

OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS

On March 20, at Courtland airfield, 20 miles west of Decatur, we found a burned-over area of about 10 acres between landing strips that was literally covered with Lapland Longspurs. We drove the car through this area and found the birds would not even leave the ground until we were within 10 feet of them. We made a conservative estimate of 3,000 Lapland Longspurs. On March 27, we returned to the airfield and found only 8 Longspurs. This is a late date for Lapland Longspurs in Alabama.

While returning from the Wilson Society meeting at Gatlinburg on May 8, we found a Western Kingbird on U. S. Highway 11, just inside Alabama from Rising Fawn, Ga. Tom Imhof was on the road ahead of us, so we overtook him and asked him to go back to verify the sighting. He said this was the first inland spring record for the state.

We have found the State Management Area at Swan Creek Refuge, north of Decatur, to be an excellent spot to observe migrating shore birds. We would like to know whether the 4 Upland Plovers and 14 White-rumped Sandpipers we saw there on June 18 were going North or South.—JIM and MARGARET ROBINSON

From Gadsden Edith Clark reports that she has been having a hard time keeping up with the demands of her Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Since the summer has been so dry, flowers are in short supply, making her feeders more popular than ever. She says, "I have had them feeding so late it was too dark to see whether it was male or female."

Clustie McTyeire reported a white-headed Cardinal coming to a feeding station at Hueytown High School, during the week of March 7. On March 21, a similarly colored bird appeared at the feeder of Mrs. Bruce, in Gardendale—a distance of perhaps 30 miles. In both cases the bird was fought off as an intruder by other birds.

Blanche Chapman reports that the Bluebirds residing in their box at Chap-O-Lee, 25 miles from Birmingham, are trying to replenish the depleted population for that species. On the 16th of August, they were busy feeding the third brood for the season. Several of the young of the two previous broods are still in evidence.

Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be not only tolerating people, but enjoying the hospitality of feeders. They have been reported at suet feeders in the Birmingham area by Harriet Wright, who entertained both adult and young; Pat Riley; Blanche Dean and others.

Those who attended Nature Camp in June at De Soto State Park had a wonderful opportunity to see both adult and young of this species. The nest was about 20 feet up in a tall pine tree right by the road leading to the lodge. The two young were frequently visible and the feeding schedule was interrupted a number of times as still another person wanted to get a good look. The fledglings left the nest become camp adjourned.

From Blanche Dean we get a report of Fairley Chandler's observation of parents feeding young in Magnolia Springs. "As the young would stretch eagerly toward the parent bird, the parent assumed an almost perpendicular angle and thrust the beak down, down almost to the eyes, not only depositing the food but tamping it down for good measure."

Our thanks to Blanche E. Dean for use of the cover cut.

NOTICE

The regular fall meeting of the A. O. S., will be held at Dauphin Island on October 14, 15, and 16. Details will be found in the accompanying sheet.