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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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**SECOND RECORD FOR THE CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD
(*STELLULA CALLIOPE*) IN ALABAMA**

Robert R. and Martha B. Sargent



Figure 1. This Calliope Hummingbird overwintered south of Birmingham near Montevallo. (Photo by Paul Franklin)

On 22 February, 1991, my wife, Martha, and I received a call from Mrs. Martha Reid of Birmingham, informing us of a hummingbird that was wintering at a feeder about 30 miles south of Birmingham in Shelby County. We investigated the location at 5303 Highway 119 South on 23 February, but found neither the hummingbird nor the homeowner at home.

I returned to the location on 26 February and met the homeowner, Mr. Taylor Hill. Immediately upon our arrival, the hummingbird made an extended feeding trip to the feeder and my first impression, when viewed from about 75 feet away with 8x42 Elite binoculars, was that of a very small female plumage bird with a very short bill and tail. Mr. Hill had described the bird as a "baby hummingbird," because of its similarity to the familiar Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*), but the overall size was much too small even for a male Ruby-throated, which is smaller than

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the female.

I immediately set up my trapping apparatus and the bird returned and perched in a dogwood tree (*Cornus florida*) within 20 feet of my viewing position. This much closer look with eight power binoculars again revealed a very short, needle-like bill, small head, green back shimmering with a faint bluish cast, and a very dark tail contrasting with the green back. The tail appeared black with white tips on the outer retrices. No other color was noted in the retrices at this time. A striking feature noticed when the bird was perching was a cinnamon-buff wash that extended from the sides of the breast back along the sides and flanks. The wash on the undertail coverts was a pale cinnamon color. The throat had dusky bronze-green spots on an almost white to grayish white background. A small triangular black spot was observed in front of the eye. The bird continually chirped and scolded with a very high pitched tinkling, slightly metallic twittering. I was again struck by the overall tiny appearance and had no doubt that the bird was a Calliope.

With the permission of Mr. Hill the bird was trapped and banded (band # 8000 T17069) and the following measurements recorded: wing - 41.37mm, tail - 21.9mm, exposed culmen - 15.02mm, weight - 2.89 grams. In addition, photographs were taken and a millimeter rule placed by the bird for size comparison. The measurements were very close to other Calliope Hummingbirds banded east of the Mississippi River. The following are shown for comparison: band # 8000 T16425, banded at Fort Walton Beach, Florida 18 December, 1989 (first state record): wing - 41.2mm, tail - 22.8mm, exposed culmen - 14.7mm, weight - 2.80 grams. Another bird, found dead (frozen) 24 December, 1989, near Mobile (first state record, *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 37, No. 2) had the following measurements: wing - 40.5mm, tail - 22.3mm, exposed culmen - 15.3mm, weight - 2.37 grams. All three of these birds appeared to be females.

In hand, the description noted prior to capture was supplemented with the following data: central retrices #1 and #2 subspatulate in shape, (Figure 2), their width at the widest point being 5.47mm and 5.71mm respectively. The color of the distal one third of each of the feathers was a deep purple-black, changing to green which tapered sharply toward the base. The constricted basal one third was a light to reddish-buff, with the buff color in an arc-shaped indentation toward the shaft, which was dark purple with a reddish tone. *These very narrow subspatulate retrices having a rich buff arc of color are diagnostic of Calliope Hummingbirds.*

Retrices #1, #2, and #5 were taken for documentation prior to releasing the bird. In addition, two sample feathers were taken from the breast and undertail coverts for further documentation.

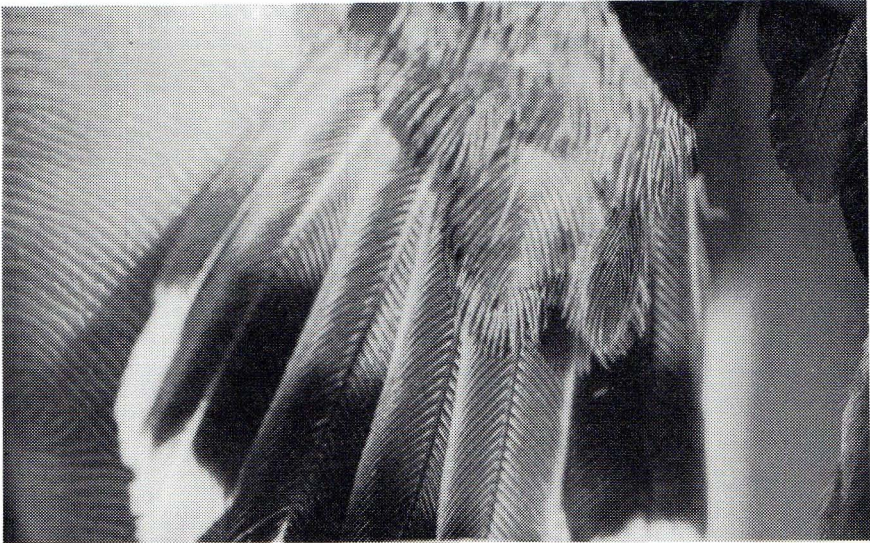


Figure 2. Tail of Calliope Hummingbird showing diagnostic subspatulate shape of central retrices. (Photo by Robert R. Sargent)

The bird appeared at Mr. Hill's feeder apparently as early as 15 October, 1990, and was the only hummingbird present after the exodus of southward migrating Ruby-throateds. As stated in the previous issue of *Alabama Birdlife* (Vol. 37, No. 2), the Calliope is no stranger to cold weather since it nests in the Rockies when snow is still on the ground and nightly temperatures can be near or below freezing.

The Calliope Hummingbird summers in the northwestern United States and western Canada and like the Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) and Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*), is probably a winter visitor to the southeastern United States more often than previously thought.

All wintering hummingbirds at your feeders are best identified in the hand unless they are adult males. Your continued assistance in locating these wintering birds is both appreciated and solicited.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr. Taylor Hill for his hospitality to hundreds of observers from all over the southeast and for allowing us to band and study this special bird.

Robert R. and Martha B. Sargent, Route #1 Box 558-G, Trussville, Alabama 35173.

**STATUS OF THE RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE
(*BRANTA CANADENSIS*) FLOCK ON EUFAULA NWR**

Daniel J. Drennen

INTRODUCTION

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge's (ENWR) flock of resident transplanted Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) is the oldest in Alabama, having been transplanted to the refuge in 1965. The stocks placed on the refuge were *B. c. canadensis*, *interior*, and *maxima* (Combs et al 1984). The history and implications of transplanting Canada Geese on ENWR were reviewed by Johnson et al (1976) and Oberheu (1973).

METHODS

Basic trend data on population size and gosling productivity were gathered between 1980 and 1991 by refuge staff during winter waterfowl surveys and spring gosling counts. In 1991 a 14 point questionnaire addressing flock depredation on crops (corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum) and fouling of public areas was mailed to 46 landowners within a 30 mile (48.3 km) radius of the refuge. Brood sightings were also addressed. This paper reports those findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Census data collected between 1980–1991 on wintering (Dec–Jan) goose populations suggests that they are mainly residents. Migrant additions, when present, do not occur in large numbers (Table 1, Figure 1). In 1985 and 1989 single neck banded geese were observed on the refuge. None were reported between 1981 and 1984. *Branta canadensis minima* were sighted during the 1989–1991 seasons by refuge personnel. Small numbers (<25) of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) have been consistently observed and Drennen (1989) reported a Ross' goose (*Chen rossii*) on the refuge in the winter of 1989.

Higher winter count totals were not apparent even during years of low lake levels when there was an increase in grazing areas and planted row crops within the refuge river valley. Goose numbers during the fall and winter have stayed consistent. Spring adult counts, however, were lower in 1989 and 1990. This may be related to census techniques and the

dispersal of goose pairs in spring to remote locations.

There has been no noticeable increase in Canada Geese. Data collected on adult summer birds suggest that the population may be stable (Table 1). Combs et al (1985) believed that the resident population of geese had grown to about 500 by 1982. Winter census data for that year showed the highest number (628) counted during the previous 12 years of surveys.

Gosling production data (Table 2, Figure 2) on the refuge suggest that since 1977 production has been sporadic with higher totals reported in 1979, 1982, 1985 and 1986. Low number years may be related to water level fluctuations and depredation by predators. Combs et al (1985) found water levels to be a significant factor in nest and gosling mortality. He believed, however, that low gosling survival was probably offset by high adult survival.

During 1991, the Corps of Engineers counted >40 goslings at subdivisions around the "lower end of the lake" and about 100 goslings at White Oak Creek and East Bank Parks, all south of ENWR.

Thus, trend data suggests that the resident ENWR Canada goose flock is stable with high adult survival offsetting low gosling survival. Population numbers seem to stay consistent throughout the year with no substantial increase from migrants. The resident geese have now expanded off of ENWR and are reproducing as farsouth as East Bank Park, northeast to Fort Benning and as far west as the Grant Farm.

Goose depredation on sprouting corn in the Houston Unit of the ENWR is common and winter waterfowl food plots are sometimes damaged. In some fields at least 20% of the crop was lost in 1991. Similar damage occurred in 1990 and 1989. The geese have become habituated to "Zoon Guns" and "Screamer Sirens" scare devices. At wood duck banding sites geese consumed large amounts of the corn bait.

