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Cover cut - kindness of Mrs. Blanche E. Dean

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On February 23, 1963 the second A.O.S. Executive Council meeting was held in Montgomery. The meeting was well worth while, and several problems and business matters were discussed, which we usually would not have the time or place to properly discuss at a regular meeting. I would strongly urge that the Executive Council meetings continue in the future.

In Tuscaloosa, April 20, the Spring meeting will bring about a change of officers. Let's give the new officers some good strong support in order that the A.O.S. will grow

and prosper.

In the past few years, some of the A.O.S. members have stayed in the background, so to speak, and were content to let a few others do the crowing. I think it's time active members became active. Several items will be brought up at the Spring business meeting, a large attendance and strong support of what you desire or dislike will be more than welcome.

One other point which I would like to stress is the problem of sending news, etc. to the Newsletter editor and of sending good interesting papers to the editor, to be published in Alabama Birdlife. In the past, some members have been active in this respect, others have not. This is one factor that will help tremendously to hold A.O.S. together and further its growth. There are any number of ways to participate, see if you can't find one.

I would like to express my appreciation to the other officers and members for their very fine support.

Bob Skinner

Dates to Remember

Alabama Ornithological Society annual Spring meeting will be held in Tuscaloosa, Ala., April 20-21, 1963.

The Wilson Club Meeting will be held on May 4-6, 1963 at Charleston, South Carolina.

The American Ornithologists Union Meeting will be held on August 12-14, 1963 in Gainesville, Fla.

A.O.S. HAS NEW VICE PRESIDENT



Mrs. Julian Dusi, Auburn, Alabama has been appointed Vice President, succeeding Mrs. Margaret Robinson who recently resigned.

Rosemary is a charter member and has worked faithfully in our organization since it was founded in 1952. She will serve as Vice President until our annual meeting to be held in Tuscaloosa April 20-21, 1963.

ISSUES OF "ALABAMA BIRDLIFE" INDEXED



Dr. Julian Dusi has just completed indexing the first ten-year issues of Alabama Birdlife. This momentous task has taken months of exacting work and our organization is deeply indebted to him. Plans are being arranged to have it published; but before this can be done, it is necessary to know the approximate number to be printed. All members should place their order either with our president or Dr. Dusi.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

A slight change has been proposed for membership action at the April A.O.S. meeting - under Article IV, Section 7, sub-head (d) would be deleted.

This change would permit each president to either prepare his own program or have authority to appoint a Program Chairman, instead of the Vice President being required to do so as presently written. There should be no serious objection to this minor change.

Resignation of our Vice President, Margaret Robinson, was received with regrets. We wish her a speedy recovery.

A TEXAS BOOK REVIEW

"Alabama Birds" by Thomas A. Imhof recently was reviewed by Noel Pettingell for Outdoor Nature Club of Houston, Texas. The following is part of his lengthy and complimentary review:

"Alabama Birds" was undertaken by Thomas Imhof at the direction of the Department of Conservation in January 1955 and covers observations up through August 31, 1961. Mr. Imhof's personal field work extended into 64 of the State's 67 counties and William C. Holland, Jr., Chairman of the Bird Book Committee of the Alabama Department of Conservation (Game and Fish Division) gives full credit where it is due in the Forward, in which he states (in part):

"The author has clearly demonstrated that he has done extensive research, not only in published sources, but through interviews with other ornithologists and co-operators. The time spent by the author in the field seeking and collecting data for the book is shown by the large number of arrival and departure dates of the various species he has observed. Assembling and keeping up-to-date records of Alabama's 352 species of birds was a tremendous task and required nearly as much time and effort as the actual writing of the book."

"Alabama Birds" is an excellent example of the ideal State bird guide and is certainly one of the finest books of its type to be published within the past decade. Only ten States comprise the list of those possessing guides comparable in quality and scope to Mr. Imhof's magnificent volume - excluding all books published over ten years ago. These "Top Ten" States are as follows (along with year latest guide was published):

Alabama (1962)	Minnesota (1955)
Alaska (1959)	New Mexico (1961)
Florida (1954)	North Carolina (1960)
Georgia (1958)	Texas (1960)
Louisiana (1960)	Washington (1953)

The above review coming from the great state of Texas with its many wonderful Ornithological groups, should make us very proud. And we are indeed proud, not only of our author, but also our Department of Conservation.

Birmingham



For the year 1962, 527 birds of 24 species were banded by trap method at our home, Birmingham, Ala.

