Alabama Birdlife

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Alabama Ornithological Society

Founded May 17, 1952

Officers

President: Mr. Thomas A. Imhof307 38th Street, Fairfield, Ala.
Vice President: M. Wilson Gaillard, D.D.S1508 Merchants Bank Bldg., Mobile, Ala.
Secretary: Mrs. T. S. Snead845 South 42nd Street, Birmingham, Ala.
Treasurer: Mrs. James C. Robinson
Editor Birdlife: Miss Blanche H. Chapman1325 So. 19th Street, Birmingham, Ala.

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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE is included in all types of memberships. For others by subscription, \$1.50 yearly or 50c per issue.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

From our neighboring state we welcome as new members:
Miss Christine Berry, 3918 North State Street, Jackson, Miss.
Miss Fannye A. Cook, 270 East Georgetown Street, Crystal Springs, Miss.
Mrs. C. Hal Cleveland, 1916 Beach Drive, Mississippi City, Miss.
Henry D. Maberyan, M.D., 13 Poplar Circle, Gulfport, Miss.

A. O. S. FALL MEETING-DAUPHIN ISLAND

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its semi-annual meeting at Dauphin Island on October 14, 15 and 16, 1960. Twenty-four members registered, in addition to a few visitors and members who were present for a portion of the time but did not register. Of six new members enlisted, four were from out of the state.

The business meeting was held Saturday night, after a wonderful dinner at Jacob's Marina. The president, Tom Imhof, presided. A check list of birds was compiled, with a total of 119 species recorded. Several others seen Sunday brought

the total to 125.

Following the business meeting, the program was conducted by Jim Keeler, who brought us up-to-date on the book of Alabama Birds being compiled by Tom Imhof. Paintings by two artists who have submitted work for the book were discussed, and sample plates to be included were passed among the group for discussion, comments or criticism. All present were favorably impressed with them. We lock forward to the day the book will roll off the press.

After the program, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

CLUSTIE McTYEIRE, Acting Secretary

Ed. Note—Although not a part of the business meeting, one of the highlights of the meeting was the showing of two films on Saturday afternoon by Father Dorn and Dr. Gaillard. One of these, "The Gooney Bird," was largely for amusement, but the other, on the need for providing wildlife with food, points up our responsibility in trying to back the idea for a refuge in the southern part of our state as outlined by Dr. Gaillard in his following article, "A Needed Project."

NEW MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Sincere thanks to our good friend and loyal member from Nashville, Mrs. Amelia Laskey, 1521 Graybar Lane. She has recently become a Life Member of our society.

Others who have raised their membership status from Active to Sustaining are Dr. M. Wilson Gaillard, Mobile; Mr. Paul Robinson, Decatur, and Mr. W. U. Harris, Jackson. We appreciate their fine support of our organization, and we urge that others may follow their example.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Ben P. Clark, who has been our regional correspondent for the Gadsden area, has joined her husband in Whitesburg, Kentucky. We miss you, Edith. Let us hear from you.

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

SPRING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual spring meeting of the A.O.S. will be held on April 21, 22 and 23, at DeSoto State Park. Preliminary plans include taking a dietitian who will prepare meals. This weekend should be excellent for migratory birds, so make a special effort to attend.

CONCENTRATION OF CHIMNEY SWIFTS

At the northern edge of Phenix City, Ala., a small creek flows into the turbulent waters of the Chattahoochee River just below the Bibb Dam. On either side of the creek is a park-like growth of mixed trees which attracts warblers following the feedway in the fall.

Approaching by car in the late afternoon of September 26, 1960, we noted a heavy concentration of Chimney Swifts (Chaetura pelagica) catching insects that were thick enough to be seen as they churned the air. Several swifts were dead in the road where they had apparently collided with vehicles. Seeing one lying prone but with head up and wings outstretched, we stopped, examined him and, finding no injury, placed him under some protective shrubbery nearby. After parking we noted that the birds now were even more numerous. They would fly between us as we walked. Beneath the trees in the park, however, was the densest gathering of all. Pressed into a layer between the overstory and the ground, a moving mass of swifts darkened the air.

No basis of an estimate could be arrived at, but it would have to be in the thousands.

SUE CHAMBLISS AND L. A. WELLS, Members G.O.S.

A NEEDED PROJECT

Our fall report to this column is usually a check list of birds we have recently seen in this Gulf Coast area. Our purpose in writing these reports has been to give our A. O. S. members a clearer picture of the great southward migration of nongame birds to their winter feeding grounds, chiefly Central America.