Complaints by landowners concerning spring and summer flock depredation on crops and fouling of public places have increased. Of the 46 questionnaires issued, 34 (73.9%) were returned. Most problems seem to be isolated, and occur on farmland adjacent to the refuge or on neighboring recreation areas (Table 3). Economic impacts on the majority of landowners were minor. Seven landowners reported <\$300 of damage occurred per year. In four instances there were >\$300 of damage reported per year. Most complaints involved cleanup of public beaches, re-seeding of crops sown in early spring, and surprisingly, peanut depredation in late summer.

Most economic damages attributed to Canada geese are isolated and account for <\$300. However instances of >\$300 were reported. Effected areas are mainly public beaches and croplands.

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**TABLE 1. RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE FLOCK
1980-1991 AND 1985-1991 TRENDS**

Date	Dec-Jan Counts	June-July Counts
1991	556	390
1990	593	147
1989	335	157
1988	506	512
1987	476	491
1986	521	374
1985	518	589
1984	475	*
1983	529	*
1982	628	*
1981	545	*
1980	317	*
X ± s.d. =	499.92 ± 92.32	380.00 ± 172.04

* No count made during these years.

TABLE 2. GOSLING TOTALS (MAY/JUNE, 1977-1991)

Date	Total Goslings Counted
1991	84
1990	62
1989	28
1988	70
1987	91
1986	118
1985	118
1984	-
1983	-
1982*	160
1981*	76
1980*	74
1979*	101
1978*	88
1977*	74
X ± s.d. =	88.00 ± 32.03

* Taken from Combs et al (1984), expressed as eggs hatched.

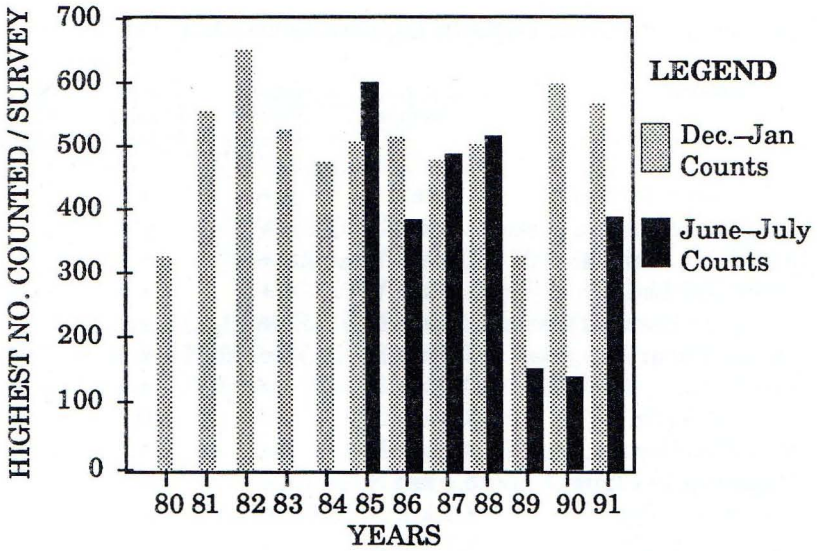


Figure 1. Adult resident Canada Goose flock; 1980-1991 and 1985-1991 Trends.

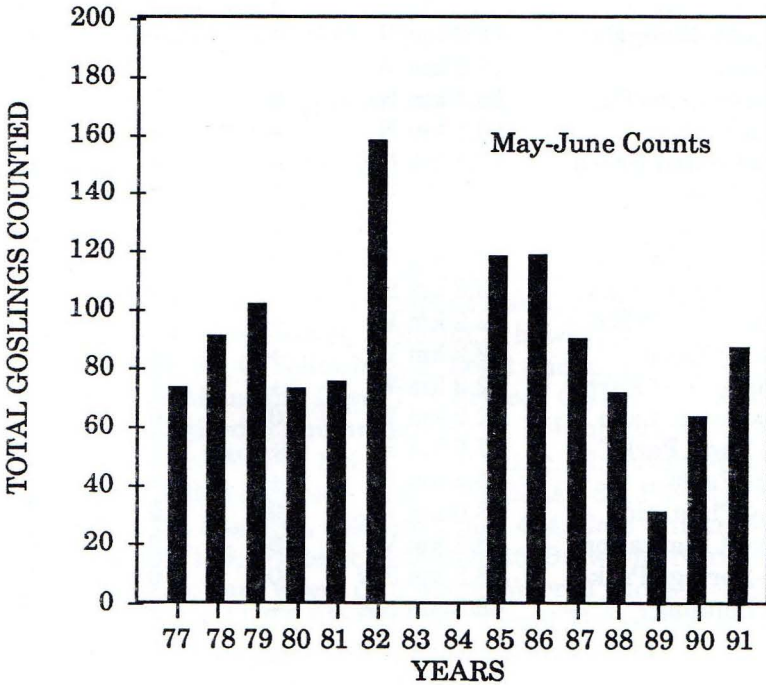


Figure 2. Gosling survey totals, 1977-1991.

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TABLE 3. CANADA GOOSE QUESTIONNAIRE DATA

Name	Approx. Km from Refuge office	Adults Present at times	Broods Present in May-Ju	Negative Economic Effect
Refuge coop farmer	Al side	+	+	-
LakePoint Park	<1.6 km W	+	-	-
LakePoint Marina	<1.6 km W	+	+	0
LakePoint Lodge	<1.6 km W	+	+	0
Scroggins Farm	<1.6 km N	+	+	-
Mann's Farm	<3.2 km S	+	+	0
Barr Farm	<3.2 km S	+	+	0
Waddell Farm	3.2 km SE	0	0	0
W. C. Bradley Co.	3.2 km E	+	+	-
Cedar Hghts Plant	8.1 km N	+	+	0
Lakeside Lodge	8.1 km S	0	0	0
City of Eufaula	8.1 km S	+	+	-
Lockwood Farm	8.1 km W	+	+	-
Cowikee Campground	9.6 km W	+	+	0
Country Club Al.	12.9 km S	+	0	0
Florence Marina	12.9 km N	+	+	0
Gray Farm	12.9 km W	+	+	-
Hatchachubbe Cr.	16.1 km N	0	0	0
Bowden Farm	16.1 km N	+	+	-
Mead Coated Board	17.7 km NE	+	+	0
Briar Creek Park	19.2 km N	0	0	0
Bluff Creek Park	22.5 km NE	0	0	0
Geo. T. Bagby Park	24.1 km SE	+	+	0
White Oak LCreek	25.8 km S	+	+	-
Barbour Co. WMA	32.2 km W	+	+	-
Hartzog Farm	32.2 km W	+	+	0
Cowikee Turf Farm	32.2 km W	+	+	0
Barbour Co. Lake	32.2 km W	0	0	0
East Bank Park	37.0 km S	+	+	-
Grant Farm	40.2 km W	+	+	0
Schoy Plantation	48.0 km W	0	0	0
Wycott Plantation	48.3 km W	0	0	0
Blue Springs Park	48.3 km SW	0	0	0
Fort Benning	48.3 km NE	+	+	0

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Oberhou, J.C. 1973. Success of resident Canada geese on National wildlife refuges in the Southeast. *Proc. Annu. Conf. Southeast Assoc. Game and Fish Comm.* 27:56-61.

Daniel J. Drennen, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 2, Box 97-B, Eufaula, Alabama 36027.

ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1990-91

Thomas A. Imhof

BIRMINGHAM, Dec. 22, 43 observers, 80.5 party-hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 13; Gt Blue Heron, 25; Canada Goose, 48; Wood Duck, 4; Mallard, 18; Blue-wg Teal, 1; Gadwall, 2; Canvasback, 14; Ring-nk Duck, 22; Hooded Merganser, 2; Ruddy Duck, 4; ducks, 13; Turkey Vulture, 5; Sharp-shin Hawk, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shld Hawk, 12; Red-tail Hawk, 46; Am Kestrel, 5; Merlin, 1; hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 18; Am Coot, 8; Killdeer, 95; G Yellowlegs, 2; Least Sandp, 1; Com Snipe, 14; Rock Dove, 956; Mourning Dove, 775; Screech Owl, 4; Barred Owl, 2; Rufous Hummingbird, 1; hummingbird, 1; B Kingfisher, 30; Red-hd Wdpkr, 32; Red-bel Wdpkr, 104; Y-b Sapsucker, 23; Downy Wdpkr, 48; Hairy Wdpkr, 3; Red-cockaded Wdpkr, 3; Flicker, 85; Pileated Wdpkr, 15; E Phoebe, 20; Blue Jay, 452; Am Crow, 414; Caro Chickadee, 301; Tufted Titmouse, 169; White-br Nuthatch, 46; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 90; Brown Creeper, 5; Caro Wren, 150; Winter Wren, 1; Golden-cr Kinglet, 63; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 113; E Bluebird, 97; Hermit Thrush, 14; Am Robin, 340; Catbird, 1; Mockingbird, 158; Brown Thrasher, 41; Am Pipit, 30; Cedar Waxwing, 911; L Shrike, 11; Starling, 1869; Orange-cr Warbler, 1;

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Myrtle Warb, 52; Pine Warb, 54; Cardinal, 353; Towhee, 178; Chipping Sparrow, 170; Field Sp, 76; Vesper Sp, 6; Savannah Sp, 30; Grasshopper Sp, 1; Fox Sp, 5; Song Sp, 167; Swamp Sp, 20; Whitethroat, 409; White-cr Sp, 2; Junco, 262; Redwing, 3813; E Meadowlark, 62; Rusty Blackbird, 260; Brewer's Blackbird, 25; Com Grackle, 5282; Brown-hd Cowbird, 1013; blackbird, 4000; Purple Finch, 20; House Finch, 124; Pine Siskin, 3; Am Goldfinch, 280; House Sp, 124. Count Week, Bufflehead, Ring-b Gull.

