

## THE 1964 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

We are happy to report two new bird counts this year - a third one in the Mobile Bay Area and one from Anniston. The report this year describes each count, summarizes the results and tabulates the grand totals separately.

**ANNISTON (An).** Count made on December 29 within a 15-mile circle centered at the West Park Heights Church of the Eulaton community. Number of hours spent in each habitat: deciduous woods 3, mixed conifer and hardwood 6½, open fields and pastures 8, lakes and streams 4½, woodland border 3½, towns ½. Weather: clear, temperature 39° to 69°F., wind SE 5-13 mph. Total party hours 26. Total party miles 121 (15 on foot, 106 by car). Observers: Dick Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jerome Couch, John Hall, Mrs. A.T. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Johnson, Steve Johnson, William Summerour. Total species seen 65, total individuals 2227.

**AUBURN (Au).** Count made on December 30 within a 15-mile circle centered at the Auburn post office. Habitat composition of the area was: mixed woods 50%, pasture and open fields 30%, water and mud flats 20%. Weather was clear to slightly overcast, temperature 56° to 62°F., and the wind variable 0 to 5 mph. Ten party trips with a total of 34 party hours, driving 190 miles, walking 14 miles and rowing 3 miles by boat. Participants were: Maurice F. Baker, Sidney Baker, Steven Baker, Julian Dusi (compiler), Rosemary Dusi, Ann Grub, Walter Grub, W.E. Goslin, Jane Goslin, Robert Thatcher, Tim Thatcher, Robert Waters, Joe Waters from Auburn; Richard Ambrose and R.S. Johnson from Anniston; Sam Jones from Smith's Station; and L.A. Wells and B.F. Young from Columbus, Georgia.

**BIRMINGHAM (Bi).** Count made December 26. There was a complete overcast with temperature at 68°F. at daylight with light southerly winds; a cold front passed through at 11:30 A.M. with .07 inches of rainfall, gusty winds and a drop in temperature to 42°F. Twenty-eight observers in 11 parties spent 109 party hours from 1 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and traveled 530 miles by car and on foot. (No record of participants-Ed.)

**BON SECOUR (BS).** Count made January 3, 1965 with center of 15-mile circle at Bon Secour post office, 5:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., partly cloudy to cloudy with mist in P.M.; temperature 65° to 40°F., wind SE to NE, 10 to 20 mph. Eleven observers in 5 parties spent 43 party hours in the field and traveled 288 miles by car and on foot. Reported by Fairley Chandler.

**DAUPHIN ISLAND and BELLINGRATH GARDENS AREA (D.I.).** Count made January 2, 1965. Participants: Clara Caffey, Fr. J.L. Dorn, Fred and Evelyn Donaven, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Tuck Hayward, R.V. and Richard Horne, Tom and John Imhof, Harry and Kathleen Johnstone, Electa Levi, W.D. McDaniels, Louise McKinstry, Sam and Jean McMillan, Temple Seibels, Idalene Sneed, Ava Tabor, Fr. Matt Turk and Mike Wilkinson.

**MOBILE (Mo).** Count made December 26, 1964, 4:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., light rain at dawn but clearing rapidly, temperature 70° to 78°F., wind SW 5-15 mph., fog remained over bay and vicinity until late P.M. Reported by Fr. J.L. Dorn, S.J. No record of participants.

## Synopsis of all Counts

Name of Bird	Number Seen by Localities					
	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Common Loon				59	19	1
Red-necked Grebe						1
Horned Grebe			3	48	220	10
Pied-billed Grebe	5	2	38	4	22	22
White Pelican						75
Gannet				31		
Double cr. Cormorant				21	83	2
Anhinga					2	
Great Blue Heron	1	4	2	19	12	18
Little Blue Heron						1
Common Egret			1	1	3	31
Snowy Egret						19
Louisiana Heron					4	5
Black-cr. Night Heron					3	
American Bittern				1		1
Whistling Swan						1
Canada Goose					18	1
White-fr. Goose					2	
Mallard		1	6		15	35
Black Duck					2	7
Gadwall			2		106	3037
Pintail						450
Green-w. Teal					29	6
Blue-w. Teal			1		3	17
American Widgeon			12		5	450
Shoveller						250
Wood Duck		4	2		27	6
Redhead			15		5	8
Ring-necked Duck	4	5	157	1	24	82
Canvasback			90		29	977
Greater Scaup				135	19	2
Lesser Scaup		8	68	11	117	160
Golden-eye				10	453	
Bufflehead		1	3	3	15	
Oldsquaw				52	3	
Ruddy Duck			3		19	59
Hooded Merganser				1	37	
Common Merganser					8	1
Red-br. Merganser				295	170	4
Unidentified Ducks			60	220		
Turkey Vulture	19	43	3	2	18	2
Black Vulture	3	9		37	2	6
Sharp-sh. Hawk		1	2		3	1
Cooper's Hawk		1				

