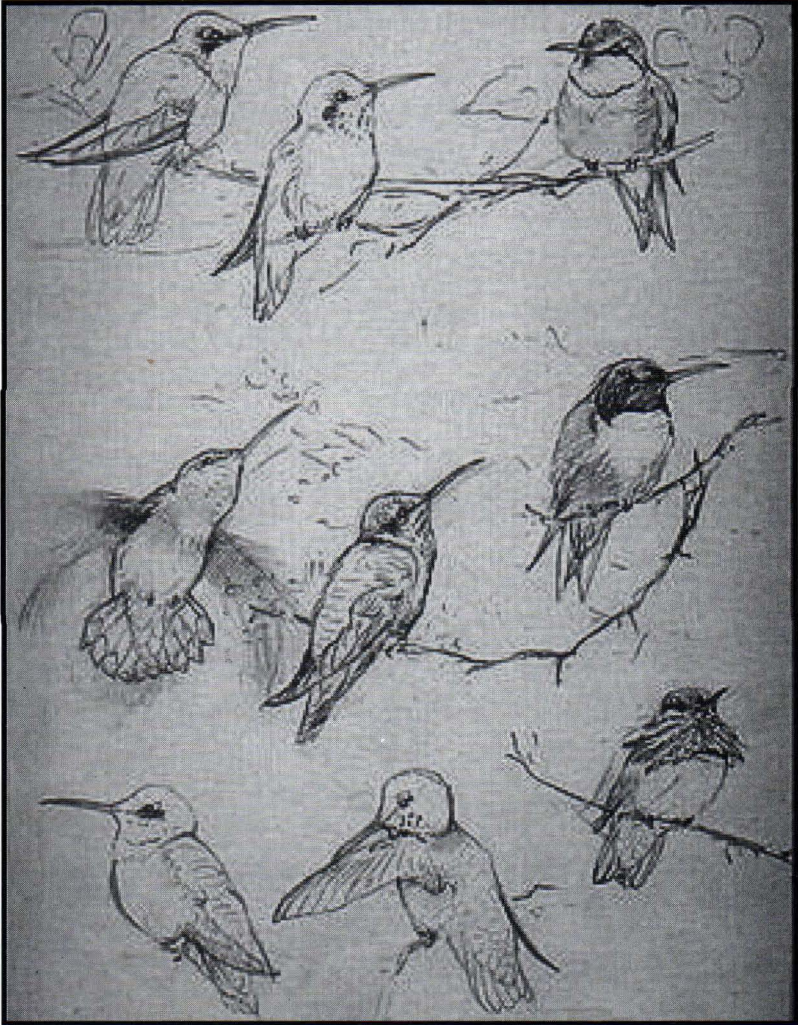


ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Volume 45 No. 1 1999



Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Published by the Alabama Ornithological Society to Record and
Further the Study of Birds in Alabama and Northwest Florida

Vol. 45

No. 1

1999

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Founded 17 May 1952

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Membership in the society includes a subscription to *Alabama Birdlife*.

Active	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
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Life Family	\$300.00

Dues are payable on 1 January of each year and should be mailed to the treasurer.

Typeset by Tom Haggerty

Cover: Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, and Calliope Hummingbirds, preliminary sketch,

Louis Agassiz Fuertes, 1924c

OBSERVATIONS OF NESTING EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES (*STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO*) IN GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

Rufus E. Rose, Jr., and Merilu C. Rose

INTRODUCTION

The first Florida records of Eurasian Collared-Doves date back to the late 1970's and early 1980's (*American Birds* 41: 1370-1379). The first Florida Panhandle record was a small colony discovered near Fort Walton Beach in 1987 (*American Birds* 41: 1370-1379). The species is now abundant year-round along the northwest Florida coast, but to the best of our knowledge, little has been published on the nesting biology of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in the southeastern United States.

This paper records observations of a breeding pair of Collared-Doves for 41 days from June to August, 1998, in Gulf Breeze, Escambia Co., Florida. Observations of nest-building, incubation, hatching, development of young, and fledging are presented.

METHODS

The dove nest was under overhanging fronds in the stubble of a cabbage palm that had been trimmed in early May. The nest was 24 feet (7.2 m) above ground. The observers' height-of-eye on their second-story balcony was 15 feet (4.5 m) above ground. The palm was 50 feet (15 m) south of the balcony. Observers used unaided eye and 8X binoculars, but the inner bowl of the nest and its contents could not be seen from the observers' line of view. Observations were generally conducted between 0630 and 0830 hr CDT, and occasionally also later when feeding and fledging were occurring. The observers kept daily logs of activities and took one photograph of a juvenile on their balcony railing on the day of fledging.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nest-building. - A pair of Collared-Doves had been cooing to each other on the roofs of nearby three-story buildings prior to nest-building. Nest-building began on 22 June and lasted three days. One bird would bring a twig approximately 6 inches (15 cm) long to the other bird, which stayed on the nest and worked each new twig into the nest structure. On the third day, there was much movement by the two birds in the nest after one brought twigs. This movement could have been twig placement or copulation, with the bird that brought twigs above the other bird. The nest consisted entirely of loose twigs, all roughly the same length and diameter. Nest-building occurred in the mornings.