Total species, 87; individuals, 24,551.

Compiler, Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road Birmingham, AL 35218

GULF SHORES, Dec 29, 56 observers, 181 party-hours.

Com Loon, 174; Pied-b Grebe, 34; Horned Grebe, 24; Gannet, 213; Brown Pelican, 239; D-c Cormorant, 1052; Gt Blue Horon, 162; Gt Egret, 9; Snowy Egret, 7; Little Blue Heron, 7; Green Heron, 2; Blk-cr N Heron, 2; Snow Goose, 2; Wood Duck, 18; Mottled Duck, 5; Mallard, 90; Pintail, 1; Blue-wg Teal, 1; Gadwall, 7; teal, 6; Redhead, 41; Ring-nk Duck, 95; L Scaup, 56; Oldsquaw, 1; Bufflehead, 233; Hooded Merganser, 36; Red-br Merganser, 277; duck, 12; Turkey Vulture, 17; Osprey, 5; Harrier, 27; Sharp-shin Hawk, 9; Cooper's Hawk, 5; accipiter, 2; Red-shldr Hawk, 7; Red-tail Hawk, 39; buteo, 4; Am Kestrel, 122; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Bobwhite, 35; Clapper Rail, 22; King Rail, 1; Virginia Rail, 4; Sora, 13; Moorhen, 7; Am Coot, 13; rail, 1; Sandhill Crane, 27; Black-b Plover, 15; Snowy Plover, 7; Semipalm Plover, 3; Killdeer, 839; G Yellowlegs, 24; L Yellowlegs, 6; Willet, 60; Spotted Sandp, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 6; Sanderling, 331; Western Sandp, 141; Least Sandp, 68; Dunlin, 170; Stilt Sandp, 4; Com Snipe, 24; Am Woodcock, 3; Parasitic Jaeger, 1; Laughing Gull, 1058; Bonaparte's Gull, 269; Ring-b Gull, 741; Herring Gull, 212; Caspian Tern, 4; Royal Tern, 206; Sandwich Tern, 1; Com Tern, 2; Forster's Tern, 342; Black Skimmer, 2; Rock Dove, 243; Mourning Dove, 1277; Ground Dove, 17; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 23; Gt Horned Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 1; Bel Kingfisher, 61; Red-bel Wdpkr, 152; Yel-b Sapsucker, 19; Downy Wdpkr, 32; Hairy Wdpkr, 7; Flicker, 150; Pileated Wdpkr, 21; woodpecker, 1; E Phoebe, 130; Tree Swallow, 126; Blue Jay, 353; Am Crow, 60; Fish Crow, 40; Caro Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 32; Red-br Nuthatch, 1; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 78; Carolina Wren, 121; House Wren, 60; Sedge Wren, 10; Marsh Wren, 44; Golden-cr Kinglet, 29; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 184; Bl-gr Gnatcatcher, 22; E Bluebird, 293; Hermit Thrush, 40; Wood Thrush, 2; Am Robin, 33,213; Catbird, 108; Mockingbird, 468; Brown Thrasher, 50; Am. Pipit, 376; Cedar Waxwing, 838; L Shrike, 134; Starling, 2040; White-e Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 28; Yellow-thr

Vireo, 1; Orange-cr Warbler, 20; Myrtle Warb, 7676; Pine Warb, 247; Palm Warb, 49; Ovenbird, 1; Com Yellowthroat, 34; Cardinal, 234; Towhee, 193; Chipping Sparrow, 190; Field Sp, 124; Vesper Sp. 66; Savannah Sp. 460; Grasshopper Sp, 2; Henslow's Sp. 1; Le Conte's Sp. 2; Sharp-tl Sp, 2; Seaside Sp, 3; Song Sp, 150; Lincoln's Sp, 2; Swamp Sp, 321; White-thr Sp, 421; White-cr Sp, 1; sparrow, 45; Junco, 2; Red-wg Blkbd, 22,765; E Meadowlark, 596; Brewer's Blkbd, 3; Boat-tl Grackle, 68; Com Grackle, 975; Brown-hd Cowbird, 210; blackbird, 2525; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, 28; Am Goldfinch, 141; House Sparrow, 194. Count Week, Am Bittern, Green-wg Teal, Surf Scoter, Black Vulture.

Total Species, 147; individuals, 86,378.

Compiler, Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 25244

MOBILE-TENSAW, Dec 22, 12 observers, 54 party-hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 51; White Pelican, 611; Brown Pelican, 98; D-cr Cormorant, 290; Gt Blue Heron, 83; Gt Egret, 188; Snowy Egret, 64; L Blue Heron, 33; Tricolored Heron, 14; Cattle Egret, 1; Blk-cr N Heron, 9; White Ibis, 290; Glossy Ibis, 10; Snow Goose, 36; Wood Duck, 4; Green-wg Teal, 220; Mallard, 11; Blue-wg Teal, 27; Shoveler, 3; Gadwall, 111; Am Wigeon, 200; Canvasback, 2; Redhead, 50; Ring-nk Duck, 175; L Scaup, 247; scaup, 17; Bufflehead, 12; Hooded Merganser, 10; Red-br Merganser, 7; Ruddy Duck, 2; duck, 377; Blk Vulture, 18; Turkey Vulture, 57; Osprey, 11; Harrier, 3; Sharp-shin Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shldr Hawk, 7; Red-tail Hawk, 16; buteo, 3; Am Kestrel, 27; falcon, 1; Turkey, 10; Bobwhite, 26; Com Moorhen, 8; Am Coot, 3129; Blk-b Plover, 71; Killdeer, 92; Blk-nk Stilt, 68; Am Avocet, 93; G Yellowlegs, 25; L Yellowlegs, 17; yellowlegs, 32; Spotted Sandp. 1; Long-b Curlew, 2; Western Sandp, 85; Least Sandp, 80; Dunlin, 146; S-b Dowitcher, 20; Com Snipe, 15; Am Woodcock, 15; peep, 300; Laughing Gull, 892; Bonaparte's Gull, 51; Ring-b Gull, 439; Herring Gull, 100; gull, 430; Caspian Tern, 30; Royal Tern, 19; Forster's Tern, 266; Blk Skimmer, 8; tern, 25; Rock Dove, 10; Mourning Dove, 296; Ground Dove, 5; B Kingfisher, 27; Red-b Wdpkr, 32; Y-b Sapsucker, 9; Downy Wdpkr, 4; Flicker, 35; Pileated Wdpkr, 11; wdpkr, 1; E Phoebe, 37; Blue Jay, 93; Am Crow, 14; Caro Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Caro Wren, 27; House Wren, 7; Sedge Wren, 3; Golden cr Kinglet, 37; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 56; Bl-gr Gnatcatcher, 5; E Bluebird, 101; Hermit Thrush, 1; Am Robin, 1179; Catbird, 4; Mockingbird, 43; Brown Thrasher, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 42; L Shrike, 3; Starling, 156;

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Solitary Vireo, 9; Orange-cr Warb, 6; Myrtle Warb, 557; Pine Warb, 65; Com Yellowthroat, 3; Cardinal, 39; Towhee, 26; Chipping Sp. 122; Field Sp, 1; Song Sp, 11; White-thr Sp, 100; Junco, 1; Red-wg Blkbd, 3477; E Meadowlark, 41; Rusty Blkbd, 1; Boat-tl Grackle, 193; Com Grackle, 59; Brown-hd Cowbd, 42; blkbd, 3675; House Finch, 7; Am Goldfinch, 38; House Sp, 11.

Total species, 116; individuals, 20,638.

Compiler, Roger Clay, 306 N Bayview, Fairhope, AL 36532

MONTGOMERY, Dec 29, 19 observers, 51 party-hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 1; D-c Cormorant, 611; Am Bittern, 1; Gt Blue Heron, 100; Gt Egret, 251; Canada Goose, 4; Wood Duck, 225; Black Duck, 2; Mallard, 430; Pintail, 1; Blue-wg Teal, 5; Gadwall, 3; Wigeon, 15; Ring-nk Duck, 80; Bufflehead, 20; Hooded Merganser, 2; Blk Vulture, 1; Osprey, 1; Harrier, 4; Sharp-shin Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 4; Red-tail Hawk, 33; Am Kestrel, 29; Turkey, 4; Bobwhite, 40; Am Coot, 2; Killdeer, 277; G Yellowlegs, 8; Spotted Sandp, 1; Least Sandp, 9; Dunlin, 1; peep, 3; Com Snipe, 46; Ring-b Gull, 186; Herring Gull, 4; Rock Dove, 158; Mourning Dove, 472; Gt Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 3; B Kingfisher, 24; Red-hd Wdpkr, 14; Red-bel Wdpkr, 42; Y-b Sapsucker, 36; Downy Wdpkr, 20; Flicker, 78; Pileated Wdpkr, 1; E Phoebe, 23; Blue Jay, 192; Am Crow, 60; Fish Crow, 2; Caro Chickadee, 153; Tufted Titmouse, 66; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 11; Brown Creeper, 4; Caro Wren, 85; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 2; Marsh Wren, 1; Golden-cr Kinglet, 22; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 57; E Bluebird, 45; Hermit Thrush, 1; Am Robin, 4523; Mockingbird, 204; Brown Thrasher, 22; Am Pipit, 49; Cedar Waxwing, 231; L Shrike, 47; Starling, 1481; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-cr Warb, 1; Myrtle Warb, 426; Pine Warb, 39; Palm Warb, 16; Cardinal, 261; Towhee, 55; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sp, 28; Vesper Sp, 1; Savannah Sp, 35; Fox Sp, 1; Song Sp, 151; Swamp Sp, 61; White-thr Sp, 396; sparrow, 100; Junco, 52; Redwing, 2433; E Meadowlark, 134; Com Grackle, 1965; Brown-hd Cowbird, 44; blackbird, 5000; (N) Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Finch, 15; House Finch, 348; Am Goldfinch, 37; House Sp, 95. Count Week, Turkey Vulture, Catbird, Brewer's Blackbird.

