

J.R. Bailey Jr.

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Announcement Spring Meeting
Alabama Ornithological Society

Gulf Shores, Alabama
April 13,14,15, 1973

The Alabama Ornithological Society is pleased to announce that the spring meeting of the society will be held at Gulf Shores on April 13,14,15, 1973. Gulf Shores is located on the gulf in Baldwin County about 50 miles southeast of Mobile. Field trips will be to many areas in the Gulf Shores area and environs including Ft. Morgan. Banders will be banding so you will be able to see the birds up close. Birding is excellent here and some authoritative experts say the best on the Alabama coast. Fairly Chandler, P. O. Box 142, Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555, is in charge of local arrangements and is assisted by Verna Horne and Curtis Kingsbery.

Accommodations

Fairly Chandler recommends the following accommodations: On the beach - Holiday Inn, Gulf Shores Motel, Teh-Lu Cottages; Off the beach - Holiday Motel, Gulf Shores Cottages, Trailer Park. Write them at Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542. All rates are very reasonable away from the beach. There are camping areas available at Gulf Shores State Park and lake front cottages may be open. For park information write: Mr. G. M. McLeod, Manager, Gulf Shores State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542. For other available accommodation information write: Gulf Shores Tourist Information Center, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542.

Activities

Registration will begin at 5:00 P.M. at the Ratcliff Restaurant. To get to the restaurant as you travel south on U.S. 59, cross over the canal bridge at Gulf Shores and 100 yards before the first traffic light you will see the establishment on your right. ACS directional signs will be evident. We plan to have a short program at 8:00 P.M. including a presentation on the field trips for the weekend. All information on times and places of the field trips as well as other activities will be given you when you register. For those arriving Saturday come to Ratcliff's where information will be available.

A seafood banquet and program will be Saturday evening at Ratcliff's and a compilation on Sunday. Dress as desired.

Everyone is looking for an exciting meeting and the enjoyment of exploring this area. Hope to see you.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN ROADS AND THEIR
EFFECT ON BIRD COMMUNITIES

Richard E. Ambrose

It has long been known that the alteration of habitats affects the diversity of bird communities. The degree of change can often be correlated to the magnitude of the alteration. In our southern Appalachian mountains we have what is probably the least affected of our original woodland forests. Examples of the other extreme are the Piedmont and Coastal Plains which are today little more than a patchwork of monocultures, leaving very little evidence of the original forest biotas.

Much of our southern mountains are within the boundaries of National Forests and as such fall within their jurisdiction. In the management of these lands for "multiple use" the Forest Service has recently responded to the desires of the public for more recreational outlets. These often take the form of scenic drives placed along the crest of a major mountain range. They are designed primarily for the majority of the population who seem to be limited in their travels by the hard-surface asphalt.

A question that presents itself is whether or not the scenic mountain road traveler actually gets a true picture of this environment by the typical road construction of today. It is hoped that this paper will help the individual to decide this matter for himself, as it is primarily a question of human interpretation of environmental quality.

HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

For over a decade prior to 1970 there had been in existence in the Talladega National Forest of Alabama a narrow dirt road along Horseblock Mountain called the Skyway Motorway. As dirt roads go, this was of a fairly high quality, being well graded and periodically scraped to prevent erosion ruts from forming. The road was approximately 15-17 feet wide with a woodland border that began almost immediately at the road edge. Because of the closeness of the forest to the road, there was an almost complete overhead canopy formed by the interlacing limbs of the trees on either side of the road.

In 1970, construction was begun to "upgrade" Skyway Motorway by asphaltting and landscaping in the manner of a scenic mountain parkway. When construction was finally completed, the resulting road was of the same width, but graded to a higher degree, so as to remove many of the long up and down hill slopes. The most prominent alteration was the removal of the entire overhead canopy from the road by cutting back the forest from 30-100 feet or more on either side of the road. Also the dirt embankments formed by the grading operation were planted in soil-holding legumes, similar to those found along our freeways.

METHODS

A six mile portion of the Skyway Motorway (see Figure 1) is contained within the Sunny Eve Count (State-Providence O2); Route number 012), which is one of the routes run annually in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey. This author was fortunate to be compiler for 6 of the 7 years this count has been in existence, Mr. Tom Imhof being kind enough to run this route in 1967 when other obligations kept me from making the count.

As most serious students of birds are familiar with the Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey, the reader will be referred to the current regulations regarding the way in which the routes are run. This paper will only concern itself with the six mile portion of the Sunny Eve Count between stop #13 and stop #25. Table I summarizes the data and represents all birds observed from 1966-1972 along this section of the motorway.

In 1971 it was noted that with the completion of the motorway and subsequent grading that .5 mile had been lost in the process of road construction. Therefore in Table I a correction factor of X1.1 was used on the data of 1971 and 1972 to equalize the 13 stops of the last two years with the 14 stops of the first five years. During the construction in 1970 apparently 14 stops were still in existence.

To try to reduce the variance in observers in the survey, the data collected by Imhof is pooled with my data separately. So the reader can then compare Column A: four years of data, Ambrose and Imhof; with Column B: three years of data, Ambrose, both within the closed canopy woods road. A correction value of ÷ 1.33 was applied to the data in Column A to equalize these 4 years with the 3 years of data in Column B and C. Column C represents 3 years of counts by the author alone along the open canopy scenic drive.

RESULTS - DISCUSSION

Comparing Columns A and B with C, it will readily be apparent that the most significant results are those concerned with the decrease in most forest bird species, coinciding with the increase in numbers of birds associated with woods clearings. The decrease in forest birds could be due to road construction, placing the suitable habitat further from the observer, or to the general decline nationwide of these species over recent years. Whatever the reasons, with the altered populations now present, this author feels that the parkway traveler will now no longer be exposed to population numbers reflecting past densities of our woodland birds. Possibly with future road planning allowing for some road area with an overhead canopy, this situation can be improved.

Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Table I. Birds recorded on Skyway Motorway, years 1966-1972.