Those species captured in the greatest number were: Purple Finch 165, Myrtle Warbler 59, Chipping Sparrow 56, Evening Grosbeak 50, Rufous-sided Towhee 44, White-throated Sparrow 32, Cardinal 27 and Field Sparrow 25.

There were 42 returns represented by 17 species. Of these, 24 were one or more years old. Of special note was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet banded February 2, 1962, returned December 26, 1962. A red-bellied Woodpecker and 1 Cardinal were 2 years old. 7 were 3 years old: 3 Blue Jays, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 1 Summer Tanager, 1 White-throated Sparrow, and 1 Tufted Titmouse. Of the 4-year olds, there were: 2 Field Sparrows, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 1 Summer Tanager, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 1 Tufted Titmouse. 2 Cardinals made the 6-year mark and 1 Chickadee banded as an adult June 2, 1956 continues to thrive.

Harriett Wright

Brownsboro

During the year 1962 we banded a total of 2253 birds of 101 species. All these were banded at Brownsboro (5 miles east of Huntsville) except 8 at Birmingham and 19 at Dauphin Island. The great majority of the birds were caught with mist nets; the remainder with Alabama Quail traps. All birds were measured (wing chord), checked for fat, and banded. There were 175 returns--birds recaptured after a period of 90 days or more. There were no foreign retraps at our stations, and only 1 recovery of our birds was recorded (a Slate-colored Junco near Columbus, Ohio).

Although the number of birds banded was considerable, amount of net hours required was extremely high--at a typical time during the height of migration (Oct. 1 through 7), a total of 116 birds were caught out of 550 net hours, more than 4.7 net hours per bird. Compared with reports of banding records from other areas, this seems discouragingly high. When the many days of little bird movements are considered, one realizes what a fantastic number of net hours are required to capture 2000 birds. I think we can safely conclude that our banding location must be situated near a null point between migratory routes.

Brownsboro (continued)

The Bander's Corner

In our opinions the most interesting catches of the year included a Black Skimmer at Dauphin Island; Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-wills, Least Flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireos, Connecticut Warbler and Wilson's Warbler at Brownsboro.

BIRMINGHAM

In 1962 I established a banding station on my property on Pike Road in Ensley, Birmingham, where I moved in December 1961. During 1962 I banded 528 birds of 61 species. I now operate up to 8 nets and 8 traps and now that I've banded in the same locality for a year, I am beginning to get returns and to find out who my steady customers are. Outside of Birmingham, I banded 80 birds on Dauphin Island during the Fall A.O.S. meeting. The following species were banded in greatest numbers: Whitethroat, 105; Cardinal, 51, Robin, 46; Towhee, 41; Savannah Sparrow, 34; Brown Thrasher, 24; Catbird, 23; Myrtle Warbler, 23; Field Sparrow, 19; Mockingbird, 17; Starling, 10; and White-eyed Vireo, 10. This total included a Screech Owl, 3 species of Empidonax and 73 Warblers of 19 species. I obtained 20 returns (birds recaptured at the same place after 90 or more days) but no bird more than a year from original banding because my station has not been operating long enough: Cardinal, 3; Towhee, 6; Whitethroat, 4; Field Sparrow, 3; Blue Jay, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Catbird, 1.

On November 3, 1962, James T. Aycock of Center Point (suburban Birmingham) visited his hunting lodge in Greene County 16 miles north of Eutaw and found a dead and dehydrated Black-throated Green Warbler with a band on it. Banding headquarters informs us that the bird was banded by Karl Bartel at Blue Island (suburban Chicago), Illinois on September 30, 1962. The condition of the bird indicated that it had been dead at least a week and apparently made the trip from Chicago in less than a month! (In 1948 a banded Myrtle Warbler made the trip from the Chicago area to Birmingham in 23 days!) On January 31, 1963 at Roberts Field, Birmingham, I caught a Savannah Sparrow that I had banded on November 22, 1958, over 4 years and 2 months earlier!

Tom Imhof

An adult Harlan's Hawk was collected on November 27, 1962 at Geiger, Sumpter County. This is, apparently, the first Harlan's specimen for Alabama.

Bob Skinner

1962 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

AUBURN, ALABAMA

The Christmas Bird Count was made at Auburn, Ala., December 20, 1962. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle was the Auburn Post Office. Composition of the area: mixed woods, 50%; pastures and open field, 30%; water and mud flats, 20%; Weather was clear. Temperature varied from 34 to 52 degrees F. Winds, 5-10 mph, westerly. 22 observers making 8 partial trips spent 51 party hours, drove 171 miles, walked 25 miles, by boat 3 miles.

