

Although many Chuck-will's-widows were heard, only the one Whip-poor-will was heard, and it was in Jackson County. This somewhat scanty evidence seems to bear out the northwestern limit of the breeding range of the Whip-poor-will in Alabama as given by Howell's "Birds of Alabama", published in 1928.

We have moved from town to a 5-acre, mostly wooded lot 8 miles east of Huntsville. Finally, we have more in our yard than mockingbirds, starlings and English Sparrows. So far we have seen or heard 40 species right around the house since July 1. This does not include 18 of the most common species of this area. We have put out feeders, have made a shallow pond and have set our nets and traps. We anticipate doing much banding this fall and winter, and we hope to be able to make many worthwhile contributions to this journal.

—JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON, R.F.D., Brownsboro, Alabama

(Ed. note—Not only do we look forward to hearing more from the Robinsons, but thank them for past service, both as treasurer and local managers for the spring A.O.S. meeting.)

**BIRMINGHAM**—Although the migrants arrived on the Gulf Coast on time, the continued cold of March caused migration to be later this year. March temperatures were 9.6 degrees below normal with freezes occurring on seventeen mornings. March 23rd marked the date of the last freeze of the winter. With April's warm days (mean 64.3 degrees) migration progressed on schedule.

Since spring Tom Imhof has continued to see a pair of Woodcocks near Robert's Field and the writer observed one June 5th near Camp Horner on the Cahaba River. This indicates that in spite of this Birmingham area being 11 inches below normal rainfall for the year (as of August 9) the Woodcocks have found necessary food to remain.

The last date of a White-throated Sparrow for spring was May 19th at Mrs. Frank Wingate's. The misplaced White-throated Sparrow that has spent two summers ('58 and '59 near the Kenneth Grimley's house has not been seen since June 19th when they left on vacation.

The Finch family's propensity to albinism was observed at the Frank Wingate's where on May 18th a male English Sparrow was observed feeding two completely albino young.

Bo Sullivan, Jr., collected a White Ibis on the golf course of the Mountain Brook Country Club.

On July 31st the writer visited Lake Purdy which is usually low this time of year providing mud flats attractive to shore and water birds. There were 8 adult and 25 immature Little Blue Herons, 7 immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 3 Green Herons, 1 Great Blue, 8 Pectoral Sandpipers and 1 Spotted Sandpiper (still with spots). On August 9th the number of adult Little Blues had diminished, but 20 immature remained, along with 1 adult and 1 immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and two Pectoral Sandpipers. Again on August 13th at Purdy there was a flock of 24 immature Little Blue Herons, among them 1 Snowy Egret, 3 Green Herons, 1 immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron and 2 Spotted Sandpipers.

The week of August 8th the water works reservoir atop Shades Mountain provided an attendant American Egret standing sentinel between the two pools.

(He was still there on August 19.—Ed.)

—HARRIETT H. WRIGHT (MRS. D. O.), 2749 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, Ala.

**MONTGOMERY AND CONSERVATION DEPT.**—A total of 1,368 birds were banded by personnel of the Department of Conservation during the first half of 1960. Of this number, 1,012 were Mourning Doves, 46 Wood Ducks, 6 Common Snipe, 4 Common Egrets, 84 Little Blue Herons, and 216 White Ibis.

A Little Blue Heron nesting colony was found one mile east of Mountain Creek, in Chilton County by the writer during June. The colony is small, with approximately 75 nests. Twenty-five Little Blue Heron nestlings were banded on this area. The White Ibis—Little Blue Heron nesting colony located 8 miles south of Opp, Covington County, was visited three times during June and 216 nestling White Ibis, 59 Little Blue Herons, and 4 Common Egrets were banded on this area. This area is ideal for banding nestling birds. All nests are located above water and the area is clean and cool with an abundance of small trees growing out of the water.

Sixteen Cattle Egrets were seen by the author on July 6, 1960, on County road No. 75, 4.3 miles south of Pansey, Houston County, Alabama. These birds were feeding in association with a herd of cattle. The buff-colored patch on the lower throat region was very conspicuous. It is quite possible that these birds were or had nested in the southern part of that county.