Species	Years							Col A	Col B	Col C
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	Tot 66-69 Woods Rd	Tot 66-69 Woods Rd	Tot 70-72 Scenic Rd
Turkey Vulture	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1
Bd.-wg. Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2
Bobwhite	-	3	3	-	2	9	6	5	3	17
Mourning Dove	-	2	1	3	-	2	2	5	4	4
Y.-b. Cuckoo	7	3	1	-	3	3	2	8	8	8
Chimney Swift	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	4
R.-t. Humming.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Y.-sh. Flicker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pileated W.	-	1	4	2	1	2	-	5	6	3
Red-bel. W.	-	1	-	1	-	3	8	2	1	11
Hairy W.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Downy W.	-	1	-	1	5	1	-	2	1	6
Gt. C. Fly.	6	3	1	1	2	8	6	8	8	16
Ea. Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acadian Fly.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1
Ea. Wood Pewee	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	3
Blue Jay	-	8	3	1	3	11	6	9	4	20
Common Crow	4	2	-	1	-	2	-	5	5	2
Car. Chickadee	10	3	5	7	7	7	3	19	22	17
Tuf. Titmouse	10	7	13	7	4	8	8	28	30	20
W.-br. Nuthatch	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1
Carolina Wren	-	3	2	1	2	3	1	5	3	6
Mockingbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood Thrush	6	6	13	9	3	4	2	26	28	9
E. Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
B.-g. Gnat.	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	5
Wh.-eyed Vireo	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Yellow-thr. V.	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	13	15	5	13	6	6	6	35	31	18
Bl.&Wh. Warbler	3	3	2	2	-	-	1	8	7	1
Bl.-thr. G. Wa.	14	7	3	4	5	4	1	22	21	10
Pine Warbler	3	2	2	4	7	10	4	3	9	21
Prairie Wa.	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	2
Ovenbird	8	15	5	12	4	4	6	31	25	14
La. Waterthrush	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
Ky. Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Y.-br. Chat	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
Br.-hd. Cowbird	-	6	-	-	-	1	3	6	6	4
Scarlet Tanager	1	2	2	3	4	4	-	6	6	8
Summer Tanager	1	3	6	1	4	7	7	8	8	18
Cardinal	1	8	5	3	5	1	3	13	9	9
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Indigo Bunting	4	3	1	2	2	4	8	8	7	14
Ru.-sd. Towhee	-	3	3	4	6	3	1	8	7	10

- Note: (a) Years columns contain total number of birds sighted on 14 stops.
- (b) Column A - Total number of birds contacted 1966-1969 with the actual figure divided by 1.33 and rounded to the nearest whole number to make it comparable with three years sightings in Column B and C.
- (c) Column B - Total number of birds contacted during the three years of 1966, 1968, and 1969. Year 1967 was excluded to reduce possible variability introduced by another observer.
- (d) Column C - Total number of birds contacted during the three years between 1970 and 1972.

Table II. Weather Data for Count Periods

Date	6/3	6/6	6/13	6/11	6/12	6/5	6/3
Temp	57-72	69-85	60-79	73-82	63-76	67-87	50-89
Wind Speed	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-1	1-5	2-2
Sky Code	0-1	0-0	0-1	2-1	2-1	0-1	0-1

Note: Temperature is in degrees fahrenheit. Wind Speed utilizes the Beaufort number system. Sky codes are as follows: 0 - Clear, 1 - Partly cloudy, 2 - Cloudy or overcast.

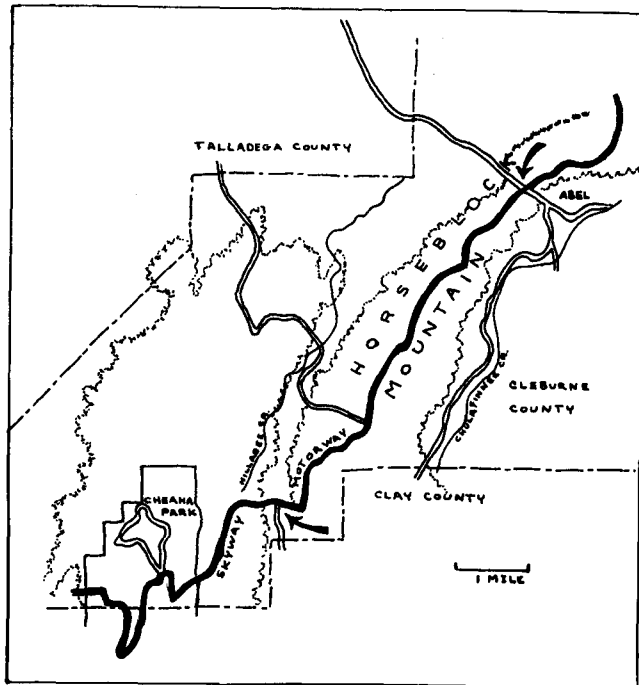


Figure 1. Location of part of the Skyway Motorway north of Cheaha State Park. Six miles of the parkway discussed in this are included between the arrows.

FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF COOTS IN MOUNTAIN REGION

The first positive breeding record of the American Coot in the Mountain Region of Alabama was recorded in late summer, 1972, at East Lake approximately four miles from downtown Birmingham. The nest, constructed of water plants, was located beyond the end of one of the fishing spits that extend into the lake and was first noted by this reporter on July 29 when one bird of a pair was found on the nest. The nest was photographed two days later, and one of the birds was then observed presenting a water plant to the other, who, while sitting on the nest, tucked the plant into it.

Young chicks, black with bright orange heads and bills, were first observed on August 12 swimming behind the two adults and being fed algae. It is thought the young were probably four to six days old at that time, although the hatching date is not known. The young were photographed on August 17 and 19, and, by the latter date, had doubled in size, developed downy fluff and retained orange only on the bills.

Around ten days later, when observed on August 31, the young were approximately half-grown, having acquired black bills and light gray throats and underparts. At this time they were not only being fed by the adults but also feeding themselves. Then, by September 15, approximately a month after having first been observed, they were almost the size of the parents and all gray in color, having changed their plumage from the black of the chicks to a gray shade. The beginning of the white tail patches was then noted, and the young were probably being weaned because they were giving "squeaking" calls without receiving any attention from the adults.