The following species and numbers were seen:

Pied-billed Grebe	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Great Blue Heron	4	Brown-headed Nuthatch	46
Common Egret	1	Brown Creeper	11
Mallard	2	House Wren	1
Wood Duck	4	Winter Wren	1
Ring-necked Duck	53	Bewick's Wren	2
Hooded Merganser	2	Carolina Wren	47
Turkey Vulture	21	Mockingbird	85
Black Vulture	127	Brown Thrasher	19
Cooper's Hawk	1	Robin	139
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Hermit Thrush	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Eastern Bluebird	61
Marsh Hawk	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Sparrow Hawk	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet	34
Bobwhite	31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	168
Coot	25	Water Pipit	21
Killdeer	39	Cedar Waxwing	313
Woodcock	1	Loggerhead Shrike	25
Common Snipe	16	Starling	30,000
Mourning Dove	57	Blue-headed Vireo	1
Barn Owl	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Great Horned Owl	1	Myrtle Warbler	68
Barred Owl	1	Pine Warbler	26
Belted Kingfisher	2	Palm Warbler	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	38	House Sparrow	116
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Eastern Meadowlark	176
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	Red-winged Blackbird	540,000
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Rusty Blackbird	30,000
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	Brewer's Blackbird	100
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Common Grackle	270,000
Downy Woodpecker	19	Cowbird	30,000
Phoebe	10	Cardinal	203
Blue Jay	89	Purple Finch	17
Common Crow	58	American Goldfinch	138
Carolina Chickadee	77	Rufous-sided Towhee	107
Tufted Titmouse	29	Savannah Sparrow	23

Auburn Christmas Bird Count: (continued)

Vesper Sparrow	5	Fox Sparrow	8
Slate-colored Junco	264	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Chipping Sparrow	41	Swamp Sparrow	67
Field Sparrow	150	Song Sparrow	148
White-throated Sparrow	177		
		<u>Total Species</u>	81
		<u>Total Individuals</u>	903,559

Participants were: Beth Baker, Maurice Baker, Sidney Baker, Steven Baker, Sue Chambliss, Mrs. Norman Davis, Julian Dusi (Compiler), Rosemary Dusi, William Goslin, Ann Grub, Walter Grub, Thelma Fay Guyton, William Helms, Kenneth Landers, Joanne Summerour, L. A. Wells, Robert Wells, J. P. Woodson, Mrs. J. P. Woodson.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

27th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Horned Grebe	2	House Wren	3
Pied-billed Grebe	40	(BHC, CMcT, high)	
Great Blue Heron	1	Winter Wren	10
Black Duck	6	Bewick's Wren	5
Gadwall	4	Carolina Wren	136
Green-winged Teal (C McT)	1	Long-billed Marsh Wren	2
Am. Widgeon (Highest)	11	(RH, WFC, 2 time)	
Redhead	10	Short-billed Marsh Wren	1(TAI)
Ring-necked Duck	271	Mockingbird	190
(highest since 45)		Catbird (EE feeder)	1
Canvasback	34	Brown Thrasher	43
Lesser Scaup	18	Robin (high)	2,500 plus
Bufflehead (FBD)	1	Hermit Thrush	31
Ruddy Duck	3	(highest since 55)	
Turkey Vulture	1	Eastern Bluebird	67
Cooper's Hawk	2	(highest in 3 yrs.)	
Red-tailed Hawk	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	46
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	118
(highest)		Water Pipit	44
Marsh Hawk (MFP)	1	Cedar Waxwing (low)	10
Sparrow Hawk	5	Loggerhead Shrike (high)	24
Bob-white	22	Starling	3,900 plus
Am. Coot	790	Myrtle Warbler	87
Killdeer	79	Pine Warbler	48
(low due to water levels)			
Am. Woodcock	2	Palm Warbler	5
Common Snipe	53	(AAW, MFP, High)	
Least Sandpiper	1	Common Yellowthroat	2
(FBD, 3rd time)		House Sparrow	754