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Red-tailed Hawk	12	5	8	54	2	12
Red-sh. Hawk	3	6	5		1	4
Broad-winged Hawk		1			1	
Rough-leg. Hawk				1		
Marsh Hawk	3	2		19	13	1
Peregrine Falcon					2	
Pigeon Hawk		1		1	2	
Sparrow Hawk	3	1	5	53	24	12
Bobwhite	2	59	45	26	43	50
King Rail					2	
Clapper Rail				1	33	
Virginia Rail					6	1
Sora				3	6	5
Purple Gallinule					1	
Common Gallinule					2	3
American Coot	10	11	725	160	45	5365
Am. Oystercatcher					11	
Semipalm. Plover					79	3
Piping Plover				1	48	
Snowy Plover					14	
Wilson's Plover					5	
Killdeer	53	51	146	215	78	25
Black-bel. Plover				1	173	
Ruddy Turnstone					99	
American Woodcock	12					2
Common Snipe		17	10	1	4	47
Spotted Sandpiper						3
Willet					90	
Greater Yellowlegs					10	18
Lesser Yellowlegs					32	15
Least Sandpiper		3			44	15
Dunlin					1140	12
Eastern Dowitcher					200	3
Semipalm. Sandpiper					40	150
Western Sandpiper					60	25
Sanderling				26	188	33
Jaeger				1		
Herring Gull				215	653	795
Ring-billed Gull				135	918	1479
Laughing Gull				61	766	90
Bonaparte's Gull				495	42	22
Forster's Tern				100	93	7
Common Tern				10	21	3
Royal Tern				6	572	
Sandwich Tern					9	
Caspian Tern				2	45	2
Black Skimmer					4	
Mourning Dove	93	60	669	120	251	295
Ground Dove						2
Barn Owl			1			
Screech Owl	2	1	3	1	2	
Great-horned Owl			3	1		1
Barred Owl			3			1

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Chuck-will's-widow						1
Whip-poor-will						1
Common Nighthawk						1
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird					2	
Belted Kingfisher	8	10	19	10	38	4
Yellow-sh. Flicker	24	39	109	82	81	35
Pileated Woodpecker	5	4	18	6	6	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	32	82	43	27	24
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	1	37	1	2	3
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	12	13	30	24	8	4
Hairy Woodpecker	2	5	16	3	4	7
Downy Woodpecker	20	20	82	7	8	6
Red-cockaded W'pecker		2	8	2		
Eastern Phoebe	1	10	15	19	5	5
Vermillion Flycatcher				1		
Tree Swallow					545	44
Rough-winged Swallow					4	
Blue Jay	77	109	329	205	108	103
Common Crow	50	44	208	66	55	68
Fish Crow				118	285	69
Carolina Chickadee	48	55	306	20	1	5
Tufted Titmouse	40	62	395	10	4	14
White-br. Nuthatch	1	1	82			
Red-br. Nuthatch			14		4	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	3	48	80	34	68	18
Brown Creeper	4	3	12	6	2	1
House Wren	1		4	18	2	8
Winter Wren		11	3	1		2
Bewick's Wren		1	3			
Carolina Wren	34	30	152	51	59	58
Long-bill. Marsh Wren				14	14	
Short-bill. Marsh Wren				20	5	2
Mockingbird	45	44	209	200	66	77
Catbird				8	8	11
Brown Thrasher	7	27	76	44	33	18
Robin	21	97	365	10200	2183	415
Hermit Thrush	4	7	8	7	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	56	43	94	92	76	20
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher				5	4	2
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	14	53	23	2	3
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	8	57	111	50	38	45
Water Pipit	20	17	22	400	3	1
Sprague's Pipit	3				1	
Cedar Waxwing	30	176	352	18	30	460
Loggerhead Shrike	17	25	22	35	37	16
Starling	225	150000	785	1250	905	628
White-eyed Vireo		1		1		2
Solitary Vireo			3	4		2
Black & Wh. Warbler				1		
Orange-cr. Warbler			2	8	6	12
Parula Warbler					1	
Myrtle Warbler	4	35	15	1570	827	1775
Yellow-throated Warb.				2	2	1