On October 1, the two young were still gray and larger than before, being only slightly smaller than the adults and with their heads becoming darker and bills lighter, much as shown in the picture by Arthur Singer in the field guide, *Birds of North America*. Two weeks later on October 14, they had apparently acquired full adult plumage and could not be distinguished from the wintering flock of coots, then numbering approximately 85, that had arrived at East Lake.

It is interesting that prior to observing the nest, only one adult bird had been noted on the lake when it was checked once in May and again in early July. This was the ninth consecutive year one or more coots have summered on East Lake but is the first time any nesting evidence has been noted. In addition to the coots, two Ring-necked Ducks and one male American Widgeon also summered on the lake, and a male Wood Duck in eclipse plumage was found there from the latter part of August until the middle of September.

For this account, we are indebted to Idalene F. and Thomas S. Sneed, who first spotted the young on August 12, to Helen H. Kittinger for establishing photographic evidence of the nest and young, and to other observers, including Russell Bailey, Jr., and his daughter Laura, John F. Harsh, Ruth Horsley and many others who came out to the lake just to see the young chicks.

Robert R. Reid, Jr., 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway, Birmingham 35223.

BIRDING IN ALABAMA

MARION, ALABAMA

Part I. Marion Fish Hatchery and Perry Lake

Marion is the county seat of Perry County in the Upper Coastal Plain of Alabama, approximately 75 miles from both Birmingham and Montgomery and 55 miles from Tuscaloosa. This Part I will cover the U.S. Fish Hatchery on Alabama Route 175 and Perry Lake, which is a backwater of the Cahaba River containing a cypress swamp to the rear (and east) of the hatchery. Part II will cover Lakeland Farms south of the city.

The hatchery is best known for its shorebirds, which find the mudflats in the drained fish ponds much to their liking and which can often be approached very closely by automobile on the pond dikes. Consequently, the best times to visit the hatchery are during spring and fall shorebird migration periods. In addition, large numbers of swallows may be seen in the spring. The main attractions at Perry Lake are the warblers and other birds fond of habitat near water, so the best time of the year to visit it is during the spring and early summer. More details on those and other avian families follow:

Shorebirds - Perhaps one of the most consistent attractions at the hatchery is the White-rumped Sandpiper that may be seen every year in early June (and often late May). Although its flocks are not large (the most seen being 17 in May '69 and June '68), the hatchery may well be the best place in the world to observe them since they nest far north on the arctic tundra but may be approached very closely at Marion when driving on the dikes around one of the drained fish ponds. There are usually large flocks of Least Sandpipers during migration that often remain into the winter in sizeable numbers, when they are accompanied by large numbers of Common Snipe. Large flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers have been observed in the spring, and other common shorebirds include Semipalmated Plovers, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral and Western Sandpipers. Among the rarities are an American Golden Plover (the first fall migration record for the coastal plain in September and October '71 after tropical storms hit the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts), Black-bellied Plovers (in October and November), two Ruddy Turnstones (second inland spring migration record for the state in May '69), an Upland Plover (in Sept. '71), Dunlins (in Mar. '70, Oct. '70 and '71, and Nov. '59), a Short-billed Dowitcher (in July '69), Stilt Sandpipers (single birds in winter plumage being seen in July '66, Oct. '71 and Nov. '57, with an impressive flock of approx. 30 in spring plumage in May '69), a Black-necked Stilt (second inland record for the state in May '71), and a Northern Phalarope (first spring record for the state in May '69).

Terns - Black Terns are commonly seen over the hatchery ponds during fall migration, which in their case is in late summer, and on rare occasions Forster's Terns have appeared.

Wading and other water and marsh birds - Large numbers of Little Blue Herons with Cattle Egrets and several Common Egrets may be found in the summer and into September. One or more Great Blue Herons are consistently present as are Green Herons except in the winter. Yellow-crowned Night Herons may occasionally be seen, and one immature wintered in '69. There is a cattail marsh at an end of one of the larger ponds and many water grasses in the center pond containing the trees where the herons roost. These areas have attracted the Least Bittern and Purple Gallinule (both in summer '71) as well as the Sora. In addition, on rare occasions during fall migration the American Bittern has been found; and an Anhinga, which is uncommon in this part of Alabama, was seen at Perry Lake in April '71. American Coots as well as a few Pied-billed Grebes may usually be seen throughout the year except in the summer, although a few coots often linger into June and even July and three young grebes in summer '70 and one bird smaller than the adults it was accompanying in Sept. '71 give indications of breeding of the grebes in the coastal plain.

Waterfowl - Blue-winged Teal are always present during their migration periods. Others seen on the ponds, but infrequently, include the Mallard, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup, and on rare occasions Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and Hooded Merganser. Wood Ducks, our only resident duck, have been found at Perry Lake and on occasions at the hatchery.

Swallows - All varieties, many in large numbers, may be found in the spring, particularly in April. These include the Purple Martin and Barn, Rough-winged, Bank and Tree Swallows. The martins breed in the gourds hung near the central hatchery building. There are now several Barn Swallow nests under culverts at the hatchery; and good numbers of these swallows, whose range is expanding southward, may be found on the wires in mid-summer.

Warblers and Vireos - Warbler activity is at its best in the month of April, and the brilliant Prothonotary almost invariably arrives the first week-end in that month. Parula Warblers are fond of using the Usnea lichen at Perry Lake for building their nests, and the Yellow-throated Warbler is almost always found there in the spring and early summer. Also in good numbers at Perry Lake are the Acadian Flycatcher and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Sometimes may be found the Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and during spring migration the Palm Warbler. Rarest of the warblers at Perry Lake is the Swainson's Warbler (two birds in April '72). In addition, the Yellow-throated Vireo is often present, and a Philadelphia Vireo was noted in Oct. '71.