Birmingham Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Ring-billed Gull	1	Eastern Meadowlark	208
(FBD, 3rd time)		Red-wing Blackbird	706
Mourning Dove	533	Rusty Blackbird	316
(highest)		Common Grackle (low)	38
Barn Owl	1	Baltimore Oriole	1
(AAW, 2nd time)		(feeder fide BHC)	
Screech Owl	3	Brown-headed Cowbird (low)	54
Great Horned Owl (AAW)	1	Cardinal (highest)	416
Barred Owl	7	Purple Finch	64
Belted Kingfisher	15	Am. Goldfinch	230
Yellow-shafted Flicker	85	Rufous-sided Towhee	381
(highest)		Savannah Sparrow	223
Pileated Woodpecker	11	(highest)	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	60	Vesper Sparrow (WFC)	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	39	Slate-colored Junco	536
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	28	(WFC, RHO)	
(high)		Chipping Sparrow	68
Hairy Woodpecker	10	Field Sparrow	300
Downy Woodpecker (highest)	64	White-throated Sparrow	778
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	4	Fox Sparrow (highest)	50
(FBD, DCH)		Swamp Sparrow	195
Eastern Phoebe (high)	8	Song Sparrow	339
Blue Jay (highest)	246	Unidentified Hawks	2
Common Crow (high)	145	Bachman's Sparrow	1
Carolina Chickadee	265	(highest) (WFC, RH)	
Tufted Titmouse	233	(highest)	
White-breasted Nuthatch	68	(highest) <u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>	92
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	(AAW, MFP)	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	155	(highest) <u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	
Brown Creeper	5		

16,311 plus

This is the 63rd annual Christmas Bird Count conducted jointly by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Birmingham's participation dates from 1934 and this is the 27th count we have submitted for publication in the April issue of Audubon Field Notes. Each year we compile a better list in many ways, and this is an indication of how well the Birmingham Audubon Society has developed as a group of expert bird-watchers. This year's count tied last year for variety, 92 species, but also this year was the first time we put 8 parties in the field and our coverage jumped to 81 party-hours from a previous high of 76. (Each party averaged a little over 10 hours in the field.)

The 23 observers were: Raymond D. Bates, Lucie Barclift, Georgette Canterbury, Frederick T. Carney, Blanche H. Chapman, Walter F. Coxe, F. Bozeman Daniel, Blanche E. Dean, Mildred Ferris, Emmie Lou Grimley, Robert Hard, Malcolm E. Harden, Jr.,

Birmingham Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Dan C. Holliman, Joseph A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (Compiler), Clustie McTyeire, Margarette Persons, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, M. F. Prather, Alfred A. Walker, III, Adele West, Eugene M. West. (Birmingham Audubon Society and guests.)

MARION, ALABAMA (Perry County)

All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Court House in Marion, including U.S. Fish Cultural Station, drainage and swampland Cahaba River, Marion Cemetery and Lakeland Farms.

Deciduous woods 20%, open fields and pastures 20%, swamps and marshes 20%, farmyards, cemetery and home yards 10%, lakes, ponds, streams, river and shores 50%. December 31: 7:15 a.m. 59 5:30 p.m.--Clear--Temperature 27 to 50 degrees. Wind SW-NE 5-15 mph; Heavy frost, ground frozen in shade, ice in shade. 3 observers in 1-2 parties. Total party hours 11. (8 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 54 (10 on foot, 44 by car).

Pied-billed Grebe	6	E. Bluebird	23
Great Blue Heron	19	B. Gray Gnatcatcher	2
Common Egret	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Green-w Teal	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	26
Ring-n Duck	25	Water Pipit	236
Canvasback Duck	1	Cedar Waxwing	14
Turkey Vulture	1	Loggerhead Shrike	26
Black Vulture	95	Starling	75
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Orange-cr. Warbler	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Magnolia Warbler (Dean)	1
Sparrow Hawk	1	Myrtle Warbler	530
Bob-white	12	Pine Warbler	7
Killdeer	148	House Sparrow	415
Common Snipe	154	Eastern Meadowlark	332
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Eastern Redwing	60
Least Sandpiper	10	Rusty Blackbird	22
Semi-palm Sandpiper	52	Brewer's Blackbird	13
Mourning Dove	11	Purple Grackle	1
Belted Kingfisher	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	25
Yell-s Flicker	21	Cardinal	57
Red-bell Woodpecker	12	Goldfinch	39
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	Rufous-s Towhee	23
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	5	Savannah Sparrow	55
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Vesper Sparrow	10
Downy Woodpecker	2	Pine-w. Sparrow	4
Eastern Phoebe	9	Slate-colored Junco	41
Horned Lark	160	Chipping Sparrow	10
Blue Jay	24	Field Sparrow	78

Marion Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Common Crow	18	White-thr. Sparrow	347
Carolina Chickadee	27	Fox Sparrow	1
Tufted Titmouse	9	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Winter Wren	2	Swamp Sparrow	83
Bewick's Wren	1	Song Sparrow	126
Carolina Wren	27		
Mockingbird	34	<u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>	73
Brown Thrasher	13		
Am. Robin	99	<u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	3722
Hermit Thrush	8		

Observers: Blanche E. Dean, Christine Leake, Lois McCullough. Lois McCullough, compiler.

DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALA.

15 mile diameter circle centered on southern tip of Mon Luis Isle, including Cedar Point, Coden, Bayou La Batre, Bellingrath Gardens, all but westernmost 4 miles of Dauphin Island, pine - hardwoods, 33%; mud, sand, and shell flats, 17%; pine woods, 14%; salt water, 13%; salt marsh, 12%; farms and towns, 8%; fresh ponds and marsh, 3%.

December 29, 1962, 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Cloudy and raining A.M. - clear P.M. NW wind 18-25 mph. 18 observers in 7 parties.

Common Loon	5	Red-shldrd. Hawk	1
Horned Grebe	11	Broad-winged Hawk	1
Pied-billed Grebe	10	Marsh Hawk	3
Double-cr Cormorant	77	Sparrow Hawk	20
Great Blue Heron	6	Bobwhite	16
Common Egret	5	R H Pheasants	3
Snowy Egret	4	King Rail	1
Louisiana Heron	6	Clapper Rail	5
Blue Goose	4	Virginia Rail	1
Mallard	14	American Coot	2
Gadwall	2	Piping Plover	25
Blue-winged Teal	3	Snowy Plover	3
Am. Widgeon	50	Semipalm Plover	40
Wood Duck	3	Killdeer	3
Greater Scaup	40	Black-b. Plover	75
Lesser Scaup	55	Ruddy Turnstone	17
Am. Goldeneye	4	Am. Woodcock	4
Ruddy Duck	4	Common Snipe	3
Hooded Merganser	2	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Red-br. Merganser	6	Willet	18
Turkey Vulture	3	Greater Yellowlegs	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Lesser Yellowlegs	1
Red-tailed Hawk	7	Least Sandpiper	7

Dauphin Island Christmas Bird Count (continued)

REGIONAL WING BEATS

Red-b. S. Dunlin	53	Sedge Wren	1
Eastern Dowitcher	18	Mockingbird	74
Semipalm Sandpiper	78	Catbird	6
Western Sandpiper	30	Brown Thrasher	33
Sanderling	37	American Robin	300 plus
Herring Gull	1000(plus)	Hermit Thrush	6
Ring-billed Gull	154	Eastern Bluebird	17
Laughing Gull	82	Golden-cr. Kinglet	12
Bonaparte's Gull	6	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	45
Forster's Tern	3	Water Pipit	1
Common Tern	60	Cedar Waxwing	29
Royal Tern	51	Loggerhead Shrike	26
Caspian Tern	7	Starling	52
Black Skimmer	1	Solitary Vireo	1
Mourning Dove	98	Orange-cr. Warbler	9
White-w. Dove	2	Myrtle Warbler	326
Belted Kingfisher	25	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Yellow-s. Flicker	29	Pine Warbler	37
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	Palm Warbler	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Yellowthroat	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	House Sparrow	63
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Eastern Meadowlark	380
Downs Woodpecker	4	Eastern Redwing	4,445
Eastern Phoebe	10	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Tree Swallow	206	Purple Grackle	39
Rough-w. Swallow	2	Br.-hd. Cowbird	12
Blue Jay	52	Cardinal	66
Common Crow	24	Purple Finch	2
Fish Crow	4	Eastern Goldfinch	65
Carolina Chickadee	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	45
Tufted Titmouse	22	Savannah Sparrow	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Sharp-t. Sparrow	13
Brown-headed Nuthatch	53	Seaside Sparrow	9
Brown Creeper	1	Pine-w. Sparrow	2
House Wren	9	Chipping Sparrow	8
Winter Wren	2	Field Sparrow	20
Bewick's Wren	1	White-throated Sparrow	435
Carolina Wren	23	Swamp Sparrow	126
Marsh Wren	1	Song Sparrow	6

TOTAL SPECIES 124 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 9,616 plus

Observers: Fr. Dorn (compiler), Mary Gaillard, Will and Clara Caffey, Henry and Lib Toenes, Tom Trawick, Joe Friedhoff, Blanche Chapman, Lee Ola Dewberry, Mildred Ferris, Lois McCullough, Max McGill, Mrs. Edith Peller, Harry and Kathleen Johnstone, Fairly Chandler, Wilson Gaillard.

