattle Egret					2	
Snowy Egret					16	118
White Ibis						30
Louisiana Heron					8	1
American Bittern				1		
Snow Goose					3	17
Canada Goose					3	2
Blue Goose					2	

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Species	An	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Мо
Mallard Mottled Duck	4		5		25	48 1 2
Black Duck Gadwall	29		1		15	306
Pintail	29		2		17 3	147
Green-w. Teal			1		22	233 40
Blue-w. Teal			_		10	45
American Widgeon	6				6	190
Shoveller					2	90
Wood Duck	2				8	30
Redhead Ring-necked Duck	3		1		28	42
Canvasback	65	1	122		14	789
Greater Scaup			42	4.0	5	160
Lesser Scaup	1		43	42 23	12	11
Golden-eye	1		43	23	194	383
Bufflehead	ī					8
Ruddy Duck			5			5
Hooded Merganser	2	3	_		4.	2
Common Merganser	2				3	-
Red-br. Merganser			3	7	55	8
Unidentified Ducks			11	60		
Turkey Vulture	6	3	2		7	7
Black Vulture	1	4	2	1	2	4
Sharp-sh. Hawk Cooper's Hawk	1		3			1
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	2 8	-		1
Red-sh. Hawk	5	1	12	5	2	5
Broad-winged Hawk	•	-	12		1 1	1
Marsh Hawk	3	1	1	2	2	2
Pigeon Hawk			_	ĩ	1	2
Sparrow Hawk	5	1	6	20	26	15
Buteo sp?			2			
Bobwhite	20	17	32	9	80	15
Turkey King Rail		2				
Clapper Rail					1	1
Virginia Rail					10	1
Sora					2	2
Common Gallinule					3	3
American Coot	51		114	13	2 200	4
Am. Oystercatcher			***	13	3	2371
Semipalm. Plover					32	2
Piping Plover					36	3
Snowy Plover					6	í
Killdeer	148	25	135	45	30	76
Black-bel. Plover				1	77	68
Ruddy Turnstone American Woodcock					7	
Common Snipe	8	12	1 9		2	2
рс	O	1 4	9	1	3	22

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Species	An	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Мо
Spotted Sandpiper					2	4
Willet					53	4
Greater Yellowlegs					3	3
Lesser Yellowlegs					5	20
Least Sandpiper		5	24		4	203
Dunlin					57	244
Short-billed Dowitcher					63	12
Semipalm. Sandpiper					26	115
Western Sandpiper					3	10
Am. Avocet					J	18
Sanderling				2	95	5
Herring Gull	•			50	614	1022
Ring-billed Gull	. 3		1	13	193	906
Laughing Gull			-		200	280
Bonaparte's Gull				23	7	11
Forster's Tern				13	20	43
Gull-billed Tern				10		1
Common Tern					3	4
Royal Tern					28	32
Sandwich Tern					2	
Caspian Tern				1	4	18
Black Skimmer				-	12	175
Mourning Dove	154	5	578	35	134	558
Ground Dove					3	12
Barn Owl			1		ī	
Screech Owl		1	3	2	2	2
Great-horned Owl		2	2	ī	-	-
Barred Owl			4	_	1	1
Chuck-will's-widow					ī	-
Common Nighthawk					ĩ	
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird					2	
Belted Kingfisher	5	9	19	2	41	18
Yellow-sh. Flicker	27	10	107	16	80	58
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	18	1	2	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	8	56	13	23	42
Red-headed Woodpecker		2	15		10	15
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	16	5	36	7	8	4
Hairy Woodpecker	2	.1	21		î	2
Downy Woodpecker	4	8	54		10	7
Red-cockaded W'pecker	2		5	6		,
Eastern Phoebe	10	5	3	3	12	4
Prairie Horned Lark	34			-		•
Tree Swallow					13	13
Scissor-t. Flycatcher				1		10
Eastern Wood Peewee				_	3	
Blue Jay	41	28	214	60	227	215
Common Crow	378	17	166	17	92	335
Fish Crow			_	14	190	95