Total species, 94; individuals, 22,237.

Compiler, Lawrence Gardella, 350 Cloverdale Rd., Montgomery, AL 36104.

WATERLOO, Dec 15, 23 observers, 70 party-hours.

Com Loon, 9; Pied-b Grebe, 26; Horned Grebe, 11; D-c Cormorant, 51; Gt Blue Heron, 363; Gt Egret, 1; Wood Duck, 17; Green-wg Teal, 1; Black

Duck, 1; Mallard, 375; Pintail, 5; Gadwall, 220; Am Wigeon, 10; Ring-nk Duck, 7; L Scaup, 4; Com Goldeneye, 35; Bufflehead, 182; Hooded Merganser, 310; Red-br Merganser, 2; Bald Eagle, 51; Harrier, 5; Sharpshin Hawk, 2; Red-shldrd Hawk, 5; Red-tail Hawk, 34; Am Kestrel, 12; Bobwhite, 29; Am Coot, 85; Killdeer, 163; Com Snipe, 75; Am Woodcock, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 687; Ring-b Gull, 583; Herring Gull, 34; Forster's Tern, 1; Rock Dove, 109; Mourning Dove, 205; Screech Owl, 4; Barred Owl, 7; B Kingfisher, 27; Red-hd Wkpk, 1; Red-bel Wdpk, 63; Yel-b Sapsucker, 24; Downy Wdpk, 58; Hairy Wdpk, 9; Flicker, 80; Pileated Wdpk, 16; E Phoebe, 7; Horned Lark, 101; Blue Jay, 267; Am Crow, 242; Caro Chickadee, 237; Tufted Titmouse, 180; Red-br Nuthatch, 10; White-br Nuthatch, 30; Brown Creeper, 11; Carolina Wren, 115; Winter Wren, 9; Golden-cr Kinglet, 79; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 83; E Bluebird, 121; Hermit Thrush, 25; Am Robin, 310; Mockingbird, 55; Brown Thrasher, 5; Am Pipit, 19; Cedar Waxwing, 410; L Shrike, 8; Starling, 581; Myrtle Warb, 25; Pine Warb, 10; Cardinal, 326; E Towhee, 66; Chipping Sp, 2; Field Sp, 294; Savannah Sp, 24; Fox Sp, 19; Song Sp, 250; Swamp Sp, 46; White-th Sp, 365; White-cr Sp, 25; Junco, 351; Red-wg Blkbd, 102; E Meadowlk, 141; Brewer's Blkbd, 100; Com Grackle, 909; Brn-hd Cowbd, 76; Purple Finch, 24; House Finch, 22; Am Goldfinch, 261; House Sp, 102. **Total species, 90; individuals, 10,445.**

Compilers, Paul Kittle, Box 5161, Univ. N. Alabama, Florence, AL 35632, and Ned Piper, 1302 Rush St., Tusculmbia, AL 35674.

LIST OF OBSERVERS with initials of count in which each participated. Bob Andrews, MT; Gussie Arnett, GS; Laurie Bailey, GS, MT; Russell Bailey, B; Raymond Bates, B; Michael Beuerlein, Wa; Paul Blevins, GS; Joel Black, Mg; Roberta Bonwit, GS; Laura Bounds, MT; Bill Bremser, GS; Lela Brewer, GS; Walt Burch, Wa; Linda Buzzard, B, GS; Roger Clay, MT; Karen Coghill, B; Dwight Cooley, GS; Gwen Cox, GS; Dick Crittenden, B, GS; Vanessa Crittenden, GS; Ed Cross, Wa; Martha Dagg, B; Margaret Dauber, Mg; Mark Dauber, Mg; Kim Davis, GS; Bob Duncan, GS; Lucy Duncan, GS; Scott Duncan, GS; William Duncan, GS; Carol Eldridge, B; Owen Fang, GS; Gene Fleming, GS; Carolyn Flory, GS; Mary Floyd, GS, MT; Paul Franklin, B, GS; Venetia Friend, MT; Lawrence Gardella, Mg; Ben Garmon, G, GS; Jeff Garner, Wa; Sid Garner, Wa; David George, B, GS; Peggy Gibbs, GS; Philip Gidiere, Mg; Stephen Gidiere, Mg; Billy Gilliland, B; Jimmy Gilliland, B; Marsha Goldstein, B; Tom Haggerty, Wa; Bill Haley, Wa; Martin Hardy, Wa; Paulette Haywood, B; Jeff Hill, Wa; Sharon Hudgins, B; Marilyn

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Huey, B; Gina Imhof, B; Thomas Imhof, B; Greg Ippolito, B; Greg Jackson, GS; Bettye James, B; Joyce Johnson, GS; Alice Johnston, GS; Lan Jones, WA; Jim Keeler, Mg; Charles Kennedy, Mg; Curtis Kingsbery, GS; Helen Kittinger, B, GS; Paul Kittle, Wa; Richard Landry, B; Ira Kupferberg, Mg; David Larsen, B; Eric Lefstad, GS; Wilma Lindberg, B; Jan Lloyd, GS; Frank Logan, GS; Mike McMillan, GS; Andrea Menyhert, Mg; Buzz Merchlewitz, GS; Pat Meyer, GS; Daryl Michael, GS; Ann Miller, GS; Howard Morris, Mg; Sue Morris, Mg; Barbara Munson, B; Larry Neill, Wa; Jane Newell, Wa; Victor Nichols, GS; Minnie Nonkes, GS, MT; Phyllis Nofzinger, Wa; Dee Patterson, Wa; James Peavy, GS; James Pfeiffer, GS; Bill Phillips, Mg; Ned Piper, Wa; Pat Price, B; Eloise Rafferty, B; Elberta Reid, B, GS; Robert E Reid, GS; Robert R Reid, B, GS; Bill Rogers, Wa; Ila Roose, GS; Miriam Rueger, B; Michael Russell, B, GS; Jenisa Ryals, MT; Bob Sargent, GS; Martha Sargent, GS; Maureen Shaffer, B, GS; Floyd Sherrod, Wa; Don Simbeck, Wa; Maude Skiba, MT; Idalene Snead, B; Donna Spencer, B; Jody Springer, Wa; Julie Strong, Mg; Betsy Tetlow, GS; Phil Tetlow, GS; Mary Tiller, GS; Ralph Tiller, GS; Therese Tonitis, B; Helen Thigpen, B; Wayne Tubberville, Mg; Lisa Vera, MT; Susanne Wadsworth, Wa; Mary Wakefield, Wa; Ralph Wallace, Wa; Steve Ward, Mg; Donald Ware, GS; Ted Weems, GS; Jerry Weidler, Mg; Mary Weidler, Mg; Chan West, GS; Carter Whatley, Mg; John Winn, MT; Jimmy Woolbright, Mg; total 133.

A SUMMARY OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AT AUBURN, ALABAMA, 1954-1990

Julian L. Dusi

Christmas bird counts have been taken in the Auburn, Alabama area since 1954. Some of the counts were recorded in *Alabama Birdlife*; others are just recorded in my field journals. Unfortunately, counts could not be made every year. Many participants took part in the counts. However, the number of participants was never great enough to cover the entire area, so the counts each year covered the north university pond area, the campus area, and various spots in the city, staying within the 7.5 mile radius of the center of Auburn and were done within the Audubon count period.

Many fluctuations in species and numbers can be seen in Table 1. Often fluctuations can be attributed to the date and weather of the count day and that preceding it; often to the abilities of the participants. The

chance that an owl would answer a recording playback, a Woodcock would flush from a thicket, or a Sandhill Crane fly over the participants, was quite small. The waterfowl decrease is representative of population trends throughout North America. In addition, activity around the north Auburn ponds has greatly increased and this has caused waterfowl to leave. The vulture populations are attracted to the dead fish from fisheries experiments. Both Black and Turkey Vultures roost near the ponds and gather each day to retrieve fish that have died. Also, they have fed on the piles of dead fish that were discarded after ponds were drained to determine their productivity. The Bobwhite has decreased because rowcrop farming has been replaced by pine plantings and no special Bobwhite management has been practiced. Rock Doves have increased greatly around livestock barns and in the cities of Auburn and Opelika. Woodpecker numbers have declined as has the number of old oak trees along the streets of Auburn and on the A.U. campus. Fewer reports of backyard and feeder birds has resulted in a decrease in numbers reported for the Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Chipping Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. The American Robin number fluctuations depend upon when the large winter flocks arrive in Auburn. In 1990, they were late for the December 29 count, but were abundant by January 11, 1991. Starling, blackbird and cowbird numbers have declined, since the large winter blackbird roost was destroyed by the cutting of the bamboo plots, adjacent to the north ponds. Changes in trespass laws and the great influx of deer hunting have kept birders out of a number of good birding areas. Finally, part of the decrease in numbers reported can be attributed to the increases in the ages of the participants, whose efforts have been reduced.