DECATUR, ALABAMA

The late fall and winter brought none of river floods that four times last winter covered all lowland, but did bring snow, sleet and shivery temperatures. On several occasions the thermometer hovered near or below the zero mark and ice-locked all local water except the main river channel and a few smoky springholes.

Wheeler Refuge's Canada goose count climbed week by week until it reached a record peak of over 46,500 in early January. The waxies leveled off with 800 blues and 70 snows present. Duck numbers were never spectacular and the top count was 47,000. Pintails, black ducks and ringnecks were especially numerous and redheads and ruddy ducks were noticeably rare. Due probably to the severe cold, golden-eyes and buffleheads were common, old squaws present and there were at least a few greater scaup around. One came into the hands of a local taxidermist, while David Hulse noted that another made the Decatur boat harbor its happy home from January 24th through February 3rd. During the latter days of the hunting season, a local youngster shot a mallard drake on the Swan Creek Hunting Area that may well be a record. This king-size papa, larger than some geese, tipped the scales at 5 lbs. 2 ounces. The small bird find of the winter came during the extreme cold of January 24th when David Hulse noted a flock of 10 or 12 Pine Siskins in trees near his home, a first local record. David also found a Gray-cheeked Thrush, always rare here, dead in his yard on December 31st. Purple Finches were reported around several of the bird feeders in the Decatur vicinity. The Iranian Pheasants, stocked by the State on Wheeler Refuge in early November, are still around.

At this writing few signs of a long-awaited spring are here, but there are a few. Goose, duck and crow numbers are dwindling as these birds move out of the Valley and waves of Pintails and Shovelers are already moving through.

Thomas Z. Atkeson
February 14, 1963

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

In Birmingham, the outstanding weather events of the past 3 months were the record-breaking lows of 1 above zero on December 13 and 2 below zero on January 24. These lows were attended by below freezing for 3 to 5 mornings and about 48 hours of continuously freezing temperatures. How well the birds survived these severe spells may be a while in determining. Of course, we do know that birds move around a lot and we usually cannot prove conclusively that a bird seen after

Birmingham Regional Wing Beats (continued)

a severe cold spell actually experienced it locally. Still, the variety of birds seen on the Birmingham Christmas Count speaks well for their survival of the mid-December cold. During both severe cold spells a number of birds, notably banded daily visitors at the homes of Harriett Wright and Tom Imhof, disappeared. Whether these birds succumbed or performed an emergency migration to the southward is a good guess. The species included in this are: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. Taking fat and weight reading on many of his regular customers, Imhof has noted that most, but not all, birds increase their appetites and put on fat during periods of cold weather, and then lose it just as quickly as it warms up. Although these are only a few observations and should not be made the subject of generalizations, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse showed remarkably uniform weight and little or no fat, and a very slight decrease in weight in the severe cold. All the Finches (Cardinal, Towhee, White-throat, Swamp, Song, Field, Savannah Sparrows) showed heavy fat deposits and 1 to 5 gram increases in weight with the onset of below freezing weather. Other species showing this same increase in weight and fat were: Robin, Starling, Brown Thrasher, Myrtle Warbler and Pine Warbler.

A female Yellowthroat spent several days in the yard of F. Bozeman Daniel the last week in January, after the 2 below weather of January 24, and on Sunday, January 27 Mr. Daniel noted 2 Phoebes during severe cold. Many indications for this winter show that the Eastern Phoebe is doing much better than for the past several years (since 1958). The Eastern Bluebird showed an encouraging increase on the Birmingham Christmas Count. On the coldest day of this winter, January 24, a strange Pine Warbler visited my traps, was caught and banded and proved to be very fat.

A female Baltimore Oriole visited the feeder of Mrs. J. D. McGill, Jr. from at least mid-December to as late as February 4, 1963.

The most amazing bird of this winter, so far as I know, was an immature male Black-throated Green Warbler that appeared on an elm about two feet outside Imhof's kitchen window about 10 a.m. on January 17th. I did a double take when I realized that the bird was not a Myrtle, Pine, Palm or Orange-crowned. All field marks check and I am perfectly satisfied with completeness of the view which was very close but brief.

Thomas A. Imhof

GROVE HILL Regional Wing Beats (continued)

Our extreme cold weather apparently has caused no deaths to birds locally. On the contrary, the cold seems to have materially increased the numbers coming to my feeding boxes- and also their appetites.

Each day I put out 3 quarts of baby chick, scratch feed, 2 quarts of crushed pecans, suet and pecan butter. In addition, a local cafe furnishes us with left-over rolls and muffins.