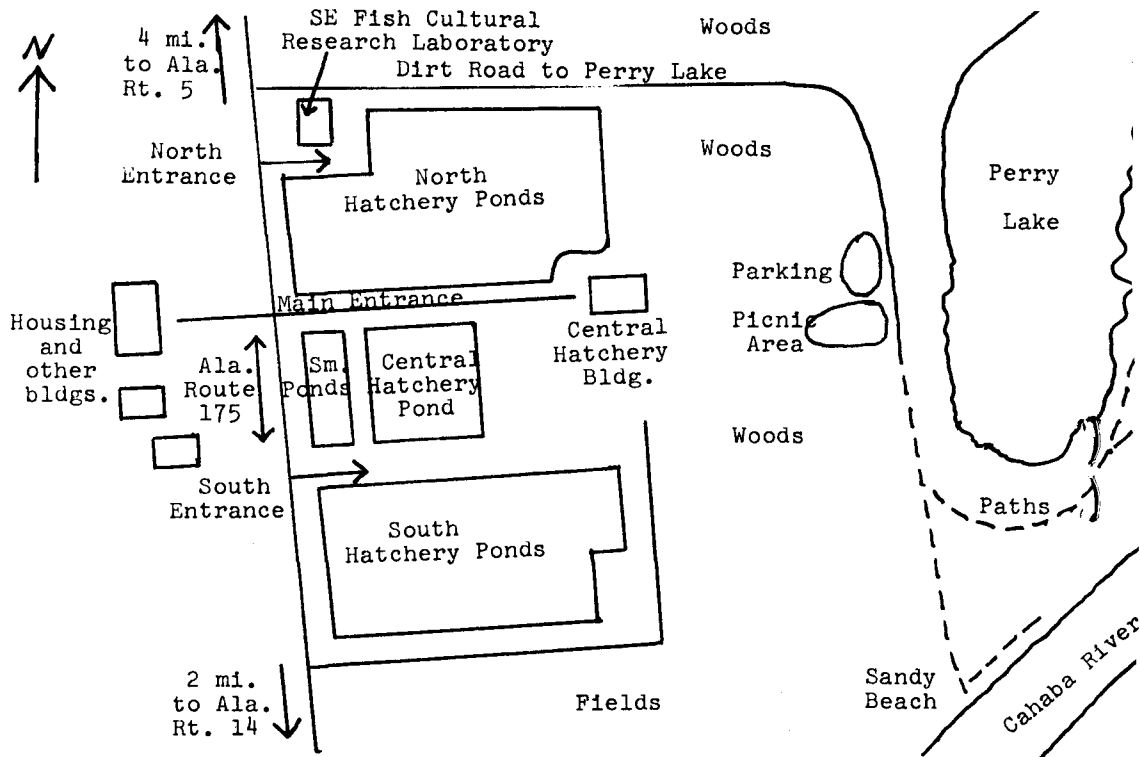
Sparrows and other ground birds - Savannah Sparrows are common along the hatchery dikes in the winter, early spring and late fall,

and Song and a few Swamp Sparrows may usually be seen then. Water Pipits are also present on the dikes and mudflats at those times, and a Sprague's Pipit from the western plains was found in March '72.

Others - Fish Crows, which inhabit river valleys as far north as the coastal plain, may almost always be heard or seen during spring and summer at Perry Lake or the hatchery; this is probably the closest place these coastal birds come to the mountain region. There is also a large roost of Black Vultures nearby, which, when they flock around a fish pond, give it an appearance of the African veldt. Several miles north on Alabama Route 5 a Swainson's Hawk was seen in April '71, and a Turkey was spotted in the clearing west of Perry Lake in that same month. Not at the hatchery but in the City of Marion are noteworthy reports of two finches--Evening Grosbeaks (in Jan. '62 and Feb. '72) and a Painted Bunting (in Mar. '70).

The area is not only known for its birdlife but in spring presents an excellent array of wildflowers, including the brilliant Yellow Jessamine, which usually blooms the last of March.

For those who wish to picnic, there are cement picnic tables and water fountains at Perry Lake. The Steak House is a good restaurant at the junction of Alabama Routes 5 and 14, only a few miles distant, and there is also a Dairy Queen at that intersection. Further south on Alabama 5 toward Marion is the College Inn with restaurant and overnight accommodations.



MARION FISH HATCHERY AND PERRY LAKE

Robert R. Reid, Jr., 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway, Birmingham 35223.

THE SEASON, Summer

June, July, August, 1972

Thomas A. Imhof, editor

The weather this summer showed a deficiency in temperature and precipitation - a long-term trend. It appears though that our land is drying out and the effects of this shortage of precipitation are far worse than the weather data show. Fewer woodlands and swamps, more silt in the watercourses and reservoirs, more paving, more sunny instead of shady places, all add up to poor capacity to store water. Nowadays it takes only a small shortage of rainfall to be apparent in vegetation, even in crop failures; and conversely when it does rain hard, as with Hurricane Agnes, everything is flooded.

September is, as usual, too early to determine the effectiveness of the year's breeding activities. The Breeding Bird Survey, which measures the breeding stock not the results, is also hard put to provide any statistics this early. So, any indications of abundance or lack of it, are tentative.

County Bird Survey - This year, a few of us took part in the Tennessee Ornithological Societies Breeding Bird Foray in Lawrence County, Tennessee in which TOS attempts on Decoration Day weekend to find out as much as possible about its county of interest. We liked it so well that we decided Alabama needed something similar. So, in looking over a list of counties with no Breeding Bird Survey mileage, we found two adjoining ones in northwest Alabama, Colbert and Franklin. These were immediately chosen for a 2-3 year survey. It was further decided to make at least one trip per season into each county. The end result will be a revised county list with breeding birds notes.

PIED-BILLED GREBE--Many more of these birds summer in Alabama, seldom in the same place twice, yet few are known positively to breed. A new summering locality is L. Wehopka, Shelby Co. where seen June 17 (HHK).

HERON, IBIS, BITTERN--A Great Blue Heron at L. Purdy on July 9 (JVP) may mean that these birds breed closer to B'ham than we think. White Ibis reached a new peak of 1000 birds on June 4 in Faunsdale-Uniontown colony (RRR, EGR); 1-3 birds were at L. Purdy on Aug. 18, 19 (ALM, mob). A nest of a Least Bittern with 1 nestling was found July 25 at Eufaula Refuge (Julian Dusi).