Species	An	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Мс
Carolina Chickadee	47	12	248	4	3	24
Tufted Titmouse	27	14	169	11	12	18
White-br. Nuthatch	2		52			
Red-br. Nuthatch		2	7	4	30	4
Brown-headed Nuthatch		16	54	1	16	10
Brown Creeper	1	1	14	1	6	1
House Wren		1	5	11	2	4
Winter Wren	1	4	3	1	3	1
Bewick's Wren			1		1	
Carolina Wren	24	16	129	18	35	47
Long-bill. Marsh Wren					20	2
Short-bill. Marsh Wren	ı			3	3	1
Mockingbird	77	26	245	60	110	149
Catbird			1	2	14	3
Brown Thrasher	5	9	31	16	31	48
Robin	511	42	3522	800	2175	2152
Hermit Thrush	1	2	11	3	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	116	25	62	43	5	10
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher		1		3	27	5
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	2	90	8	4	6
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	20	7	111	26	65	40
American Pipit	1					
Water Pipit		3	22	25	6	2
Cedar Waxwing	440	120	676	47	166	229
Loggerhead Shrike	39	2	18	18	17	39
Starling	211	37,350	3206	500	216	766
Solitary Vireo		,		3	3	5
Orange-cr. Warbler				2	11	11
Magnolia Warbler					. 1	
Myrtle Warbler	9	17	83	800	800	488
Yellow-thr. Warbler					3	2
Blackburnian Warbler					1	
Pine Warbler		9	48	14	21	41
Palm Warbler		1	6	2	1	2
Yellowthroat			1	7	13	4
Yellow-br. Chat					1	
House Sparrow	153	4	618	180	95	404
E. Meadowlark	633	14	255	131	78	88
W. Meadowlark				1		
Red-w. Blackbird	2606	257,140	120	4100	12,500	7392
Rusty Blackbird	40	32,140	13		[*] 58	21
Brewer's Blackbird					175	2
Boat-t. Grackle				68		74
Common Grackle	3005	64,280	305	450	582	674
Brown-h. Cowbird	131	289,282	282	8	143	28
Unidentified Blkbirds	243	•	234			
Cardinal	102	16	486	64	104	117
Evening Grosbeak	11		4		·	
Purple Finch	37	5	116	30		3
Pine Siskin	12		220	5		3
				-		3

Species	An	Au	Bi	BS	DI	Мо
Am. Goldfinch	213	37	508	37	87	140
Rufous-s. Towhee	46	21	332	21	92	52
Savannah Sparrow	38	15	40	35	31	81
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				1	5	
Seaside Sparrow				2	11	
Vesper Sparrow	. 8	9	13	26	8	10
Bachman's Sparrow			2			
Slate-col. Junco	325	1	6 24		2	
Chipping Sparrow	27	23	146	42	20	42
Field Sparrow	315	43	326	7	38	24
White-cr. Sparrow			2	5		
White-thr. Sparrow	138	37	581	90	200	257
Fox Sparrow	21	14	19	3		
Lincoln's Sparrow					2	1
Swamp Sparrow	44	13	53	31	79	25
Song Sparrow	92	16	164	11	10	19

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Summary of All Counts

Location	No. of Observers	Party Hours	No. of Kinds Seen	Total Individuals Seen
Anniston	10	33	76	10,637
Auburn	9	29	72	680,977
Birmingham	37	111	93	16,191
Bon Secour	3	14	92	8,360
Dauphin Island	13	63	156	23,579
Mobile	20	72	147	24,238
Totals	92	322	182	764,968

Comments of the Compilers

Anniston.- The count area was shifted from that of previous counts to include more of Calhoun County since we have just started an intensive campaign on the study of the status of birds within that county. Birds seen during the period but not on the day of the count were: Great Blue Heron, Northern Horned Lark, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bewick's Wren.