We have counted as many as 30 Cardinals feeding at one time; 35 or more Goldfinches and numerous Blue Jays, Mockers, Thrashers, Towhees, several species of Sparrows, Woodpeckers, Wrens (Carolina and House), Nuthatches, Chickadees, Pine and Myrtle Warblers and a few Starlings.

We have had one male Baltimore Oriole which has made the rounds of this town's feeding stations, one female Bullock's Oriole and one lone Pine Siskin. The Siskins are usually later in arriving. Last winter's flock of Evening Grosbeaks have not returned this year.

Later, during the spring migration, we expect the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Olive-backed and Hermit Thrushes, Indigo and Painted Buntings as well as other rare and distinguished visitors.

George A. Carleton

DAUPHIN ISLAND

On Saturday, February 16th the first pair of Purple Martins of the season returned to the Dauphin Island Sanctuary. The temperature that day was 26 degrees. They were seen seeking shelter in a bird house built by Larry Boggan, 1st prize winner in our 4-H Boys birdhouse contest of last year.

There are over 100 lovely Blue Birds wintering in the Sanctuary. We hope to have enough bird houses to make permanent residents of them. We were discing new ground last week and they must have heard the tractor as they fell from Heaven to forage in the new plowed ground.

Jos A. Friedhoff

BALDWIN COUNTY

An adult Bald Eagle carrying its prey was seen in southern part of the county.

Elizabeth A. Coe.

A flock of about 15 Avocets are spending the winter on Cochrane Causeway. They have been observed at close range several times. We finally found some Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Baldwin County.

LIVINGSTON Regional Wing Beats (continued)

The Baltimore Orioles still seem to be on the increase here. Last winter after leaves had fallen, I counted 17 nests. This winter so far I have counted 22 nests. For the first time, I am finding them outside the corporate limits. I have found 3 nests along the road of a thickly settled rural area east of town. Some nests in town have been so close together I am let to believe that the same pair of birds nested twice during the summer. Ordinarily, nests hang four or five years before they disintegrate but I am finding that some have disappeared during the second year which leads me to believe that they are being dismantled for the material for building new nests.

Ducks seem to be more numerous in this section this year than in the last several years. On January 1st, I saw about 700 on my brother's pond on the south edge of Eutaw. Most of them were Ring-necked Ducks but there was a nice showing of Gadwalls and Baldpates. I have had a small flock of Mallards and a Black Duck that have spent the entire winter on my pond near Livingston. They have at odd intervals been joined by larger groups of Mallards and Ring-necked Ducks and 1 Pintail. One day 25 Wood Ducks joined them, the largest number I have ever had and I am quite sure some were northern birds as the largest number I have ever had in the summer was 14. A few years ago Wood Ducks were absolutely unknown in the Livingston vicinity.

Jenkins Jackson

MOBILE

On a 4 day birding trip in the Ft. Walton - Panama City, Fla. area, we observed numerous Myrtle Warblers all over the countryside. They seemed to be especially partial to the sandy beach areas, where they were apparently feeding on the gnats and sandfleas. One of the outstanding thrills of the trip was watching Black Skimmers at the St. Andrew's Marina in the evening swooping down out of the dark to feed in the light reflected on the water from the Marina. Returning home, we saw a large group of some 25 to 30 Goldfinches on Santa Rosa Island, beginning to sprout their spring plumage. At Ft. Walton we watched 3 Red-breasted Mergansers swimming and playing in Santa Rosa sound.

At home, looking out across Mobile Bay from our living room, we still see many Gadwalls, Canvasbacks and Pintails. We were thrilled on February 19th to have 2 pair of adult Purple Martins come swooping in to spend the night in our bird houses. We also have many shore birds which we novices are unable to identify. The Redwing Blackbirds have about taken over our feeding grounds. They swarm in by the hundreds, eating us out of house and home, to the extent of a hundred pounds of corn chops every 2 weeks. Several weeks ago I saw an unforgettable

Mobile Regional Wing Beats (continued)

sight when I observed some 200 Tree Swallows clinging to a Beech Myrtle. The sun on their green backs was magnificent. Bluebirds have been plentiful for the past two months on Hollinger's Island. On February 23 a Fileated Woodpecker was seen in Municipal Park at Spring Hill. Thousands of Coots still live and feed in the waters adjacent to Cochrane Bridge causeway, as do many other species of ducks, among them Mallards, Pintails, Canvasbacks, Scaup and Gadwalls. Terns and Herons are also most abundant there.

Elisabeth R. & Henry Toenes

6 Black and White Warblers were seen several times during the last week of January.

Mary A. Gaillard

PENSACOLA, FLA.