DUCKS--A Mottled Duck was seen at Gulf Shores on July 31 (JVP). Blue-winged Teal, known positively to breed in all regions of the state but the Piedmont, bred again this year in the Tennessee Valley (see Spring Report). It occurs so regularly in June and July in the Mountain Region that no departure for spring or arrival for fall can be ascertained without being arbitrary. For instance, this year 2 were at L. Purdy on July 4 (HHK). First ones for fall

at Dufaula Refuge were 4 on Aug. 27 (Jimmie Tisdale). A male Am. Widgeon, present at East L., B'ham throughout the period (BAS) is the first summer record for the state. A Shoveler in eclipse plumage at L. Purdy on Sept. 3 (RRR, JRB) is earliest state by 8 days. Two male Ring-necked Ducks at East L. make the 9th consecutive summer there for the species (RRR, mob).

HAWKS--A good indication of the relative abundance of hawks were the figures obtained in Colbert and Franklin Counties this June and July (JVP): Turkey Vulture, 77; Black Vulture, 8; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed H., 3; Red-shouldered H., 3; Broad-winged H., 11. A Swallow-tailed Kite at Waverly, Lee Co. on May 20 (EPH) is the first record for the Piedmont. At Claiborne Bridge, Clarke Co. on July 27 five of these kites were seen with 3 Mississippi (JRB). Ad. and Im. Mississippi Kites at Wheeler Refuge on June 3 (MLB) are the 5th for Tenn. Valley, all between May 3 and Aug. 2. The only Ospreys reported were 3 at Fish R., Baldwin Co. on July 30 (JVR). The only June-July Sparrow Hawks were 4, probably a family, among downtown B'ham buildings (RRR) most of period and 1 in Bessemer on June 11 (JMI, TAI).

RAILS--At Cochrane Causeway on July 30, 5 downy young Common Gallinules were noted (JVP). The Am. Coot nested at East L., B'ham: nest noted on July 29 (RRR), photo July 31 (HHK); 2 young first noted Aug. 12 (IRS, TSS), photo (HHK). This is the 9th consecutive summer there for the species at East L., but the first instance of breeding in the Mtn. Region, 5th for state; the species summers annually in many places throughout the state and very likely breeds or attempts to breed every year in several places.

SHOREBIRDS--Am. Oystercatchers are proving to be regular at Alabama Pt., our 2nd locality on the Alabama coast, with a max. there of 3 on several dates in June (RH). A White-rumped Sandpiper on Aug. 30 and Sept. 2 at L. Purdy (HHK, TAI) is the 3rd in fall in Mtn. Region. Nine Short-billed Dowitchers on Sept. 2, 3 at L. Purdy (TAI, mob) are the largest number for this Region. At L. Purdy a Stilt Sandpiper on Aug. 12 (ALM, RRR, mob), earliest fall Mtn. Region, was followed by 3 on Sept. 2 (TAI, HHK) and 8 on Sept. 3 (RRR, JRB). On Sept. 2 at L. Purdy, 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 10 Western Sandpipers are the most seen in the Region (TAI, HHK, JRB).

GULL, TERNS--One ad. and 2 im. Herring Gulls at L. Oliver, Phenix City on June 27 (LAW) are the first in summer in the Piedmont; 2 im. Ring-bills with them (LAW) are the 3rd June or July record. An ad. Franklin's Gull at Horseshore Bend Dam on Bear Cr., Franklin Co. on rainy July 4 (JVP, LP) is the 4th record for Alabama, 3rd for Tenn. Valley, and 2nd in summer. Two terns were recorded halfway between spring departure and fall arrival dates for inland Alabama; the first a Common Tern on L. Oliver on June 20, Hurricane Agnes (LAW) and a Least Tern at L. Purdy on July 9 (JVP), 5th Mtn. Region record.

GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKER--Breeding season Whip-poor-wills have been heard in Bibb and Shelby Cos., but 1 near L. Purdy on July 2

(RRR, EGR) is the first breeding season indication for Jefferson Co. Whips outnumbered Chucks 32 to 16 in preliminary information from Colbert & Franklin Cos. (JVI, mob). A small family of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on the Ft. Morgan peninsula, 6 miles w. of Gulf Shores in early June (VDH) sounds like a displacement from destroyed terrain.

GRAY KINGBIRD--Best available information indicates that 6 pairs of Gray Kingbirds breed in Alabama; 3 in Mobile Co. all on Dauphin I. & 3 in Baldwin Co., 2 at Ft. Morgan and 1 at Alabama Pt. (LRT, MWG, VDH, LFC, MLM). Possible others are 1 more on Dauphin and 1 in the dunes between the west end of Little Lagoon and Ft. Morgan.

SWALLOWS--The count of 200 Bank Swallows near Town Cr., Colbert Co. on July 5 (IHK, WRM, ALM) indicates a nearby breeding colony for a species with rather poor past breeding evidence for the state. Barn Swallows continue to spread--at present very few suitable areas north of B'ham are unoccupied. South of B'ham, new nestings or indications of nesting have been noted in Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Perry, both ends of Choctaw, and Butler Cos. (RRR, JVP, TAI); and nearly all former sites have been checked and found thriving. Cliff Swallows appear to be increasing all across the Tenn. Valley with at least 3 colonies in Colbert Co., the largest with 200 nests--not all occupied--on the Natchez Trace Bridge (RRR, EGR).

WREN, BLUEBIRD--After more than 7 years with no breeding season report of Bewick's Wren, it is indeed encouraging to note 11 this year, including a family of 5 at 6 locations in Colbert, Franklin, and Lawrence Cos. (JVP, WRM, TAI). In late June and July, 1972. Bluebirds, many of them young of the year, were counted in Colbert and Franklin Cos. (JVP, mob).

BLACKBIRD, FINCH--Breeding season records of Baltimore Oriole outside of the western tier of counties are noteworthy--thus 5 at 2 locations in Butler Co. on June 16 (JVP, WRM). A singing male Painted Bunting, same place and time (JVP, WRM) is a real surprise because it is the first inland breeding season record for the state.

OBSERVERS--Birmingham Audubon Society, J. Russell Bailey, Michael L. Biserly, P. Fairly Chandler, M. Wilson Gaillard, Edward P. Hill, Richard Horne, Verda D. Horne, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Helen H. Kittinger, Ann L. Miller, Mary Lou Mattis, W. Roger Baner, James V. Peavy, Lee Peavy, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Idalene F. Snead, Thomas S. Snead, Lib R. Toenes, L. A. Wells; mob--many other birders.

1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218.