Birmingham. - The rain was undoubtedly responsible for some of our totals being lower than usual. This is particularly true of woodpeckers and many of our landbird species such as sparrows, titmice, nuthatches. The blackbirds were counted in fewer numbers than ever. Mainly frequenters of farming areas in the winter, these birds have declined locally for some years, probably a reflection of a decline in farming areas near the city and within our circle. Finches, notably Cardinal, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and American Goldfinch were abundant and if better light for observation had been available, we would have

listed record numbers of some sparrows. Low water levels in Lake Purdy are probably responsible for our failure to list Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and Bufflehead; yet this same condition gave us a record number of Least Sandpipers. The hawk list is excellent, likely the result of better coverage and finding most of them perched. Paradoxically. Hairy Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were recorded in highest humbers. Cedar Waxwing and Mockingbird were also recorded in highest numbers, while others close to the highest ever were Robin, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Warbler, and House Wren. The slight decline in numbers of phoebes and bluebirds and Hermit Thrushes may be explained by the weather making observation difficult, but I suspect that the decline in Bewick's Wren and Brown Thrasher is real. In recent years we have been counting in lower numbers some species that probably find in our count circle less and less available habitat. This seems true of many water birds and also American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Water Pipit, and Savannah Sparrow. Other species not even recorded this year that are in the above category include the Marsh Wrens. Le Conte's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Bon Secour.-Poor concentration of birds in the area was possibly due to the general mildness of weather. Some increase noted about December 19 and again about January 9. Birds not seen on day of count but during the period: Clapper Rail, Lesser Yellowlegs, Downy Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher (usually seen in mild winters), Yellowthroated Warbler. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed in detail by C. P. Bianco and P. F. Chandler and was previously recorded in the 1963 count. The Western Meadowlark was observed separately by C. P. Bianco, P. F. Chandler, and Mrs. T. A. Horne. The Seaside Sparrow was seen at less than 20 feet by C. P. Bianco, P. F. Chandler, and Mrs. T. A. Horne in typical habitat but had not been previously seen here.

Mobile.-Seen during the period, but not on the day of the count: Slate-colored Junco, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Groove-billed Ani (Imhof does not list the Ani and Peterson says occasional in Louisiana and Florida - Ye Ed.).

MONTEVALLO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

E. B. Sledge

The Montevallo Audubon Society conducted its first Christmas Bird Count on December 31, 1965.

The count was conducted in a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at Montevallo Post Office to include Calmont Woods, Alabama College Lake, Ebeneezer Swamp, McEntee Farm, and Ashville Circle Subdivision, Oakpine Woods 35%, Deciduous Woods 20%, Low Floodplain Woods 10%, Pastures and Fence Rows 15%. Ponds and Lakes 5%. Towns 15%.

December 31. 1965: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; temperature 55° to 70°F.; wind S 5 m.p.h. Eight Observers in three parties. Total party-hours. 45 (37 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 98 (18 on foot and 80 by car).

Species observed:

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Black Vulture 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Turkey Vulture 5: Cooper's Hawk 1: Mourning Dove 12: Belted Kingfisher 1: Red-bellied Woodpecker 5: Hairy Woodpecker 4: Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 27; Carolina Chickadee 7; Brown-headed Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Robin 9: Eastern Bluebird 8: Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4; Cedar Waxwing 55; Killdeer 4; Common Snipe 1; Screech Owl 1: Yellow-shafted Flicker 4: Pileated Woodpecker 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Common Crow 12: Tufted Titmouse 9: Carolina Wren 9: Mockingbird 9: Brown Thrasher 5: Loggerhead Shrike 3: Purple Finch 8; Field Sparrow 28; White-crowned Sparrow 4: Starling 30: Myrtle Warbler 8: Pine Warbler 4: House Sparrow 15; Rusty Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 12; Cardinal 12; Slate-colored Junco 10: Chipping Sparrow 14: White-throated Sparrow 24; Song Sparrow 8.

Total: 45 species: 393 individuals.

Participants: Mrs. Leslie Hubbard, Mrs. P. J. McEntee, Dr. Robert H. Mount, Dr. E. B. Sledge, Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Trumbauer, Dr. H. F. Turner, Dr. Katherine Vickery.

Biology Department Alabama College Montevallo, Alabama

Some Notes From Mississippi

The Newsletter of our sister group, The Mississippi Ornithological Society, was received recently and contains some items of interest to Alabama birders.

Two towers near Jackson, Mississippi, were the cause of the loss of an estimated 500 birds last October. Thirty-nine species were identified from those collected. Nineteen of these were warblers. A Lincoln's Sparrow was among those identified.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeding station in Moss Point, Mississippi in April, 1965. Mobile's Mrs. Toenes and the Greene's from Searcy, Arkansas, were among those that saw the bird.

