

Bon Secour. Birds seen in count area during the count period, but not on the day of the count: Common Egret, Snowy Egret, White Ibis (2 immatures on June 27), Wood Duck, Mississippi Kite, Cooper's Hawk, King Rail, Screech Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Robin (Gulf State Park, June 10).

Relatively few birds were found inland, possibly due to drought conditions. All ponds and marshes above the tide line were dry. The small number of observers (2) may have affected the results. We found only one Yellow-throated Vireo, though we know there were four or more pairs in the area. The Yellow-throated Warbler is probably present in normal numbers though only one was found. The 2 Ospreys and 4 Pine Warblers probably reflect low numbers. The 7 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers may represent a fortunate find rather than an increase. Birds believed to show an improvement in status are the Eastern Bluebird and Hooded Warbler. Usually present but not found were: Gallinules, Ground Dove, and Barred Owl. Unexpected finds were: Reddish Egret, White Ibis, and Robin.

Dauphin Island. (Stevenson). The following shorebirds were observed, that, for the most part, are known to summer but not to breed in Alabama: Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Common Tern, Black Tern. One or more individuals of each kind that was observed were in full breeding plumage - usually an indication of their being migrants. The Bobolinks represent a latest coastal record, as did the Spotted Sandpiper. The Osprey was very tame or ill.

Mobile. Only 3 comments from the compiler - (1) the Least Bittern was nesting, and (2) the wood Thrush numbers were low, and (3) the Myrtle Warblers included young.

THE NEST CARD PROGRAM OF THE CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

The North American Nest Card Program is winding up the 1965 nesting season, and many cards have already been returned. There are still many cards in the hands of the individual recorders, however, and these should be returned as quickly as they are completed. The Laboratory of Ornithology is preparing the data for transferal onto IBM cards, and a large bulk of material is needed for the first run, to be started soon.

To those of you in Alabama who have such cards please return them to Dr. Julian Dusi, Department of Zoology, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830, as soon as you have filled in the data on the card. Dr. Dusi is acting as the clearing house for the Alabama information. He will forward them to the Laboratory of Ornithology.

AN UNUSUAL NORTHERLY FALL MIGRATION AND HURRICANE HILDA

Fairly Chandler

In early October, 1964, during the normal southerly migration, Hurricane Hilda approached and entered the Louisiana Coast bringing southerly winds to the Alabama Coast. In central Louisiana she turned approximately 90° and swept east across South Mississippi, North Mobile and Baldwin Counties in Alabama and on along the Alabama-Northwest Florida line bringing winds from the north.

On Sunday afternoon, October 4, as Hilda entered Louisiana and the Alabama Coast received southerly gale force winds we noted more than 100 Magnificent Frigate-birds at Lake Shelby in Gulf State Park and more than 50 were seen at Pensacola (Audubon Field Notes, 1965: 46). Few other birds were to be seen or heard in the park though many must have been present in protected shrubs. At about 9:00 P.M. Sunday as Hilda swept across Mobile and Baldwin Counties the wind changed to the North to 91 m.p.h. as recorded at Dauphin Island and evidently displaced many birds south of their normal penetration for that date. High winds continued from the north on Monday and few birds other than Brown Thrashers and Catbirds in protected shrubs were to be seen. The NORTHERLY MIGRATION-evident recovery from displacement by the winds-noted almost immediately Tuesday A.M., October 6, with winds still from the north at 15-25 m.p.h.

At 7:00 A.M., Tuesday, in Magnolia Springs when we first noted the movement there were literally hundreds of small birds in waves one-fourth to 1 minute apart all flying North. In the poor light and high winds a large percentage of the birds could not be identified but of the ones which dropped into the trees to rest or could be identified by call note, flight pattern, silhouette, etc. they were in order of abundance: Magnolia Warblers, Yellow Warblers, flickers, Blue Grosbeaks, Red-eyed Vireos, Black-throated Green Warblers, and two early gold-finches.

Though we have approximate counts on these birds, we feel that only the relative numbers are of any consequence as there were obviously many, many more of these species seen which could not be positively identified. However we feel safe in saying that we saw more Magnolia, Yellow, and Black-throated Green Warblers that morning than we had previously seen in the combined Fall migrations in Baldwin County since 1960. This migration over Magnolia Springs though diminishing in numbers continued until at least 11:00 A.M. when we quit watching, but the same situation was noted again that afternoon over Mobile Causeway involving mostly Rough-winged Swallows.

It is difficult to reach any conclusions in regard to the Red-eyed Vireos and Blue Grosbeaks as they had been abundant in the area several weeks at the time. We began to see flickers in numbers above the normal residents on October 9. Aside from the many Magnolia Warblers seen October 6, only 14 others were seen during the Fall Season - much below normal. Previous to this display only 6 Yellow Warblers were seen in the two weeks before and 7 in the remainder of the season. The Black-throated Green Warblers were the first seen during the season and only 18 later. The two goldfinches were the first of the season and 14 days early (Imhof, 1962:539). No others were seen until October 24.

We do not feel that we have enough positive data on his migration to make a proper evaluation but there is some evidence that it was fairly extensive as John Ogden made notes on it at the same time near Tallahassee, Florida, some 200 miles to the East where it was a longer duration (though we do not know that it started at 7 A.M. in Magnolia Springs) and involved some of the same and some different species.

We would be interested to hear from anyone else on the Gulf Coast who might have seen it.

Literature Cited

Audubon Field Notes. February, 1965. Vol. 19, No. 1.
Imhof, Thomas A. 1962. Alabama Birds. Univ. of Alabama Press, Univ. Ala. 591 pp.

Magnolia Springs, Alabama

A BREAKDOWN ON THE ALABAMA COASTAL CHRISTMAS COUNTS - 1963

Fairly Chandler

A number of people have expressed an interest in a breakdown of the 1963 Alabama Coastal Christmas Counts, as the winter of 1963-64 was particularly interesting for the numbers of species present and especially for the presence of birds normally found farther north of west. All data are taken from Audubon Field Notes, April, 1964, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 208-210, or from Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 12, 1964, No. 1, pp. 4-7. In these sources more details on habitats, individual species, and numbers may be found.

In general, the Dauphin Island count circle consists of marine and related shore areas, Mobile, largely urban and brackish waters with related shore areas, and Bon Secour, largely farming and border areas. All three of these areas, two in Mobile County and one in Baldwin County are within a fifty-mile diameter circle and include a great variety of habitats, as reflected in the "Most Common Species" columns and the "Exclusive Species" columns below.

Column A below is the number of species seen on Count Day.

Column B is the number of species additional seen during the count period.

Column C is total species for the count period.

Column D is the total number of individuals on each count.

Column E is the number of exclusive species per count.

	Date	A	B	C	D	E
Dauphin Island	: December 28	: 142	: 5	: 147	: 12,633	: 11
Mobile	: December 26	: 154	: 4	: 158	: 834,547	: 20
Bon Secour	: December 19	: 112	: 3	: 115	: 40,782	: 7

Total individuals seen, 887,962.

Number of species common to all three counts, 99.

Total species seen, 172.

Ten Most Common Species:

<u>Dauphin I.</u>	<u>Mobile</u>	<u>Bon Secour</u>
Robin 2,200	Red-w. Blackbird 800,000	Red-w. Blackbird 30,600
Myrtle Warbler 900	Am. Coot 15,000	White-th. Sparrow 1,700
D.-Cr. Cormorant 700	Starling 3,233	Com. Grackle 1,385
Ring-billed Gull 630	Common Snipe 1,200	House Sparrow 870
Herring Gull 600	House Sparrow 1,183	Am. Coot 800
Red-w. Blackbird 600	White-th. Sparrow 1,102	Robin 600
Starling 550	Killdeer 1,056	Myrtle Warbler 395
Am. Goldfinch 330	Dunlin 809	Killdeer 385
Sanderling 300	Green-w. Teal 704	Brewer's Blackbird 330
Tree Swallow 296	Mourning Dove 667	Water Pipit 290

Exclusive Species

Dauphin Island: Reddish Egret, Common Merganser, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, Whip-poor-will, Red-eyed Vireo, Parula Warbler, Harris Sparrow.

Mobile: Red-throated Loon, White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Black Duck, Mottled Duck, American Widgeon, Cooper's Hawk, Sharpshinned Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, American Avocet, Common Tern, Rough-winged Swallow, Winter Wren, Yellow Warbler, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow.

Bon Secour: Eared Grebe, Gannet, Green Heron, Sandhill Crane, Great-horned Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, White-crowned Sparrow.

The grand total of 172 species seen and the fact that only 99 were seen on all three counts gives a good idea as to the variety of habitats in the relatively small area and the richness of the Alabama Coast for winter birds. The additional fact that on the Bon Secour Count alone in 1964, seven species were seen that were absent from all three counts in 1963, indicates that the 172 total is still rather short of the winter potential for the area.

Magnolia Springs, Alabama