THE SEASON, Fall

September, October, November, 1972

Thomas A. Imhof, editor

New records in Alabama for the period.

- Common Loon - 426 birds, Nov. 21, Baldwin Co. coast (TAI, JVP), state maximum; Oct. 17, L. Oliver (L. A. Wells), earliest Pied.
 Horned Grebe - Nov. 18 (2) L. Jackson, Florala (CLK, LEG, A&VF), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.
 Gannet - Nov. 21, Gulf Shores (JVP, TAI), earliest state.
 GREAT (or European) Cormorant - im., Nov. 21, Ala. Point (TAI, JVP), first for state.
 Little Blue Heron - Nov. 16, Rutherford Lake, B'ham (HHK, ALM), latest north of coastal plain.
 Yel.-cr. N. Heron - Nov. 3 (2) B'ham (GC), latest inland Alabama.
 Whistling Swan - 5 mature, Oct. 25, Wheeler Refuge (JG), earliest state.
 Mallard - Sept. 30, Gulf Shores (CLK, mob), ties earliest Gulf Coast.
 Green-wg. Teal - Sept. 16, L. Purdy (JRB, JFH), earliest state except Tennessee Valley.
 Redhead - 15, Oct. 20, L. Oliver (LAW), earliest Piedmont.
 Lesser Scaup - 4, Sept. 28, L. Zamora, B'ham (JVP, RWL), earliest Mountain Region.
 Common Goldeneye - 3, Nov. 24, L. Zamora, B'ham (JVP, TW), earliest Mountain Region.
 White-winged Scoter - female, Oct. 15-22, L. Shelby (JFH, TAI, mob), earliest state.
 Ruddy Duck - Oct. 22, L. Shelby, Gulf Shores (AJH, TAI, mob), earliest Gulf Coast.
 Hooded Merganser - Nov. 4, Elberta (CLK, mob), earliest Gulf Coast.
 Red-br. Merganser - 5, Nov. 18, L. Jackson, Florala (CLK, LEG, A&VF), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.
 Mississippi Kite - Oct. 1, Fairhope (A&MN), latest state.
 Red-shouldered Hawk - 13, Sept. 16, B'ham (BAS), ties inland max.
 Rough-legged Hawk - Nov. 20, Letohatchee, Lowndes Co. (TAI, JVP).
 Golden Eagle - Aug. 26, 10 miles north of Ozark (JK thru (JFK), first summer record state.
 Bald Eagle - 1 adult, Aug. 29, near Mitchell Dam (JZ), first summer record Piedmont.
 Peregrine Falcon - 3, Oct. 19, Ft. Morgan (JFH, TAI), recent maximum state.
 Virginia Rail - 15 (1 banded), Oct. 18, Gulf Shores (TAI, mob), state maximum.
 Black Rail - Oct. 12, Gulf Shores (GM), 4th state record.
 Golden Plover - 2, Oct. 21, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), 2nd fall record Tennessee Valley.
 Whimbrel - Nov. 21, Ala. Point (TAI, JVP), latest Gulf Coast.
 Spotted Sandpiper - Nov. 4, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), latest inland except winter records.

- Dunlin - 50, Oct. 21, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), inland maximum.
 Short-b. Dowitcher - 12, Sept. 1, L. Purdy (ALM, ADM), inland max.
 Long-b. Dowitcher - 12, Oct. 21, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), inland max.
 Stilt Sandpiper - Oct. 23, Cochrane Causeway (A&MN, Joseph D. Wentzel), latest Gulf Coast.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper - 125, Sept. 3, L. Purdy (JRB, RRR), inland maximum.
 Western Sandpiper - 25, Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, L. Purdy (JRB, JFH, mob), maximum Mountain Region; Nov. 2, L. Purdy (HHK, KTK, JRB, mob), latest inland.
 Avocet - 113, Nov. 23, Cochrane Causeway (Louise McKinstry), state maximum.
 Northern Phalarope - Sept. 10-15, L. Purdy (HHK, ALM, mob), 7th state record, 3rd Mountain Region, 1st photo (HHK, HHW) removes species from hypothetical list.
 Bonaparte's Gull - Sept. 28, L. Zamora, B'ham (JVP, RWL), earliest state; Oct. 1, Cochrane Causeway (A&MN), earliest Gulf Coast.
 Common Tern - Nov. 12, L. Oliver (L.A. Wells), latest inland except Tennessee Valley.
 Forster's Tern - Sept. 30, East L., B'ham (GC), latest Mountain R.
 White-wg. Dove - Aug. 25, Spring Hill (S&TH), earliest state.
 Mourning Dove - 1493, Sept. 16, B'ham Fall Count (B.A.S.), maximum Mountain Region.
 Screech Owl - 15, Sept. 16, B'ham (JVP, RRR), maximum Mountain Reg.
 Short-eared Owl - Oct. 21, Ft. Morgan (CLK), 3rd Gulf Coast record.
 Saw-whet Owl - Oct. 22, B'ham (HHW), 3rd state record.
 Whip-poor-will - Sept. 30, Bald Rock Mountain near B'ham (RRR, mob), ties latest Mountain Region.
 Common Nighthawk - Oct. 15, Decatur (EMP, TZA), latest Tenn. Valley.
 Western Kingbird - Aug. 27, Dauphin I. (LPA, LRT), earliest state.
 Scissor-t. Flycatcher - Nov. 3, Swan Creek (GH, JW, FMD, TZA), first record Tennessee Valley. (Ed. note-bird was collected.)
 Tree Swallow - Aug. 19, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), earliest Tenn. V.; 8, Oct. 21, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), latest Tenn. Valley; 100, Oct. 28, L. Purdy (HHK, mob), maximum Mountain Region.
 Bank Swallow - 3, Oct. 22, Gulf Shores (TAI, mob), latest state.
 Rough-wg. Swallow - 2, Nov. 21, Gulf Shores (TAI, JVP), latest state except winter records.
 Barn Swallow - 3, Oct. 21, Wheeler Refuge (MLB), latest Tennessee Valley; 5, Oct. 28, L. Purdy (HHK, mob), latest inland.
 Purple Martin - 15, Oct. 20, Ft. Morgan (TAI, AJH), latest state.
 Blue Jay - 773, Sept. 16, B'ham Fall Count (B.A.S.), evidence of heavy flight; 43 banded, Oct. 19-21, Ft. Morgan (TAI, mob) evidence of heavy flight.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 20, Nov. 21, Ft. Morgan to Gulf Shores (TAI, JVP), Gulf Coast maximum.
 Brown Creeper - Oct. 16, Dauphin Is. (LRT), ties earliest Gulf C.
 Mockingbird - 479, Sept. 16, B'ham Fall Count (B.A.S.), maximum Mountain Region.
 Catbird - 154 banded, Oct. 16-21, Gulf Shores & Ft. Morgan (TAI, mob), heavy flight.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON A NESTING ORCHARD ORIOLE