Evening Grosbeaks visited Jackson, Mississippi in February, 1966. This species had previously been seen in 1962.

A Harris's Sparrow was recorded and collected on the Christmas Count at Jackson. This is not the first record for the State, but is for the Jackson area.

No. 1

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

The Birmingham Audubon Society in 1965 inaugurated the taking of bird counts in the Birmingham area during both spring and fall migration seasons. It is planned to conduct such counts each year so that data may be obtained regarding our migratory birds similar to that now on record, through the Christmas bird counts, respecting our wintering bird populations. It is also expected that, in addition to their recreational value, such counts will prove educational in increasing the abilities and knowledge of those who participate in them. The count area, centering in Cahaba Heights (formerly known as New Merkle), was the same circle of 15 miles diameter used for the Christmas and summer counts and included such areas as Roberts Field, Elmwood Cemetery, East Lake, Lake Purdy, Oak and Shades Mountains, and portions of the Cahaba River.

The spring count was held on May 1, 1965. Weather was clear to partly cloudy; temperature 70° to 80°; year to date - dry and cool. Twenty-nine observers in eight parties spent 88 party-hours afield from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and traveled 345 miles by car and foot. Total species: 119: total individuals: 8082 (92 birds per hour).

The fall count was held on October 9, 1965. Weather was clear to partly cloudy; temperature 58° to 78°; year to date - dry and cool; water levels very low. Thirty-two observers in nine parties spent 84 party-hours afield from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and traveled 250 miles by car, 59 miles on foot, and 10 miles by canoe for a total of 319 miles. Total species: 117; total individuals: 7039 (84 birds per hour).

Birds Observed on the Counts

	Spring	Fall		Spring	Fall
Grebes			Hawks		
Pied-billed Grebe	3	32	Turkey Vulture	6	6
			Black Vulture		2
Wading Birds			Cooper's Hawk	1	7
Great Blue Heron	2	3	Red-tailed Hawk	2	6
Green Heron	5	2	Red-sh'ld. Hawk	2	5
Little Blue Heron	1		Broad-winged Hawk	6	3
Common Egret		1	Osprey	1	1
American Bittern	2		Pigeon Hawk		2
			Sparrow Hawk	3	3
Ducks					
Mallard (female)		1	Grouse, Quail and Allies		
Blue-winged Teal		47	Bobwhite	102	68
Ring-necked Duck	5	3			
Lesser Scaup	25	1	Cranes, Rails, and Allies	3	
			American Coot	- 4	34

Spring	Fall	Care 1 1 ears	Spring	Fall
Shorebirds Killdeer 46	131	Swallows Tree Swallow	5	
Common Snipe	2	Bank Swallow	6	
Spotted Sandpiper 1	6	Rough-w. Swallow	17	
Solitary Sandpiper 8	3	Barn Swallow	10	2
Greater Yellowlegs 2	3	Purple Martin	454	2
Lesser Yellowlegs 3	1	ruipie martin	454	
Pectoral Sandpiper 3	17	Jays and Crows		
Least Sandpiper	8	Blue Jay	277	469
Semipalm. Sandpiper	3	Common Crow	80	149
Sanderling	1			,
G		Titmice		
Pigeons and Doves		Carolina Chickadee	66	143
Mourning Dove 257	357	Tufted Titmouse	140	87
Cuckoos		Nuthatches		
Yellow-b. Cuckoo 21	13	White-breasted Nut-		
Black-b. Cuckoo l		hatch	27	28
		Red-breasted Nuthato	h	4(b)
Nightjars		Brown-h. Nuthatch	36	37
Chuck-will's widow 2				
Common Nighthawk 13	13	Creepers		
		Brown Creeper		2
Swifts and Hummingbirds		-		
Chimney Swift 225	1284	Wrens		
Ruby-thr. Humming-		House Wren		3
bird 8	15	Bewick's Wren		1
		Carolina Wren	70	84
Kingfishers		Long-b. Marsh Wren		1
Belted Kingfisher 4	20	Short-b. Marsh Wren	3	4
Woodpeckers		Thrashers		
Yellow-sh. Flicker 58	119	Mockingbird	200	256
Pileated W'pecker 16	7	Catbird	39	27
Red-b. Woodpecker 47	65	Brown Thrasher	83	36
Red-h. Woodpecker 68	22			
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	15	Thrushes		
Hairy Woodpecker 4	4	American Robin	190	213
Downy Woodpecker 29	46	Wood Thrush	149	5
Red-cockaded Wood-	0	Swainson's (or Olive		,
pecker 5	8	backed) Thrush	1	1
Planatalana		Gray-cheeked Thrush		1
Flycatchers		Veery	3	
Eastern Kingbird 38		Eastern Bluebird	31	64
Crested Flycatcher 66 Eastern Phoebe 21	15	Contractibene and W. 1		
Eastern Phoebe 21 Acadian Flycatcher 3		Gnatcatchers and Kingl		
)د	a) Blue-gray Gnatcatche	r 21	
Least Flycatcher 4 East, Wood Peewee 38	41	Golden-cr. Kinglet	,	1
rast, wood reewee 30	41	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4	9