—JAMES E. KEELER, Dept. of Conservation, Montgomery, Alabama

**GULF COAST**—While on vacation in August some material for this report was gathered. Field trips were made along the coast, the upper delta, and the river swamps of Clark and Monroe Counties. Bird life was abundant in all areas, except for a few species. A check list of 93 species was obtained.

About 75 White Pelicans remained in this area until the last week of July, considerably later than usual. Coots also stayed later and one pair nested at Gulf Shores. The adults and 3 chicks were seen again this week. There have been reports for several years of nesting coots, but this is the first I have found.

Black Terns, adults and immatures, have been seen all summer. I feel certain they are nesting locally, although I have as yet no positive proof. Several years ago I found hundreds of young on Petit Bois Island that were too young to have migrated far. Perhaps next year we can find a nesting colony.

Not a Brown Pelican has been seen this year. Also, the Frigatebird has been missing, probably killed in large numbers by the same storm of last year which did so much damage to the pelicans.

Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites have been numerous, but Bald Eagles and Ospreys are hard to find this summer. Wild turkeys, Bob-Whites and Mourning Doves have had an excellent breeding season in this area. A pair of Ground Doves nested in my yard at Gulf Shores. Our dry spring was no doubt a helpful factor in what seems to have been a wonderful breeding year for bird life.

—M. WILSON GAILLARD, D.D.S., 1508 Merchants Nat. Bank Bldg., Mobile, Ala.

## NESTING OF BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT LIVINGSTON

Arthur H. Howell in his book "Birds of Alabama" (1928) stated that the Baltimore Oriole bred sparingly in the northern half of the state. He quotes Dr. W. C. Avery to the effect that at Greensboro, Alabama, the bird bred prior to 1870 but by 1890 was not to be found except in autumn migration. Roger Tory Peterson in his book "A Field Guide to the Birds" intimates the bird (in breeding) is absent on the southeast coastal plain.

Livingston, the county seat of Sumter County, Alabama, is in the south half of Alabama and on the southern edge of the middle coastal plain or Alabama Black Belt.

It was not until 1958 that I became aware of the probability of the nesting of the Baltimore Oriole in Livingston. I had seen a pair of the birds through the first week of June and again the middle of August and thought I had heard them between those dates. When the leaves had fallen I began my search for the nest but did not find my first one until in February, 1960, in the center of the territory where I had seen and heard the birds most. To date I have found five nests in four different sections of town, some appearing to be four or five years old. Three have been in Pecan trees, one in a Durand Oak and one in a Chinkapin Oak. All of them are made almost entirely of light colored horse hair with some bits of wrapping twine woven in, and swung from the ends of small branches from fifteen to thirty feet up.

Two of the nests have been of this summer (1960). The last one that I found contained little birds just hatched. When the young were only a week old the mother disappeared, apparently the victim of some tragedy. The male bird however "carried on" alone and at the end of the second week the little birds successfully left the nest.

—JENKINS JACKSON, Livingston, Ala.

(Ed. note—A picture of one of these nests was submitted, but unfortunately the organization's funds would not permit its inclusion.)

## THE SONG SPARROW BREEDING IN DEKALB COUNTY

Many of us recall the day in June, 1954, when a group of us from Blanche Dean's Nature Camp discovered a Song Sparrow at Valley Head carrying food. This was the first positive proof of the breeding of the Song Sparrow in Alabama. Next year a singing bird was discovered in Fort Payne, 12 miles down the valley. The following year a second singing bird was found in Fort Payne right at the south end of the railroad station in the center of town. All of these birds were located in dense weeds within a few feet of the main line Southern Railway tracks and Wills' Creek.

Since 1954 I have traveled U. S. Highway 11 up and down this valley at least once or twice each summer. I have stopped at many likely-looking places along the highway to listen for Song Sparrows but never heard any. This July 9 (1960) I stopped for a traffic light in Collinsville, 15 miles south of Fort Payne, and sure enough a Song Sparrow was singing to the east, right along Wills' Creek and close to the railroad tracks.

It appears that the Song Sparrow has worked its way as a breeder south along Wills' Valley to near the Etowah County line but only in the center of towns. Is the next step Attalla, 22 miles southeast?

THOMAS A. JEFFERSON