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CONTENTS

RANGE EXPANSION AND HABITS OF THE BARN SWALLOW IN ALABAMA

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At the time of settlement of the United States, there apparently was only one area in the country uninhabited by the Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica), and that was the Southeast then principally a wooded area of virgin forests. Even later when Dr. Arthur H. Howell wrote his Birds of Alabama published in 1924 (containing data through 1921), there had been only one known nesting record, that being an 1892 nest under a bridge at Tuscumbia in the Tennessee Valley (FWM). However, as many changes brought by man, such as clearing of fields and construction of barns, bridges and highways, have created habitat and nesting sites favored by the Barn Swallow, it has gradually increased its presence in the state and may now be said to be in somewhat of a population explosion. By the time of Alabama Birds by Thomas A. Imhof in 1962 (containing data through August, 1961, with its second edition due to be published in the fall of 1976), the birds had become at least locally common in the Tennessee Valley and DeKalb County in the Appalachians at the northeast corner of the state. The population in those areas has grown so that the Barn Swallow is now a reasonably common bird in the Tennessee Valley, being regularly observed on all breeding bird routes conducted there under auspices of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A colony has also been established on the Gulf Coast at Fort Morgan since at least 1940 (Burleigh, T.D., Auk 58:261-62 (1941), with approximately 250 birds observed in early July, 1952 (CWS)). However, except for two early July observations--one in Cullman County in the Mountain Region (a pair on July 3, 1946, at St. Bernard College (TAI)) and one in Lee County at the Southern limit of the Piedmont (another pair on July 4, 1951, south of Opelika (HGG)), no birds had been noted during the breeding season in the intervening area.

The Barn Swallow is virtually a 100% beneficial bird. Its diet is from 40 to 50% flies, with the remainder gnats, some mosquitoes, beetles (including the cotton boll weevil), wasps, ants, true bugs (Hemiptera--stink bugs, plant lice and leaf hoppers), moths and a few grasshoppers, dragonflies and the like. See Imhof, op. cit.:365; Bent, Arthur Cleveland, Life Histories of North American Birds, Bull. No. 179, U.S. Nat'l Museum:439 (1942). The quantity of insects consumed in rearing a brood of Barn Swallows is truly phenomenal! Detailed observations of the number of trips by parent birds to their nest gave a minimum estimate of consumption of over 118,000 flies to feed two nestings of 5 young each (not counting insects consumed by the adults). Davis, Russell E., "Food Requirements of Barn Swallow Nestlings," Inland Bird Banding News, 40(2):63 (1969). It is no wonder then that farmers report that insects of such varieties, especially flies, show a marked reduction in numbers when a colony of Barn Swallows is present around their barns. Thus, it is a pleasure, not only for bird observers but for all beneficiaries of the habits of such a bird, to welcome an increasing breeding population of the Barn Swallow to Alabama.

Documentation in this article of expansion of the range of this swallow in Alabama and observation of its habits through banding and otherwise cover primarily the period 1968 through 1975. In this connection, it will be noted that many of the initial observations of its spread into new areas have occurred

in connection with running of the breeding bird surveys, a credit to their value not only in documenting trends in relative abundance but also in detecting changes in distributional status. Names of observers, identified by initials, appear at the end of this article.

Expansion Southward through Mountain Region

During the last half of the '60's, the Barn Swallow began expanding its range southward from the Tennessee Valley through the Mountain Region of Alabama. Apparently it found bridges and culverts, many new ones having been constructed under the Interstate Highway Program, to its liking and is building in and under them more than in barns. In 1969, for example, there were swallows at about every stream crossing (21 of 24 bridges) on Interstate I-59 from DeKalb to Jefferson Counties (TAI, JMI). The first nesting evidence in Jefferson County (which is in the Mountain Region in the center of the state) came with development of a colony at Cedar Valley Farm near Leeds. That colony has grown from apparently 3 nests in 1966 to 13-14 nests in 1968-70 to 22 nests (of which 17 were active) in 1974 (MC& TMN, R et al.). A good-sized colony was also found in 1967 northeast of Birmingham in St. Clair County near I-59 and has been active ever since (RH). The next year (1968), nests were found at the Copeland Ferry Bridge over the Warrior River in Walker County just west of Birmingham; and in 1969 two nests were located just over the county line in Eastern Tuscaloosa County (TAI, JMI). Farther west, reports from breeding bird surveys show nesting in Fayette and Lamar Counties, the latter being in the northward swing of the Upper Coastal Plain as it reaches the border of Mississippi (DCH). By 1972, very few suitable areas north of Birmingham were unoccupied. Imhof, "The Season, Summer 1972," Alabama Birdlife, 20(3-4):13 (1972); American Birds, 26(5):868 (1972).

The first nest in the city limits of Birmingham was located in 1969 at a bridge over a small creek near the airport (GCC). Later, in 1971, where an expressway crosses a stream in the suburbs adjacent to the southern city limits, nesting evidence in the form of birds circling around under the highway structure was found, but not until 1975 were active nestings located--2 nests under an approach ramp, one with three nestlings on June 29 (R).

Expansion Southward in Coastal Plain

The first observations during the breeding season south of the Mountain Region were in 1966 when one bird was reported on a breeding bird survey in Southern Marengo County (REW) and two birds were seen over a small pond in Eastern Wilcox County (R&E).

The Colony at Cedar Valley Farm was the southernmost sizable colony (excluding the Gulf Coast) until one was located in Perry County east of Sprott; it had 5 nests in 1968 (TAI, EBS, R&E) and grew to 18 nests in 1971 and a high of 28 in 1972 (R). However, on the basis of observed nesting activity and number of birds in flight, it is estimated that perhaps only 50% of the nests at that colony have been active in recent years. The number of observed nests at a colony can also decrease from year to year (even though the colony itself does not) because of washing down of nests over the winter and spring. The swallows also found the Marion Fish Hatchery in Perry County to be to their liking. The first nesting was noted there in 1968 (R), and the colony increased to 14 nests in 1974-75 (R&P) with over 55 birds observed in the Marion-Sprott general area on July 3, 1970 (JRB, R) and 75-80 at and near the hatchery on June 17, 1971 (R&E). This area near the northern edge of Alabama's central prairie belt is attractive to the swallows as

indicated by the increase in nestings along the Hale-Perry County Breeding Bird Survey Route north of Marion from 1 stop with 2 nests in 1970 to 3 stops with 23 nests in 1974 and 4 stops with 19 nests in 1975 (R&E).

In 1969, a small colony was discovered in Sumter County on the Mississippi line at Noxubee Creek near Gainesville (5 nests under a bridge and 9 adults in flight on May 17--AKB, BAS). By 1971, the birds had expanded their range southward to a belt extending across the state from Choctaw County (south of Sumter) eastward through Marengo (three active sites in the prairie region in the northern part of the county with an additional site located in the next year--R&E), Perry (see above) and Lowndes (see below) Counties to Elmore County (pair in flight on June 6 but no nest discovered--R&E). The first nest in Montgomery County was located the following year in a culvert under the southwest Montgomery Bypass and remained active until washed down in 1975 (R,E&P). Not much activity has occurred farther east; but on breeding bird surveys in June, pairs were found at different stops in Chambers County in the Piedmont region in 1967 (HS) and later in 1973 (FFL), and 3 birds were noted at one stop in Macon County in the eastern part of the Coastal Plain in both 1973 and 1974 (JL&RTD).