Sp	ring	<u>Fall</u>		Spring	Fall
Waxwings	61.		Hooded Warbler	25	1
Cedar Waxwing	64		Wilson's Warbler	2.5	2
			Canada Warbler	1	2
Shrikes Loggerhead Shrike	14	13	American Redstart	7	13
Loggernead Shrike	+-	13	12		
Starlings		ī	Weaver Finches		
	392	807	House Sparrow	600	795
2017-			-		
Vireos			Blackbirds		
White-eyed Vireo	72	9	Bobolink	31	
Yellow-thr. Vireo	9	1	Eastern Meadowlark	94	64
Red-eyed Vireo	176	1	Red-w. Blackbird	333	323
Philadelphia Vireo	1	6(Ъ)		59	
			Baltimore Oriole	6	2
Warblers			Common Grackle	142	87
Black-and-White Warb.	22		Brown-headed Cowbird	346	32
Prothonotary Warbler	3				
Tennessee Warbler	80		<u>Tanagers</u>		
Orange-cr. Warbler		2	Scarlet Tanager	8	1
Nashville Warbler		5(ъ)	Summer Tanager	67	4
Parula Warbler	2				
Yellow Warbler	49		Finches and Sparrows	200	100
Magnolia Warbler		30	Cardinal	302	180
Myrtle Warbler	84	12	Rose-br. Grosbeak	11	28
Black-thr. Gr. Warbler		15	Blue Grosbeak	28	2
Yellow-thr. Warbler	10	2	Indigo Bunting	164	35
Chestnut-s. Warbler	1	2	American Goldfinch	74	11
Bay-br. Warbler	1	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	184	115
Blackpoll Warbler	5		Savannah Sparrow	31	40
Pine Warbler	23	21	Grasshopper Sparrow	5 1	
Prairie Warbler	17	1.4	Vesper Sparrow	Ţ	. 1
Palm Warbler	68	16	Slate-colored Junco	99	20
Ovenbird	7	2	Chipping Sparrow	65	20 65
Northern Waterthrush	3	1	Field Sparrow	ده	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	7	2	White-cr. Sparrow	110	3
Kentucky Warbler	12 26	50	White-thr. Sparrow	7	10
Yellowthroat		50 1	Swamp Sparrow Song Sparrow	2	10
Yellow-br. Chat	59	T	song spartow	2	1

(a) These fall flycatchers identified only as belonging to the genus ${\tt Empidonax.}$

(b) Although not noted in large number, the Nashville Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo were observed on the fall count by four of nine field parties and the Red-breasted Nuthatch by three, thus indicating possible wider distribution than might otherwise be assumed.

Additional species observed within a week of the fall count were American Woodcock, Common Tern, Barred Owl, Rough-winged Swallow, Bachman's (or Pine Woods) Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

The fall migration of birds, as a general proposition, extends over a longer period of time than the spring migration. It will be noted, for example, that several warblers, swallows and flycatchers observed on the spring count had already migrated by the time of the fall count or were seen then in much reduced numbers. The number of species observed on the fall count was increased by early arrivals of some winter residents and by additional shorebirds attracted by the low water levels. In the fall, Lake Purdy was very low and all of the shorebirds except the Killdeer were only observed there; by contrast, in the spring when there were no large exposed mudflats, the shorebirds that were observed were noted by several different field parties.