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Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) visited the same palm tree on most days of observation.

Incubation. - Incubation began on 24 June (day 0). A bird remained on the nest, occasionally changing direction 180° and preening. The second bird was not seen visiting the nest. The body of the incubating bird was almost completely above the lip of the nest; therefore, the nest cup was shallow. On day five, when the incubating bird turned around, small loose feathers were clinging to its body. On the sixth morning, the bird held a short, fanned-out body feather in its bill. It placed the feather carefully under its body, repeating this several times. Thus, the nest appeared to be feather-lined.

The incubating bird appeared to be asleep with eyes closed at 0600 hr. Upon awaking, the individual preened and arranged the nest lining. This 'arranging' of nest feathers may have been the parent turning the egg(s). On day 13 of incubation, at about 0900 hr, the incubating bird was gular-fluttering; high temperatures were in the 90's °F (30's °C) during incubation. At about 0945 hr, one dove left the nest while the other remained. Pigeons and doves often share incubation (*The Birder's Handbook*, Ehrlich et al., 1988); thus the 0945 hr event may have been a changing of the guard. This event may also explain why no food was seen being brought to the incubating bird (i.e., the bird fed when off the nest). On day 13, the incubating bird left the nest for 10 minutes at 1645 hr; then, a bird returned to the nest.

Hatching. - At least one chick hatched on 8 July, day 14 (or day 0 of development) of incubation. Hatching was inferred by a change in the parents' behavior that day.

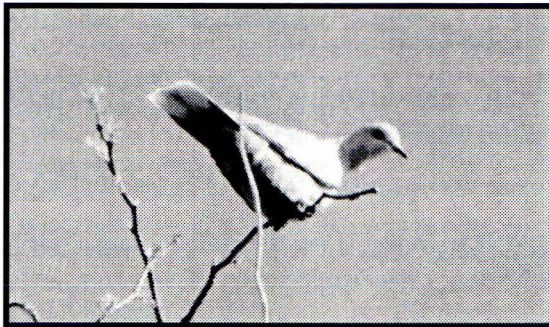
Development. - On the morning of day 1, one bird flew away from the nest carrying a 1 inch (2.5 cm) white sphere, apparently a fecal sac. During development parents took turns sitting on the nest and feeding young, though not continuously. The parents did not bring visible food in their bills; suggesting a nestling diet of pigeon milk. On day 7, two chicks were observed in the nest. They were about 2/3 adult size, dark gray, with black bills and eyes and had some pin feathers on their wings. Chicks were often alone in the nest, with a parent visiting about every two hours, but not always feeding the chicks. On day 9, the chicks were almost fully developed, but their heads were still down-covered and flight feathers were not yet fully-developed. Chicks begged for food when adults approached. Feeding time varied from one to four minutes. On day 12, chicks moved around in the nest, preening their fully-feathered bodies. Flight feathers were almost fully grown, though tails were short and no black collars were visible. On day 13, chicks were active in the nest, preening and stretching their wings over their backs. Most of the down feathers on their heads were gone. Flight feathers were well developed. On day 14, chicks were flapping their wings, acting anxious to fly. Juvenal plumage was the same light gray color as that of the adults. Differences between the older nestlings and adults were that the adults had gently-rounded heads, while chicks

had steep foreheads. Adults had white eye rings, while chicks had no eye rings, and adults had black collars with white borders, while chicks had no collars. One of the two chicks seemed bolder, sitting near the edge of the nest while the other nestled in the nest. On days 14-17, the bolder chick was occasionally poised on the edge of the nest.

Fledging.- On day 16, one chick flew from the outer edge of the nest to two feet (0.6 m) higher in the palm tree, while an adult fed the other chick. The first chick then returned to the nest and was fed. Both chicks left the nest on 25 July, day 17 of development. At 0945 hr, one chick flew down to a palm frond stub about 8 inches (0.2 m) below the nest. At 1430 hr, both chicks were standing on the ends of palm frond stubs, flexing their wings. At 1725 hr an adult flew to the nest, but found no chicks there. The chicks were on balcony railings of next-door apartments. Adults continued to look for and call for chicks until they found and fed them at 1800 hr. After this feeding, one chick flew to the observers' balcony railing where one photograph was taken. The chick did not flush when the flash went off. The photograph showed juvenile features (described above) in profile. Fledglings had black collars without white borders.