Julian L. Dusi, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Auburn University, Alabama 36849-5414.



TABLE 1. RECORDS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1954 - 1990, AUBURN, ALABAMA

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	6	3	4	9	2	4	4	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Double-cr. Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Great Blue Heron	4	1	4	4	4	1	5	1	2	9	5	8	8	6	10
Great Egret	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Duck	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	4	1	4	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	1
Redhead	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	45	25	53	18	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	10	0	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Species	Years															
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90	
Turkey Vulture	22	3	21	2	0	3	5	7	5	63	7	5	19	2	14	
Black Vulture	70	24	127	7	9	4	2	20	1	26	26	51	16	21	58	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	9	4	5	2	5	7	5	4	4	4	8	5	2	
Red shouldered Hawk	9	3	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Northern Harrier	4	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Merlin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
American Kestrel	6	3	11	5	1	1	3	2	4	0	3	5	3	0	0	
Bobwhite	2	6	31	2	59	17	15	107	15	0	11	0	0	0	0	
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sandhill Crane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
American Coot	1	1	25	25	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Killdeer	55	16	39	25	51	25	19	16	8	13	12	21	10	12	40	
American Woodcock	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	
Common Snipe	1	15	16	10	17	12	13	4	2	4	4	7	4	0	5	

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Spotted Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	25	27	140	30	90	355
Mourning Dove	77	31	57	12	60	5	88	72	10	72	33	147	19	55	127
Common Ground Dove	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barn Owl	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Screech Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Great Horned Owl	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barred Owl	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	5	3	2	5	10	9	2	5	2	5	5	6	2	4	4
Common Flicker	26	11	38	16	39	10	11	22	6	5	7	10	2	1	2
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	2	1	4	2	2	4	0	2	1	3	0	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	32	7	21	20	32	8	9	16	5	4	3	6	2	3	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	2	1	7	14	13	5	8	6	1	2	2	1	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	9	2	5	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downy Woodpecker	10	1	19	13	20	8	7	21	0	4	1	5	1	3	3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
Eastern Phoebe	7	8	10	9	10	5	14	7	1	2	5	5	0	0	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Jay	45	8	89	37	109	28	48	42	14	14	2	36	8	5	35
American Crow	82	35	58	14	44	17	39	61	7	10	11	16	9	26	12
Carolina Chickadee	23	13	77	26	55	12	60	51	4	3	2	16	1	4	7
Tufted Titmouse	20	2	29	13	62	14	21	29	5	2	6	9	4	2	7
White-br. Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Brown-headed Nuthatch	10	15	46	12	48	16	23	29	4	20	7	19	8	1	6
Brown Creeper	3	6	11	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
House Wren	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Winter Wren	4	0	1	9	11	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bewick's Wren	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina Wren	35	13	47	8	30	16	11	35	6	4	4	10	5	5	10
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N. Mockingbird	20	20	85	11	44	26	23	30	10	12	3	26	8	3	9
Gray Catbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Brown Thrasher	20	10	19	9	27	9	18	28	2	5	1	8	3	0	2

Species	Years														
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90
American Robin	73	145	139	460	97	42	38	69	18	124	34	279	37	67	5
Hermit Thrush	10	0	8	10	7	2	6	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	0
Veery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Bluebird	40	8	61	20	43	25	29	10	3	19	13	3	10	6	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden-cr. Kinglet	68	14	34	0	14	2	1	8	0	0	5	7	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	44	16	168	52	57	7	32	32	6	20	2	17	4	3	5
Water Pipit	34	3	21	6	17	3	81	2	1	1	30	2	0	0	7
Cedar Waxwing	26	3	39	48	176	120	0	45	135	109	0	6	0	150	0
Loggerhead Shrike	9	6	1	3	25	2	9	9	2	0	3	5	1	1	2
Starling	83	20K	30K	158K	150K	37K	550K	90K	74	157	21	248	65	2	112
White-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solitary Vireo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	2	68	34	35	17	37	27	37	20	40	55	12	2	26
Pine Warbler	19	6	26	3	23	9	54	5	0	4	2	0	8	1	14
Common Yellowthroat	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
House Sparrow	28	41	116	20	84	4	37	57	0	2	5	31	0	1	56

Species	Years															
	54	59	62	63	64	65	66	67	79	82	83	85	87	89	90	
Eastern Meadowlark	243	25	176	58	144	14	137	41	40	5	31	130	4	0	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	1K	150	540K	70K	45K	257K	185K	360K	52	897	87	1K	0	0	170	
Common Grackle	17	5K	270K	45K	150K	64K	50K	90K	20	150	50	12	202	11	6	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1.5K	50K	30K	58K	150K	290K	210K	60K	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Cardinal	56	32	203	27	134	16	141	71	10	22	5	39	16	3	26	
Purple Finch	0	0	17	21	0	5	11	3	0	2	2	33	26	2	20	
House Finch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	6	6	2	3	
American Goldfinch	84	78	138	0	62	37	105	38	48	11	4	55	1	3	17	
Rufous-sided Towhee	102	25	107	30	90	21	67	48	6	11	6	17	6	2	5	
Savannah Sparrow	41	25	23	13	46	15	31	17	0	2	30	15	2	0	8	
Vesper Sparrow	9	0	5	0	3	9	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Bachman's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Northern Junco	87	13	264	66	235	1	190	76	4	3	7	23	4	0	6	
Chipping Sparrow	70	30	41	101	156	23	285	110	201	0	1	18	30	0	0	
Field Sparrow	43	50	150	103	62	43	237	88	2	10	1	13	55	11	4	
White-thr. Sparrow	204	40	177	123	182	37	144	106	15	5	19	52	10	6	16	
Swamp Sparrow	23	9	67	24	42	13	22	5	0	2	6	0	0	1	4	
Song Sparrow	66	6	148	18	82	16	66	43	1	24	98	35	6	2	12	

(Note: K indicates thousands of birds.)

1990-91 FALL AND WINTER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

The 1990-91 fall and winter seasons were highlighted by several rarities, including a first record for Alabama. The autumn migration was disappointing for passerines, however, and the mild winter resulted in low diversity on many Christmas Bird Counts.

The poor showing for many species in the fall was likely due to the lack of effective frontal activity. Best days on the coast for landbirds were 23-24 September and 19-21 October. Temperatures during the autumn were generally normal to warm, and rainfall was unusually low in the first half of the season. The winter was warm, in great contrast to the big freezes of the preceding winter, and precipitation was fairly normal for the period.

This report covers the period August 1990 through February 1991 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (east to the Apalachicola River). The appearance of an observation in this column does not indicate verification or acceptance of a record for a very rare species, as these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. It is important that all submissions for birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification, but should always describe the diagnostic characters observed, as well as the conditions of observation. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

County names are in *italics*. "GC" = Gulf Coast (Alabama), "ICP" = Inland Coastal Plain, "MR" = Mountain Region, "TV" = Tennessee Valley, "WP" = western Panhandle of Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties). Records not specifying Florida or "WP" are in Alabama. "ABRC" = Alabama Bird Records Committee, "acc." = accepted, "CBC" = Christmas Bird Count, "mob" = many observers, "NS" = National Seashore, "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge, "p.a." = pending acceptance, "ph." = photographed, "SP" = State Park, "WMA" = Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS - SHEARWATERS: Red-throated Loons are rare in our area, though they are recorded in most years on the coast. A single bird was very unusual inland at Guntersville from 18 Nov into early December (ALM,RRS,MO,mob,acc.ABRC). Another was spotted 1 Dec at Big Sabine, *Escambia*, FL (PWS,RAD). The Pacific Loon is noted much

less frequently than the Red-throated, so three birds at two locales were surprising. One Pacific was located at Guntersville from 23 Nov into December (BS,mob,acc.ABRC), and up to two were found at Big Sabine, FL, 21 Nov to 1 Dec (RAD,PWS). An unidentified small shearwater, probably an Audubon's, was spotted at Gulf Shores 1 Dec (BCG).

SULIDS - STORKS: Northern Gannets are found in the Gulf in small numbers even in the summer, so the individuals seen 18 Aug at Pensacola, FL (RAD), and 19 Aug at Ft. Morgan (GDJ), were not unexpected. An excellent count of 405 of these high-divers occurred 31 Dec on the Ft. Morgan CBC. Another high total was of 200 Am. White Pelicans 28 Sep at the Deer Point Dam, FL (RH). A first-year **Great Cormorant** was a rare find at Ft. Morgan 7-14 Oct (GDJ,mob,ph., acc.ABRC), and tied the previous Alabama arrival record for this northeastern vagrant. Double-crested Cormorants have now become routine inland at major bodies of water, but the count of 460 on the Montgomery CBC 29 Dec (JB) was noteworthy and established a new maximum for the ICP.