The species observed on these migration counts represented a number of late and early records for the Mountain Region (based on data in Alabama Birds, which was current through August of 1961), as follows:

Spring Count (May 1):

Late dates (previous latest in parentheses) -- Vesper Sparrow (4/20), Greater Yellowlegs (4/24), Lesser Yellowlegs (4/27).

Near late dates (late records in parentheses) -- Philadelphia Vireo (5/4), American Bittern (5/5).

Early dates -- None.

Near early dates (early records in parentheses) -- Least Fly-catcher (4/30). Black-billed Cuckoo (4/26).

Fall Count (October 9):

Late dates (previous latest in parentheses) -- Yellow Warbler (9/25), Semipalmated Sandpiper (9/26), Common Egret (9/27), Osprey (10/2), Lesser Yellowlegs (10/2), Sanderling (10/3), Wilson's Warbler (10/8). The Common Tern and Rough-winged Swallow, which were observed on 10/2 within a week of the count, were also late records, their previous late dates being 9/12 and 9/25, respectively.

Near late dates (late records in parentheses) -- Green Heron (10/10), Blue Grosbeak (10/10), Philadelphia Vireo (10/13).

Early dates (previous earliest in parentheses) -- White-crowned Sparrow (10/17 - also a near early date for the state, being exceeded only by a 10/7 record from Dauphin Island), Orange-crowned Warbler (10/13), Lesser Scaup (10/27 - however, a male scaup, which may be assumed to be this same bird, was seen regularly on East Lake throughout the summers of 1964 and 1965, so this is not actually an early record; that bird appeared to be injured and was last noted on the Christmas count conducted on 1/2/66). The Lincoln's Sparrow observed within a week of the count is an early record for the Mountain Region (11/3) as well as for the state (10/14).

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Near early dates (early records in parentheses) -- Golden-crowned Kinglet (10/8 with the earliest for the state being a 10/4 record in 1925 from Autauga County), Slate-colored Junco (10/7), Brown Creeper (10/5 for both the Mountain Region and the state).

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

While figures for abundance may vary depending on the number of observers, weather and other conditions, the following comparisons (based on data in Alabama Birds and counts conducted since its publication) may be of interest in indicating species observed in relatively large numbers:

Spring Count:

Wood Thrush - 149 (high for state, exceeding 116 on Birmingham 1965 Summer Count)

Red-headed Woodpecker - 68 (high for state, exceeding 48 on Birmingham 1961 Christmas Count)

Summer Tanager - 67 (high for state, exceeding 60 on Birmingham 1965 Summer Count)

Yellow-breasted Chat - 59 (2nd highest for state, exceeded by 78 on Birmingham 1965 Summer Count but exceeding 55 at AOS 1957 Spring Meeting at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge)

Red-eyed Vireo - 176 (high for No. Ala., exceeding 129 at Cheaha in summer of 1958)

White-eyed Vireo - 72 (high for No. Ala., exceeding 60 at AOS 1957 Spring Meeting at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge)

Crested Flycatcher - 66 (high for No. Ala., exceeding 44 on Birmingham 1965 Summer Count)

Orchard Oriole - 59 (high for No. Ala., exceeding 45 in Birmingham area in spring of 1949)

Eastern Phoebe - 21 (high for No. Ala., exceeding several records of 15)

Indigo Bunting - 164 (high for Mountain Region, exceeding 142 on Birmingham 1964 Summer Count)

Blue Jay - 469 (high for state, exceeding 409 on Mobile 1963 Christmas Count and 390 on Mobile 1956 Fall Count)

Yellow-shafted Flicker - 119 (high for No. Ala., exceeding 85 on Birmingham 1962 Christmas Count but exceeded for the state by 121 on Mobile 1957 Fall Count)

Belted Kingfisher - 20 (high for No. Ala., but exceeding by only a few the number observed on some of the Birmingham Christmas Counts)

Yellowthroat - 50 (high for Mountain Region, exceeding 35 in Birmingham area in fall of 1954)

