

One interesting aspect of the banding program conducted was, that no birds banded by another bird bander have ever been taken at the writer's station at Auburn. Since it has been the only banding station in Auburn and probably the only one in at least a 30-mile radius, there was little chance of catching birds banded elsewhere.

Aside from the data obtained, this banding program afforded the writer a much better acquaintance with the behavior, plumages and morphology of the White-throated Sparrow and provided much enjoyable recreation.

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### WHITE PELICAN RECORDS FROM WHEELER RESERVOIR

By THOMAS Z. ATKESON

White pelicans nest in northwestern United States and western Canada. They migrate diagonally across the continent and winter in Florida and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Larger than their brown cousins, these white, black-winged-tipped birds have an overall length of nearly six feet and a wing spread of nine feet. In migration they make irregular stops in the Tennessee Valley of Northern Alabama. This is no recent development since Howell in his "Birds of Alabama" cites records from Leighton and Guntersville. However, the impoundment of the T.V.A. reservoirs and the establishment of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge have undoubtedly caused these big fellows to stop more often.

Examination of the records show that the birds were recorded on Wheeler reservoir in 1941, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1951, and 1953. Numbers have varied from single individuals to flocks of at least 21 birds. Occurrences have been most frequent in the fall and early winter, with the earliest recorded on October 10 and the latest on January 9. Spring records have begun on May 9 and continued through June 1.

The pelicans have shown a definite preference for wide, open expanses of shallow backwater. Sight records have come most frequently from around the mouths of Round Island Creek and Beulah Bay, an open stretch of shallow water dotted with small, mud-flat islands, now part of the Swan Creek Public Hunting Area. On Wheeler Refuge records have been confined to the western end, usually from Garth Slough and from the Flint Creek embayment. The unique appearance of these birds has made collecting

unnecessary. They have been seen by all Wheeler Refuge personnel, past and present, by TVA employees, State Conservation officers, by the wildlife artist, David C. Hulse, Game Management Agent Leo Martin, and by numerous local people. While all these records are for Wheeler Reservoir, the birds probably occur on Wilson and Guntersville reservoirs as well, although no records are available.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge  
Decatur, Alabama

### GROUND DOVE RECORDS FROM THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

By THOMAS Z. ATKESON

The little Ground Dove, *Columbigallina passerina passerina*, diminutive relative of the Mourning Dove, is a typical bird of the coastal plains of the deep south. In Alabama, these small doves are usually limited to the lower third of the State, from the Black Belt southward, but sometimes they get an itching foot, or wing, and a case of wanderlust.

In the Tennessee River Valley, where the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains the big Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, near Decatur, refuge employees keep a constant check on avian visitors. They have found the sparrow-sized Ground Dove a fairly frequent one. For example, they are recorded for 1942, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1953, and 1954. There were two records for 1950, two for 1954, and a single record for each of the other years. The accuracy of these records should not be questioned. They were made by L. S. Givens, former Wheeler Refuge manager and now assistant supervisor of refuges, refuge employees H. H. Grammer and E. A. Byford, and by wildlife artist David C. Hulse. In the course of the southwide Mourning Dove study, Hulse trapped and banded one of the little doves in 1950. He found another dead near Priceville in 1954. A study skin of the latter is now in the refuge collection.

There is only a single spring record, a bird seen on May 5, 1953. All other records are for fall and early winter. There is one in September, three in October, two in December, and one in January. The earliest was September 23 and the latest January 17. A single record was from Madison County; all others were from Morgan County. While these birds often form small flocks, all Tennessee Valley records were of single individuals or pairs.