In like manner, our spring reports have been an attempt to alert you who live north of Mobile, to the happy return of feathered friends; to report the safe landing after their perilous flight across the Gulf of Mexico. However, this report will be somewhat different. This is indeed about birds we have seen—but will never see again. It is an ugly account of what happens every fall. It is a death notice of those who ran out of "gas" before reaching Central and South America and were lost at sea.

In this particular coastal region we are temporarily host to a vast number of song birds each fall. They come from the entire eastern half of North America and converge on this area before crossing the Gulf of Mexico on their journey south. Before leaving their nesting areas each bird builds up an excess of fat which is their migration fuel supply. On arriving in Alabama most of this fat has already been burned, so they must pause here long enough to refuel. Each bird must again store up enough fat sufficient for the trans-gulf flight.

Their flyway is from Mobile to Yuccan, Mexico—a distance of six hundred forty miles. Therefore, each bird must eat far more than its large daily requirement if it is to accumulate excess fat. Now when you multiply each bird's need by hundreds of thousands, it means this area must furnish an enormous food supply.

In the past, this region adequately furnished such needed food. Lately, as our human population increased, we began a reckless clearance of forest lands, undergrowth, and swamps. The result has been a dangerous reduction in food for many bird species, and consequently, an increase in mortality during their trans-gulf migration. What can we do about this? This question brings us to the "Needed Project."

Dauphin Island is approximately the geographic center of this community and greatly flyway. It happens to be both the take-off and the landing area for crossgulf flights. Therefore, we who are interested in Nature should band together in an effort to establish in this area a Wild Life Refuge.

Coffee Island, which lies between Bayou la Batre, Alabama, and Dauphin Island, is ideally suited as such a sanctuary. Here we could supply food and protection, not only for geese and ducks, but also for non-game birds. In addition, it would afford nesting areas for local shore birds, driven away from our beaches by jeeps and encroaching humanity.

We are happy to report that local hunters, through our Mobile Wildlife and Conservation Society, have already started such a move. But we need your help. Please write your U. S. senators and congressman, urging their support for the Coffee Island Refuge.

Establishment of a Federal Refuge takes time as well as effort. In the meantime, migrating birds must eat. Therefore, we must start a supplementary program for feeding and protecting birdlife until the Coffee Island venture reaches fruition. You can help by scattering in your yard, small grain such as millet, milo or cracked corn. Feeding platforms placed outside your favorite window can be supplied with cracked pecans, bread crumbs and suet. Suet is especially relished by birds, and will be given you free by most butchers. You will be amazed at the pleasure your own feeding station will afford you and your family.

For longer range feeding, you should plant berries and fruit-bearing trees, such as mulberry, cherry-laurel, dogwood, tallow, cedar, and many others. These trees add beauty to your property, while furnishing shelter and food for birds. In conclusion, it is a way you can meet your obligation in restoring Nature's balance as the Great Creator designed this earth. Will you do your part in your neighborhood?

M. WILSON GAILLARD, D.D.S. 1508 Merchants National Bank Bldg. Mobile, Alabama

TAXONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE RED-TAILED HAWK AND NOTES ON OTHER RELATED SPECIES

The highly variable Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis (Gmelin) of North America has been a thorn in the side of many taxonomists. The Red-tail in North America is divided into six subspecies of races, three color phases, and is very susceptible to albinism and melanism. Measurements vary by ago, sex, and race, and immature and subadult plumages vary in a gradual or prolonged change from juvenile to adult. These factors, plus the individuals from the zones of intergraduation, impose a very trying problem of identification. However, the principal factor involved is in the plumage characteristics and variation of the geographical races.

The following table of identification of the races is presented on the assumption that the average bird student is familiar to a basic degree with the characteristics of the Buteo jamaicensis borealis (Gmelin), which is the common Red-tail of Alabama. These identifications are of typical plumages and it should be understood that individual variation is frequent in the races. The succeeding races described, in general, vary from B. j. borealis either in being progressively darker or lighter, smaller or larger. However, other distinctive marks of the race are mentioned.

