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GENERAL NOTES

Evening Grosbeaks at Montgomery

While the Evening Grosbeak (Hesperiphona vespertina) is fairly numerous in some years in the Mountain Region of Alabama, it has been recorded very few times on the Upper Coastal Plain. Imhof (Alabama Birds, 1962) mentions only one such record and it is in the spring (April). Mr. R. W. Skinner has informed me that there is a specimen in the State Department of Conservation collection that was taken at Selma. So far as I know it has never been recorded at Montgomery before.

On November 26, I received word that a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks had been seen at the bird bath and feeder of Dr. and Mrs. Maurer Maurer, 3560 Pelzer Ave., Montgomery. The birds were first seen on November 24 by Mr. D. W. Koons. Mr. Koons was unsure of the identity of the birds, but was quite sure that they were something unusual. Later that same day, the Maurers also saw the birds and while they too were unfamiliar with the species, they were able to determine that the birds were Evening Grosbeaks by using a field guide. One or two birds were seen again by the above observers on the 25th and 26th of November.

I tried to confirm their identification on November 27 but was unsuccessful. I did succeed in seeing the birds on November 28 and they were indeed Evening Grosbeaks. Further confirmation was provided by Mrs. A. C. Loftin of Montgomery who also saw the birds at this time. There was a

flock of seven birds, two brightly colored males and five relatively dull females or immatures. The dusky yellow color, very large pale greenish bills, and prominent white wing patches left no doubt as to the identity of the birds. They have not been seen again since November 28.

Robert W. Loftin
1717 Pepper Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

(Ed. Note. This is apparently a year of Evening Grosbeak abundance. Columbus, Georgia had them in November; Auburn, abundantly in December; and many areas to the north have large populations of them.)

Christmas Bird Count, Auburn, 1968

Made in the usual area with the Auburn Post Office as the center of the circle. Composition was: mixed woods, 50%; pastures and open fields, 30%; and ponds and mud flats, 20%. Weather was overcast with some drizzle in the morning and hard rain in the afternoon. Temperature at 8:00 a.m. was 43°; and 47° at dark. Wind was light and variable. Seven observers and two helpers, made three parties, which spent 10½ party hours in the field, drove 96 party miles and walked 3 party miles.

Species seen were: Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; Black Vulture, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 13; Killdeer, 11; Common Snipe, 6; Mourning Dove, 10; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; E. Phoebe, 3; Blue Jay, 64; Common Crow, 17; Carolina Chickadee, 40; Tufted Titmouse, 61; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Brownheaded Nuthatch, 25; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 32; Mockingbird, 33; Brown Thrasher, 15; Robin, 350; Hermit Thrush, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 26; Water Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 50; Loggerhead Shrike, 6; Starling, 55,000; Myrtle Warbler, 21; Pine Warbler, 6; House Sparrow, 22; Meadowlark, 64; Red-winged Blackbird, 185,000; Rusty Blackbird, 1,000; Common Grackle, 50,000; Brown-headed Cowbird, 210,000; Cardinal, 51; Evening Grosbeak, 100; Purple Finch, 17; Pine Siskin, 12; Goldfinch, 85; Rufous-sided Towhee, 28; Savannah Sparrow, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 72; Chipping Sparrow, 16; Field Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 95; Fox Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 4; and Song Sparrow 7. Total Species seen, 56. Total Individuals, 502,432.

Species seen during the count period but not on count day were: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Participants were: D. L. Bateman, R. T. Dusi, J. L. Dusi (Compiler), M. C. Lyons, J. Stuart (helped by sons Brian and Tim), Z. Taylor and B. F. Young. P. O. Box 742, Auburn, Alabama 36830.

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NOVEMBER 8-10, 1968

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur, Alabama, on November 8-10, 1968. Headquarters Motel was Holiday Inn on U.S. Highway 31, south of Decatur near the refuge headquarters. A total of 50 members and guests registered for the meeting including those from Tennessee and Georgia.

Friday Evening Program

The program Friday evening featured Dr. and Mrs. Harold Simon, who have two stars in photography and other recognitions. They showed us slides of their five-week safari in Africa where there is the largest concentration of wildlife on earth. "East Africa From A Land Rover" covered Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania including not only the unusual animals of many kinds but also the magnificent scenery of the country. Just as delightful as the pictures, was the informal discussion with Dr. and Mrs. Simon afterwards.

Field Trips

Mr. Thomas Atkeson and his able staff members took us to all the "good spots" in the refuge where there was no hunting. These included Garth Slough, Flint Creek Island, Cain's Landing, Beaver Dam Peninsula and Rock House Slough.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council met at twelve o'clock for lunch at the Holiday Inn on November 9, 1968. Those present were: Mrs. Helen Kittinger, President; Mrs. Clara Caffey, Vice President; Mrs. Louise McKinstry, immediate past Treasurer; Mrs. Idalene F. Snead, Secretary; and Mr. Tom Imhof, Director of State-at-Large, and Mr. Jim Keeler, Director. Other officers and Directors expressed regrets at not being able to attend. Mr. Tom Imhof suggested that the given names of all married women be used in the reports in the future. The Executive Committee agreed.

The minutes of the Executive Council meeting of April 20, 1968 were read by the Secretary and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read, stating that the balance in the checking account on November 1, 1968 was \$750.38, and was approved.

Helen Kittinger read a letter from Dr. Julian L. Dusi stating that the cost of reprinting the exhausted issues of "Alabama Birdlife" would be approximately \$60-\$70 per sixteen page issue. He also stated that the cost of 350 copies of Vol. 16; 2-3, including postage and secretarial fee, was about \$190.68.

A tentative date, Saturday, December 7, 1968, was set for the Slide Committee to meet for the selection of slides for the collection.