Higher than usual numbers of Great Egrets were noted inland this fall and winter. Concentrations of up to 40 birds were seen in *Lauderdale* in August and September (PDK), and a new winter maximum for the ICP was established by the 235 Great Egrets 29 Dec on the Montgomery CBC (JB). A Tricolored Heron, rare away from the coast, was discovered in *Montgomery* 26 Aug (LG). Reddish Egrets are found in small numbers on the coast in the warmer months, but the four immatures seen throughout the winter at Big Sabine (RAD,mob) were very unusual for the WP. Dark ibis are difficult to locate in our area, though autumn seems to be the best season. Two unidentified birds were found at Blakely I., *Mobile*, 18 Aug (PB), and a Glossy was studied at Gulf Shores 9 Oct (GDJ). Coastal records of Wood Stork are scarce, so four seen in north *Okaloosa*, FL, 3 Sep (RSD) were noteworthy. A single stork along I-85 in *Macon* 10 Jan (AM) was the first ever reported in mid-winter in Alabama.

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl numbers were low this winter, especially on the coast; this was likely due to the mild weather. The rare **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was seen on the Ft. Morgan Peninsula 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL). Alabama finally recorded the **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** this winter. Three birds were seen by hunters, and two shot, 24 Dec near Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (RS,JF). The surviving bird was rediscovered 31 Dec at the adjacent refuge observation building (HHK,RJ&JSK,acc.ABRC), and was seen intermittently over the next

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several days. I received a strange report of an unidentified swan flying over Ft. Morgan 18 Aug (OEF)! Greater White-fronted Geese are regular in winter at Wheeler NWR, and one was observed at Limestone Bay 10 Nov (SWM). More unexpected were three at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 29 Nov (WF,GF,RAD). Two **Ross' Geese** were found 20 Jan on Limestone Bay in Wheeler NWR (JRW,DM,mob,p.a.ABRC), providing Alabama with its seventh record.

The first August record of N. Shoveler for the WP occurred 14 Aug with the sighting of two birds in *Okaloosa* (RLB,JWB). A male hybrid Eurasian X American Wigeon was spotted 1 Jan at Wheeler NWR, *Morgan* (GDJ,DGJ); this was likely the same bird noted at this spot during the previous winter. Three Am. Wigeons were found in *Montgomery* 29 Aug (LG), providing an early ICP record. The Lesser Scaup present from 2 Jul to 14 Aug in *Okaloosa* (RLB,JWB) was only the fifth recorded in summer in the WP. Oldsquaws are uncommonly found in our region, and this year I received three reports. One was at Gulf Shores throughout the winter (WJB,RAD,mob), another was spotted at Guntersville 23 Jan (ALM,HHF,AS,BJ), and the third resided at Decatur from 8 Feb through the end of the season (SWM). Very rare inland was the female Black Scoter at Guntersville 20 Nov (RRS,MO). The highest count of Surf Scoters reported was 16 on the Ft. Morgan CBC 31 Dec. This is the most frequently seen scoter species in our area. Five White-winged Scoters were discovered at Ft. Pickens, FL, 10 Nov (RAD), and three were seen 12 Jan at Gulf Shores (GF,JL,PG,SG). The Bufflehead noted 2 Nov in *Okaloosa*, FL (RLB,JWB) was locally early.

RAPTORS: Ospreys are very rare inland in the winter, so the single birds seen in *Montgomery* 26 Dec (H&SM, *vide* LG) and 20 Jan (LG) were noteworthy. An astounding 32 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites graced the skies of *Marengo* 3 Aug (RRS), with 27 in one field! This total broke the previous Alabama maximum by a wide margin. The adult Mississippi Kite 1 Nov in *Gulf*, FL (SCA) was late. An early N. Harrier was at Ft. Morgan 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL). Three immature Bald Eagles, uncommon on the Alabama coast, were spotted on the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile*, 17 Nov (VBF,MFF,MN,mob). The species appears to be more rare along the coast of the WP, so the immature 11 Nov at Gulf Breeze (WJB), and the adult 17 Nov in Pensacola (BM), were interesting. The highest count of Sharp-shinned Hawks reported this autumn was 75 seen 11 Oct at Ft. Morgan (GDJ).

The 725 Broad-winged Hawks spotted by VBF 24 Sep at her vantage point along *Baldwin's* Eastern Shore was the maximum count that I

received. **Swainson's Hawk** is rarely noted in our area, with most reports from the outer coast in middle or late autumn. Surprisingly, we had two records this fall, both from Ft. Morgan (acc.ABRC). An immature was photographed 19-20 Oct (ALM,mob), and an adult appeared 10 Nov (GDJ,GF,mob). The Krider's form of the Red-tailed Hawk is rare in the WP, and a single bird was described from Gulf Breeze 26 Oct (JWB). American Kestrels are now very scarce in the breeding season on the coast, and the solitary bird 18 Aug in *Baldwin* (PB) was likely an early migrant. Normal numbers of Merlins, one to two birds per day, were noted at Ft. Morgan this fall. Seven reports of 10 Peregrine Falcons were submitted from the coast in the autumn, mostly from Ft. Morgan. One seen there 1 Sep (PB,GF,BG,JL) established a new early arrival date for the GC. Solitary Peregrines at Gulf Shores 29 Dec (LB,MS) and at Ft. Morgan 13 Jan (RAD) were more unusual, though not unexpected. Inland records are less frequent. An adult Peregrine was discovered at Swan Creek WMA, *Limestone*, 23 Sep (TAB); another, or possibly the same, was spotted nearby at Decatur the following day (GDJ). An immature was seen at Swan Creek WMA 15 Oct (GDJ,BCG), and a single bird was noted at Lake Land Farms, *Perry*, 15 Nov (MO).

RAILS - SHOREBIRDS: A **Yellow Rail** was studied at close range at Ft. Morgan 1 Sep (JL,GF,PB,BG,acc.ABRC). This was only the second GC record of this recluse, and amazingly the bird was observed flying through a wooded area and perched in a low tree! The reliable Sandhill Cranes returned to the Gulf Shores area this winter, with a high tally of 27 on the CBC 29 Dec. Black-bellied Plovers are difficult to find inland, so the solitary bird 19 Aug in Decatur (SWM) was interesting. Autumn records of Lesser Golden-Plover are uncommon. A single bird 4 Aug at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF) provided an early GC record. Another Lesser Golden-Plover was near Decatur in *Limestone* 24 Sep (GDJ), and the individual 6 Dec at Big Sabine, *Escambia* (RAD) set a late record for the WP. Highest counts this year for Snowy Plover were eight at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ), 11 at Big Sabine, FL, 18 Nov (GF,JL,PB), and seven at Gulf Shores 29 Dec (RRR,mob). Wilson's Plovers do not normally winter in our area, though in recent years there have been a few lingering birds at Big Sabine, FL. At that site this year was a solitary Wilson's 18 Nov (GF,JL,PB); three birds spotted 24 Feb (RAD) could have wintered or might have been early migrants. Piping Plovers were present along the coast in small numbers at the regular sites; the single Piping described 7 Oct at Swan Creek WMA (SWM) was unusual inland.

American Oystercatchers are uncommon in *Baldwin*, and one was

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seen at Ft. Morgan 18 Aug (OEF). The Craft Sod Farm near Gulf Shores continued this fall as the top regional area for Upland Sandpipers. Fourteen seen 21 Jul (PB) set a new early GC record; the high count for the season was 45 birds 18 Aug (GDJ,DGJ). The sod farm near Harpersville, *Shelby*, also yielded Upland Sandpipers this fall, with a maximum of four seen 29 Aug (GDJ,DGJ). Please remember that birders are not allowed to walk or drive on the grass at these sod farms. As is now the norm, two Long-billed Curlews were found this autumn at the Battleship near Mobile, with the first report on 30 Sep (GDJ,DGJ). Three Marbled Godwits were discovered 23 Sep at Swan Creek WMA (TAB), providing a first inland fall record. One bird lingered to 29 Sep (GDJ,SWM). Uncommon on the coast, a single Marbled Godwit was noted at Blakely I. 13 Oct (GDJ,AOS).

Sanderlings are unusual inland, and two juveniles were spotted in *Limestone* 9 Sep (GDJ). A Pectoral Sandpiper was late in *Perry* 15 Nov (MO). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were also tardy in s. *Baldwin* 11 Nov (GDJ), and four were spotted nearby on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (RAD,EL). This graceful wader is rare in the winter, but has appeared more frequently at that season in recent years. It was a good year for Buff-breasted Sandpipers. One located in s. *Baldwin* 5 Aug (J&JP) established a new GC early date. Five Buff-breasteds were near Harpersville, *Shelby*, 3 Sep (PHF), setting a new high count for the MR. Another inland record was of three birds in *Colbert* 16 Sep (SWM).

LARIDS: A **Parasitic Jaeger**, difficult to find in the state, was observed at close range on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (ALM, p.a.ABRC). Franklin's Gulls are rare in the WP, so the immature at Big Sabine 27 Nov (RAD,WF) was noteworthy. An early Bonaparte's Gull was in *Okaloosa*, FL, 2 Nov (RLB,JWB). Wilson Dam on the Tennessee R. near Florence is one of the better spots for concentrations of gulls in our region. A flock of approximately 6500 Ring-billed Gulls was at this site 13 Jan (GDJ,DGJ). "Ole One Foot," the long-lived, dark-backed, mystery gull, was found again this year in Pensacola, FL, from 19 Jul to 30 Aug (RAD). Beginning 20 Nov, an immature Glaucous Gull wintered at Guntersville (ALM,mob,acc.ABRC). Great Black-backed Gulls are now seen annually in the region, and a first-year bird was present at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (GF,PB,acc.ABRC). The discovery of a first-year **Black-legged Kittiwake** 29 Dec to 3 Jan at St. Andrews SP, FL (MAO,mob,ph.) provided the first *Bay* record. This vagrant is rarely encountered in our area.