The two largest southernmost colonies (north of the Gulf Coast) apparently began in 1973--one (the farthest south) just north of Millry in Northern Washington County near the Mississippi line, and the other near Letohatchee at Interstate I-65 in Lowndes County in the central part of the state. First observation of the swallows at Millry was a group of over 20 birds, some gathering mud for nests, in June, 1973 (P). The colony grew to 18 nests in 1974 and 32 nests (26 of which were considered active) in 1975 with 47 young and 41 eggs observed on June 2 (P, TLW). Approximately 30 adult birds were counted in flight on visits to the colony in each year. It is quite possible the Millry Colony represents a spread into Alabama of swallows from Mississippi, since during the years 1972-75 new nesting sites have been found all along the Alabama-Mississippi state line. These have extended from near Ward in Southern Sumter County (first nesting in 1973, increasing to 9 nests at 2 sites in 1975 with 16 birds in flight--R&E) through Choctaw County (six locations of which the largest known colony is in the south-central part of the county at Bogalusa Creek (5 nests and 8 birds in flight in 1975--R&E)) to Millry.

The other--and now largest--of these two colonies is the one near Letohatchee. It was first noted in 1973 with 5 nests and 7 adults in flight (R&E), growing to 39 nests and approximately 40 birds in flight in 1974 (P&R) and 43 nests (at least 23 of which were considered active) and 50 birds in flight in 1975 with 40 young and 37 eggs counted on June 16 (P, TLW). Lowndes County, which lies in the prairie region with many stream crossings, appears to provide one of the most attractive habitats for Barn Swallows in the state. In 1969, the first nest in the county was discovered 10 miles west of Lowndesboro, a small colony at that site increasing to 3 nests in 1973 and 1974. In the former year, 4 active sites were located in the county (R&E), increasing to 7 in 1974 (P&R) of which the second largest is at Big Swamp Creek (14 nests and 17 birds in flight in 1974--R&P).

While the Letohatchee site is the largest colony in the central part of the state, nesting has been found farther south along Interstate I-65 into Butler County where a nest was found with 2 adults in flight north of Georgiana in 1974 (P,E&R) and 2 active nests with 5 adults in flight in 1975 (R&E). Thus, the southward expansion in Central Alabama is now at approximately the same latitude as that on the Mississippi line, although there the southernmost point is the sizable colony at Millry. It is also of interest to note that presumably

unmated birds have been found south of the southern fringe of the existing range, single birds having been observed in June on breeding bird surveys in Southeast Butler County in 1972 (P, WRM) and in Southeast Crenshaw County in 1974 (WRM, P).

Although not the southernmost, but of interest because constituting somewhat of an arc between the central and western parts of the state, are the first known nestings for Wilcox and Clarke Counties. The Wilcox site is near Camden--a nesting pair being found on the Monroe-Wilcox County Breeding Bird Survey in 1974, and the same nest with 3 birds being observed at the same and one other stop in 1975 (R&E). The Clarke County site is south of Thomasville in the northern part of the county where a small colony of 3 nests with several birds in flight were found in 1974 (HBT, E, P et al), increasing to 4 nests with 6 adults in flight in 1975 (P, TLW).

The bridges and culverts under I-65 were investigated farther south into Conecuh County in 1975, but no swallows or nesting evidence was located (R). The year 1975 may, thus, be regarded as a year of consolidation of gains since no nestings farther south were found but populations at all southernmost sites were increasing.

Expansion Northward

As previously mentioned, there has been a colony at Ft. Morgan for over three decades. That colony, however, has markedly decreased since the '50's (TAI, P) and may have been dispersing. In 1963, the first breeding evidence was noted on the Cochrane Causeway at the north end of Mobile Bay (three pairs nesting in June-July near the eastern end of the causeway--PFC); and the swallows have apparently bred there since that time (JLD et al.). Eastward from Ft. Morgan, in 1971 a pair was observed feeding young on June 27 at the Perdido Pass Bridge at Alabama Point (LEH--see Alabama Birdlife 19(3):32 (1971); American Birds 25(5):838 (1971)), and birds have been observed there every summer since then (VDH, P). Westward, in 1975 the first nest in Mobile County was found under a bridge at Coden on Mississippi Sound (REH).

Nearby in Northwest Florida, the first known nesting was found on June 23, 1946, near Pensacola; and there has been a small colony (initially 3-4 nestings) at Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island, also near Pensacola, since prior to 1951. Another colony of similar size developed nearby and to the east in 1954, and subsequently there have been a few nestings short distances inland from the coast. Weston, Francis M., Survey of Birdlife of Northwestern Florida, Bull. No. 5, Tall Timbers Research Station (1965). The coastal range has now been extended eastward to Panama City. American Birds 28(5):914 (1974) (supplemented as to Alabama data in 29(1):73 (1975)).

The coastal breeding population in Alabama is now only 75 miles from the nearest breeding colony at Millry. Imhof, "The Season, Summer-Fall 1973," Alabama Birdlife 21(3-4):5 (1973). Doubtless in some future year--probably in less than a decade--the two breeding ranges will meet, but where is naturally open to conjecture. At first glance at the map, one might guess the "golden spike" will be driven near the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers. However, since that area is largely pine forests and bottomland hardwoods--not the most preferred habitat for Barn Swallows--a more likely prediction is that the northern breeding range will be extended southward to the Gulf in Northwest Florida meeting the coastal colony there. During the time of expansion, because of the adaptation of the swallows to nesting in culverts under the interstates, the southernmost nests may well be along

I-65 until it reaches the forests adjacent to the Tensaw bottomlands. It is also possible the swallows could proceed southward in southern Mississippi and come eastward along the Gulf Coast across the more open areas of Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Banding

Because of the proximity to Birmingham of the Cedar Valley Farm Colony near Leeds, banding of young was conducted there in the years 1968-70; and it is believed all young were banded (except one not considered of bandable age at the time the operations were conducted). Some of the adults were also banded and, because of the amount of equipment seemingly required, the group became known as the Cedar Valley Farm Expeditionary Force. After 1968, banding of adults was handled basically at night by first leaving the barn lights on and closing all doors and windows while setting up nets outside, and then opening the door by the nets and reversing the lighting so that the barn was dark and the lights were on outside to attract the flying birds as they were flushed out of the barn door. Participants in the program rigged up an ingenious two and sometimes three-level net, which, when carried across the field, looked like a giant banner. Back-up nets were also sometimes placed across the barn door; but the main net was so well in place, with its lower edge held down by rocks and its upper edge tied to the loft door, that no birds went through.

