

able to see them again further up or down stream, or in a pine across the marsh at the entrance to the creek.

We saw differences in the birds which may be worth noting. Of the immatures seen at close range, we found one with yellow-green legs; one with oyster-white legs; and one with legs described in my field book as "pale". The bills were slate-blue. On the yellow-legged specimen, the head was suffused with yellow around the bill. Its eyes were amber, with a dark pupil.

Birds that were probably slightly older, though spotted still, were more nearly the blue of the adults than slate-color. With these, the black surrounding the cheek-patch was well defined, but the "crown" was not. It appeared as a narrow, dirty-white stripe ending in a very wispy crest-feather.

Among the adults, one was without a doubt a mature male. It was intensely blue; the legs bright yellow; the "crown" a broad band, the color of old ivory, which ended in a substantial crest-feather. The bill was heavy and dark.

There was one apparent adult with blue legs, and one with bluish-white legs which were pink from the "knee" up. In neither of these last two was the crown stripe as well developed as that of the first adult described. Were these last younger adults or females?

To us, the "cheek-patch" looked more like a broad stripe than an oval as it is shown in Peterson.

Although the color variations may be quite normal, they proved that we were not seeing the same three or four birds on each visit. I believe there were many.

We saw no nest, so we have no proof that this was a rookery. Perhaps it was simply a resting area conveniently located for birds breaking away from the great rookeries up the Alabama River.

During the time of observation, we saw immatures feeding in the bay once in the late afternoon. One morning an immature lit on a log at the water's edge in front of our house and walked along the flat exposed by a low tide, and on another occasion we found an immature in our service yard.

In July and/or August of past years, it has been usual to see a solitary immature stalking fiddlers on our narrow beach; or, at high tide, walking on the retaining wall made of broken concrete for the same purpose. They have often stood on the wharf. On July 25, 1962, and July 8, 1963, we saw adults on the wharf.

2209 River Forest Drive  
Mobile, Alabama

#### THE FALL BIRD COUNT AT MOBILE

The Mobile Chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society conducted a bird count on Saturday, October 16, 1965, at Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens area.

Those participating in the count were: Mary Louise Andridge, Fred Bowers, Clara Caffey, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Donaven, Fr. L. Dorn, Mary Gaillard, Wilson Gaillard (Compiler), Sybil Hanks, Tuck Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Horne, W. D. McDaniel, Louise McKinstry, Bill Lee, Margret Miller, Ross Partridge, Alice Patterson, Elin Silsby, Alice Tait and Lib Toenes.

Birds seen during the day were:

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Reddish Egret, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, White Ibis,

Canada Goose, Blue Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser,

Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite,

King Rail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, American Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Kill-deer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling,

Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Black Skimmer, Mourning Dove, Ground Dove,

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Peewee, Vermillion Flycatcher,

Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow,

Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren,

Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling,

## Mobile Bird Count (cont'd.)

White-eyed Vereo, Yellow-throated Vereo, Solitary Vereo, Red-eyed Vereo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart,

House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager,

Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous Sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Total Species: 155                      Weather: Clear, Warm, Wind S. E. 5-10

Other species seen during the week of the count:

White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Common Gallinule, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Barn Owl, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Baltimore Oriole.

## NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT DAUPHIN ISLAND

Rev. Matthew Turk, S. J.

On August 27, 1964, accompanied by Tuck Hayward, I observed a phalarope at Dauphin Island. Observation was made with the sun about 45 degrees from directly behind the observer and at an elevation of approximately 45 degrees with the aid of a Balscope Zoom (15X-60X) at a distance of about 150 yards. Identifying features noted included the following:

- the phalarope bill and patch,
- characteristic length of the wing stripe seen as both birds preened,
- contrast between wing stripe and wing color characteristic of the Northern Phalarope,
- Needle-like bill excluded the Red Phalarope,
- the forehead and crown were clearly white - the possibility of a white sheen was eliminated by observing color as the head was moved during preening.

Based on these observations the bird was identified as a Northern Phalarope. It was not seen when sought the next day or later.

808 Springhill Ave.  
Mobile, Ala. 36602

FIFTY THOUSAND BIRDS  
RECORDED ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Chandler S. Robbins

The Breeding Bird Survey that was conducted in Maryland and Delaware this summer by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Delmarva Ornithological Society was highly successful. The present report summarizes the results of the 50 routes that were covered in Maryland.

As explained in the June issue of Maryland Birdlife (21: 48-49), starting points of the 50 routes were picked at random; each route consisted of 50 three-minute stops spaced one-half mile apart; all birds heard during the three minutes were recorded; and all birds seen within one-fourth mile of the observer also were recorded. Coverage began one-half hour before official sunrise, and it took approximately four hours to complete each route.

Each of the 50 routes was covered once, and, in addition, most observers covered one of eight "check routes" that I had covered a few days earlier. This unique check route feature makes it possible to compensate roughly for the differences between observers--and thus compare not only each route with itself in future years, but also compare the relative abundance throughout the State of any of the more common species. Check routes were run for 46 of the 50 routes. One of the check routes was run five times by the same observer to determine the normal variation from day to day as well as the seasonal change from late May to mid-July.

The field records were put on punch cards at the Migratory Bird Populations Station in Laurel. The species totals and the maps presented herewith are compiled from the first of a series of tabulations to be made on a Univac 1401; these maps are all based on the actual figures reported by the observers, rather than on computed data.

A word of caution is in order because the figures recorded on this survey do not measure actual abundance. It is impossible to observe all of the birds at each of the 50 stops. We merely obtain a sample of population--and how good a sample we achieve depends upon the relative conspicuousness of each species. In general, large birds, brightly colored birds, those with loud songs, and those that sing or call most frequently will be observed in greatest numbers in comparison with their actual abundance. Those that continue to sing frequently throughout June and early July will appear to be more common than species such as the Brown Thrasher and some of the woodpeckers, which are quiet during much of June. Field birds are more easily observed than woodland birds, and a roadside survey tends to favor residential and field habitats rather than woodland, marsh and swamp. Furthermore, open country birds that have young on the wing early in June, such as Starlings and grackles, will be listed in disproportionately large numbers. Bear these limitations in mind when reading the following figures.