On the first day after fledging, an adult dove visited the nest and called, but no chicks were visible within 200 yards (182 m). On the second day, one chick returned to a palm tree about 20 yards (18 m) west of the nest tree. One adult flew over and fed that chick; no second chick was visible. On the third day, adults found and fed two chicks at 1200 hr and at 1207 hr. No chicks were visible on the fourth day. On the fifth day, each chick flew around the area with an adult and then perched in a palm tree. No chicks were visible on the sixth day. On the seventh day after fledging, both chicks and both parents perched together on the one-story pool house roof near the nest tree; one parent fed each chick. Both chicks then flew off to perch in trees about 50 yards (45 m) south of the nest tree by a freshwater pond. This was the last observation.

Rufus E. Rose, Jr. and Merilu C. Rose, 200 Pensacola Beach Rd. #I-3, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.



Eurasian Collard-Dove. Photograph/Greg Harber

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SUMMER SIGHTINGS (JUNE - JULY, 1998)*

PACIFIC LOON - One at Gulf Breeze, Escambia Co., FL, 1 June, provided the 5th summer record for the Florida Panhandle (Dick Ballman).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Post-breeding dispersal brought at least 14 to Hale Co., AL, 18 July (David P. George, Pat Johnson et al.).

BLACK-NECKED STILT - A pair with three young in Colbert Co., AL, were seen throughout the season (Tom Haggerty; see *Alabama Birdlife* 44:8-10).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Three were 74-85 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 11 July (Greg D. Jackson, Charlie Delmas, Larry F. Gardella, Jeff T. Garner, David P. George, Steve W. McConnell).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL - Six were 74-85 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 11 July and provided the 5th Alabama record (Greg D. Jackson, Charlie Delmas, Larry F. Gardella, Jeff T. Garner, David P. George, Steve W. McConnell).

WOOD STORK - A post-breeding dispersal group of 385 in Hale Co., AL, 29 July, was impressive (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson) and three at Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Co., FL, 29 July, established the 1st July record there (Don Ware).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - One was late in Colbert Co., AL, 28 June (Tom Haggerty).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - One may have been early in Colbert Co., AL, 28 June (Tom Haggerty).

BRIDLED TERN - Four were recorded 53-72 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 11 July (Greg D. Jackson, Charlie Delmas, Larry F. Gardella, Jeff T. Garner, David P. George, Steve W. McConnell).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - One in Gulf Breeze, Escambia Co., FL, 7 July, furnished the 2nd July record for the area (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan).

COUCH'S KINGBIRD - Two were very vocal at Gulf Breeze, Escambia Co., FL, 7 July and provided the 1st record for n.w. Florida and the 4th state record (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Ed Case, Phil C. Tetlow, Ann Forster).

LARK BUNTING - One was at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, 17-18 July, providing the 6th state record and the earliest recorded (Ben C. Garmon).

RED CROSSBILL - Four were in Cleburne Co., AL, 4-21 June (Bill Summerour).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - A female was late in Gulf Breeze, Escambia Co., FL, 20 June (Betty Kahn, Charles Kahn).

* from *Field Notes* 52:464-467.

AUTUMN SIGHTINGS (AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1998)*

EARED GREBE - One to three were present between 29 September-30 November, Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Don Ware, Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, Lucy Duncan).

CORY'S SHEARWATER - An individual was located 74 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 4 October (Greg D. Jackson, Chris M. Dorgan).

MASKED BOOBY - A single was seen 74 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 4 October (Greg D. Jackson, Chris M. Dorgan).

BROWN BOOBY - An immature was noted 30 August in Santa Rosa, Co., FL (Ann Forster, Dan Forster).

BROWN PELICAN - One was an oddity 29 September at Miller's Ferry Dam, Wilcox Co., AL, and was thought to have been displaced by Hurricane Georges (D. Bruce Crider).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - Following Hurricane Georges, six on 29 September in Wilcox Co. (D. Bruce Crider), and another the next day in Henry Co. (Geoff E. Hill, W. Doug Robinson), provided 2nd and 3rd far inland records for Alabama.

WHITE IBIS - An immature was seen in Colbert Co., AL, 9-13 August (Steve W. McConnell, Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

GLOSSY IBIS - This species is casual in fall, so one to five birds at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, 3 October-30 November were a notable find (Don Ware, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan et al.).