Our experience is that banding of nestlings should be handled between 8 to 12 days after hatching (9 to 11 days being preferable and 13 possible). In younger birds, it is difficult to handle the banding because of the small size of the baby bird and its tarsi. In the case of older birds, difficulty would be encountered in keeping them in the nest after removal for banding. One precaution that could be taken in the case of older nestlings would be to conduct banding only in a structure such as a barn and at night so that the effect of lights in the barn and none outside plus closing all possible openings might be used to keep the young inside. Then, if the young do fly out of the nest, it should be easier to catch and replace them although the writer definitely does not recommend attempting to band any nestlings over 12 days old.

Banding does not appear to have any adverse effect on the nestlings at all; and, to compensate for the inconvenience, we dusted the nests lightly with an insect powder (Bee Brand). In addition, when one of the brood was smaller than the rest, he was replaced in the front position in the nest in hopes that he would fare well at the next feeding. Whether or not this procedure aided his survival, we can report that no bird so placed was lost.

Total birds banded during the three-year period were as follows:

Year	Nestlings	Adults (including returns)
1968	37	4
1969	83	17 (2 returns)
1970	83	12 (7 returns)
	203	

While nestlings were not systematically banded in subsequent years, adults were banded in nighttime operations in 1971, 1973 and 1974--in 1971, 11 birds with 5 returns; in 1973, 14 birds with 3 returns; and in 1974, 15 birds with 5 returns. According to the literature, Barn Swallows have a strong instinct to return to the same places of nesting, which is indicated by the following table

showing number of returns, including one female that returned through the full seven-year period 1968-1974 (being netted six times) and two birds that returned for six years (each being netted four times):

Number of Birds and Sex	Time Span of Recaptures	Years Covered	No. of Times Netted
1 female	1968-74	7	6
1 female	1968-73	6	4
1 male	1969-74	6	4
1 female	1969-71	3	3
1 female	1968-69	2	2
2 males, 1 female	1969-70	2	2
1 male, 1 female	1970-71	2	2
1 male, 2 females	1973-74	2	2

Notwithstanding the persistency of returns of the adults, no banded nestlings have been recovered at the same site; and this is similar to reports of experience in other banding operations farther north. However, there was one recovery, approximately 100 miles northwest of the original banding site, where a female banded as a nestling on June 22, 1970 (HHW) was recovered and released in a netting operation at a breeding colony under a bridge over "Mud Creek" in Franklin County on May 21, 1973, three years later (P). Harriett H. Wright, "Banded Barn Swallow Nestling Recovered," Inland Bird Banding News, 46:62 (1974); Alabama Birdlife 21(3-4):10 (1973); American Birds 27(5):881 (1973). Nesting evidence in the general area of Cedar Valley Farm has, nevertheless, been observed at a nearby barn and at a stream crossing several miles away. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to conduct netting operations at those sites; but since nesting at them took place after establishment of the colony at Cedar Valley Farm, they could well be the product of Cedar Valley Farm nestlings. It is hoped future banding operations may be able to investigate that hypothesis.

In addition to Cedar Valley Farm, banding has been conducted for two years at Millry (15 adults in 1974, and 28 adults and 15 nestlings in 1975) and for one year at Letohatchee (27 adults and 42 nestlings in 1975) (P, TLW). The procedure used there for banding the adults was to place mist nets as close as possible to the openings under the bridges or at the ends of the culverts.

Nesting Success

It might be expected that Barn Swallows should have a high degree of nesting success because their nests are protected from most common predators. Such success is indicated by the following table, in which a successful nesting is considered one where 50% or more of the eggs hatched:

Year	No. of Nestings	Successful	Unsuccessful
1968	14	9	5
1969	24	19	5
1970	21	20	1

There have been some unexplained developments, but most of the unhatched eggs are thought to have been sterile. We had a mystery nest in 1969 where the number of eggs observed ranged from 5 down to 1, back up to 5, then to 9 and then back to 5. None hatched. Consequently, that nest accounted for three of the five unsuccessful nestings that year. Our best guess is that the parent birds built too many layers of mud and, thus, successful incubation never took place.

Because of the fragile nature of young birds of altricial species and the number of hazards that beset growing nestlings, it seems remarkable that in all of the nestings referred to above there were only a very few nestlings lost. The causes were strictly chance factors or of unknown source, but one should probably be noted. In a shed where one of the first nestings occurred in 1968, the nest was very close to a metal roof; and, whereas all of the five young in the first nesting survived, all four nestlings in the second clutch succumbed during the last of June. It is speculated that because the nest was so close to the metal roof, excessive heat as the summer progressed may have been the factor. Only three other nestlings turned up missing each year, resulting in a total success factor of 204 of 217 nestlings (94%).

Nestings and Clutch Size

According to current literature, Austin, Dr. Oliver L., Jr., Birds of the World, pp. 216-18 (1961), older pairs nest first and are often, thus, the only birds with multiple nestings, and the younger birds nest 1-2 weeks later. In 1968, 5 of the 9 nests were used twice; in 1969, 9 of 14; and in 1970, 8 of 14. Although none of the nestlings returned to the colony, doubtless some young birds did join it to increase its size. The question is, consequently, posed regarding what was the source of this "new blood." However, as far as the Cedar Valley Farm Colony is concerned, that question is unresolved.

As to clutch size, 13 nestings in 1968 (1 nesting was abandoned before laying completed) averaged 4.5 eggs; the 24 nestings in 1969, 4.7 eggs; and the 21 in 1970, just under 5. We have noted, however, that the second nestings were, more often than not, one egg less than the first and only one time was the second clutch more. Further, in the cases of the single nesters (presumably the younger birds), the clutch size was usually, although not always, one egg less than the first and earlier nestings of the older birds. Those nestings in the Coastal Plain that could be sufficiently observed show a similar clutch size of 4-5 eggs.

Fledging Time

Since members of the swallow family are primarily birds "of the air," spending most of their time flying and catching insects, they have small and weak feet. As a consequence, they must remain in the nest longer than other species. Fledging time is stated in Austin, ibid., to be approximately 23-25 days. While it was not possible to conduct daily observations at the Cedar Valley Farm Colony, our estimates of the time the young left the nest from the time they hatched averaged 19-20 days, the same figures holding true for all three years. Virtually no differences were noted between first and second nestings and between those and single nestings.

Detailed observations of single Barn Swallow nests have been made by Dr. Harold B. Wood in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania, "Observations at a Barn Swallow's Nest," Wilson Bull. (June 1973), Bird-Banding 8:31 (Jan. 1937), and by Wendell P. Smith in Vermont, "Some Observations on the Nesting Habits of the Barn Swallow," Auk 50:414 (1933), and "Further Notes on the Nesting of the

Barn Swallow," Auk 54:65 (1937). Fledging time for the broods there described averaged 18-19 days. It is speculated, therefore, that the longer averages for fledging time may be due to inclusion of nestings in areas where the food supply is not as plentiful or possibly nestings of other races since the bird is holarctic, inhabiting both Eurasia and North America.