The 475 Sandwich Terns flying east along the beach at Ft. Morgan

in a few hours 30 Sep (GDJ,DGJ) established a new state maximum. Common Terns are seen in good numbers along the coast only in late summer and fall. Highest reported count this season was of 42 at Gulf Shores 9 Oct (GDJ). Two were still present there 11 Nov (GDJ), and two were also seen 29 Dec on the CBC (HHK,OEF, CDC,BCG,mob). A rare winter sighting for the ICP was a Forster's Tern 19 Jan in *Montgomery* (LG). A Least Tern at Pensacola Beach 4 Dec (RAD) provided the first December record for the WP.

DOVES - HUMMINGBIRDS: In December, Mr. Pittman counted 42 Eurasian Collared-Doves at his home near Destin, FL, a significant increase from the six birds discovered there in 1987. They have now spread over a ten-mile area from the Pittman residence. It was a good fall for White-winged Doves along the coast, with a maximum of five seen at Ft. Morgan 14 Nov (TAI,PB,MN,mob). Another was located 20 Oct at Gulf Shores (PB,GF,JL,mob). The species is harder to find in the WP, and solitary birds were spotted 25 Oct and 2 Nov at Gulf Breeze (WWD,LRD,mob) and 25-27 Oct at Ft. Pickens (RAD,RLB,JWB,JS). Record late Black-billed Cuckoos were seen 28 Oct at Gulf Breeze, FL (LRD,WWD), and 3 Nov at nearby Ft. Pickens (RLB,RB). Groove-billed Anis are rare and erratic in occurrence on the coast, and seem to have an affinity for Ft. Pickens, FL. One was noted there 17 Oct (GF), and remained until at least 28 Oct (RLB,JWB,JS,OEF,mob). An entertaining rarity is the **Burrowing Owl**, which is only occasionally found along our coast. A lone bird was encountered at Ft. Pickens, FL, 3 Nov (RLB,RB). Whip-poor-wills are uncommon winter residents on the coast, but the larger Chuck-will's-widow is only rarely found at that season. A "Chuck" was found freshly killed in the road at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (GF,PB).

This was a fantastic year for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds throughout the region, with some locations reporting up to 200 birds visible at a single time in late summer and early fall. In a six-week period beginning in early August, the Sargents used 57 gallons of sugar water at their home near Birmingham! Black-chinned Hummingbirds are now known to be regular migrants in the region, and the Sargents banded three young birds in east *Jefferson* from 18 Aug to 5 Oct. An immature male was studied in Pinson, *Jefferson*, 29 Sep (RRS, MBS, MO, SO, acc. ABRC). A female **Calliope Hummingbird** near Montevallo, *Shelby*, spiced up the late winter for a multitude of birders. It was present all winter at the TH residence, and was identified and banded 26 Feb (RRS,acc.ABRC). This was only the second record for the state of this

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diminutive vagrant, and the bird remained into the early spring. A male Rufous Hummingbird was studied in east *Jefferson* 11 Aug (MO,SO), and single birds were banded by the Sargents 12 Nov in Huntsville and 25 Jan in Mobile.

WOODPECKERS - SWALLOWS: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Walker* 21 Sep (JG) tied the previous MR early arrival date; one at Ft. Morgan 7 Oct (PB) was also early. Rare for the WP was a Hairy Woodpecker in Pensacola 10 Sep (GF). A GC maximum was established on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec for N. Flicker, with 150 tallied. Olive-sided Flycatchers can be difficult to locate in our region, and are most often seen in September. One of these "Big-headed Bug-eaters" was spotted at Ft. Morgan 15 Sep (JL,AF,DF,GF,mob). An E. Wood-Pewee in *Montgomery* 3 Nov (LG) provided a new late ICP record. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rare-but-regular transients in the state; a single bird was studied at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ,acc.ABRC), and another was banded there 20 Oct (RRS,MBS) for a new late Alabama record. The uncommon Least Flycatcher was detailed at Ft. Morgan 6 & 8 Oct (GDJ). An E. Phoebe at Pensacola 15 Sep (PT) set a new early record for the WP. A new Alabama maximum was established for this flycatcher with 130 counted on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec.

Ash-throated Flycatchers are very rare in the area, so the discovery of an individual 18 Nov at Ft. Pickens, FL (GF,BCG,JL,PB) was exciting. Western Kingbirds are regular in small numbers along the coast in the autumn, and this year I received four separate reports of single birds at Ft. Morgan. The species is rare in winter, and thus the lone kingbirds 7 Dec at Ft. Morgan (RAD,WJB) and 6 Jan at Pace, FL (GF,JL,KD,MSt) were interesting. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nested this summer in Alabama for the first time. A pair fledged four young west of Florence 5-6 Aug (DCP,PDK), and they remained to 3 Sep. One or more adult Scissor-taileds were seen 7-11 Oct at Ft. Morgan (GDJ), where they are regular in the fall. Another was located at Ft. Pickens, FL, 20 Oct (RLB,JWB,RB). The first report of returning Purple Martins was of a male at Gulf Shores 13 Feb (PB). The two N. Rough-winged Swallows at Ft. Morgan 1 Dec (WJB) were late.

WRENS - WOOD WARBLERS: Bewick's Wrens have become exceedingly scarce throughout our area, but they are particularly unusual on the coast. The single wren seen 2 Oct at Gulf Breeze, FL (WJB), and the two noted 11 Nov at Marianna, FL (BDN,RC), were thus notable. Unlike the situation with the Bewick's Wren, the numbers of E. Bluebirds have increased in recent years. Encouraging numbers on the coast included a flock of over 55 at Ft. Morgan 17 Nov (GF,PB,BG,SG,BCG),

and a state maximum count of 293 on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec. The Duncans commented on "excellent numbers" of bluebirds inland in n.w. Florida and in *Covington* and *Escambia*, AL. A Veery 5 Sep at Montrose, *Baldwin* (VBF) was early. Two Wood Thrushes described on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (CLK,IR,JJ) represented only the third winter record for Alabama. The five White-eyed Vireos counted at Ft. Morgan 26 Jan (PB,GF) were a good number for that season. On the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec, a Yellow-throated Vireo was located (RRS), providing one of the few winter records for the state.

An Orange-crowned Warbler 16 Sep at Ft. Morgan (PB,JL) provided a new arrival record for the GC. The species is rare in n. Alabama in the winter. One late Orange-crowned was spotted at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone*, 17 Nov (RRS,mob), and a wintering bird was discovered near Florence 16 Feb (HHK,PDK,mob). Three Nashville Warblers, uncommon transients, were banded at Ft. Morgan 20-21 Oct (RRS,MBS). At the same location 20 and 23 Oct, the Sargents banded two Black-throated Blue Warblers. This species is often hard to locate in our region, particularly in the autumn. Three additional birds were seen in e. *Jefferson* 18 - 27 Aug (RRS,MBS), setting a new early arrival record for inland Alabama. A Black-throated Green Warbler in *Montgomery* 27 Oct (LG) was late, but not as tardy as the notable wintering bird at Panama City, FL, 25 and 28 Jan (JO,EK).

Cerulean Warblers have appeared more scarce in recent times, but this summer quite few were seen in passage. "Many" were seen in July and August in e. *Jefferson* (RRS,MBS), and one to two birds were found on multiple days from 31 Jul to 2 Sep at Montrose, *Baldwin* (VBF). Large numbers of Am. Redstarts were reported at coastal migration spots 23-25 Sep (RAD). The individuals discovered 14 Nov at Pensacola, FL (LGo) and 19 Nov at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* (MSk) were late, with the Alabama bird establishing a new GC record. Ovenbirds are casual in winter on the coast, and one was discovered on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (RRS,MS). A new late WP date was set by the observation of a N. Waterthrush 3 Nov at Ft. Pickens (RB,RLB). The Wilson's Warbler at Montrose, *Baldwin*, 4 Sep (VBF) was very early.

GROSBEAKS - FINCHES: Several locations reported late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Two were in *Gulf*, FL, 3 Nov (TM,HL,mob), an additional two Rose-breasteds were in Panama City, FL, to 10 Nov (BCM), and the latest bird set a new GC record 30 Nov at Ft. Morgan (RAD). A male Painted Bunting was a surprise winter visitor in *Escambia*, FL, 7-12 Feb (JM, OEF). **American Tree Sparrows** are very

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rare visitors to the area, most often in the TV. Three were described from Wheeler NWR, *Morgan*, 19 Jan (SWM,p.a.ABRC). It was a good autumn for Clay-colored Sparrows, with four reports from Ft. Morgan (acc.ABRC). What were thought to be different birds were seen 29 Sep (GDJ), 6 and 7 Oct (GDJ,DGJ), and 7-10 Nov (RAD,mob). This species is a rare annual visitor to the outer coast.

Usually easier to find is the Lark Sparrow, but this season I only had one report from Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ). As is usual, I received a couple of Lincoln Sparrow records from Ft. Morgan in late October (RRS,MBS,RAD,GF,mob). One was seen inland 28 Oct at Wheeler NWR, *Limestone* (SWM). The White-throated Sparrow 7 Oct at Ft. Morgan (PB,mob) was early. Two White-crowned Sparrows 24 Sep at Ft. Pickens (RAD,RR) set a new WP early record, and the single bird spotted at Ft. Morgan 5 days later (GDJ) was also very early. The 12 White-crowns in *Gulf*, FL, 18 Nov (BDN,NW,SCA) represented an unusual number for that area. Forty-four Lapland Longspurs were seen in *Limestone* 19 Jan (JRW,DM), and some of these remained to at least 28 Jan (SWM,HHK,GA,BJ).

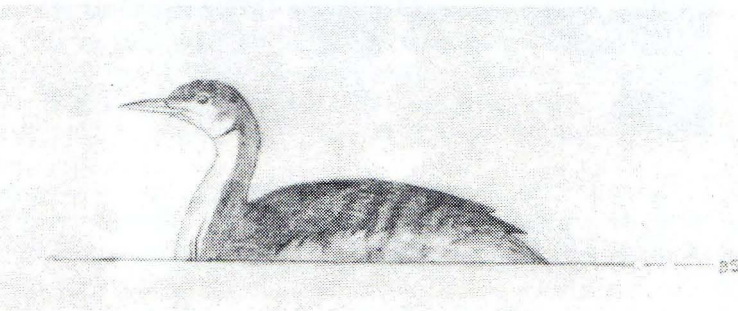
Yellow-headed Blackbirds are rare-but-regular visitors on the outer coast in the fall, and this year I had three reports. Singles were at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (GDJ,mob), at Gulf Breeze, FL, 2 Oct (WJB,GB), and 13 Oct in *Bay*, FL (HL,TM,mob). As you proceed east along the coast, Brewer's Blackbirds become scarce in the winter. Seven birds were considered rare in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 12 Nov (RAD,JP). A male **Shiny Cowbird** was observed in Pensacola, FL, 3 Feb (GF,CDF), providing our area with the first evidence of wintering for this new scourge. Along the same lines, a **Bronzed Cowbird** was seen at Ft. Morgan 7-10 Nov (RAD,mob,ph.,acc.ABRC). This was only the third record of this species in Alabama. Unfortunately, we will probably be seeing a lot more of both of these pests in the future.

Approximately 100-150 Orchard Orioles were seen flying over Gulf Breeze, FL, in a 45-minute period 19 Aug (RAD). A N. Oriole was seen on the Montgomery CBC 26-29 Dec (RAD, LG) for one of only a few ICP winter records. The Bullock's form of this species is a rare vagrant to our area, and a female-plumaged bird was at Ft. Morgan 5 Oct (JH,JFH). The House Finch continues steadily marching across the land, with increased numbers along the coast this winter. They were reported from Ft. Morgan to Ft. Walton Beach, FL, with a GC maximum of 28 on the Gulf Shores CBC 29 Dec (EL,SL,RAD,mob). It was a poor year for visiting Pine Siskins, though some did reach the coast. Only a few

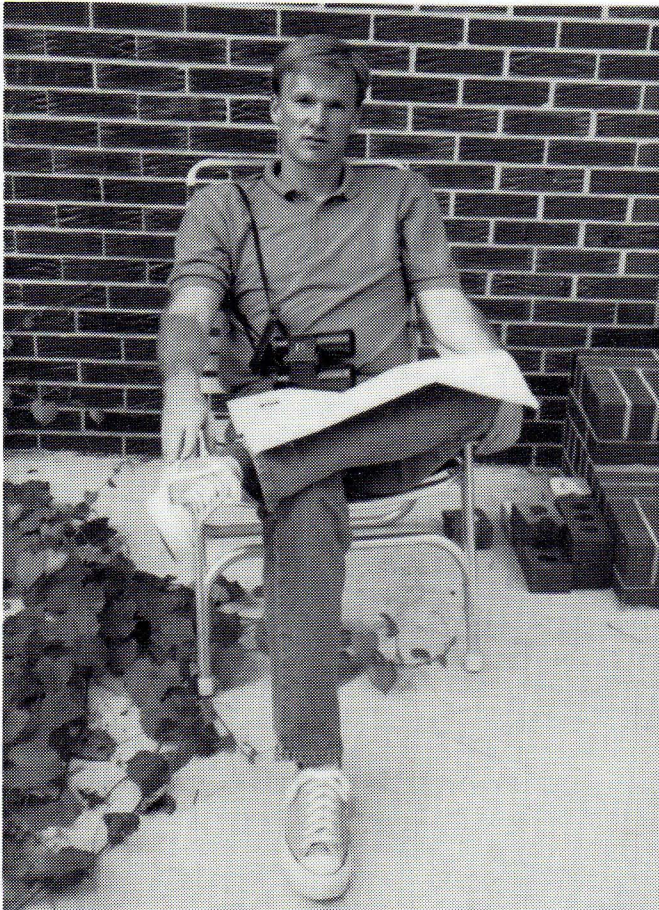
Evening Grosbeaks were reported, all from the Birmingham area from 23 Dec to 6 Jan (RRS,MBS,BiG,JG).

CITED OBSERVERS: Alabama Ornithological Society, Sybil C. Arbery, Gussie Arnett, Jane W. Ballman, Richard L. Ballman, Rick Ballman, Joel Black, Paul Blevins, Greta Bremser, William J. Bremser, Thomas A. Brindley, Linda Buzzard, Ron Christen, C. Dwight Cooley, Kim Davis, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan, R. Scot Duncan, William W. Duncan, Owen E. Fang, Harriett H. Findlay, Carol D. Fleming, Gene Fleming, Mary F. Floyd, Ann Forster, Dan Forster, Paul H. Franklin, Jim Frazier, Venetia B. Friend, Will Fullilove, Larry Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Peggy Gibbs, Bernice Gilley, Bill Gilliland (BiG), Joann Gilliland, Lyn Gould (LGo), Sandra Gunn, Taylor Hill, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, Ron Houser, Thomas A. Imhof, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Bettye James, Joyce Johnson, Ed Keppner, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Rick J. & Jo S. Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Eric Lefstad, Sandra Lefstad, Jan Lloyd, Horace Loftin, Joel Martin, Steve W. McConnell, Tony Menart, Andrea Menyhert, B.C. Messer, Ann L. Miller, Bill Milmore, Howard & Sue Morris, Dollyann Myers, Bruce D. Neville, Minnie Nonkes, Mary Ann Olson, John Oswald, Michael Owens, Suzanne Owens, Dee C. Patterson, James Pfeiffer, John & Jackie Porter, Robert R. Reid, Ila Roose, Rufus Rose, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Jim Saunders, Maureen Shaffer, Robert Shell, Maud Skiba (MSk), Alice Stevens, Mike Strangeland (MSt), Bill Summerour, Paul W. Sykes, Phil Tetlow, Noel Warmer, Jeff R. Wilson.

Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244.



IN MEMORIAM
MARK BROWN
1959 - 1991



On 13 January 1991, A.O.S. lost one of its most talented members. Dennis Mark Brown died at the young age of 31, but his enthusiastic interest in birds will long be remembered by all of us whose lives he touched.

Mark's was born 30 October 1959 in Decatur, Alabama, and it was

there that he developed his fascination for birds during his early childhood. When he was 14 years old, he began participating in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Counts.

During his high school and college years, Mark contributed significantly to birding data in Alabama, and his attention to detail and accuracy was impeccable. This was evident in every challenge he undertook. On 24 April, 1983, he and his friend, Dwight Cooley, produced 202 species of birds on a Big Day on the Coast of Alabama. This record has never been broken.

After he graduated from Auburn University, Mark lived in Houston, Texas, for several years. His records in that intensely birded state were numerous, and he established a new National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count area at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

Even as his health failed, Mark used his remaining energy in a positive way. He corresponded with many public officials and organizations that are working toward a safer environment for all wildlife, including birds. Hopefully, some of the ideas and suggestions he offered will be used in their plans for the future.

To Mark's family and friends, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. His bright spirit enriched the lives of many people, and his contributions will live on.

Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

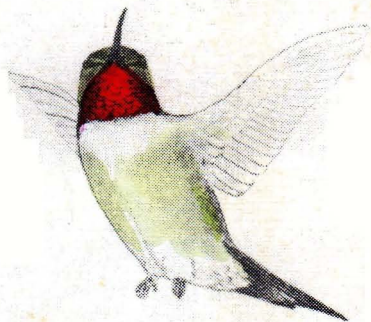
This issue has used up all of our backlog of articles. As a result, this will be the only issue of *Alabama Birdlife* published in 1991, rather than our customary two. This will also be my last issue as editor. It's hard to believe that four years has passed so quickly!

John Porter, our new president, will be doubling for a while as president and editor. This will be a big undertaking, so I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to support John and the AOS by sending in your articles for publication in *Alabama Birdlife*. As you know, it is the contributions of the membership that determine the quality and success of our journal. Articles should be mailed to: *Dr. John Porter, 803 Queen City Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.*

It has been a pleasure serving as editor and I wish all of you the very best birding in the years ahead. Don't forget to take time to write up your observations and send them to John so that the rest of us can share in your discoveries.

Bill Summerour, Biology Dept., Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

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