WHITE-FACED IBIS - Two created a stir on 27 October-2 November at Blakeley Island, Mobile Co. (Phil C. Tetlow et al.), providing Alabama's 10th record; another was at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, 5-7 November (Phil C. Tetlow et al.), only the 2nd for the Florida Panhandle.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Four were near Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL, 16 September-18 October (Carolyn T. Snow et al.). Up to four set a new late date 25 September-24 November at Mobile, Mobile Co., AL (Steve W. McConnell et al.). Singles, possibly the same individual, were spotted 29 September at Gulf Shores, Baldwin Co, AL (Eric Soehren, Greg Lein et al.), 4 October at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Chris M. Dorgan), and 20-22 October near Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL. A lone bird on 30 October in Escambia Co., FL (Paula Perdue), established a 2nd Florida Panhandle record.

WOOD STORK - Three were at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 22 August (Bill Gericke, Don Ware et al.). A count of 504 on 23 August provided a state maximum in west central Alabama (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson). A late individual on 3 October was in Blount Co., AL (Paul H. Franklin).

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GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Reports on 11 November of 200 near Mobile, Mobile Co. (Phil C. Tetlow et al.), and 103 at Fort Pickens, Escambia Co. (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan) provided new Alabama and Florida Panhandle maxima.

SNOW GOOSE - On 11 November, 2600 were at Fort Pickens, Escambia Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

ROSS'S GOOSE - Of many reports, most notable were two birds at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, providing a first panhandle record, starting 18 November (Lucy R. Duncan et al.). Eight set a new Alabama maximum in Limestone Co., beginning 24 November (C. Dwight Cooley, Robert R. Reid et al.).

EURASIAN WIGEON - Very rare in our area, an adult graced Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge 13-14 November (Ken Allen et al.), providing the 7th Alabama record.

MOTTLED DUCK - Two to four birds were at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, between 30 October-24 November (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow, Don Ware et al.).

CINNAMON TEAL - The second record for the area was an individual seen on 7 October at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - A good count was 23 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, 26 November (Jan Loyd, Paul Blevins).

OLDSQUAW - One seen on 19 September in Walton Co., FL, provided the first September record for the area (Steve Milum). Two were seen in Okaloosa Co., FL on 5 November (Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore).

COOPER'S HAWK - An Alabama maximum of 35 was noted at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, 23 October (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

GOLDEN EAGLE - Immatures were enjoyed 4 November at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (David Cimprich, Michelle Davis, Stefan Woltmann) and 6 November at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Hud Huddleston, Don Ware).

SANDHILL CRANE - Reports included four on the early date of 22 September at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (David Cimprich), and up to nine beginning 6 November at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Nancy Gobris et al.).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - An individual seen between 11-18 November at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, was a good find (Don Ware et al., Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, many observers).

AMERICAN AVOCET - Unexpected inland, sightings were at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, 17 August (Wally Brown, Bobby Brown, Linda B. Reynolds) and in Limestone, Co., AL, 16 October (Harry Dean).

WILLET - A count of 120 at Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, 3 November (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson) tied the previous Alabama maximum.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - Particularly scarce in autumn, and with only a few Florida Panhandle records, one was a surprise find on 19 September in Walton Co. (Steve Milum).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Singles seen 6 September in Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL (Larry F. Gardella), and the next day in Gadsden, Etowah Co., AL (Karen White, Philip White), were notable.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - Best tallies were of 85-100 birds 28 August-7 September, Baldwin Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson, Phil C. Tetlow et al.), and 21 in Lowndes Co., AL, 11 September (Eric Soehren), the last providing a new inland Alabama maximum.

COMMON SNIBE - Three were very early on 14 August in Escambia Co., FL (Will W. Duncan).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - Locally very rare, one on 30 September in Henry Co., AL (Geoff E. Hill, W. Doug Robinson), was a good find.

POMARINE JAEGER - Hard to find onshore, an adult was studied leisurely at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, 12 September (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson, Stefan Waltmann et al.). A distant jaeger, thought probably a Pomarine, was a rare find 20 miles inland in Mobile Co., AL, 29 September after Hurricane Georges (Greg D. Jackson).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - Alabama sightings occurred on 30 October in Henry Co. (Giff R. Beaton), 1 November in Lauderdale Co. (Steve W. McConnell), and 21 November at Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson). Six on 19 and 23 November at Guntersville, Marshall Co., (Richard A. Reynolds) set a new inland maximum for Alabama.

CALIFORNIA GULL - A thrill and Alabama's 3rd record was one seen on 30 November in Guntersville, Marshall Co. (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - One was seen on 28 November in Lauderdale Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson et al.).

GULL-BILLED TERN - A new Florida Panhandle maximum was 37 on 7 October at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan). One lingered to 18 November (Robert A. Duncan et al.), far past previous dates.

ROYAL TERN - Lone refugees from Hurricane Georges set 5th and 6th inland Alabama records in Barbour and Lee counties 30 September (Geoff E. Hill, W. Doug Robinson).