Early in May I was sure the Orchard Orioles were building in the elm tree just outside my dining room windows because he sat in the tree so much and sang for hours. It wasn't until the 24th of May that I found it, so cleverly had she woven it into the leaves at the end of one of the lowest branches about 25 feet above the ground. On the 3rd of June I saw them feeding the young. Three days later when Harriett Wright came to take pictures, she discovered that one of the four babies was a Brown-headed Cowbird. That was bad enough, but then real tragedy struck. Something happened to the female oriole and I didn't see her any more after the 6th. The male went on "overtime" and continued to feed them, one evening working as late as 8 o'clock. On the 10th I just happened to look up at the nest and saw one of the young sitting on the edge of the nest flapping its wings. I ran upstairs where I could get a closer look, and it was the cowbird. While I stood there and watched, it left the nest in a series of hops and jumps. It would rest for a minute, then flutter away again. The last I saw of it, before it disappeared into the leafy interior of the tree, it was perhaps 8 feet away from the nest. So far as I know, the male oriole never paid it any more attention. He kept coming back to his own babies every few minutes and continued until the 10th when he brought them out of the nest. He kept them in the yard for several days and on the 16th I saw him with two of the young ones in the tomato patch. Then I didn't see any of them any more. I hope they took to the woods and are doing well. I know that I will never hear the lovely song of the Orchard Oriole without thinking about how faithful that male was to his little family.

Ruth Horsley, Route 12, Box 648, Birmingham 35215.

THE GREAT (or European) CORMORANT,
A NEW BIRD SPECIES FOR ALABAMA

The Great Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo, like the Cattle Egret is a widely distributed Old World species that appears to be establishing itself successfully in the Americas. In Eurasia, this cormorant occurs, breeding as far south as South Africa and Australia. In America it breeds from Greenland to Nova Scotia, and in the last 40 years has extended its winter range south along the Atlantic coast from Long Island to Florida. Within the last 5 or so years it has occurred twice at St. Mark's Refuge, Florida.

On Oct. 29 & 31, 1972, an immature was seen at Gulf Breeze near Pensacola by Robert and Luch Duncan, and Ted, Amy and Vance Furnans. Another immature, probably the same bird, was seen about 20 miles to the west at Alabama Point on Nov. 21 by T.A. Imhof and James V. Peavy. This latter bird was observed at leisure for 15 or more minutes about 2:00 P.M. while it sat on a ten-foot high buoy-like structure near the rock jetties at the east side of the mouth of Ferdido Bay. It was much bigger than any of the 180-odd Double-crested Cormorants we had seen earlier that day, however, no other

- Robin - Oct. 7, Dauphin Is. (LRT), earliest Gulf Coast.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 3, Oct. 7, Riverton, Colbert Co. (TAI, JMI), earliest Tennessee Valley.
 White-eyed Vireo - 65, Sept. 16, B'ham Fall Count (B.A.S.), maximum fall state.
 Solitary Vireo - Sept. 6, Dauphin Is. (LRT), earliest state.
 Philadelphia Vireo - Oct. 20, 1 banded Dauphin Is. (MEM); 5--3 banded—, Ft. Morgan (TAI,mob); w/4 prior Oct. 20 records, this is a 6-way tie latest state.
 Trochonotary Warbler - 2, Sept. 16, B'ham (HHW), latest Mount. R.
 Cape May Warbler - Oct. 22, banded, Dauphin Is. (REH), latest Gulf Coast except Nov. 25, 1960 record.
 Myrtle W. - Oct. 7, Riverton, Colbert Co. (TAI,JMI), earliest Tennessee Valley.
 Audubon's Wa. - Oct. 20, Ft. Morgan (TAI,AJM), 2nd fall record state.
 La. Waterthrush - Sept. 19, Dauphin Is. (LRT,ATM), latest Gulf Coast.
 Canada W. - Oct. 7, Riverton (TAI,JMI), latest Tennessee Valley.
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - male, Sept. 6, Marion (HHK), 2nd & earlier inland record; Oct. 13,15,20, Dauphin Is. (G&JS,LRT), latest Gulf Coast.
 Orchard Oriole - Sept. 27, Magnolia Springs (PFC), latest state.
 Rusty Blackbird - 1, Nov. 20, Atmore (TAI,JVP), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.
 Brewer's Blackbird - 1, Nov. 20, Atmore (TAI,JVP), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.
 Scarlet Tanager - female banded Oct. 21, Ft. Morgan (TAI,mob), latest Gulf Coast.
 Indigo Bunting - 2, Nov. 21, Ft. Morgan (JVP), latest Gulf Coast, except winter records.
 Evening Grosbeak - 8, Nov. 18, Cahaba R., South Bibb Co. (HHW, B.A.S.,mob), earliest Upper Coastal Plain.
 House Finch - Sept. 16, B'ham Airport (GC), 2nd state record.
 Grasshopper Sp. - Oct. 8, banded, Dauphin Is. (REH), earliest Gulf Coast.
 Red Crossbill - Nov. 29, Adamsville (TAI,AMI), earliest state except 1957 when arrived August.
 Clay-colored Sparrow - Sept. 13, Foley (PFC), earliest state.