Sexual Differences and Breast Coloration

Sexing of birds banded was done by observation of the presence or not of a brood patch. In Barn Swallows, the males do not have a brood patch, Austin, ibid.; and some of the females banded were carrying eggs. We did, however, have the anomalous situation of having one bird changing sex between 1970 and 1971, having a brood patch in the first year and none in the second. While it is possible that this is an error on the part of our team, a more plausible explanation might be that hatching year birds of both sexes have non-vascular brood patches due to incomplete ventral feathering.

Initial speculation was that sex might be determined also by breast coloration, the darker birds being thought to be males and the lighter females. However, this proved not to be the case, and in four instances the same bird netted in earlier years had a lighter breast than when netted again later. (At Cedar Valley Farm, one female first netted in 1968 and subsequently caught five times changed from light to dark between 1973 and 1974 when at least 7 years old.) It, thus, appears that darker breast coloration comes with age, possibly the darker color coming sooner for the males. The same seems true with completeness of the neck band. A hypothesis has been advanced that light-breasted Barn Swallows may form a sub-species found in the southern parts of the Gulf States. See note in American Birds 28(5):914 (1974). However, the above experience at the colonies at Millry (see American Birds 29(5):994 (1975)) and at Cedar Valley Farm indicates that breast coloration of the same birds changes with age; and birds with both light-colored (over 50% of those banded at Cedar Valley Farm) and dark-colored breasts have been found at both colonies.

Arrival and Departure

Arrivals at the Cedar Valley Farm Colony seem consistently to occur around the latter part of March (MCM) with the last observations at the farm being in August, usually the first part of the month (MCM, R). The first hatchings in the years 1968 to 1970 were in early May on the 6th, 11th and 2nd, respectively; and first hatchings of the second broods were on June 30 in 1968 and 1969 and on June 17 in 1970. The last birds banded, being those of bandable age described above, were in the latter part of July in the same years on the 19th, 26th and 23rd, respectively (except that a special situation occurred in 1970 where one nesting was extremely late and the birds banded in that nesting, which consisted of 4 young, were banded on August 10). The nestings described by Wood and Smith, ibid., are naturally considerably later because of the more northern sites.

Comparable Expansions and Relative Abundance

In the last decade, we have noted a large expansion of the Barn Swallow in Alabama--both in extension of its range (southward from the Tennessee Valley and to some degree northward from the established colony at Fort Morgan) as well as in the size of the colonies themselves and number of birds found throughout the state. Similar range expansion has occurred in both Mississippi and Louisiana where there are also coastal breeding populations. See American Birds 28(5):914

(1974) (supplemented 29(1):73 (1975)). In our neighboring states to the East, the Barn Swallow has become established as a breeding resident in Eastern North Carolina and has been extending its breeding range southward in Georgia (now nesting in the Columbus, Georgia, area (LAW)). American Birds 27(5):859 (1973), 28(5):891 (1974), 29(5):959 (1975). In Alabama, available data shows the number of breeding bird survey routes on which Barn Swallows have been found increased from 10 of 40 routes in 1966 to 20 of 36 routes in 1974 (with a high of 24 in 1973). Similarly, the number of birds per route increased from 4.8 in 1966 to 10.5 in 1974. This beneficial bird is, thus, taking a much more important and a welcomed place in the avifauna of Alabama and nearby states.

The writer wishes to thank, for their time, efforts and cooperation that made the collection of this data possible, the members of the Cedar Valley Farm Expeditionary Force, especially the banders Michael L. Bierly (who also conceived the idea for the project), Andrew K. Bates (AKB), Richard J. Kittinger, James V. Peavy, Jr. (P) and Harriett H. Wright (now Findlay)(HHW), the owners of the farm, Mary C. and Thomas M. McClellan, III (MC&TMM), and other members of the group, Helen H. and Ronald D. Kittinger, John Lester, W. Roger Maner (WRM), Lee N. Peavy, my wife Elberta G. Reid (E), and Jo Susenbach (now Kittinger). Special credit is also due Thomas A. Imhof (TAI), author of Alabama Birds, who collected much of the data reflected in this article, and Mr. Peavy and Ted L. Weems (TLW), who handled the banding operations at Millry and Letohatchee. Observations by the writer are noted (R); and, in addition to those named above, credit is also due the following whose observations are indicated by their initials: J. Russell Bailey, Jr. (JRB), Birmingham Audubon Society (BAS), Greg C. Carlisle (GCC), P. Fairly Chandler (PFC), Fr. J. L. Dorn (JLD), Dr. Julian L. & Rosemary T. Dusi (JL&RTD), Dr. Henry G. Good (HGG), Richard E. Hayward, Jr. (REH), Leroy E. Healy (LEH), Dr. Dan C. Holliman (DCH), Verda D. Horne (VDH), Ruth Howell (RH), John M. Imhof (JMI), Florence F. Lynn (FFL), F. W. McCormack (FWM), Dr. Eugene B. Sledge (EBS), Hazel Steward (HS), Dr. C. William Summerour (CWS), Helen B. Thigpen (HBT), Robert E. Waters (REW), and L. A. Wells (LAW).

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SPRING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1976 AOS spring meeting will be held April 9-11 on Dauphin Island. The schedule of events will be similar to those of previous meetings on the island. Headquarters will be the Alabama Department of Conservation Marine Sciences Laboratory. Registration periods will be 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday the 9th and 8-10 a.m. Saturday the 10th. There will be an informal gathering after registration Friday evening at the Marine Lab. The banquet Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. will be a seafood buffet at the Community Center, $4.00 per person. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Tom Rogers of the University of Alabama. Field trips will originate at the Marine Lab and will include 6:30 a.m. tours of the Shell Mounds both Saturday and Sunday and trips through the Audubon Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Officers and directors of the society will meet at the Marina restaurant at 12:00 noon Saturday, and a list of species observed during the meeting will be compiled at 12:00 noon Sunday at the Shell Mounds. A complete schedule of events will be available at registration. The spring meeting is the high point of AOS activities each year and is timed to coincide with the arrival of the spring migrants. We hope you will join us.

THE SEASON, Summer-Fall

June through November, 1975, in Alabama

Thomas A. Imhof

Noteworthy records for the period follow (TV-Tennessee Valley, MtR-Mountain Region, Pied-Piedmont, UCP-Upper Coastal Plain, LCP-Lower Coastal Plain, GC-Gulf Coast, CP-Coastal Plain or last 3 regions combined, rec-record, exc-except).

Common Loon: July 18, Dauphin Island (LRT) possibly summers almost annually on coast. July 18 - Aug. 7, Preston, Marshall Co. (CDC) 3rd summer TV. Sept. 26, Ala. Point (PFC) 2nd earliest Ala. Sept. 30, Limestone Bay, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) earliest TV. Oct. 25, Lake Purdy (GDJ) earliest MtR.

