

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.

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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.
 Trochontary 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 Wetzell, Joe Webb, L. A. Wells, Ronnie W. Lewis, Ted Weems, Joe Zolczynski.

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