- (1) Buteo jamaicensis borealis (Gmelin). Breeds from southern Canada, west to eastern Nebraska, south to eastern Texas, and northern Florida. Winters from Maine, New York, Michigan, and eastern Nebraska south to probably central Florida. This is the breeding bird in Alabama.
- (2) B. j. umbrinus (Bangs). Resident in south Florida, north to Kissimmee prairie and Tampa. Adults: Darker than B. j. borealis with subterminal black tail band wider (1 inch), usually with several incomplete dark bands. Immature: probably indistinguishable from that of B. j. borealis.
- (3) B. j. kriderii (Hoopes). Breeds from southern Alberta and western Ontario to Wyoming, Montana, western Nebraska, and western Minnesota. Winters in South Dakota and southern Minnesota to Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana—and casually in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Kentucky. Adults: Similar to B. j. borealis except upper parts much whiter, head, back, upper tail coverts and scapulars very noticeably splotched or streaked with white. Head sometimes almost immaculate, underparts sometimes immaculate, belly band faint or absent, thighs usually immaculate, tail occasionally pure white, sometimes with narrow dark subterminal band, some specimens with pinkish cast (variable). Immature: Similar to immature B. j. borealis, in general more spotted with white on head and upper portions, tail barred as in immature B. j. borealis, but light areas usually lighter (variable).
- 4) B. j. fuertesi (Sutton and Van Tyne). Breeds in southern Texas (Kerr County, Brewster County, and Corpus Christi); other records: southwestern Arizona, New Mexico, southern Louisiana. Adults: Similar to light phase B. j. calurus, except paler underparts, belly band almost lacking, thighs immaculate, tail usually unbarred or bars much reduced. Immature: Similar to light phase immature B. j. calurus—but less spotted below.
- B. j. calurus (Cassin). Breeds from central Alaska, Yukon, Mackenzie, and Saskatchewan, south to Baja, California, and western New Mexico, east to Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, into Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. Winters from southern British Columbia to southern Minnesota, southeast to Guatemala, east to Louisiana, and casually in Mississippi. Adult Melanistic Phase: Entire body and wings, except remiges, uniform fuscous, remiges as in normal phase B. j. calurus or B. J. borealis except the white areas grayer. Rectrices as in normal phase. Immature Melanistic Phase: Similar to adult, with the exception of the dark gray tail banded with blackish. Adult Red Phase: Similar to the melanistic phase, but with orangeish-edged feathers on the crown, nape, and interscapulars, scapular feathers with some buff, sides of head and throat fuscous, breast and abdomen dark hazel with black shaft streaks, under tail coverts lighter, under wing coverts cinnamon-buff barred with fuscous. Remiges as in adult B. j. borealis. Tail, reddish-cinnamon and barred subterminally with black, some incomplete black bars along the shaft. Adult Pale (Normal) Phase: Similar to adult B. j. borealis but with the back darker, underparts with a definite wash of pale buff or tawny, thighs barred with cinnamon. Rectrices usually with incomplete bands along the shaft. Immature Pale Phase: Similar to immature B. i. borealis but with more fuscous brown on throat and breast, thighs heavily barred with fuscous brown: immature B. j. borealis is generally barred on thighs, but to a lesser degree.
- (6) B. j. alascensis (Grinnel). Breeds from southeastern coastal Alaska to Queen Charlotte Islands and Vancouver Islands, British Columbia. Winter range unknown, probably resident. Adults: Similar to B. j. borealis but smaller, abdomen marked chiefly with reddish brown, retrices with several narrow bars. Immature: Similar to immature B. j. borealis but smaller.

Buteo j. borealis, the dominant race in Alabama which breeds here in moderate numbers, is augmented in the winter by migrants of the same race from the North. B. j. calurus and B. j. kriderii as determined so far, are the other two races most likely to occur in the state during winter. To date, very little data is available from Alabama concerning these two subspecies. A specimen of B. j. kriderii was collected in Montgomery County in the winter of 1951. Other records are mostly from the Black Belt, but also are well scattered from Huntsville, Birmingham, Clarke County, and Mobile County, by reliable observers. Several sight records of what was con-

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sidered to be B. j. calurus in the adult melanistic phase were made in the winter of 1958-59, and one in the winter of 1959-60. Two other birds seen in the winter of 1958-59 were believed to be immature melanistic B. j. calurus. It is assumed that the melanistic phase is B. j. calurus, for Friedmann (1950) describes no melanistic phase for B. j. borealis. However, melanism could occur in any race, but is common in B. j. calurus. These birds could very easily be confused with the immature black phase Harlan's Hawk. Therefore, the status of B. j. calurus in Alabama remains hypothetical until a specimen is collected or other proof is presented. Because of its similarity to B. j. borealis, the pale phase western bird is less likely to be identified as a western bird than would the black phase. It is highly probable that the western race occurs in Alabama and is frequently overlooked.