Those participating in these counts were as follows (names of party leaders underscored): Both Spring and Fall Counts: Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Sara D. Bates, Ruth B. Copeland, Walter F. Coxe, F. Bozeman Daniel, Mildred Ferris, Ed Greene, Dan C. Holliman, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Helen Kittinger, Ronnie Kittinger, Christine Leake, Clustie McTveire, Annie Bestor Mitchell, Virginia Nancarrow, Morton H. Perry, Margarette Persons, Robert R. Reid, Jr., and Idalene F. Snead; Spring Count only: Blanche H. Chapman, Blanche E. Dean, Fred Fish, Elizabeth French, Corinne Glaze, Malcolm E. Harden, Millard F. Prather, Orene Rutledge and Alfred A. Walker: Fall Count only: Marcia Baldwin, Mike Bierly, Ruth Brabston, Patricia Byrne, Georgette Canterbury, Jerome Couch, Perry Covington, Emmy Lou Grimley, Larry Hodges, Ricky Kittinger, Rose Perry and Elberta Reid.

715 Fairway Drive Birmingham, Alabama 35213

THE NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM FOR 1966

The first year of the North American Nest-record Card Program went very well. The Laboratory of Ornithology mailed out over 45,000 cards to individuals and regional centers from Florida to Alaska. We were encouraged at the response; over 23,000 completed cards were received from 700 individuals. The principal aim of the program is to accumulate a large amount of data on the breeding biology of birds of the entire North American continent. These data will be sorted on IBM cards in a form ready for analysis. These data, once processed, will be available to researchers interested in many areas of avian biology, such as annual and geographical variations in breeding season, clutch size, fledging periods, and nesting success. We hope that the program will also play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment through marsh drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides.

We need data from all parts of the country. Observations from city parks and back yards, of the commonest species, are as important as those from remote parts of the continent. We need the co-operation of all competent field observers; please get in touch with your local organization through Dr. Dusi at Auburn University who can supply you with our nest record cards. You may also receive cards directly from the North American Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. Be sure to include your zip code with your return address.

Helen Fessenden 33 Sapsucker Woods Road Ithaca, New York 14850

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MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FEBRUARY 12-13, 1966

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

The regular winter meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society hosted by The Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club was held at the Holiday Inn in Eufaula, Alabama, on February 12-13, 1966 with 37 members and guests registered. Field trips were conducted Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge by Refuge Director John R. Eadie and Assistants A. H. Saville and Richard Bolt -- the highlight being the sighting of an immature Whistling Swan which had been on the Refuge sixteen weeks at that time among the many water and shore birds. The banquet and program were held Saturday night, the Executive Council meeting Sunday noon at Holiday Inn.

Saturday Night Program

Following the banquet February 12 at Holiday Inn, Mr. Eadie gave the program illustrated with beautiful color slides about the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge explaining its objectives, achievements, plans and problems. It was most enlightning to see how habitats were being created to attract wildlife particularly ducks and geese in large numbers. The banquet and program were thoroughly enjoyed by all members and guests.

Following the program an informal showing of slides by Mrs. J.C. (Maragret) Robinson was enjoyed.

Field Trips

On Sunday morning after the field trips of Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning Fairly Chandler conducted a compiling session in which 82 species were recorded for the area. The immature Whistling Swan was seen well by all with binoculars and telescopes and photographed by Dr. Maurice F. Baker. A list of birds seen in the area is attached.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 12:15 P.M. at Holiday Inn in Eufaula, Alabama. Those present were: Mr. Robert E. Waters, President; Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., Vice-President; Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Immediate Past President: Dr. Maurice F. Baker. Editor Alabama Birdlife; and Mr. Fairly Chandler, Secretary. The following committees were appointed by the President:

> Nominating Committee - Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Chairman Blanche H. Chapman Mrs. Will G. Caffee

Auditing Committee - Julian W. Johnson, Chairman James E. Keeler

Plans for the annual spring meeting to be held at Dauphin Island on April 22-24, 1966 were discussed.