COMMON TERN - A congregation of 350 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., 23 September (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson) was the largest in decades in Alabama.

BRIDLED TERN - Two reports were secondary to Hurricane Georges; one was at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, 28-29 September (Don Ware, Hud Huddleston), and another appeared in Henry Co., AL, 30 September (Geoff E. Hill, W. Doug Robinson) for a 1st inland Alabama occurrence. The 17 that were 48-74 miles s. of Baldwin Co., AL, 4 October (Greg D. Jackson, Chris M. Dorgan), provided a new late date.

SOOTY TERN - Two occurred in the Florida Panhandle with Hurricane Georges; an immature was at Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, 28 September (Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley) and an adult appeared at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, the following day (Don Ware). Two offshore 4 October (Greg D. Jackson, Chris M. Dorgan) were the latest for Alabama.

BLACK SKIMMER - A storm-displaced individual was in Henry Co., AL, on 30 September, providing the 4th inland record (Geoff E. Hill, W. Doug Robinson).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - A count of 15 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 3 November, broke the previous Alabama maximum (Stefan Woltmann).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI - Appeared in small numbers beginning 1 October in n.w. Florida, an area where the species is rare but regular in autumn .

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - One set a new Florida Panhandle record arrival date on 4 September, when a banded bird returned for the 4th winter to Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL (Bev Kenny); another was in nearby Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL, 18 September (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, Johnny Beardon, video taped).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - It was a good year for this species, with 16 well-documented reports coming from Alabama between 6-27 September (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson, David Cimprich, Michelle Davis, Steve W. McConnell).

ALDER FLYCATCHER - Vocalizing birds appeared between 22-24 September in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson et al.), 23 September at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson), and 9-10 October at Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (Jon L. Dunn, Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols et al., photograph).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - Locally casual, a female was seen at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 13 October (Robert A. Duncan et al.) and one or two immatures were seen in the same area between 22 October-30 November (Don Ware, Alan Knothe et al.)

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER - Rare in the area, two were detailed in the Florida Panhandle; one appeared 8 November at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan et al., video taped, photographed) and another returned for the 3rd year to Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 10 November (Lenny Fenimore, Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow).

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - An extraordinary find was one described 8 August at Fort Pickens (Peggy Baker), Escambia Co., FL, setting a first Florida Panhandle record.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - One in Barbour Co., on 29 November, was rare and the latest on record for inland Alabama (Howard Horne).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - Rare, but increasing, discoveries of breeding birds occurred in early August at Huntsville, Madison Co., AL (Bill Hackbarth) and Decatur, Morgan Co., AL (Steve W. McConnell). Also significant were eight at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, 3 November, tying the state maximum (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

BELL'S VIREO - Rare finds at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., occurred on 1 October (David Cimprich), 10 October (David Cimprich, Michelle Davis, photograph), and 10-23 October (Duane Berger, Robert R. Sargent, many observers), the last setting a new departure date for Alabama.

WARBLING VIREO - This species is scarce in Alabama, so the two observed 20 September in Limestone Co. (Greg D. Jackson, Steve W. McConnell), and another seen 27 September in Colbert Co. (Greg D. Jackson), were significant records.

TREE SWALLOW - A count of over 2000 set a new inland Alabama maximum in Limestone Co., AL, on 18 October (Steve W. McConnell).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - One seen on 21 September in Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL, set an early local arrival record (Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow).

BROWN CREEPER - An early local arrival record was set when one was seen on 10 October at Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (Steve W. McConnell).

BEWICK'S WREN - This species is noticeably scarce in the East, so it was encouraging to have reports on 10 October at Dauphin Island, Mobile, Co., AL (Helen H. Kittinger, Gussie Arnett, Peggy King) and beginning 17 November in Perry Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson et al.).

HOUSE WREN - A first for Alabama's coastal plain in summer, one was spotted 1 August in Sumter Co. (Robert R. Reid et al.).

AMERICAN ROBIN - A flock of 30 in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 10 September was the first September record for the area (Phil C. Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER - Singles were discovered 9 September in Macon Co., AL (Barry Fleming) and 13 September at Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - One on 13 September in Montgomery Co., AL, was very early (Larry F. Gardella).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - A total of five or six was atypically high 19-21 September in n. Alabama (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson, Damien J. Simbeck) and one 11 November at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., set a new Alabama departure date (Dan Svingen).

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MAGNOLIA WARBLER - One was early in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL, 26 August (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - One on 24 October in Limestone Co. (Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten) was a good find in northern Alabama.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Very rare in autumn, a single was identified 20 October at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Nancy Gobris).

MOURNING WARBLERS - Six reports involving seven individuals between 23 August-30 September in n.w. Florida, was an unprecedented number for any season (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, Pam Beasley, Don Ware).