Red-necked Grebe: Oct. 5, 1973, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) 1st TV rec.

Horned Grebe: Oct. 14, Wheeler Ref., 2 (DCH) earliest TV.

Eared Grebe: Aug. 12, Lake Purdy, winter plum. (JVP). Sept. 24 (Eloise), Lakeland Farm, Marion (ALM, HHK, HBT, SFH) 1st Sept. rec Ala. Nov. 15, Gulf Shores (PFC, A&MN).

Western Grebe: Nov. 21-Dec. 5, Lake Purdy (GDJ, JVP, ALM photo), 3rd Ala., 1st rec inland.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: July 18, 50 mi. so. of Dauphin, 2 (RHa).

White Pelican: July 18, Cochrane Causeway, 12 (JLD) summers here often. Nov. 19, Blakely Island (PFC) about 1000, encouraging.

Brown Pelican: July 15, Dauphin Island & vic. 500 (LRT), encouraging.

Brown Booby: July 16, Dauphin Island, adult (RHa, REH) 5th Ala. rec.

Blue-faced Booby: July 20, Dauphin Island, changing imm (RRy) 6th Ala. rec.

Anhinga: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Lakeland Farm, Marion (ALM, HHK, HBT, SFH) latest UCP.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Nov. 15, Ft. Morgan (TAI, JVP) late.

Cattle Egret: Sept. 21, Baldwin Co., 450 (A&MN); many late birds Baldwin, Mobile & Morgan Cos. (A&MN, LRT, TAI, CDC), all indicate a continued high population.

Louisiana Heron: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Lakeland Farm (HHK, ALM, HBT, SFH) latest inland rec.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Nov. 21 & 23, Dauphin Island, 5 (CSp, DPa, mob).

Least Bittern: Oct. 27, Wheeler Ref. (DCH), latest inland Ala.

American Bittern: Aug. 18, Ballplay, Etowah Co. (JVP, GDJ) earliest MtR.

Wood Stork: July 25, Livingston, 40 (PLT) max this summer.

Glossy Ibis: Sept. 19, Dauphin Island (SCH, MEM) latest GC rec for Glossy. June 8, Perry Co. (SP, WM), 1st certain rec for UCP. Oct. 2-Nov. 28, Wheeler Ref., 1-2 (RMB, WCD, mob) 2nd certain fall rec TV. June 13, Cat Island, Mississippi Sound, 8 adults & nest with 3 eggs (DCHo).

White Ibis: Aug. 23, Swan Cr. Mgmt. Area, Limestone Co. (DCH) 1st TV rec in 10 years. Nov. 25, Little Bateau Lake, Tensaw Delta, many (PQ).

Canada Goose, hutchinsii race: present throughout period at Oak Mtn. Lake (mob).

Brant: Nov. 2-Dec., Hoover Lake, B'ham (HHK photo, mob), 3rd rec. Ala, 1st so. of TV.

Snow Goose: adult blue-phase, Hoover Lake, B'ham, present throughout (HHK, mob).

Mottled Duck: Pointe aux pins, pair July 11 (DCHo).

Redhead: Oct. 7, Hoover Lake, B'ham (HHK) and Wheeler Ref. (ENP, TZA, FO) earliest inland Ala.

Ring-necked Duck, summer 1975, East Lake, B'ham, male, 12th year in a row (RRR).

Canvasback: July 25, 1974, Wheeler Ref. (GS, CDC) 1st summer rec TV. June 22, Walker Co. Pub. Lake (DCW), male, 2nd summer rec MtR.

Greater Scaup: Nov. 9, Wheeler Ref. (GDJ) earliest rec inland Ala.

Lesser Scaup: Oct. 7, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) earliest rec TV.

Bufflehead: Oct. 19, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) earliest Ala.
Surf Scoter: Nov. 12, Valleydale Rd., B'ham (HHK, ALM) 3rd inland rec Ala.
Ruddy Duck: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Lakeland Farm (ALM, HHK, HBT, SFH) earliest rec Ala.
MASKED DUCK: May 16, 1973, Wheeler Ref., a female, all field marks seen well (DCH) first rec for Ala.
Rough-legged Hawk: Nov. 19, Smiths, Lee Co. (MF), earliest Pied.
Bald Eagle: Oct, Wheeler Ref., one immature (CDC).
Osprey: Sept. 6, Lake Purdy (ALM) earliest MtR; 10 reports from Wheeler (TZA).
Peregrine Falcon: Sept. 12, Trussville (JVP, RWL); a few on coast; none elsewhere.
Merlin: Aug. 9, B'ham Zoo (JVP), 5th summer rec Ala.; about ½ doz. recs at Wheeler and on coast.
American Kestrel: summer 1975, Jefferson Co., at least 5 pair in industrial sites.
Sora: Oct. 20, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) latest rec for only Region where it does not winter.
Black Rail: Oct. 12, Dauphin Island, seen well (RJK, RDK, JSK, HHK, LW), new locality, latest Ala.
American Coot: pair that has bred in past in B'ham tried too late when water level finally was right for them.
Semipalmated Plover: June 10, Wheeler Ref. (DCH), latest inland Ala.
Piping Plover: Aug. 12, Beech Cr., Guntersville (JVP, GDJ), 9th inland rec for Ala, 3rd for TV, all but two in fall.
American Golden Plover: Sept. 12, Battleship Pk, Mobile (photo-HMS) earliest Ala.
Black-bellied Plover: Sept. 24 (Eloise), Marion Hatchery (GDJ) earliest UCP.
Whimbrel: July 7, Pointe aux pins (DCHo) earliest Ala.
Spotted Sandpiper: July 12, Guntersville (RRR) earliest Ala. exc MtR. Nov. 9, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) latest inland Ala. exc winter recs. (Recorded 12 months of the year in almost every Region, this species will probably eventually be found breeding in TV.)
Solitary Sandpiper: July 4, Eufaula Ref. (JMi) earliest Ala. exc MtR.
Willet: Nov. 8, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) latest inland Ala.
Pectoral Sandpiper: July 20, Claiborne Bridge, Clark Co. (HME, LKE) earliest CP exc GC.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Oct. 1-4, 8 (DCH) latest Ala. exc UCP.
Baird's Sandpiper: Sept. 5, Marion Hatchery (GDJ) 1st CP rec exc GC.
Stilt Sandpiper: Nov. 5, Lakeland Farm, Marion (GDJ) latest Ala.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: June 10, Wheeler Ref., 17 (DCH) late spring? summering?
Western Sandpiper: Nov. 19, Blakely Island, 3000+ (photo-PFC).
American Avocet: July, Mobile, date & obs. unknown but probably JW, 1st summer GC. Sept. 5, Marion Hatchery (GDJ) 2nd rec UCP. Sept. 14, Cochrane Causeway, 100 (B&JW) high early fall max. Nov. 8-19, Wheeler Ref., 8 (RMB, mob) 19 max (DCH), max & latest TV. Nov. 9-26, Valleydale Rd., B'ham, max 13 (HHK, CB, mob) latest inland. Nov. 25, Little Bateau Lake, Tensaw Delta, 400 (PQ), max Ala. (There is no question that these beautiful birds are having a banner year!)
Black-necked Stilt: Apr. 16, Wheeler Ref. (DCH, others) 1st rec n Ala. Summer, Blakely Island, Mobile, 7 pairs bred (B&JW). Nov. 14, Wheeler Ref. (WCD) 2nd rec n Ala.
Wilson's Phalarope: Sept. 5 & 12, Gulf Shores (photo-PFC).
Northern Phalarope: Aug. 6, Wheeler Ref., 7 (DCH) earliest of 9 fall recs Ala.
jaeger sp.: July 19, in Gulf south of Dauphin Island (DPa); 1st summer rec any jaeger.
Parasitic Jaeger: Oct. 12, Little Dauphin Island, adult on sandbar (TAI, mob).
Laughing Gull: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Marion, Lakeland Farm (GDJ) 1st rec UCP.
Bonaparte's Gull: Nov. 15, Ft. Morgan, 340 (TAI, JVP) fall max.
Forster's Tern: Oct. 1-9, Wheeler Ref., 9 (DCH) latest TV.
Sooty Tern: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Gulf Shores (A&MN) latest Ala.
Royal Tern: Nov. 29, Lake Purdy, seen very well (JVP, HME) 2nd inland rec. Day had been bright and sunny; this bird arrived at same minute as big dark cloud with southerly winds, signaling arrival of warm front.
Caspian Tern: Aug. 16, Ft. Gaines Dam (JMi) 4th rec CP exc GC.

Black Tern: Sept. 24 (Eloise) Marion Hatchery (GDJ) latest UCP. Oct. 7, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) latest TV & inland Ala.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Aug. 24-29, Magnolia Springs, 2 young in nest (PFC) latest. Oct. 21, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest TV. Nov. 15, Ft. Morgan, 2 (PFC, A&MN, VDH) latest Ala.

Screech Owl: Sept. 20 (full moon), B'ham, 102 (JVP, GDJ, others) state max.

Short-eared Owl: Nov. 16, St. Andrew's Bay, Ft. Morgan (TAI, JVP) 5th GC rec.

Whip-poor-will: Oct. 13, Nov. 15 & 16, Ft. Morgan Wall, 3 banded (TAI, JVP).

Chimney Swift: Oct. 24, East Lake, B'ham (GDJ) latest MtR.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Sept. 20, B'ham (GDJ) earliest Ala.

Eastern Kingbird: Nov. 16, Ft. Morgan (JVP, TAI) latest Ala, 2nd rec in Nov.

Gray Kingbird: June 9, 3, Alabama Point (VDH, MN) local increase. Aug. 1975, 30, Dauphin Island (LRT) Ala. max.

Willow Flycatcher: Aug. 15, heard, Magnolia Springs (PFC) earliest Ala. Sept. 15, banded, B'ham Zoo (JVP) latest inland rec.

Tree Swallow: Nov. 4, Wheeler Ref., 8 (DCH) latest TV.

Bank Swallow: Aug. 16, Eufaula Ref., 13 (JMi) earliest CP exc CG. Sept. 24 (Eloise) Lake Purdy, 25 (GDJ) latest MtR. Nov. 2, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) latest Ala.

Rough-winged Swallow: Oct. 23, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest inland Ala.

Barn Swallow: Nov. 5, Lakeland Farm, Marion (GDJ) 2nd Nov. rec inland. Nov. 15-16, Ft. Morgan, 2 (JVP, TAI) latest Ala. exc for 1 winter rec.

Cliff Swallow: June 19, Copeland Ferry Bridge, Walker Co., 2 (JVP). June, Lake Nichols, Tuscaloosa, 1-yr old nest, no ads (RKC). Sept 21, Cochrane Causeway, 60 (A&MN) coastal concentration. Sept. 23 (25) & 24 (5) (Eloise) Lake Purdy (GDJ) latest MtR. Oct. 10, Lakeland Farm, Marion (RRR, others) latest UCP. Oct. 20, Wheeler Ref., 5 (CDC, DCH) latest inland Ala.

(The number of records made on swallows indicates that this family had a good year here. Look for Bank, Barn & Cliff to expand as breeders next summer.)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Sept. 10, Dauphin Island, 5 (GGa) earliest Ala. Sept. 13, Bluff Park, B'ham (TAI, JTG) earliest inland Ala. Sept. 29, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) earliest TV.

Brown-headed Nuthatch: Nov. 8, pine plantation near Blackwell Swamp, Madison Co., 2 (CDC) 1st rec in Ala. no. of Tenn. River. Pine plantations are usually shunned by piney woods birds exc for an occasional Pine Warbler.

House Wren: Sept. 21, Newburg, Franklin Co. (GDJ) earliest TV.

Bewick's Wren: July 6, Arab, Marshall Co. (RRR) only breeding season rec for eastern half of TV since 1960.

Gray Catbird: present June 1974 & 1975 in Dothan (MLH), southern edge of range. No 1 banded on coast this year again (JVP, TAI) 182 in Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: Aug. 2, Spring Hill, 2 (MEM) earliest Ala. (next Aug. 28). Nov. 15, Mifflin, Baldwin Co. (PFC, others) latest Ala.

Veery: Nov. 17, Ft. Morgan, Banded (TAI, JVP) latest Ala. (next Oct. 26).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sept. 20, B'ham, 5 (RDB, ALM) earliest MtR.

White-eyed Vireo: Nov. 22, Greenwood, Bessemer (CWB) latest n. Ala.

Solitary Vireo: Nov. 11, Decatur (MBr) latest TV, prob. winters occasionally.

Philadelphia Vireo: Sept. 15, B'ham Zoo (JVP) earliest MtR.

Prothonotary Warbler: Sept. 26, Wheeler Ref. (GDJ) latest TV.

Blue-winged Warbler: Oct. 2, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest TV.

Tennessee Warbler: Nov. 8, Wheeler Ref., 2 (CDC) latest TV. Nov. 11, Dauphin Island (REH, SBH) latest GC.

Parula Warbler: Oct. 4, Decatur (MBr) latest TV.

Magnolia Warbler: Oct. 29, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest TV. Nov. 11, Dauphin Island (REH, SBH) latest Ala.

Cape May Warbler: Oct. 3, Hoover, B'ham (HHK) earliest MtR. Oct. 21, Montevallo (GDJ) latest inland.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Nov. 11, Dauphin Island (REH, SBH) latest Ala. exc Nov. 25, 1960.
Black-throated Green Warbler: Aug. 9, Marion Hatchery (JTG, ALM) earliest Ala. so. of breeding range.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: Nov. 11, Dauphin Island (REH, SBH) latest Ala.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Nov. 11, Dauphin Island (REH, SBH) latest Ala. exc Pied.
Northern Waterthrush: Aug. 22, Dauphin Island, bird walked through open door into living room (G&AB).
Mourning Warbler: Nov. 19, Greenwood, Bessemer, imm. male (CWB) seen well & close, latest Ala. by almost a month; all field marks seen.
Bobolink: Oct. 9, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest TV.
Orchard Oriole: Sept. 8, Roberts Field, B'ham, banded on 7th, seen on 8th (TAI) latest inland exc 2 winter recs.
Brewer's Blackbird: Nov. 5, Lakeland Farm (GDJ) earliest UCP & LCP.
Painted Bunting: Aug. 2, Blakely Island, 4 (3 males) (B&JW) indicates continued local breeding.
Dickcissel: Nov. 1, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) latest inland exc winter recs.
Evening Grosbeak: about Nov. 16, Mtn. Brook, B'ham (fide WFC) flight year coming.
Purple Finch: Oct. 13, Greenwood, Bessemer, 2 (CWB) earliest Ala.
House Finch: Dec. 5, Greenwood, Bessemer, 2 males-one with a band on right foot (CWB) 3rd rec Ala., all in MtR.
Pine Siskin: Nov. 6, 20+ B'ham (JTG) & Nov. 15 Ft. Morgan, 3 (TAI) flight year.
Lark Bunting: Aug. 23, Ft. Morgan, imm. male (JVP) 4th rec Ala., 3rd on GC.
LeConte's Sparrow: Dec. 5, Opelika (MF) 1st rec Pied.
Henslow's Sparrow: Oct. 29, Wheeler Ref., 2 (CDC) only fall rec TV.
Vesper Sparrow: Oct. 13, Wheeler Ref. (CDC) ties earliest Ala.
Lark Sparrow: Oct. 27, Union Springs (photo-MF) latest inland.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Spet. 27, Ft. Morgan (HME) more evidence species occurs annually.
White-crowned Sparrow: Oct. 3, Wheeler Ref., 2 (CDC) earliest Ala.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Nov. 28 & 29, Wheeler Ref., 2 places 5 mi apart (CDC) latest TV, only region where species not proved to winter.
Swamp Sparrow: Sept. 20, B'ham, 3 (PLT, HBT) earliest Ala. exc Sept. 14, 1958.
Song Sparrow: June 12, Jackson Co., Long Island & mouth of Coon Creek, 2 males (TAI, HHK). June, vic of Guntersville, 13 males plus females plus young (TAI, JTG, HHK, RRR, HBT, PLT, others). August 18, Weiss Lake, Cherokee Co., 7 males (JVP, GDJ); a total of 22 new singing males, none there about 5 years ago, means the species now breeds in 4 no. Ala. counties and probably at least 4 more.

Observers: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr.; Raymond D. Bates; Richard M. Bays; George & Alwilda Bennett; Charlotte Blacksher; Charles W. Brasfield; Michael Brown; P. Fairly Chandler; C. Dwight Cooley; Walter F. Coxe; Richard K. Crawford; W. Cecil Davis; J. L. Dorn, SJ; Howard M. Einspahr; Linda K. Einspahr; Michael Fuller; Mary A. Gaillard; Gary Gaston; Juanita Goodson; Marion L. Hanahan; Sybil C. Hanks; Ralph Havard; Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward; Sharon B. Hayward; Dan C. Holliman; Susan F. Holt; Verda D. Horne; David C. Hulse; Thomas A. Imhof; Greg D. Jackson; Helen H., Ronny D., Ricky J. & Jo S. Kittinger; Ronny W. Lewis; William Matheny; Ann L. Miller; James Miller; Margaret E. Miller; Albert & Mimi Nonkes; Fred Omar; Sam Pate, Jr.; Dennis Patronas; James V. Peavy, Jr.; E. N. Prestriedge; Peter Quinn; Elberta G & Robert R. Reid; Richard Ryan; Glenn Scott; Charles Sprinkle; Henry M. Stevenson; Lib R. Toenes; Helen B & Percy L. Thigpen; D. C. Waldrop; Larry Watts; Beverly & John Winn.

1036 Pike Road
Birmingham 35218

ARCTIC LOON, NEW SPECIES FOR ALABAMA

Thomas A. Imhof

The presence of small individuals of the Common Loon in winter in Alabama makes it difficult to detect an Arctic Loon here, and most Alabama observers are very cautious about recording Arctic or Red-throated Loons. On the Birmingham Christmas Count, December 27, 1975, a small loon was reported without further identification by Ann Miller and Charlotte Blackshear on Oak Mountain State Park Lake. On December 28 & 29, 1975, the bird was identified as an Arctic Loon, Gavia arctica, independently by Bruce Crider and John Dunnie, by Gina and Thomas Imhof, compiler of the count, and by Keith and Helen Kittinger. Many other local observers saw the bird and verified the identification on December 30 & 31, and all agree. Satisfactory close-ups were obtained from about 60 yards with various telescopes up to 60x. The entire period was overcast, but Helen Kittinger obtained several photos in rather poor light.

Numerous field guides and other books, both American and European, were consulted both before and after viewing the bird, and the following distinctive field marks were seen by all: The bill is straight; it is shorter than the head; its depth at the base is less than two eye diameters; the head is small, not double rounded as in Common Loon; the color of the crown and hindneck is noticeably lighter than that of the back; the back has lighter edgings of the feathers, a characteristic of the immature Arctic Loon, whereas the Common Loon has all dark feathers and the Red-throated white dots; the eye has no eye-ring effect nor any white feathers in front of or above the eye as in the Common Loon (but it does have a white area below and behind the eye which is best depicted for all four loons by Don Eckelberry in Pough's Audubon Waterbird Guide). The bird was noted to be a little less than twice the length of a Pied-billed Grebe, which frequently swam in front of it. This feature cannot be used as a positive identification mark because of the small Common Loons mentioned above whose measurements of wing and total length overlap those of many Arctic Loons. However, they tell us that this bird is definitely small enough to be an Arctic.

A concerted effort was made on New Year's morning for many more observers to see the bird and for several to ease the bird toward shore where Helen Kittinger was to lie in wait with camera at the ready for a good close-up in good light. The light was excellent, as it faired off during the night; however, the bird also took advantage of the break in weather to resume (we suppose) the last leg of its flight to the coast.

With 378 species on the Alabama list as Alabama Birds went to press, we are hoping to add a species account for #379, the Masked Duck. Thus, the Arctic Loon becomes bird #380 for Alabama. Whether it is placed on the Hypothetical List depends on the quality of the photos taken under quite adverse conditions.

1036 Pike Road
Birmingham 35218

MINUTES OF THE AOS FALL MEETING

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its fall meeting October 10-12, 1975, on Dauphin Island. The Marine Resources Laboratory served as registration headquarters.

The Friday night program featured a slide presentation by Robert R. Reid, Jr., and James V. Peavy, Jr., on their trip last spring to the Southeast coast of Texas and Mexico.