The severely cold spells of last December and January seem not to have produced any notable change in bird numbers in the Pensacola area. Low temperature alone does not seem to cause any increase in our local bird numbers, and it is only when Alabama has a snow cover right down to the northern Florida line that we have a tremendous "invasion" of ground feeders-- Killdeer, Snipe, Pipit and Sparrows of several species--and the condition did not prevail this winter. White-throated Sparrows are more abundant this winter than I have ever before known, but they were already here before the December freeze.

Two items on our Christmas Bird Count of December 29 are noteworthy. A group of 3 Harlequin Ducks--1 drake and 2 hens-- was reported just south of Milton, Santa Rosa County. Both the observers were familiar with the field marks from having seen the 3 birds that spent a week here 2 years ago. Two Fox Sparrows were reported from Gulf Breeze, a city just across the Bay (south) from Pensacola.

A female Baltimore Oriole has been present since December 10 at the feeding station maintained by Mrs. A.L. Whigham at Century, north end of Escambia County. This is the fourth known winter record in the Pensacola area.

The Dickcissel is considered a summer resident in Alabama and a rare transient in northwestern Florida, but every winter for many years Mrs. Whigham has had from one to five birds all winter at her station. The Dickcissel population there this winter is two birds.

At my own backyard station, I have had a single Orange-crowned Warbler many times every day this winter from early November to the present. The food that attracts it is finely ground pecan meal or peanut meal.

Francis M. Weston

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The National Audubon Society Convention
Corpus Christi, Texas November 10-14, 1962.

The 58th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society set a new record for attendance with approximately 1200 birders registered for the Corpus Christi event. This was the third time in the history of the Society that the convention was held outside of New York City. Although not official, it was reported to have been at least twice that of any previous convention. Next year the convention will be held in Miami, Fla.

Carl W. Bucheister, Audubon Society President, gave a report on the Program and Goals of the National Audubon Society. He brought out these facts:

Education: The Audubon Junior Program enrolled 179,000 children last year. The Auddwood Children's Farm at Dayton, Ohio was dedicated last year.

Nature Centers: Our Nature Centers Division now finds itself cooperating in more than 100 community projects, located in 25 states and including one in Canada. They have resulted in the preservation of more than 40,000 acres in natural areas.

Legislation scorecard for 1962:

1. The Wilderness Bill foundered on the shoals of an unfriendly House Committee.
2. A bill to protect the Golden Eagle is now the law of the land.
3. Legislation to curb drainage subsidies was passed, and it should save some of the vital waterfowl marshes from destruction in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Conservation goals for 1963:

1. First, the drive will be renewed for adequate safeguards for the nation's dwindling resources of wilderness in the National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges.
2. There will be new opportunities to add important areas to the National Park System.
3. The third and perhaps the greatest opportunity now unfolding is the chance to do something positive about the pesticides problem.

Birds Have to Eat Too!

BIRD STUDY

The University of Alabama Mobile Center is offering a non-credit course during the Winter Quarter, 1963. The course consists of ten weeks of classes and a final examination. Classes will total 4 1/2 hours per week, to be divided between lecture Thursday evening and field observation Saturday morning. The instructor will be Mr. Wesley F. Kubichek, who recently retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after many interesting years of service. Mr. Kubichek has a wonderful album of color movies of wildlife which makes an excellent bird program.

BIRD SANCTUARY ATTRACTS VISITORS

The Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary has begun to attract many interesting visitors. Among some of the avid birders were the Silas Peller family, Excelsior, Minn. We were pleased to receive an A.O.S. membership check from Mrs. Peller, who was also interested enough to arrange an exchange of Alabama Birdlife for the Minn. O.S. publication.

Another recent visitor was Mr. Ralph Lawson, a Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. This was the second visit to the Sanctuary made by the Lawsons. Mrs. Lawson is a daughter of the late Frank Weston Benson, worly famed artist. Many of Mr. Benson's great wildlife paints add charm to the home of another daughter, Mrs. Max Rogers of Mobile.

Two other visitors to the Sanctuary who have become A.O.S. members are:

- Dr. David Sellers. Mobile
- Mr. Thomas Weir, Mobile.

We welcome these new members and hope they will participate actively in our A.O.S. program.

Mr. Paul A. Stewart, one of our A.O.S. members, has recently returned from a six month assignment on Madway Island and Alaska. Mr. Stewart is with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland and we hope he will let us hear of his interesting bird experiences through Alabama Birdlife.

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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