The probability that other races occur in Alabama is reasonable because of the tendency of western birds, at times, to migrate diagonally across the country to the southeastern states; however, we have as yet no records of any type to indicate their presence in Alabama. B. j. umbrinus of Florida has been recorded north of its range only once (in North Carolina).

Three other western hawks of the genus Buteo might be confused with the Red-tailed Hawk. All have been recorded in this state:

- (1) Rough-legged hawk, Buteo lagopus (Pontoppidan). (Two color phases). Sight records only, Tennessee Valley, Black Belt, and Mobile.
- (2) Harlan's hawk, Buteo harlani (Audubon). (Three color phases). Sight records only, Birmingham and the Black Belt.
- (3) Swainson's hawk, Buteo swainsoni (Bonaparte). (Three color phases). Specimen from Selma.

The Rough-legged Hawk has the general buteo shape but with longer wings and tail than the other buteos. The light phase bird, although variable, should not be confused with any previously-mentioned species. The melanistic phase is fuscous black. The tail is dark brown, basal one-third or less, whitish, with a wide subterminal black band, and several narrower black bars anterior to this. The immature bird is similar to the adult, but has a dark mottled tail, unbarred.

Harlan's Hawk has the same shape as the Red-tailed Hawk. Three color phases occur: light, intermediate, and melanistic. Although varying rather widely, the usual tail pattern is white to grayish, mottled along edge of feathers, chiefly towards the end, and forming an indefinite dusky mottled band. In the melanistic phase, the ground color may be shaded darker with a definite subterminal band of fuscous black.

Swainson's Hawk migrates in flocks, an unusual habit shared only by our eastern Broad-winged Hawk. The Swainson's Hawk is similar in size to the Redtailed Hawk. The wings are more pointed and held at a slight dihedral when soaring. Three color phases occur with every possible combination between any two of them. They vary from pale, very light birds to the very dark ones. The normal or "typical" bird can best be identified by the wide dark breast band. Tail pattern: rectrices, mouse gray with a tinge of brownish (ground color) tipped with buff white, banded subterminally with blackish, and barred (9-10) narrow dark bars, whitish basally. Rectrices of the melanistic phase, similar, but bars wider.

In trying to identify the melanistic buteos, especially in the field, the main point should be the tail, even though this is highly variable within individuals, subspecies, and species. If one can get a mental picture of the typical species' tail pattern, it should aid greatly in identification, or at least, eliminate other species. Sometmes, of course, the tail pattern cannot be observed and the observer must rely on other characteristics which may be more difficult to determine. Literature cited:

- Friedman, Herbert: Birds of North and Middle America, U.S.N.M. Bulletin 50, Part XI, 1950.
- 2. A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, Fifth Edition, 1957.
- 3. Peterson, Roger T.: A Field Guide to the Birds, Rev. Ed., 1947.

ROBERT W. SKINNER Department of Conservation Montgomery, Alabama

REGIONAL WINGBEATS

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

TENNESSEE VALLEY-DECATUR --- From late August to the present, the weather can best be described with one word-"wet." Rains have fallen at least weekly, frequently more often. The fall shorebird migration was above average, with numbers of Sandpipers and Yellowlegs moving through. David Hulse spotted a half dozen Avocets near Old Beaver Lake on September 29, and Henry Grammer saw three the same date about a mile away, possibly the same birds.

Local Dove numbers were slightly above those of last fall, and no Trichomoniasis was reported. In mid-October, a hunter bagged an odd dove near Belle Mina. In size and conformation it appeared to be a Mourning Dove, but its plumage, instead of gray, was a pale, reddish brown. David Hulse saw the bird, brought it to the Wheeler Refuge office and employees there shipped it to Dr. Maurice Baker at the Wildlife Research Unit, Auburn. Dr. Baker identified it as the rare red phase of the Mourning Dove, an example of the erythrism that occasionally affects most species of higher animals.

The fall flight of Blue-winged Teal was well above last year's. David found American Widgeon earlier than ever before, spotting a small flock on September 21. By mid-November, Wheeler Refuge duck numbers had built up to the 15,000 mark; not high, but somewhat above those of this time last fall.

During the last few days of September, geese arrived with a rush. By mid-October, over 15,000 were present. By late October, the refuge held an all-time record peak of 38,500, although 5,000 of these had drifted away to parts unknown by mid-November.

As usual, Canada Geese made up the majority, but there was also an increase in both Blue Geese and Snow Geese. Twelve hundred Blues and 80 Snows are currently using the refuge. With above-average crop yields, Wheeler hopes to attract and hold record numbers of waterfowl this fall and winter.

THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR. Wheeler Wildlife Refuge

HUNTSVILLE--Migration was under way here after the first week in August. We found that the birds we were seeing every day in the yards were not our resident population when we set up our mist nets and started banding. Some firsts this fall were: 8/23, Palm Warbler, Canada Warbler; 9/4, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler; 9/5, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler; 9/8, Blue-winged Warbler; 9/12, Least Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush; 9/22, Black-polled Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Marsh Hawk (see article on hawk migration); 9/28, Mourning Warbler (no specimen for Alabama, but authors did not collect this Immature female); 9/30, Nashville Warbler, also heard first geese that night; 10/1, 42 Canada Geese; 10/2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 10/5, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 10/8, Lincoln's Sparrow; 10/10, Swamp Sparrow; 10/11, White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Orange-crowned Warbler; 10/12, Hermit Thrush.

Red-eyed Vireos sang constantly until August 23. Several were seen after that. but no songs were heard. One White-eyed Vireo really gave us a hard time. It sang for several days before we ever found out for sure just what it was. It sounded like a Red-eyed, a Warbling Vireo, and a Summer Tanager. On only about three occasions in four days did it ever give the typical White-eyed song.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos mated as late as August 23. This species was last seen on October 2. The last Chuck-will's-widow was heard August 8, and the last Whippoor-will, October 8.

The most numerous migrants were Swainson's Thrushes, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Magnolia Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, E. Wood Pewees, Catbirds, and Indigo Buntings. The song of the Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard September 20-22. Cold fronts passed through on September 12 and 18, producing noticeable waves of birds.

> MR. AND MRS. JAMES C. ROBINSON R. F. D., Brownsboro, Ala.

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BIRMINGHAM-September, October, and November temperatures were about normal but the rainfall for the year still lagged, 10.17 inches below normal. The first freeze occurred November 7. Weather conditions in general were pleasant and conducive to a prolonged colorful autumn, if not to an eventful fall migration.

In spite of the numerous fishermen. Lake Purdy's exposed mudflats, recurring each fall, continued to provide fair shore bird observations. Little Blue Herons were common until mid-September. Snowy Egrets were seen through September 20. Pectoral Sandpipers were observed throughout September, 15 sighted on September 15. One Sanderling was observed August 20. Spotted, Solitary, and Least Sandpipers were not uncommon with 2 Least Sandpipers and a Greater Yellowlegs still there on November 3. On August 29 and September 15. Black Terns were observed. One Least Tern, 35 Blue-winged Teal and 4 Baldpates were well out of the fisherman's way on October 3. Tom Imhof and Rose Mary Gaymer reported 1 Red-breasted Merganser on October 28, along with Green-winged Teal and Pintail Ducks at Purdy.

On October 7, Tom Imhof, Idalene Snead and Emmie Brownlie saw 3 Golden Plovers at Roberts' Field. Of note, a Common Snipe banded by Tom Imhof, April 17, 1960, at Roberts' Field was retrapped on November 20 at Roberts' Field.

Warbler migration proved to be poor. The writer observed no concentrations or groups, and the arrival dates were not significant except in one case. On August 17. Pat Riley had a Canada Warbler in company with a Worm-eating Warbler at her bird bath.

A female Summer Tanager was observed by Pat Riley on October 30 at the feeder.

White-throated Sparrows returned on October 11, a Fox Sparrow on November 7. Purple Finches appeared November 11: last year they returned November 17: in 1958, on November 2. Looks as though we will have another Purple Finch winter.

> HARRIETT WRIGHT 2749 Millbrook Road Birmingham 13. Ala.

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TUSCALOOSA—The Tuscaloosa section is a new locality to be covered in ALA-BAMA BIRDLIFE, and will be encompassed in part by future Christmas Bird Counts. It is not atypical for the southwestern tier of counties, and, in general, is characterized by gentle rolling hills permeated by creeks and swamp lands bordering cultivated fields and dairy farms. It includes varied habitat types ranging from old fields, pure pine stands, mixed hardwood stands to extensive tracts of swamps associated with the Warrior River. South of Moundville the northern ramifications of the Black Belt are encountered with its prairie types and related elements. The University of Alabama Arboretum provides cultivated shrubs in the form of a bird sanctuary which is transversed by one mile of well-kept nature trails, and Moundville State Park offers good birding the year around with its protected grounds.