The highlight of the meeting was the delicious seafood buffet served by the Dauphin Island Businessmen's Association at the community center Saturday evening.

Since there was no spring meeting, the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Howard Einspahr; Vice-President, Russell Bailey, Jr.; Secretary, Helen Thigpen; Treasurer, Juanita Goodson.

Robert R. Reid, Jr., gave a report of the slide committee and helped Russell Bailey, Jr., with the drawing of the door prizes as follows: Audubon Prints to Mr. Lee Shafer; a book, How to Attract Birds to Your Yard, to Russell Bailey, Jr.; Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America by Kortright to Ron Kittinger; and an original painting of the Worm-eating Warbler by Tuck Hayward to Elizabeth French.

President Einspahr introduced Mr. Lee Shafer of Tennessee and Mr. Daniel Jacobson of Georgia who presented an outstanding program with the use of beautiful slides, two screens, two projectors and recorded bird songs. The result was a fabulous program enjoyed by 67 members and guests attending.

The compilation held at noon Sunday on the Shell Mounds resulted in 154 species for the weekend. Most interesting were the Western and Gray Kingbirds, Magnificient Frigatebird, Parasitic Jaeger, Black Rail, American Avocet and four Oystercatchers.

Helen Kittinger
Secretary, pro tem

TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR SOUTH TEXAS AND NORTHEAST MEXICO

Those who are planning to visit South Texas and Northeast Mexico (the areas featured on the Friday evening program of the fall meeting) may wish to communicate with Victor Emanuel, 1603 West Clay, Houston, Texas 77019, and Fred Webster, Jr., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731, two experts who are most knowledgeable of birdlife of those areas and experienced in leading tours. Mr. Emanuel is President of the Texas Ornithological Society, organizer and compiler of the record-breaking Freeport Christmas Count, and conducts the Victor Emanuel Nature Tours that cover all the outstanding wildlife refuges in Texas--Aransas, Anauac, Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana--as well as other areas. Mr. Webster is South Texas Regional Editor for American Birds and leads two weekly expeditions a year to Rancho del Ceilo, America's northernmost tropical cloud forest, at Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas, Mexico--one in December-January at the time of its Christmas Count (197 species in 1974) and the other in June.

DUES NOTICE

In case you have not already done so, now is the time to send in your 1976 dues. Rates are:

$5.00	-	Sustaining
4.00	-	Family
4.00	-	Individual

Send check to Juanita T. Goodson, 609 Bonnie Brook Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35226. Make checks payable to Alabama Ornithological Society.

BIRMINGHAM TELEVISION TOWER CASUALTIES, 1975

Richard J. Remy, Jr.

Spring and fall collections were made of bird casualties at WAPI and WBRC television towers in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. The towers are located on Red Mountain and are described in Alabama Birdlife 16:4 (34)(Bierly). Table I provides the 1975 species list, seasonal numbers and dates of collection.

Spring collections began on March 15 and ended May 23. During this period, 39 individuals of 16 species were recovered. The largest kills were on May 7 and 8 with 6 and 5 birds recovered respectively. Both nights were overcast and had southerly winds up to 12 mph. Approximately 74.3% of the total recoveries followed nights with predominantly southerly winds.

There were two interesting notes for the spring collection period. On May 20, a Connecticut Warbler, which is rare on migration in the Mountain Region of Alabama, was recovered. The second bird of interest was a Red-eyed Vireo found on May 8. This bird was stunned, had lost the sight of one eye and experienced equilibrium problems. It was kept under observation and care for one week, during which time it began to respond to live food and was subsequently released.

Fall collections began on September 9 and ended November 7. During this period, 25 individuals of 11 species were recovered. Between September 29 and October 7, 56% of the total fall casualties were found. Northerly winds, overcast skies and rain were the prevailing conditions under which all casualties were recovered.

Special thanks to James V. Peavy, Jr. and Dr. Robert Stiles for their assistance.

209 Clermont Drive
Homewood 35209

TABLE I

SPECIES LIST OF 1975 TOWER CASUALTIES

SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS SPRING	INDIVIDUALS FALL	DATES
Bobwhite	1	0	March 15
Mourning Dove	1	0	May 4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	3	Oct. 3, 26, 27
Acadian Flycatcher	1	0	May 7
Wood Thrush	2	3	May 3, 7; Sept. 29; Oct. 7, 17
Hermit Thrush	0	1	Oct. 27
Swainson's Thrush	0	4	Sept. 18; Oct. 1(2), 2
Veery	1	0	May 15
White-eyed Vireo	1	1	April 24; Oct. 5
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	0	April 2
Red-eyed Vireo	16	4	April 19, 24, 25(2), 26; May 1, 3, 4, 7, 8(5), 12, 17; Sept. 10; Oct. 1, 2, 5
Magnolia Warbler	0	2	Sept. 14; Oct. 18
Blackburnian Warbler	0	1	Sept. 22
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	0	May 12
Ovenbird	0	1	Sept. 29
Kentucky Warbler	1	0	April 29
Connecticut Warbler	1	0	May 20
Yellowthroat	0	1	Oct. 5
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	1	April 19, 26; Sept. 25
Cardinal	1	0	April 18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	0	May 3, 7, 10
Indigo Bunting	1	0	April 11
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	April 18
Unidentified	4	3	April 29(2); May 7(2); Sept. 22; Oct. 2, 27

IN MEMORIAM

AOS expresses its deepest regret on the passing last November of D. H. "Red" Smalley, one of its active and long-time supporters, and extends its sympathy to his wife Bernice, the other members of his family and his many friends.

N O T I C E

It is proposed that, effective 1 January 1977, Article I, section 1 of the Bylaws of the Society be amended to read as follows:

Article I. Dues and Membership

Sec. 1. There shall be seven classes of membership.

a. ACTIVE MEMBERS. Entitled to all privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues...$5.00.

b. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (out-of-state). Entitled to all of the privileges of the Society, except the privilege to hold office and vote, upon payment of the annual dues...$4.00.

c. FAMILY MEMBERS. Entitled to voting and office-holding privileges for two adults in the same family unit, but to only one copy of all Society publications...$8.00.

d. SUSTAINING MEMBERS. Entitled to all of the privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues...$10.00.

e. STUDENT MEMBERS. Any High School or College Undergraduate Student; will not be eligible to vote or hold office...$3.00.

f. LIFE MEMBERS. Will be entitled to all the privileges of the Society, as a member desiring to pay his dues for the rest of his life in one sum. Memberships may be paid within a two-year period...$100.00.

g. HONORARY MEMBERS. Honorary memberships may be bestowed upon any persons of eminence in ornithology, who have made such contributions in Alabama or Northwest Florida. They must be elected upon the recommendation of the Council and by a majority vote of members present at the meeting. They are exempt from dues and cannot hold an elected office.

The last increase in dues for active members occurred 23 January 1971. This amendment will raise dues in most membership categories in keeping with the inflation rate over the past five years. It will also offer an additional membership category designed to ease the burden on families with more than one A.O.S. member.