WESTERN Tanager - Both rare and early, a male was observed at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL, on 4 August (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 22-23 September was noteworthy (Stefan Woltmann, Greg D. Jackson).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 1 October was very early (David Cimprich et al.).

SWAMP SPARROW - This species was unusually plentiful at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, in late October (David Cimprich, Robert R. Sargent, Greg D. Jackson).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - A male was at a feeder in Okaloosa Co., FL, between 24 August-2 September (Arno Lutz, Mary Lutz).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - This is a rare coastal species, so singles on 6 and 30 November in Okaloosa Co., FL, is noteworthy (Don Ware, Lenny Fenimore, Hud Hudleston, Charlie Parkell).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - This species is rare in extreme northwest Florida, so the 11 seen in Santa Rosa Co. on 10 November was a good find (Phil C. Tetlow).

RED CROSSBILL - At least 22 at two sites were exciting in n. Cleburne Co., AL, beginning 27 October (Bill Summerour et al.).

PINE SISKIN - One was early at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 25 October (Michelle Davis, David Cimprich).

* Records and annotations provided by Greg D. Jackson and Robert A. Duncan

WINTER SIGHTINGS (DECEMBER 1998 - FEBRUARY 1999)*

RED-THROATED LOON - Three were observed on the Perdido Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Escambia Co., FL, 26 December (Phil C. Tetlow).

PACIFIC LOON - Singles were seen on 10 December at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, providing the 8th record for the Tennessee Valley (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson) and at Big Lagoon, Escambia Co., FL (Phil C. Tetlow et al.). Another at Wheeler Dam, Lawrence Co., AL, on 23 January was the 9th Tennessee Valley record (Steve W. McConnell, Jeff Wilson et al.).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - The 301 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties on 19 December, was a good number for n.w. Alabama.

EARED GREBE - Rare inland, one was seen at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, between 3-17 December (Richard A. Reynolds, Linda B. Reynolds). Was the one at Bayou La Batre, Mobile Co., AL, on 8 February the same individual seen last fall (John Porter, Jackie Porter)? Two individuals were at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, between 2-31 December (Robert A. Duncan, Will Duncan) and six were seen on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC, 21 December.

SOOTY SHEARWATER - The 9th Alabama record was one seen on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - A small shearwater that was probably this species was seen on 2 January at Gulf Shores, Baldwin Co., AL (Ann Miller).

GREAT BLUE HERON - An excellent count of 655 was made on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December.

CATTLE EGRET - One at Wilson Dam, Colbert/Lauderdale counties, AL, on 24 January was the 2nd winter Tennessee Valley record (Jim Height, many observers).

WOOD STORK - The first December record for the area was one seen on the 19th on the Pensacola CBC, Escambia Co., FL (Don Ware, Hud Huddleston).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Though uncommon in the area, 13 were seen at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour Co., AL, on 30 December (James F. Flynn, Giff R. Beaton, Earl Horn). One was in Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL, on 1 January and another was at the Marion Fish Hatchery in Perry Co., AL (David P. George, James V. Peavy, Allison Peavy). Up to 17 that arrived in November at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, lingered until 21 January (Don Ware, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scot Duncan, Will Duncan, Ginger Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow).

SNOW GOOSE - A good count for the coast in winter was 220 during the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

ROSS'S GOOSE - Although still considered rare, reports of this species are increasing. A first-year individual was at Bear Creek, Colbert Co., AL (Tom Haggerty, Jeff Garner) on 19 December. Three on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January was the 3rd Gulf Coast record. One was at Snowdoun, Montgomery Co., AL, on 16 January (Larry F. Gardella) and another was seen at Brown's Ferry, Limestone Co., AL, 20 January-20 February (Damien J. Simbeck, Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten).

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RING-NECKED DUCK - The 600+ that were seen at Walker Pond, Lauderdale Co., on 8 February, tied the high for n.w. Alabama (Paul D. Kittle).

BLACK SCOTER - Two of this rare species were at Gulf Shores and Perdido Key, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

OLDSQUAW - Two were at Bon Secour Bay, Baldwin Co., AL, on 1 January (David Plumb).

HOODED MERGANSER - The 1057 that were seen on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December was a maximum count.

COMMON MERGANSER - This species is accidental in the area, so two females at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 4 December were a good find (Carolyn Henning, Phil C. Tetlow et al., Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley).

SWAINSON'S HAWK - The 5th area record was an adult at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 14 December (Don Ware et. al.).

RED-TAILED HAWK - A very rare sighting for Alabama was an individual of the western rufous form that was seen at Blountsville, Blount Co., on 6 December (Greg D. Jackson and Debra G. Jackson).