	An	Au	Bi	BS	D.I.	Mo
Pine Warbler	3	23	25	75	39	81
Palm Warbler			43	61	37	
Yellowthroat			1	17	11	6
House Sparrow	70	84	1028	215	286	1602
E. Meadowlark	155	144	259	145	161	33
Red-w. Blackbird	8	45000	519	80500	3137	1450
Rusty Blackbird	175	5000	221		10	
Brewer's Blackbird				317	2200	1500
Boat-t. Grackle				94	2	63
Common Grackle		150000	140	570	475	204
Brown-h. Cowbird	25	150000	130	10	910	527
Unidentified Bl. Birds			1040			
Cardinal	50	134	464	270	63	41
Dickcissel				1		
Purple Finch	17		3			1
Pine Siskin			10			
Am. Goldfinch	34	62	243	250	89	175
Rufous-s. Towhee	46	90	359	105	61	57
Savannah Sparrow	37	46	187	340	73	182
Grasshopper Sparrow				13		
LeConte's Sparrow					4	
Henslow's Sparrow						9
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				5	7	1
Seaside Sparrow					25	2
Vesper Sparrow	8	3	20	150	24	5
Bachman's Sparrow			6	2		
Slate-col. Junco	200	235	1139	3		9
Chipping Sparrow	4	156	139	135	83	285
Field Sparrow	180	62	509	70	11	45
White cr. Sparrow			2		2	
White-thr. Sparrow	93	182	822	680	199	1325
Fox Sparrow	13	18	14	10	1	2
Lincoln's Sparrow			1	1	3	
Swamp Sparrow	12	42	225	48	653	94
Song Sparrow	82	82	3641	77	46	59

## SUMMARY OF 1964 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Participants	Party Hours	Party Miles	No. of Kinds Seen	Total Individuals Seen	
Anniston	9	26	121	65	2227
Auburn	21	34	207	77	502662
Birmingham	28	109	530	92	15362
Bon Secour	11	43	288	114	101503
Dauphin Island	23			147	21543
Mobile	14			134	25980
<b>Totals</b>			<b>185</b>		<b>669,277</b>

## Comments by the Christmas Count Compilers

ANNISTON. As far as I can tell we had no uncommon sightings, but it was amusing to me that we sighted common birds not seen this winter in this area during the count day even though active field trips had been going on throughout the fall and early winter. I suppose it just takes a concentrated effort like this count to show all the birds in their respective habitats. Dick Ambrose

AUBURN. A rarity, White-eyed Vireo, 1, was carefully observed by L.A. Wells and Sam Jones. A wintering Baltimore Oriole was seen at the Dusi's feeder the day before and a Yellowthroat was reported from the day before by M.F. Baker.

BIRMINGHAM. A female Baltimore Oriole spent the last week in January at the feeder of Josephine Wood. Oldsquaw at Lake Purdy, one female on February 6 and two females on February 7 (Robert Reid and others). Common Merganser at Lake Purdy, a female on January 24 and February 7 (Reid and others). Bob saw the bird at very close quarters and described it to me well. Least Sandpiper, up to 5 have again spent the winter at Lake Purdy. This is about the 4th time they have wintered here. Tom Imhof.

BON SECOUR. Thanks to excellent help from Birmingham, Pensacola and Tallahassee we had a good count in spite of the weather. Some of the more interesting birds seen were: Gannet, 31; Red-tailed Hawk, 54, including 2 Kriders; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Oldsquaw, 52; Parasitic Jaeger, 1; Dickcissel, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, 13; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1. We missed the Sandhill Crane, most of the ducks and some of the usually more northern and western birds that we had last year but still beat last years count by one. Fairly Chandler.

DAUPHIN ISLAND and BELLINGRATH GARDENS. Seen in area during count period but not on day of count: Brown Pelican; Snowy Egret; Blue Goose; Shoveller, Ground Dove; Winter Wren. M.W. Gaillard.

MOBILE. Birds of special interest; Red-necked Grebe, Whistling Swan, American Bittern, Common Merganser, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Henslow's Sparrow. All of these species were most carefully and accurately studied. Actually I did not need binoculars to identify the Grebe. However, three of us leisurely observed all details with binoculars and 20x scope.

The fog along the causeway considerably reduced our total number of species and we also missed some land birds that normally are easily found. However, the four unusual finds were a pleasant surprise. Fr. J.L. Dorn, S.J.