

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.