MERLIN - Rare in winter in n. Alabama, one was seen on the Waterloo CBC, Colbert Co., 19 December (Jeff T. Garner, Tom Haggerty) and another was seen on 22 January in Decatur, Morgan Co. (Steve W. McConnell).

WILD TURKEY - The 34 on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December was a good count.

SANDHILL CRANE - The 50 on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Limestone/Morgan counties, AL, on 19 December, tied the Tennessee Valley maximum. Uncommon, but regular, 13 were seen at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour Co., AL, on 30 December (James F. Flynn, Giff R. Beaton, Earl Horn). The 35 on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January was a high count for the Gulf Coast (William J. Bremser, Greta Bremser). Northwest Florida sightings included up to five individuals at Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, in December and early January (Robert A. Duncan et al., Phil C. Tetlow).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - On 8 February a maximum count of 35 was seen on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL (John Porter, Jackie Porter).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A rare inland sighting, one was seen on 16 January in Decatur, Morgan Co., AL (Harry Dean).

WHIMBREL - A late individual spotted on 3 December on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, was the 6th winter record (Greg D. Jackson). Another was seen on 8 February on Little Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, establishing the 7th winter record (John Porter, Jackie Porter).

SANDERLING - A maximum of three was at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, between 27 December-7 March and established the 1st inland winter record (Steve W. McConnell et al.).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - A good count for the Tennessee Valley in winter was 10+ at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, on 27 December (Steve W. McConnell).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Three were early at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, on 27 February (Steve W. McConnell).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - A first for Alabama was one at Perdido Pass, Baldwin Co., 1-3 January (James V. Peavy, Ted Weems, many observers).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - The 4th winter Gulf Coast record and the 5th Alabama winter record was one on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., on 2 January (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson). Three on 22 January at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, was the the 1st winter record for north Alabama and the 6th winter record for the state. Up to 10 were recorded in January at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, Don Ware).

JAEGER SPECIES - One was at Wilson Dam, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, between 10-12 January (Kenneth Calhoun et al.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - The five at Perdido Pass, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 December were rare (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson), as was the one seen on the same date at Fort Pickens, Escambia Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan). An individual was also seen at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 3 December (Phil C. Tetlow et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - The 17th record for Alabama was an individual in first winter plumage seen at Wilson Dam and Wilson Lake, Colbert/Lauderdale counties on at least four occasions between 28 November-13 January (Greg D. Jackson, Damien J. Simbeck). Two birds in first winter plumage were also seen on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (Damien J. Simbeck, Michael A. Beuerlein) and another was seen on 24 January at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL. Single adults were at Wilson Dam on 17 and 23 January (Steve W. McConnell, Jeff R. Wilson et al.) and at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, on 24 January (David P. George).

GLAUCOUS GULL - A rare find, one was on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (Damien J. Simbeck, Michael A. Beuerlein).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Rare, a 1st year bird was seen on 2 December at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson et al.), and an adult was seen on Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., AL, on 3 December by the same observers.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - A count of 134 on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January suggests that this species is increasing.

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WHITE-WINGED DOVE - New high counts of 87 and 58 were made on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January (Phil C. Tetlow, Betsy Tetlow, Ben C. Garmon, Jan L. Loyd) and the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC on December 21 (Ed Case, Alan Knothe), respectively. A single individual was seen on 20 January at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Morgan Co., AL, establishing the 3rd Tennessee Valley and the 6th inland records.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI - Two birds found in November remained at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, until 2 December (Don Ware, many observers).

BURROWING OWL - Two birds were seen on 16 January during the Audubon monitoring of the colony at Eglin Air Force Base, FL (Lenny Fenimore).

SHORT-EARED OWL - At least two were seen regularly between 29 November-17 March at Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge, Lauderdale Co., AL (Damien J. Simbeck, G. Ned Piper, Paul D. Kittle et al.). Another was seen on the Waterloo CBC, Smithsonia, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 19 December (William J. Rogers, Larry Derrick).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - An individual recaptured at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa Co., FL, on 21 December had been banded in November 1997 in Metairie, Jefferson Parish, LA, by Nancy Newfield (Fred Bassett).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - One was banded in Niceville, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 21 December and two in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 11 January (Fred Bassett).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - An individual that was banded in January 1998, Niceville, Okaloosa Co., FL, was recaptured on 8 December at the same location (Fred Bassett).

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - An individual banded in 1995 was recaptured on 11 January in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL (Fred Bassett).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - One to two birds found at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, in November, remained at that location until 23 February (Robert A. Duncan, Phil C. Tetlow, many observers).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER - The adult found in November at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, was still present as of 30 January (Don Ware et al., many observers). This is the third consecutive year in a row that this species has been seen at this location.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - This species is rare in winter, so singles on 30 January and 6 February at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, were noteworthy (Nancy Gobris, Don Ware).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - An adult male was at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - One or two were heard on 9-10 February and again on 28 February at Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL (Larry Gardella).