Discussion was had of the policy of the Society of fostering the taking of seasonal bird counts and of conducting the breeding bird count using the procedure employed in Maryland and Delaware last year. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded. unanimously adopted:

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Council of the Alabama Ornithological Society as follows:

- (1) The taking of seasonal counts of bird populations in Alabama is hereby adopted and approved as an official project and program to be followed by this Society, such counts to consist of the Christmas bird count conducted during the Christmas season, a breeding bird survey to be conducted during the month of June, and spring and fall migration counts, the former to be conducted during the last part of April or first part of May and the latter to be conducted during the month of October.
- (2) The breeding bird survey shall be conducted according to the procedure established by, and in cooperation with. the Migratory Bird Populations Station of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Laurel, Maryland, i.e. by statistically controlled observations along approximately 25-mile routes selected at random in each block of 1° longitude and 1° latitude throughout the state.
- (3) The other three seasonal counts shall be conducted in the manner employed by the National Audubon Society for the Christmas bird counts, i.e. observations by field parties in a circle of 15-mile diameter centered at a point in the locality where the count is being taken.
- (4) All local groups interested in compiling ornithological data are strongly urged to conduct and participate in as many of such counts as possible, and the officers of this Society and each of its affiliated groups are hereby authorized and requested to take all action necessary or appropriate toward the conduct of such counts, the results of which, to the extent possible, shall be published in the scientific journal of this Society, Alabama Birdlife,

Discussion was then had of the need for an appropriation of funds for development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge so that the fine work now being carried on at the refuge might proceed forward. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, being situated on the shores of the Walter F. George Reservoir in the Chattahoochee River Valley on the boundary of the States of Alabama and Georgia and being midway between the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways for waterfowl, has great potential for waterfowl management and recreational facilities:

WHEREAS, there are no other wildlife refuges in the Chattahoochee River Valley watershed;

WHEREAS, development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge is needed for conservation of the species of wildlife, including migratory waterfowl and resident water and land birds and animals, that formerly migrated through and resided in large numbers in that valley;

WHEREAS, such development through its cooperative farming program, recreational facilities and other related activities will substantially benefit the economy of the region;

WHEREAS, the refuge is presently operating only on funds available for current expenses and no appropriations have been made for its development; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Alabama Ornithological Society are familiar with the area in which the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge is located and the need for developing a wildlife refuge in that area:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Council of the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its mid-winter meeting held on February 13, 1966, that this Society does strongly urge and recommend that the Congress make a special appropriation for the development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge and that, in evidence of its opinion as to the desirability of and need for such an appropriation, the Secretary of this Society be directed to send copies of this resolution to each of the United States Senators and Representatives from the States of Alabama and Georgia.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

List of birds observed February 12-13, 1966 in area of Eufaula and Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge at Winter Meeting of Alabama Ornithological Society:

Grebes - Pied-billed Grebe,

 $\underline{\text{Herons, Bitterns and Allies}}$ - Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret.

Swans, Geese and Ducks - Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead,

<u>Vultures</u>, <u>Hawks</u>, <u>and Falcons</u> - Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed <u>Hawk</u>, Red-shouldered <u>Hawk</u>, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk,

Quails - Bobwhite,

Coots - American Coot,

Shorebirds, Gulls, and Allies - Killdeer, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull,

Doves - Mourning Dove, Ground Dove,

Kingfishers - Belted Kingfisher.

Woodpeckers - Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker,

Tyrant Flycatchers - Eastern Phoebe,

Swallows - Purple Martin,

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Jays and Crows - Blue Jay, Common Crow,

Titmice - Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse,

Nuthatches - Brown-headed Nuthatch,

Wrens - House Wren, Carolina Wren,

Mockingbirds and Thrashers - Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher,

Thrushes - Robin, Eastern Bluebird,

Gnatcatchers and Kinglets - Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

Pipits - Water Pipit,

Waxwings - Cedar Waxwing,

Shrikes - Loggerhead Shrike.

Starlings - Starling,

 $\frac{\text{Warblers}}{\text{Warbler}} \text{ - Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Palm} \$

Weaver Finches - House Sparrow,

Meadowlarks and Blackbirds - Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird,

<u>Finches and Sparrows</u> - Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Observed after the compilation but in the Eufaula area:

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Fairly Chandler, Secretary

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

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