Fall pushed the usual migrants through this section with little commotion. A continual check at the local radio and TV towers revealed a low mortality rate of the common resident birds. The White-throated Sparrow was recorded October 12. but did not make himself known until eight days later. Flights of Canada Geese have been spotted with the earliest date being October 22. At least one flight of Blue Geese, with a few Snow Geese mixed in, was seen. Doves have been very abundant so far, with their numbers increasing around local feeders. The conspicuous presence of many immature doves is probably the product of an early fall extension of the breeding season. Myriads of black birds have been piling up in the open fields south of Moundville in ever-increasing numbers. However, periodic checks of dairy farm yards have not yet turned up a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds, which were seen last year; nor have I been able to make an Eastern Meadow Lark's call into a Western's yet. Wood Ducks are common in the cypress recesses and backwaters, and their incessant talk is pleasant to the ear late of an evening as one stops to listen along a swamp road.

HAWK MIGRATION—HUNTSVILLE (BROWNSBORO)

We had been asked by Adele West of Chattanooga to participate in observations of the annual hawk migration. Members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society man various fire towers and mountains around Chattanooga and record the numbers and species of hawks seen going over. Adele wondered if some of the birds observed there fanned out in our direction. We thought we would be unable to help out, as we did not have the time or baby-sitters required for all-day watches at a tower, but were pleasantly surprised to find that our house and lot are as good as a tower. We are situated on a slope between two mountain ridges running north and south. Our valley seems to act as a sort of funnel for a large, low area north of us. On September 22, 50 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Marsh Hawks, and 2 unidentified Buteos were seen, and on September 23, 87 Broad-wings and one unidentified Buteo. On the 24th, 14 Broadwings, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, and 1 Sparrow Hawk went over.

The hawks came in from the northeast, circled to gain altitude, and sailed off over one or the other of the ridges, heading south or southwest. It would be very interesting for other members of our Society to take part in these observations next year. Anyone who has not done this before might send for information to Chandler Robbins, Population and Distribution Studies, Branch of Wildlife Research, Patuxent Research Refuge. Laurel. Maryland.

MR. AND MRS. J. C. ROBINSON R. F. D., Brownsboro, Ala.

One Least Tern was seen at a small pond opposite the Fayetteville, Tenn., Golf and Country Club on August 21, 1960, by Jim and Margaret Robinson.

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The American Egret at the Birmingham Waterworks Filter Plant, which we reported in our last issue, remained until August 27th. By way of farewell, it circled the impoundment three times and then headed southeast for parts unknown.

THE BANDERS' CORNER

BANDING REPORT—JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON

Since August 6, 1960, we have banded 577 birds of 67 species. Of this total, 92 birds were banded at Dauphin Island. Birds banded in greatest numbers at Brownsboro are: Swainson's Thrush, 35; Cardinal, 35; Magnolia Warbler, 33; E. Wood Pewee, 27; Wood Thrush, 27; Indigo Bunting, 23; Catbird, 22; Tennessee Warbler, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 19; Field Sparrow, 16; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Hooded Warbler, 15; White-eyed Vireo, 13; Ovenbird, 12; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 12; Kentucky Warbler, 10.

Species of particular interest are: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Screech Owl, 2; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Traill's Flycatcher, 2; Least Flycatcher, 2; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5; Scarlet Tanager, 7; Phildelphia Vireo, 1; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Worm-eating Warbler, 4; Nashville Warbler, 1, on September 30; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 6; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Louisiana Water Thrush, 1; MOURNING WARBLER, 1, Immature female, on September 28; and Canada Warbler, 8.

27 species (92 birds) were banded at Dauphin Island, Ala., October 14 through 18. Most numerous were: Indigo Bunting, 28; Blue Grosbeak, 7; Catbird, 7; Tennessee Warbler, 5; and Common Yellowthroat, 5. Of interest were the immature Whitecrowned Sparrow and the immature Dickcissel on October 17.

Returns: Rufous-sided Towhee, female, banded 4/9/59; caught 8/8/60.
Tufted Timouse, banded 3/31/59; caught 10/4/60.

(A young Flying Squirrel caught in a mist net on September 26 has made a very lovable pet.)

NASHVILLE BIRDS RECOVERED—AMELIA LASKEY, 1521 GRAYBAR LANE

Robin, 1st year bird, banded August 31, 1956—shot on a farm at Livingston, Ala., December 25, 1959. Bluebird, nestling, banded August 7, 1956, was found dead north of Valley Head, DeKalb County, Ala., in March, 1960 (date not given). Both of these reports were forwarded from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington.