

ranges of birds in Alabama. M. A. thesis, University of Alabama, University, Alabama.

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LATE PIEDMONT RECORD FOR THE PALM WARBLER

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On 9 June 1984, we recorded a singing male Palm Warbler, Dendroica palmarum, where Tallapoosa County Route 34 crosses the South Fork of Sandy Creek (Township 21 N; Range 23 E, Section 14) southwest of Dadeville, AL. The Palm Warbler was singing while the count was being made. After the 3-minutes of listening, we called up the male into the open, where we observed it from about 4 m distance for several minutes as it sang again.

Imhof 1976, in the second edition of Alabama Birds, gives May 10 as the latest Piedmont record. This observation extends the spring date to June 9.

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BIRDLIFE AT THE DAUPHIN ISLAND AIRPORT FROM 18 JULY TO 17 AUGUST 1983

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INTRODUCTION

The Dauphin Island Airport is well known as an important birding area for marsh and shore birds along the Alabama coast. To our knowledge no literature (with the exception of individual checklists) has been published discussing birdlife at the airport. The purpose of this

study was to determine which bird species utilized the airport marsh environs for feeding or loafing areas from mid to late summer 1983.

STUDY AREA

The Dauphin Island Airport is located on the north side of Dauphin Island, AL, 2.8 km west of the Causeway. The marsh covers approximately 50 hectares. During high tide most of this area is inundated with water from the Mississippi Sound. During low tide several mud flats are exposed on the north side of the airport. These mud flats and exposed marsh areas provide excellent feeding areas for many species of shore and marsh birds. Vegetation includes typical marsh plants such as: 2 cordgrasses (Spartina alterniflora and S. patens), black needlerush (Juncus roemerianus), salt grass (Distichlis spicata), marsh elder (Iva frutescens), sea myrtle (Baccharis halmifolia), and marsh pennywort (Hydrocotyle umbellata). The airport itself has limited use from light aircraft (primarily one aircraft).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Censuses were conducted on evenings when mud flats were exposed, providing feeding and loafing areas for the birds. All data were recorded between 1900 hrs and dark. Observations were performed by a minimum of 2 people positioned in different locations thereby encompassing a larger field of view. Visual and vocal observations of birds on the mud flats, in the marsh, or flying overhead were recorded with the aid of a spotting scope and binoculars. Weather conditions were also recorded for each observation period.

DISCUSSION

A total of 48 species was observed at the airport from 18 July through 17 August 1983 (Table 1 and Table 2). There was a slight increase in the number of species seen per day as the censusing progressed. The Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoenicius) was the most abundant

species present followed by the Laughing Gull (Larus atricilla), Clapper Rail (Rallus longirostris), and Black Skimmer (Rhynchops niger).

Some species were not observed until the second week in August. The most notable of these were the Plovers, Sanderling (Calidris alba), and Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia). The Black-bellied Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) was obviously an early migrant. The other individuals mentioned may also have been early migrants or were undergoing post-breeding dispersal.

Purple Martins (Progne subis) were observed regularly through 9 August but were not seen at the airport after that. During the second and third weeks of August large concentrations of Purple Martins were seen at the Isle Dauphin Country Club. The birds were probably congregating prior to their southward migration.

At the beginning of the study we suspected that there might be a correlation between the numbers and kind of birds seen and the weather. No such correlation was found.

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Table 1. Numbers of species and individuals observed at the Dauphin Island Airport from 18 July through 17 August, 1983

	July										August						
	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	4	5	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	
Brown Pelican																5	
American Bittern							1	1									
Least Bittern				1	1			1					1				
Great Blue Heron									1		2			1			
Great Egret										1	2	2				1	
Snowy Egret				6	5			2		3	1	2	1		1	1	
Little Blue Heron		1					1							1			
Tricolored Heron						1	2	1				1	1		1		
Reddish Egret		1															
Green-backed Heron									1		1				2	1	
Black-crowned Night Heron				1													
Yellow-crowned Night Heron								4	2		1	1		1	1	1	
Clapper Rail	6	7	7	8	7	5	7	10	8	14	6	8	6	3	11	11	
Black-bellied Plover												1	2		2	2	
Wilson's Plover												2	1				
Semipalmated Plover												1	2	1	2	2	
Piping Plover												1				1	
American Oystercatcher	5			1	2	2	1			2					1	3	
Greater Yellowlegs					9	9		2									
Willet		2	2	3	2	2	2	3				2		1		2	
Spotted Sandpiper													3		2		
Sanderling												1	1			1	
Semipalmated Sandpiper							11		3	3							
Pectoral Sandpiper																3	
Short-billed Dowitcher										1							

Table 1. Continued.

	July							August								
	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	4	5	7	8	9	14	15	16	17
Laughing Gull			11	44	12	20	7	9	19	32	6	5	31	5	21	21
Herring Gull																2
Caspian Tern				2								8				
Royal Tern		1	3				3	15	25	5	3	5	12		5	11
Sandwich Tern												2				
Common Tern					3		1					5			5	
Forster's Tern												12				
Least Tern		3	4	5	2	5	4	4	7	4	7	2	3	2	2	3
Black Skimmer	11	13	14	7	7	5	4	8	2	5	5	8	3	1	5	6
Mourning Dove		1	21	9	8	3	2	1	10	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
Common Ground-Dove		3														
Common Nighthawk		3			1	2	1	8	3	1	4	4	4	1	9	1
Chimney Swift				3	3	6	3	3		2	3					
Belted Kingfisher										1		1				
Purple Martin	16	17	24	6	4	8	3	21	33	6	5	5				
Barn Swallow				5	5	12	6	11	21	3	3	10	5		5	50
Fish Crow				1	2	3	1	2	4	2	2	3	2	1	3	1
Northern Mockingbird					2							1		1	1	
European Starling												5	5			
Seaside Sparrow				2	1	1		2	2	2		2	2	1		2
Red-winged Blackbird	21	14	22	27	11	75	5	26	21	23	8	24	85	11	31	24
Common Grackle					3											
House Sparrow					3											
No. Species per Day	5	10	11	18	20	16	19	20	16	19	16	25	25	14	22	24

Table 2. Total No. Individuals per Day. Dauphin Island
Airport from 18 July through 17 August, 1983

July 18	59
July 19	60
July 20	114
July 22	134
July 23	90
July 24	159
July 25	65
August 4	134
August 5	162
August 7	111
August 8	59
August 9	99
August 14	200
August 15	31
August 16	115
August 17	154

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WHITE PHASE REDDISH EGRET (Egretta rufescens)
OBSERVED ON DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL.

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While on a birding trip to Dauphin Island's west end on 12 July 1984 at 1830 hrs, a dark phase Reddish Egret and a "white egret" were observed feeding side by side in a tidal pool on the north side of the island. After further observation it was determined that the "white egret" was indeed a white phase Reddish Egret. The late afternoon sky was overcast and we were able to approach within