TREE SWALLOW - One was early on 27 February at Lake Porter, Jefferson Co., AL (Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow, Sharon S. Hudgins). Another was at Guntersville, Marshall Co., AL, on 28 February (Steve W. McConnell).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - One was early on 27 February at Lake Porter, Jefferson Co., AL (Phil Snow, Carolyn T. Snow, Sharon S. Hudgins).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - A high count for the Tennessee Valley was 55 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - The 394 that were recorded on the Gulf Shores CBC, Baldwin Co., AL, on 2 January, was a high count for Alabama.

AMERICAN PIPIT - A maximum for Alabama was the 1204 counted on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Morgan/Limestone counties, AL, on 19 December.

NORTHERN PARULA - The 4th December record for the area was an individual on 4 December at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL (Robert A. Duncan).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - The first winter record for n.w. Alabama and the Tennessee Valley and the 3rd winter record for the state was one in Killen, Lauderdale Co., between 10 January-3 March (Shirley Wayland, many observers).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - An individual seen at Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., FL, on 25 December and 8 January was the first local December record (Robert A. Duncan, Sam Tagatz, Scotty Tagatz).

WILSON'S WARBLER - One seen on 6 February on the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL, was the 1st winter Tennessee Valley record and the 7th winter record for the state.

SCARLET TANAGER - One at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 17 December was the 1st winter record for the state (Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan).

WESTERN TANAGER - A first year male was at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 19 January (Don Ware, Carol Ware, Helene King).

CHIPPING SPARROW - A maximum count for the Tennessee Valley was the 214 recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, 19 December.

LARK SPARROW - An adult on 2 January in Petersville, Lauderdale Co., was the 2nd winter record for inland Alabama (Jeff T. Garner). Singles were also seen on the Pensacola CBC, 19 December (Merilu Rose, Rufus Rose), and in Pensacola, Escambia Co., FL, on 25 February (Don Ware).

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HENSLow'S SPARROW - The good winter record was one on 19 December at Auburn, Lee Co., AL (W. Douglas Robinson, Geoff E. Hill). One was also seen on 6 February at Greenville, Butler Co., AL (Charles Kennedy, many observers).

LECONTE'S SPARROW - Three were at Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge, Lauderdale Co., AL, on 7 February (Tony Meyer).

SONG SPARROW - A good count was 556 that were recorded on the Waterloo CBC, Lauderdale/Colbert counties, AL, on 19 December.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - A good count was 386 on 27 December on Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, Limestone Co., AL (Steve W. McConnell).

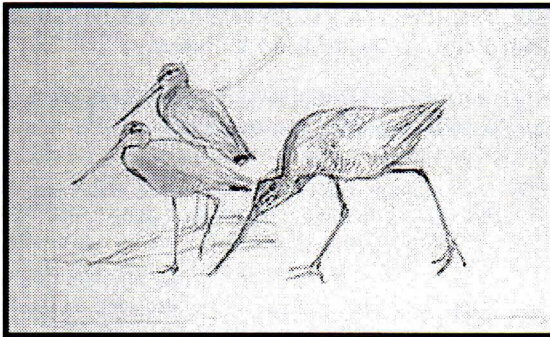
INDIGO BUNTING - A rare occurrence for the season was a male at Fort Morgan, Baldwin Co., AL, on 14 December (Greg D. Jackson, Debra G. Jackson).

PAINTED BUNTING - A female was present between 17 December and at least 7 January at Foley, Baldwin Co., and was the 5th winter record for Alabama (Ann L. Miller).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - An adult male seen 9 January at Montevallo, Shelby Co., AL, was a rare winter find, as were two females at Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Co., FL, on 21 December (Lenny Fenimore).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - This species is very rare in the coastal area, so the five at the Fort Walton Beach spray fields, Okaloosa Co., FL, that appeared in late November and remained until January 26 were noteworthy.

* Records and annotations provided by Greg D. Jackson and Robert A. Duncan



Godwits, 1925c, Louis A. Fuertes

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. *Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation, identification or other related topics.* Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer, it saves time and money if you submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with a hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred). A manuscript may also be submitted over the Internet as a file attached to an e-mail addressed to: thaggert@unanov.una.edu.

Manuscripts should be typed and double spaced. A 8 1/2 x 11 inch page format should be used.

Digital images submitted over the Internet, black and white prints, color prints, and slides are acceptable.

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*)

The author's name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10 km). Use only the metric system for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

Table titles should be in CAPS and placed above the tables.

Figure legends should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in past issues for the correct format.

Three or fewer references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, *Alabama Birds*).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.

Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Volume 45

No. 1

1999

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