OBSERVERS—Thomas Z. Atkeson, Lois P. Archer, Birmingham Audubon Society, J. Russell Bailey, Michael L. Bierly, Greg Carlisle, P. Fairly Chandler, Amy and Vance Furnans, Joe Gardjos, Lyman E. Goodnight, Donald J. Hulsey, Gerald Hooper, John F. Harsh, Ruth Howell, Sharon and Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward, Anthony M. Imhof, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, James E. Keeler, Joe Knight, Kenneth T. Knapp, Al D. Miller, Ann L. Miller, A. Joseph Murphy, Alwilda T. Mitchell, Frank McDaniel, Gilbert Melcher, Albert and Mini Nonkes, James V. Peavy, E. N. Prestridge, Robert R. Reid, Geneviene and Jim Spafford, Lib R. Toenes, Harriett H. Wright, Jodie Wetzels, Joe Webb, L. A. Wells, Ronnie W. Lewis, Ted Weems, Joe Zolozynski.

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cormorants were in sight at the time and direct comparison was not possible. The side of its larger head was pale yellowish brown, its throat white, breast brown, and belly white to beyond the legs. It showed none of the orange pouch or dark belly of the numerous immature Double-crested Cormorants seen that day.

Our observations were to the southeast with the sun to the west-southwest as we used 30X Bausch & Lomb telescopes. Imhof has seen the bird many years ago in Europe, Peavy never; the Duncans had seen it on the Bay of Fundy this year. We are happy to document this latest advance.

Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218.
James V. Peavy, 2630 Cahaba Road, Birmingham 35223.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF
THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
January 27, 1973

The mid-year meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held January 26-28, 1973 at Guntersville, Alabama. The Val Monte Hotel served as headquarters. A business meeting of the members was held in the Club Room of the Val Monte Restaurant January 27, 1973 immediately following a buffet dinner at 6:30 P.M. Mike Bierly presided.

The following items of business were brought before the membership:

1. Nominating Committee Report. Helen Kittinger read the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. Recommended were: President: Michael Lee Bierly, Vice-President: Dr. Arthur Garrett, Jr., Treasurer: Mrs. Charles J. Mayhew. A motion to accept the slate of officers recommended in the Nominating Committee Report was made by Gussie Arnett and seconded by Margarette Persons. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report. Mary Mayhew gave the financial report... Billing of annual dues notices was discussed. Naomi Banks volunteered to send out notices along with ALABAMA BIRDLIFE if this is feasible.

3. East Lake Resolution. The President, Mike Bierly, described the value of East Lake as a natural resource, and the need to protect it during changes, repairs, and encroachment on East Lake Park. A resolution...to the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board calling for such protection was read by Gussie Arnett. Helen Kittinger moved that the Ala. Ornithological Society adopt the resolution as read. Her motion was seconded by Margarette Persons and passed unanimously.

4. Encroachment on Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. Tom Atkeson reported on the status of the proposed access road to the Interstate Highway. Two of the proposed routes for the road would adversely affect the Refuge. So far as is known, the final decision has not been made. Therefore no action was taken by A.O.S.

No further business was taken up. The President introduced James V. (Buz) Peavy who gave an excellent slide presentation on Big Bend National Park.

Gussie Arnett, Secretary.

Bird Field Report Guntersville State Meeting

January 26-28, 1973

Michael Lee Bierly, compiler

Eighty species of birds were totaled in Guntersville and environs from noon Friday, January 26 through noon Sunday, January 28, 1973, by about 20 participants of the AOS mid-year meeting. Field parties covered Lake Guntersville State Park (formerly Little Mountain State Park), North Sauty and Crow Creek Refuges (Jackson County) and lower Guntersville Lake. The refuges were covered only on the 27th, but all other sites were birded on all meeting dates.

Significant were 925 Ruddy Ducks (900) at North Sauty Refuge and 25 at the Ala. 69 Causeway) on the 27th, believed to be a state maximum. A state park ranger reported that he thought that there was an eagle wintering in a closed camping area and a check on the 26th revealed an immature Bald. A more mature Bald was seen there on the 27th.

The following is a species listing of birds seen with individual numbers noted where possible. Numbers represent highest total on any one day, not a combination of days.

Common Loon 6, Horned Grebe 14, Pied-billed Grebe 17, Great Blue Heron 5, Common Egret 1, Canada Goose 160, Mallard 210, Black Duck 145, Gadwall 50, Green-winged Teal 4, American Widgeon 4, Shoveler 7, Wood Duck 1, Redhead 6, Ring-necked Duck 37, Canvas-back 112 (flock of 100), Lesser Scaup 425, Common Goldeneye 26, Bufflehead 2, Ruddy Duck 925, Hooded Merganser 4, Red-breasted Merganser 3 (2 males), Red-tailed Hawk 4, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 2(1), Marsh Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 5, Bobwhite, American Coot 1000 (probably many more, species everywhere), Killdeer 10, Herring Gull 5, Ring-billed Gull 70, Bonaparte's Gull 33 (flock probably wintering as 30 at same place Dec. 15, 1972).

Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 3, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, (species Red-breasted Nuthatch seen on top mountain in park on Jan. 23, but area inaccessible during meeting), Brown-headed Nuthatch 15, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher 4, Robin, Hermit Thrush 1, Eastern Bluebird 10, Golden-crowned Kinglet 11, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Cedar Waxwing 30, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling.

Myrtle Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 6, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak 4 (Mr. Young of Albertville reported 30-50 regularly at his feeder, first arriving, 12 birds, Dec. 25, 1972), Purple Finch 2, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow 1, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37215.

Mr. Henry Grammer Retires

Mr. Henry H. Grammer, refuge assistant at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, recently retired after 30 years of devoted, dedicated service to the job. Mr. Grammer assisted AOS members on many field trips to the area and took the aerial survey counts on the Wheeler Christmas count. Our hats off to you for a job well done.

In Memorium - Carolyn Hager

AOS was saddened to learn of the passing this past summer of Carolyn Hager of Dauphin Island, Alabama. Mrs. Hager assisted the society in many capacities when it met on Dauphin Island and was always an asset in the success of the meeting. Several times her Story Apartments served as headquarters for the group and often the compilation would be held on these grounds. Her help and interest in the Alabama Ornithological Society will be missed.

* * * * *

1973 dues are now payable. Active member-\$4.00; Sustaining member-\$5.00; Student-\$1.00. Send to: Mrs. Charles J. Mayhew, P. O. Box 37, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528.

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE STAFF

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